



# The Victorian Governess

*By Kathryn Hughes*

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The figure of the governess is very familiar from nineteenth-century literature. Much less is known about the governess in reality. This book is the first rounded exploration of what the life of the home schoolroom was actually like. Drawing on original diaries and a variety of previously undiscovered sources, Kathryn Hughes describes why the period 1840-80 was the classic age of governesses. She examines their numbers, recruitment, teaching methods, social position and prospects.

The governess provides a key to the central Victorian concept of the lady. Her education consisted of a series of accomplishments designed to attract a husband able to keep her in the style to which she had become accustomed from birth. Becoming a governess was the only acceptable way of earning money open to a lady whose family could not support her in leisure.

Being paid to educate another woman's children set in play a series of social and emotional tensions. The governess was a surrogate mother, who was herself childless, a young woman whose marriage prospects were restricted, and a family member who was sometimes mistaken for a servant.

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## The Victorian Governess By Kathryn Hughes Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

Review

"A fascinating and very readable study." --*Choice*

"A wonderful contribution to the burgeoning scholarship on gender and class in Victorian England." --*Albion*

About the Author

Kathryn Hughes is the author of *George Eliot*, the winner of the James Tait Prize 2000.

## Users Review

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**Douglas Gibson:**

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until adult are different content. As it is known to us that book is very important for all of us. The book *The Victorian Governess* had been making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is quite advantages for you. The publication *The Victorian Governess* is not only giving you much more new information but also to get your friend when you sense bored. You can spend your spend time to read your guide. Try to make relationship with the book *The Victorian Governess*. You never sense lose out for everything in case you read some books.

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