



Bread Winner: An Intimate History of the Victorian Economy

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Product Description

The forgotten story of how ordinary families managed financially in the Victorian era-and struggled to survive despite increasing national prosperity A powerful story of social realities, pressures, and the fracturing of traditional structures. -Ruth Goodman, Wall Street Journal Deeply researched and sensitive. -Simon Heffer, Daily Telegraph, Best History Books of 2020 Nineteenth century Britain saw remarkable economic growth and a rise in real wages. But not everyone shared in the nation's wealth. Unable to earn a sufficient income themselves, working-class women were reliant on the 'breadwinner wage' of their husbands. When income failed, or was denied or squandered by errant men, families could be plunged into desperate poverty from which there was no escape. Emma Griffin unlocks the homes of Victorian England to examine the lives - and finances - of the people who lived there. Drawing on over 600 working-class autobiographies, including more than 200 written by women, Bread Winner changes our understanding of daily life in Victorian Britain.
