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# That Inevitable Victorian Thing



## Synopsis

Speculative fiction from the acclaimed bestselling author of *Exit, Pursued by a Bear* and *Star Wars: Ahsoka*. Victoria-Margaret is the crown princess of the empire, a direct descendent of Victoria I, the queen who changed the course of history. The imperial tradition of genetically arranged matchmaking will soon guide Margaret into a politically advantageous marriage. But before she does her duty, she'll have one summer of freedom and privacy in a far corner of empire. Posing as a commoner in Toronto, she meets Helena Marcus, daughter of one of the empire's greatest placement geneticists, and August Callaghan, the heir to a powerful shipping firm currently besieged by American pirates. In a summer of high-society debutante balls, politically charged tea parties, and romantic country dances, Margaret, Helena, and August discover they share an extraordinary bond and maybe a one-in-a-million chance to have what they want and to change the world in the process. Set in a near-future world where the British Empire never fell and the United States never rose, *That Inevitable Victorian Thing* is a surprising, romantic, and thought-provoking story of love, duty, and the small moments that can change people and the world. "This witty and romantic story is a must-read." *SLJ*, starred review | "Compelling and unique" there's nothing else like it." *Booklist*, starred review | "[A] powerful and resonant story of compassion, love, and finding a way to fulfill obligations while maintaining one's identity." *PW*, starred review

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"This book, by alternate-history wizard and all-around word genius E. K. Johnston, is both an

enchanting modern fairy tale and an un-put-downable, utterly captivating, thoroughly surprising work of speculative fiction. I would be delighted to brush up on my curtsy and join these characters for a tea party or coming-out ball any day of the week." —Robin Talley, New York Times bestselling author —"That Inevitable Victorian Thing is alternate history at its most intricate —woven with Victorian airs and a deeply optimistic vision of the future. I fell in love with E. K. Johnston's world, along with the bright, beautiful characters who call it home." —Ryan Graudin, award-winning author of *Wolf By Wolf* —"E. K. Johnston's *British Empire* offers adventure and intrigue balanced with delight and whimsy. Her tale uplifts and entertains, all the while meditating on the legacies of history and a better society that might have been. Joyfully immerse yourself in this gorgeously-wrought world with characters you yearn to have as companions and confidantes, and themes of hope that linger long after you've read the final pages." —New York Times bestselling author Andrea Cremer | "Compelling and unique —there's nothing else like it." —Booklist, starred review —"Johnston's standalone novel blends light science fiction elements in a near-future setting with the tone and style of a Victorian novel. Chapter headers including maps, society gossip pages, and correspondence serve to expand the detailed world-building and highlight the Empire's deliberate and thoughtful inclusivity (despite realistically damaging colonialism in the Empire's distant past). VERDICT A clever and self-aware novel set in a fascinating world, this witty and romantic story is a must-read." —SLJ, starred review "[A] powerful and resonant story of compassion, love, and finding a way to fulfill obligations while maintaining one's identity. As with the dragon-infested modern world of Johnston's *The Story of Owen*, the thoughtfulness, attention to detail, and humor in this alternative Earth are rewarding on multiple levels." —PW, starred review "A thoughtful exploration of class consciousness, genetics, and politics that doesn't lose track of the human story." —Kirkus —"There are some books that defy explanation —they enter your world and lodge themselves in your brain, heart, and soul and become a part of you." —That Inevitable Victorian Thing —is one of those books. Victoria Margaret, Helena, and August are a trio of characters living in a near future world based on an alternate history —a setting that Johnston creates and handles magnificently. Honestly though? This is one of those books you throw at people with no explanation, because you know that they've never read anything like it, and you want to share the beauty." —Rachel Stolle, Bookseller, Anderson's Bookshop, Naperville, IL. "Debut balls and dance cards in Toronto, princesses in disguise, summer in the north woods, American pirates on the Great Lakes, mistaken

identities, a genetic matching computer overseen by the Archbishop of Canterbury... The only thing this book doesn't have is dragons—presumably because E. K. Johnston did that already. This delightful light sci-fi novel is just the thing for anyone and everyone who might enjoy Anne of Green Gables if only it were more inclusive and updated for the 21st century."—Angela Whited, The Red Balloon Bookshop, St. Paul, MN. Honestly, this is the feel-good alternate-history science-fiction novel we all didn't know we needed this year. Everyone knows (or should know) Johnston is a master of every genre she puts her hand to, and That Inevitable Victorian Thing is no different. Original, warm, humorous, and with real depth. Love it."—Allison Senecal, Old Firehouse Books, Fort Collins, CO. "What a fun story! I loved the idea of a continuing British Empire and a modern take on debuts. And the end, SO GOOD! I'd love to see more of these three as they make their way through life and more of the world as well."—Kate Reynolds, Colgate University Bookstore, Hamilton, NY "This is the best kind of love story: complicated and thoughtful, with an entirely satisfying ending."—Cecelia Cackley at East City Bookshop, Washington DC Praise for Exit, Pursued by a Bear by E. K. Johnston "E.K. Johnston has a seemingly limitless range."—The Globe & Mail "This story of a cheerleader rising up after a traumatic event will give you Veronica Mars-level feels that will stay with you long after you finish."—Seventeen Magazine "E.K. Johnston's latest gripping novel for young adults is both a well-plotted whodunit and a tightly woven examination of how we as a society respond to—and often judge—rape victims."—The Chicago Tribune "Soberly triumphant."—Toronto Star A NPR Best Book of 2016 Publishers Weekly Best Book of 2016 A Booklist Best Book of 2016 A New York Public Library 2016 Top Ten Book for Teens A Chicago Public Library Best Teen Fiction of 2016

E. K. Johnston is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of several YA novels, including the L.A. Time Book Prize finalist The Story of Owen and Star Wars: Ahsoka. Her novel A Thousand Nights was shortlisted for The Governor General's Award. The New York Times called The Story of Owen "a clever first step in the career of a novelist who, like her troubadour heroine, has many more songs to sing" and in its review of Exit, Pursued by a Bear, The Globe & Mail called Johnston "the Meryl Streep of YA," with "limitless range." E. K. Johnston lives in Stratford, Ontario. Follow her on Twitter at @ek\_johnston.

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