

HISTORY



HEROES!

RULERS

VICTORIA



DAMIAN HARVEY

Illustrated by RUPERT VAN WYK

VICTORIA



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CHAPTER 1

Young Heiress

When Victoria was born on 24th May 1819 in Kensington Palace, the royal family were not very popular. Her grandfather, George III, was still King and lots of relatives were in line for the throne.

No one thought Victoria would ever become Queen...

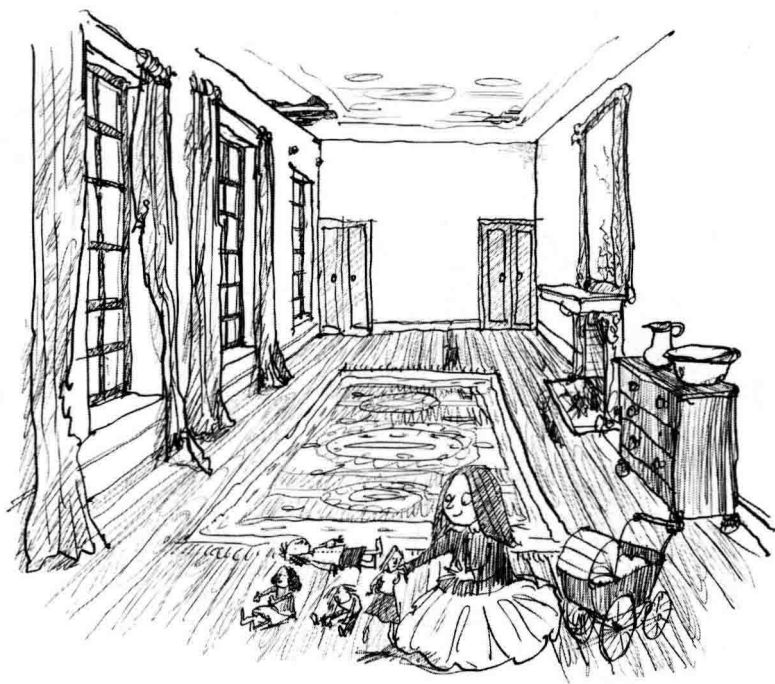


...but then things started to change.

Before Victoria's first birthday, her father, Prince Edward the Duke of Kent, caught pneumonia and died. Six days later, her grandfather died and her uncle, George IV, became King.

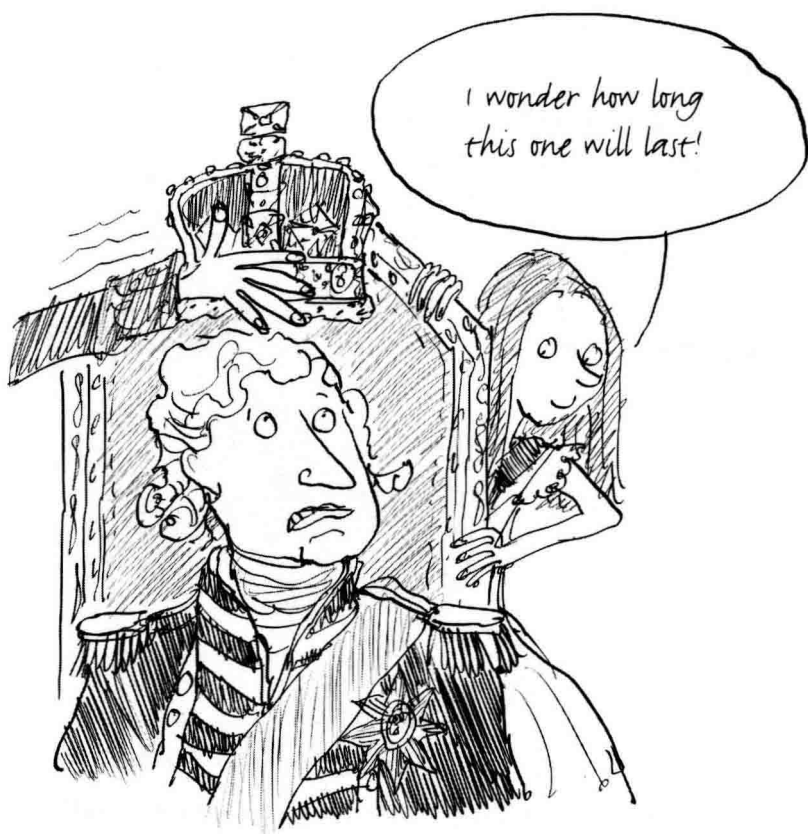


Victoria lived in Kensington Palace with her mother, but they weren't very rich. Most of the carpets were thin and worn and they couldn't afford fine food.



Victoria spent most of her time playing on her own with her dolls.

Uncle Frederick, the Duke of York, died in 1827. Three years later, King George IV died. William IV was crowned King and suddenly 11 year-old Victoria found herself next in line to the throne.



Victoria's mother made sure that the young princess would be well prepared for the time she would become Queen.

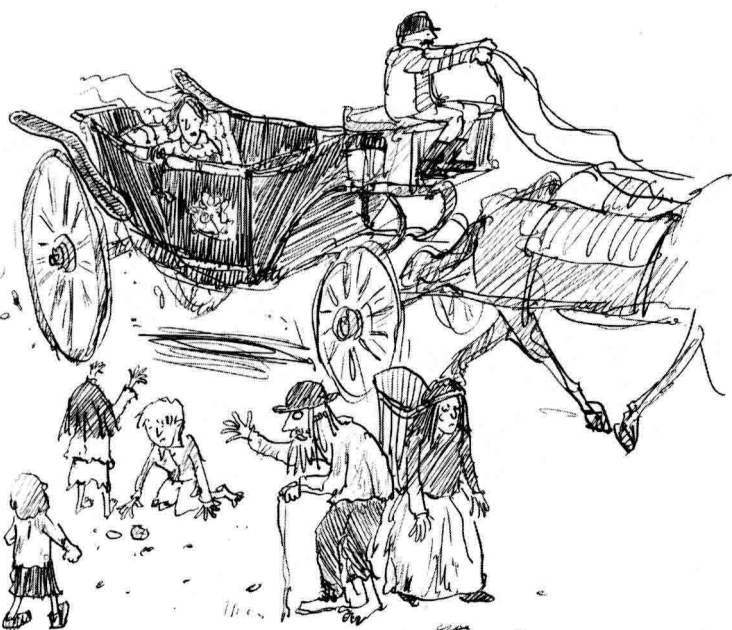
For a start, Victoria was the first royal child to be vaccinated against smallpox – a disease that had almost killed Queen Elizabeth I.



Instead of going to school, Victoria had her lessons at the palace. She loved singing and drawing. Her mother gave her a diary that she wrote in every day.



The young princess wanted to see how other people lived so she travelled around the country and wrote about everything she saw.



Victoria made up her mind to try and make things better when she became Queen – and she wouldn't have long to wait.

CHAPTER 2

The New Queen

On 20th June 1837, Victoria's mother woke her up and told her the Archbishop of Canterbury and Lord Conyngham wanted to see her.

After putting on her dressing-gown, the young princess went to see the two men waiting for her in the sitting room.

There, they gave her the sad news that her uncle, King William IV, had died.

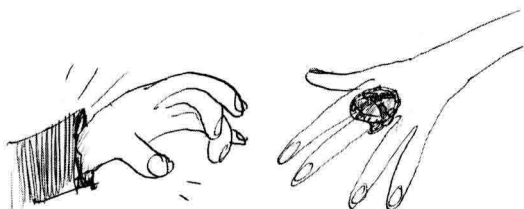
Lord Conyngham knelt before her, kissed her hand and told her that she was now Queen.



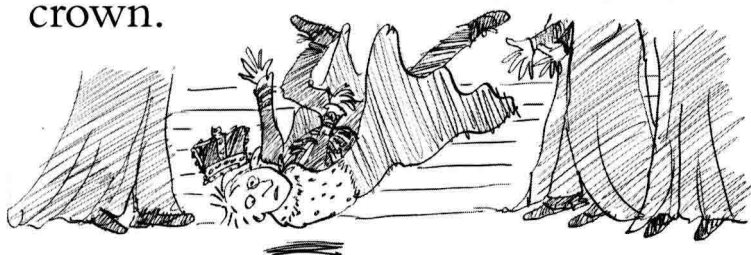
When Victoria was crowned Queen at Westminster Abbey, thousands of people came to London to see her. Everyone cheered as the procession went by. Not everything went well...



...The Archbishop put Victoria's coronation ring on the wrong finger.



Old Lord Rolle fell down the stairs as he tried to kiss the royal crown.



Then there was a mad rush when medals were thrown into the air.

