

If you like Downton Abbey...

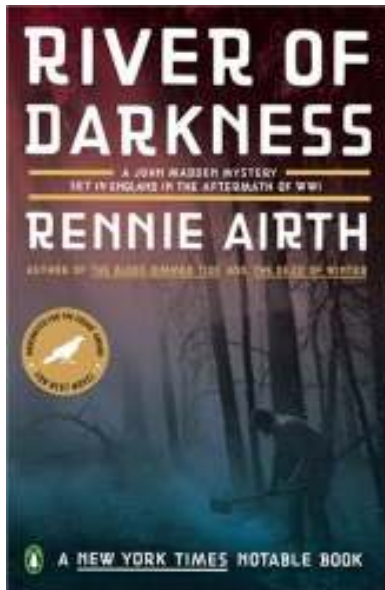
**A selection of books and movies you might enjoy if you like Downton Abbey.**

**Courtesy of Lorne Park Library and the Mississauga Library System.**

...you might like:

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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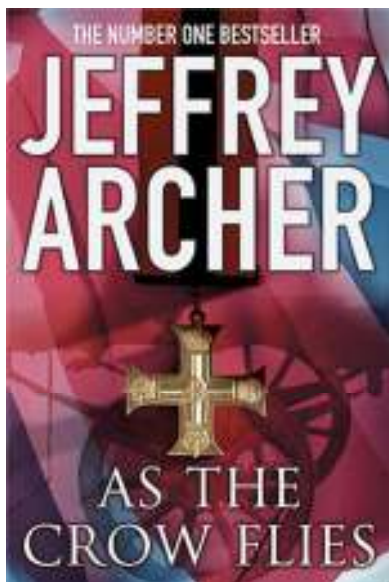
## **RIVER OF DARKNESS**

by Rennie Airth

In rural England, slowly emerging from the horrors of World War I, the peace of a small Surrey village is shattered by a murderous attack on a household that leaves five butchered bodies and no explanation for the killings.

Sent by Scotland Yard to investigate is Inspector John Madden, a grave and good man who bears the emotional and physical scars of his own harrowing time in the trenches and from the tragic loss of his wife and child. The local police are inclined to see the slaughter as a robbery gone awry, but Madden and his superior, Chief Inspector Angus Sinclair, detect signs of a madman at work.

With the help of Dr. Helen Blackwell, who introduces Madden to the latest developments in criminal psychology and who opens his heart again to the possibility of love, Madden sets out to unravel the mystery, even as the murderer sets his sights on his next innocent victims.



## **AS THE CROW FLIES**

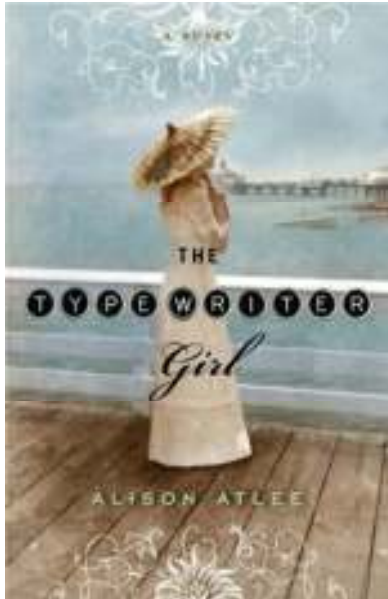
by Jeffrey Archer

Charlie Trumper's earliest memory is of hearing his grandfather's sales patter from behind his costermonger's barrow. When Grandpa Charlie dies, young Charlie wants nothing more than to follow in his footsteps - his burning ambition is to own a shop that will sell everything: 'The Biggest Barrow in the World'.

Charlie's progress from the teeming streets of Whitechapel to the elegance of Chelsea Terrace is only a few miles as the crow flies. But in Jeffrey Archer's expert hands it becomes an epic journey through the triumphs and disasters of the century, as Charlie follows a thread of love, ambition and revenge to fulfil the dream his grandfather inspired.

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## **THE TYPEWRITER GIRL**

by Alison Atlee

**All Betsey Dobson has ever asked is the chance to be viewed on her own merits, but in a man's world, that is the unforgivable sin.**

When Betsey disembarks from the London train in the seaside resort of Idensea, all she owns is a small valise and a canary in a cage. After attempting to forge a letter of reference she knew would be denied her, Betsey has been fired from the typing pool of her previous employer. Her vigorous protest left one man wounded, another jilted, and her character permanently besmirched. Now, without money or a reference for her promised job, the future looks even bleaker than the debacle behind her. But her life is about to change... because a young Welshman on the railroad quay, waiting for another woman, is the one man willing to believe in her.

Mr. Jones is inept in matters of love, but a genius at things mechanical. In Idensea, he has constructed a glittering pier that astounds the wealthy tourists. And in Betsey, he recognizes the ideal tour manager for the Idensea Pier & Pleasure Building Company. After a lifetime of guarding her secrets and breaking the rules, Betsey becomes a force to be reckoned with. Now she faces a challenge of another sort: not only to outrun her sins, but also to surrender to the reckless tides of love...

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **THE SECRET ROOMS: A TRUE GOTHIC MYSTERY**

by Catherine Bailey

**A plotting Duchess, a mysterious death and a castle full of lies in Catherine Bailey's *The Secret Rooms*.**

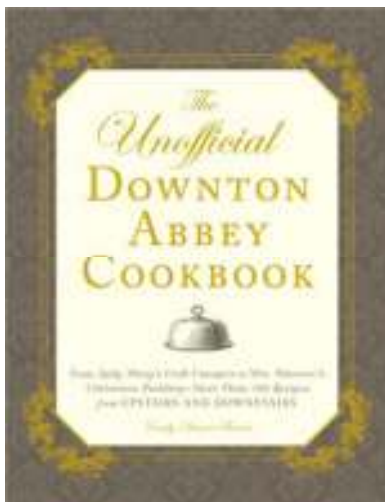
At 6 am on 21 April 1940; John the 9th Duke of Rutland, and one of Britain's wealthiest men, ended his days, virtually alone, lying on a makeshift bed in a dank cramped suite of rooms in the servants' quarters of his own home, Belvoir Castle, in Leicestershire.

For weeks, as his health deteriorated, his family, his servants - even the King's doctor - pleaded with him to come out, but he refused.

After his death, his son and heir, Charles, the 10th Duke of Rutland, ordered that the rooms be locked up and they remained untouched for sixty years.

What lay behind this extraordinary set of circumstances?

For the first time, in ***The Secret Rooms***, Catherine Bailey unravels a complex and compelling tale of love, honour and betrayal, played out in the grand salons of Britain's stately homes at the turn of the twentieth century, and on the battlefields of the Western Front. At its core is a secret so dark that it consumed the life of the man who fought to his death to keep it hidden...



## **THE UNOFFICIAL DOWNTON ABBEY COOKBOOK**

by Emily Ansara Baines

Nibble on Sybil's Ginger Nut Biscuits during tea. Treat yourself to Ethel's Beloved Crepes Suzette. Feast on Mr. Bates' Chicken and Mushroom Pie with a room full of guests. With this collection of delicacies inspired by Emmy Award-winning series *Downton Abbey*, you'll feel as sophisticated and poised as the men and women of Downton when you prepare these upstairs and downstairs favorites. Each dish finds its roots within the kitchen of the grand estate, including:

*Mrs. Isobel Crawley's Smoked Salmon Tea Sandwiches*

*Filet Mignon with Foie Gras and Truffle Sauce*

*Walnut and Celery Salad with Pecorino*

*Decadent Chocolate Almond Cake with Chocolate Sour Cream Icing*

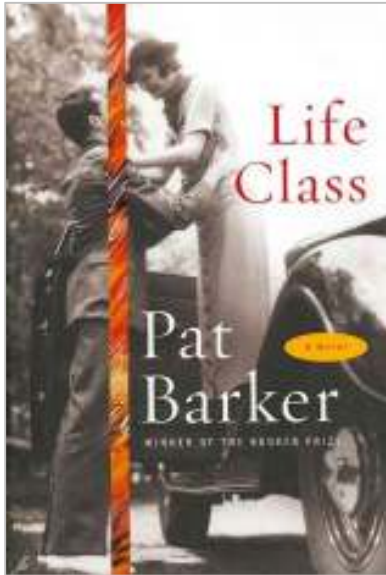
*Very Vanilla Rice Pudding*

You will love indulging in the splendors of another era with the snacks, entrees, and desserts from this masterpiece of a cookbook.



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## **LIFE CLASS**

by Pat Barker

In the Spring of 1914 a group of students at the Slade School of Art have gathered for a life-drawing class. Paul Tarrant is easily distracted by an intriguing fellow student, Elinor Brooke, but when Kit Neville - himself not long out of the Slade but already a well-known painter - makes it clear that he, too, is attracted to Elinor, Paul withdraws into a passionate affair with an artist's model. As spring turns to summer, Paul and Elinor each reach a crisis in their relationships until finally, in the first few days of war, they turn to each other.

Paul's new life as a volunteer for the Belgian Red Cross is a world away from his days at the Slade. The longer he remains in Ypres, the greater the distance between himself and home becomes, and by the time he returns, Paul must confront the fact that life, and love, will never be the same again.



## **PARLOR GAMES**

by Maryka Biaggio

**A sparkling historical novel based on the remarkable true story of turn-of-the-century con artist May Dugas, once dubbed America's "Most Dangerous Woman."**

It's 1887, and eighteen-year-old May Dugas has ventured to Chicago in hopes of earning enough money to support her family. Yet when circumstances force her to take up residence at the city's most infamous bordello, she chooses to use her feminine wiles to extract not only sidelong looks but also large sums of money from the men she encounters.

Insinuating herself into high society, May lands a well-to-do fiancé - until, that is, a Pinkerton detective named Reed Doherty intervenes.

Reed has made it his mission to bring May to justice, and he pursues her across the world, from Shanghai to London and back, until he makes one last daring attempt to corner her. But May still has a few tricks up her sleeve, tricks that just might prove she's one tough woman to catch.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **THE DEATH OF THE HEART**

by Elizabeth Bowen

***The Death of the Heart* is perhaps Elizabeth Bowen's best-known book. As she deftly and delicately exposes the cruelty that lurks behind the polished surfaces of conventional society, Bowen reveals herself as a masterful novelist who combines a sense of humour with a devastating gift for divining human motivations.**

In this piercing story of innocence betrayed set in the thirties, the orphaned Portia is stranded in the sophisticated and politely treacherous world of her wealthy half-brother's home in London. There she encounters the attractive, carefree cad Eddie. To him, Portia is at once child and woman, and her fears her gushing love. To her, Eddie is the only reason to be alive. But when Eddie follows Portia to a sea-side resort, the flash of a cigarette lighter in a darkened cinema illuminates a stunning romantic betrayal - and sets in motion one of the most moving and desperate flights of the heart in modern literature.



## **THE LAST SEPTEMBER**

by Elizabeth Bowen

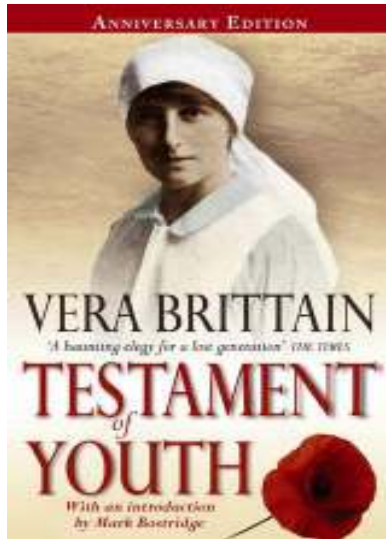
***The Last September* is Elizabeth Bowen's portrait of a young woman's coming of age in a brutalized time and place, where the ordinariness of life floats like music over the impending doom of history.**

In 1920, at their country home in County Cork, Sir Richard Naylor and his wife, Lady Myra, and their friends maintain a skeptical attitude toward the events going on around them, but behind the facade of tennis parties and army camp dances, all know that the end is approaching - the end of British rule in the south of Ireland and the demise of a way of life that had survived for centuries. Their niece, Lois Farquar, attempts to live her own life and gain her own freedoms from the very class that her elders are vainly defending.

***The Last September* depicts the tensions between love and the longing for freedom, between tradition and the terrifying prospect of independence, both political and spiritual.**

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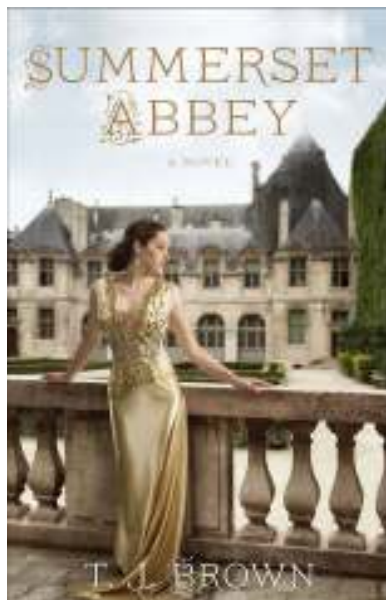


## **TESTAMENT OF YOUTH: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

by Vera Brittain

In 1914, just as war was declared, 20 year-old Vera Brittain was preparing to study at Oxford. Four years later, her life - and that of her whole generation - had been irrevocably changed in a way that no one could have imagined in the tranquil pre-war era.

**Testament of Youth** is Brittain's account of how she lost the man she loved, nursed the wounded, survived those agonizing years, and emerged into an altered world. A passionate record of a lost generation, it made Brittain one of the best-loved writers of her time. It still retains the power to shock, move, and enthrall readers today.



## **SUMMERSET ABBEY**

by T. J. Brown

**1913: In a sprawling manor on the outskirts of London, three young women seek to fulfill their destinies and desires amidst the unspoken rules of society in this stunning series starter that fans of *Downton Abbey* will love.**

**Rowena Buxton** - Sir Philip Buxton raised three girls into beautiful and capable young women in a bohemian household that defied Edwardian tradition. Eldest sister Rowena was taught to value people, not wealth or status. But everything she believes will be tested when Sir Philip dies, and the girls must live under their uncle's guardianship at the vast family estate, Summerset Abbey. Standing up for a beloved family member sequestered to the "underclass" in this privileged new world, and drawn into the Cunning Coterie, an exclusive social circle of aristocratic "rebels," Rowena must decide where her true passions - and loyalties - lie.

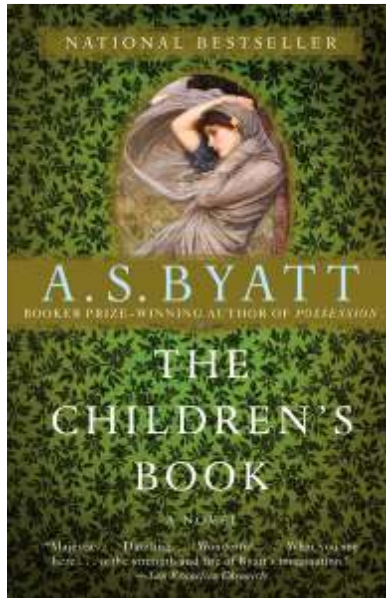
**Victoria Buxton** - Frail in body but filled with an audacious spirit, Victoria secretly dreams of attending university to become a botanist like her father. But this most unladylike wish is not her only secret - Victoria has stumbled upon a family scandal that, if revealed, has the potential to change lives forever...

**Prudence Tate** - Prudence was lovingly brought up alongside Victoria and Rowena, and their bond is as strong as blood. But by birth she is a governess's daughter, and to the lord of Summerset Abbey, that makes her a commoner who must take her true place in society - as lady's maid to her beloved "sisters." But Pru doesn't belong in the downstairs world of the household staff any more than she belongs upstairs with the Buxton girls. And when a young lord catches her eye, she begins to wonder if she'll ever truly carve out a place for herself at Summerset Abbey.



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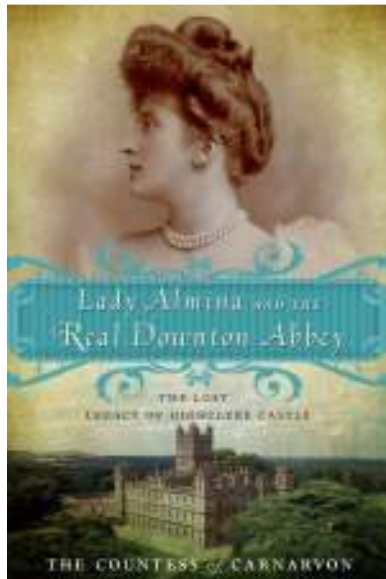


## **THE CHILDREN'S BOOK**

by A.S. Byatt

When children's book author Olive Wellwood's oldest son discovers a runaway named Philip sketching in the basement of a museum, she takes him into the storybook world of her family and friends. But the joyful bacchanals Olive hosts at her rambling country house - and the separate, private books she writes for each of her seven children - conceal more treachery and darkness than Philip has ever imagined.

The Wellwoods' personal struggles and hidden desires unravel against a breathtaking backdrop of the cliff-lined shores of England to Paris, Munich, and the trenches of the Somme, as the Edwardian period dissolves into World War I and Europe's golden era comes to an end.



## **LADY ALMINA AND THE REAL DOWNTON ABBEY: THE LOST LEGACY OF HIGHCLERE CASTLE**

by Lady Fiona Carnarvon

Lady Fiona Carnarvon became the chatelaine of Highclere Castle - the setting of the hit series Downton Abbey - eight years ago. In that time she's become fascinated by the rich history of Highclere, and by the extraordinary people who lived there over the centuries.

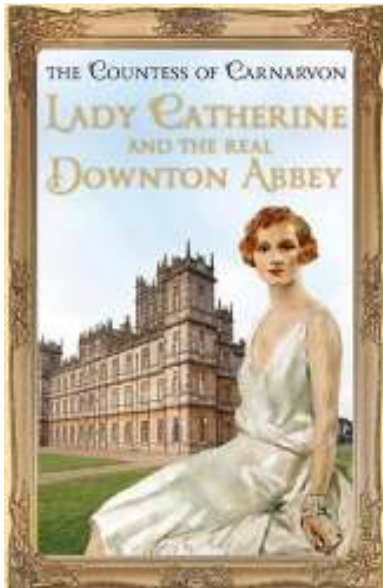
One person particularly captured Fiona's imagination - Lady Almina, the 5th Countess of Carnarvon. Almina was the illegitimate daughter of banking tycoon Alfred de Rothschild. She was his only daughter and he doted on her. She married the 5th Earl of Carnarvon, at 19, with an enormous dowry.

At first, life at Highclere was a dizzying mix of sumptuous banquets for 500 and even the occasional royal visitor. Almina oversaw 80 members of staff - many of whom came from families who had worked at Highclere for generations. But when the First World War broke out, life at Highclere changed forever. History intervened and Almina and the staff of Highclere were thrown into one of the most turbulent times of the last century.



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## **LADY CATHERINE AND THE REAL DOWNTON ABBEY**

by Lady Fiona Carnarvon

***Lady Catherine and the Real Downton Abbey* tells the story of the beautiful American heiress who lived at Highclere Castle, the setting for Julian Fellowes' award winning drama Downton Abbey.**

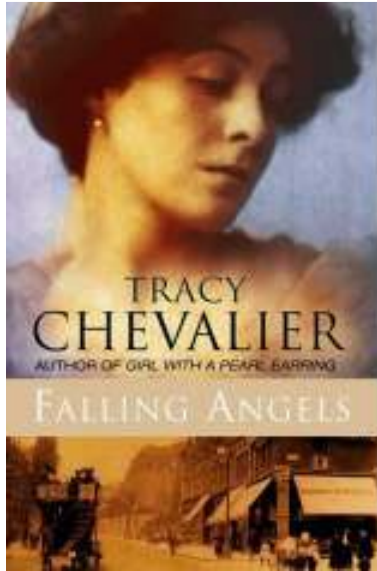
Glamorous and wealthy, Catherine became the toast of London society when she travelled across the Atlantic in 1920 to marry the Earl of Porchester, or 'Porchy', as he was known. At just 19 Catherine had to learn how to organize and host the lavish banquets and weekend house parties that Porchy so loved. She found herself suddenly in charge of the more than eighty staff working at Highclere Castle, and persuaded her husband to improve their living and working conditions.

But things were far from perfect. The demands of running such a large household were greater than Lady Catherine had expected. Her new husband gradually revealed himself to be a scandalous rogue, squandering their money and pursuing silent movie stars across London. When World War Two broke out, there was yet more turbulence, with Highclere transformed into an American airbase, and host to several hundred soldiers, as well as fifty young evacuees from East London.

Drawing on rich material from the archives at Highclere, including beautiful period photographs, Lady Carnarvon transports us back to the thrilling and alluring world of the real Downton Abbey and its inhabitants.

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## **FALLING ANGELS**

by Tracy Chevalier

1901, the year of the Queen's death. The two graves stood next to each other, both beautifully decorated. One had a large urn - some might say ridiculously large - and the other, almost leaning over the first, an angel - some might say overly sentimental.

The two families visiting the cemetery to view their respective neighbouring graves were divided even more by social class than by taste. They would certainly never have become acquainted had not their two girls, meeting behind the tombstones, become best friends. And furthermore - and even more unsuitably - become involved in the life of the gravedigger's muddled son.

As the girls grow up, as the century wears on, as the new era and the new King change social customs, the lives and fortunes of the Colemans and the Waterhouses become more and more closely intertwined - neighbours in life as well as death...



## **AND THEN THERE WERE NONE**

by Agatha Christie

**"Ten..."**

Ten strangers are lured to an isolated island mansion off the Devon coast by a mysterious "U.N. Owen."

**"Nine..."**

At dinner a recorded message accuses each of them in turn of having a guilty secret, and by the end of the night one of the guests is dead.

**"Eight..."**

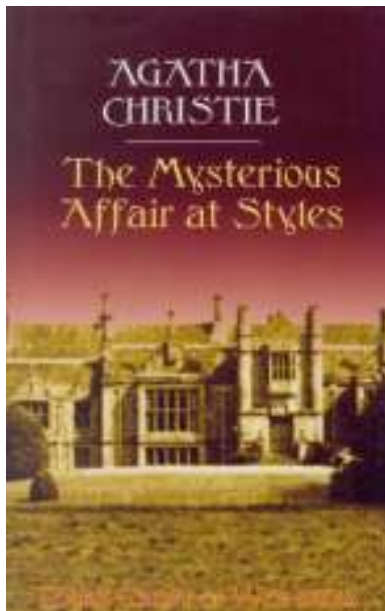
Stranded by a violent storm, and haunted by a nursery rhyme counting down one by one... as one by one... they begin to die.

**"Seven..."**

Which among them is the killer and will any of them survive?

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES**

by Agatha Christie

Captain Arthur Hastings, invalided in the Great War, is recuperating as a guest of John Cavendish at Styles Court, the 'country-place' of John's autocratic old aunt, Emily Inglethorpe - she of a sizeable fortune, and so recently remarried to a man twenty years her junior.

When Emily's sudden heart attack is found to be attributable to strychnine, Hastings recruits an old friend, now retired, to aid in the local investigation.

With impeccable timing, Hercule Poirot, the famous Belgian detective, makes his dramatic entrance into the pages of crime literature...



## **THE GLASS VIRGIN**

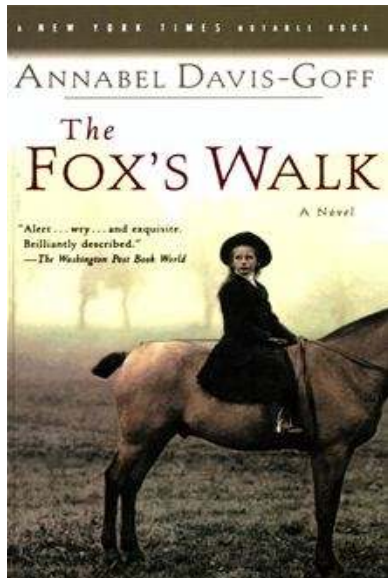
by Catherine Cookson

Annabella Lagrange was the only child of a wealthy family, owners of a glass-works in the North-East of England. When Annabella was seven, she thought the world a delightful place to live in, and only occasionally wondered why her parents never took her beyond the gates of their magnificent country estate. When she was ten she decided that the seclusion didn't really matter because when she grew up she would marry her handsome cousin Stephen and never be lonely again.

But when she was eighteen, Annabella learned the circumstances of her birth-and her entire world crashed around her...

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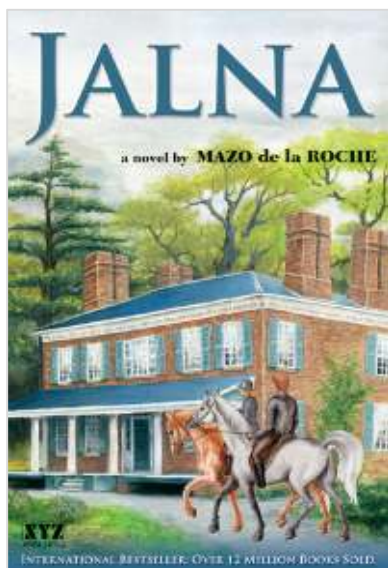
## THE FOX'S WALK

by Annabel Davis-Goff

During the First World War, ten-year-old Alice Moore is left in the care of her autocratic grandmother at Ballydavid, a lovely country house in County Waterford.

Living in a rigid, old-fashioned household where propriety is all, Alice is forced to piece together her world - a world on the brink of revolution-from overheard conversations, servants' gossip, and her own keen observations. She soon realizes that her family's privilege comes at a great cost to others - among them a psychic countess down on her luck, a Roman Catholic boy whom Alice hero-worships, and an admired governess, as well as most of her neighbors.

After the Easter Rising, when blood is spilled close to home and loyalties are divided, tensions within Ireland and Ballydavid mount. Alice is forced to choose between her heritage of privilege and her growing moral and political conscience...



## JALNA

by Mazo de la Roche

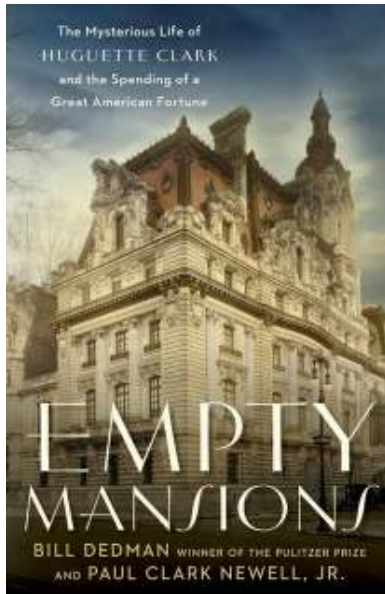
First published in 1927, *Jalna* is the first book in the popular series about a Canadian family named Whiteoak, who live in southern Ontario in a red-brick house called Jalna.

In *Jalna*, the unforgettable family makes its first appearance. Two grandsons cause tumult when they bring their brides to live at Jalna, and Grandmother Adeline celebrates her 100th birthday.



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **EMPTY MANSIONS: THE MYSTERIOUS LIFE OF HUGUETTE CLARK AND THE SPENDING OF A GREAT AMERICAN FORTUNE**

by Bill Dedman and Paul Clark Newell Jr.

When Pulitzer Prize–winning investigative journalist Bill Dedman noticed a real estate listing for a grand estate in Connecticut that had sat empty for nearly sixty years, he had no idea that he was stumbling onto one of the most surprising American stories of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries - complete with copper barons, Gilded Age opulence, backdoor politics, and a reclusive 104-year-old heiress.

Empty Mansions explores the fascinating life of Huguette Clark, an enigmatic figure who had not been photographed in public since the 1920s. Though she owned three palatial homes in California, New York, and Connecticut, they sat vacant while she lived out her final two decades in a New York City hospital, despite being in excellent health.

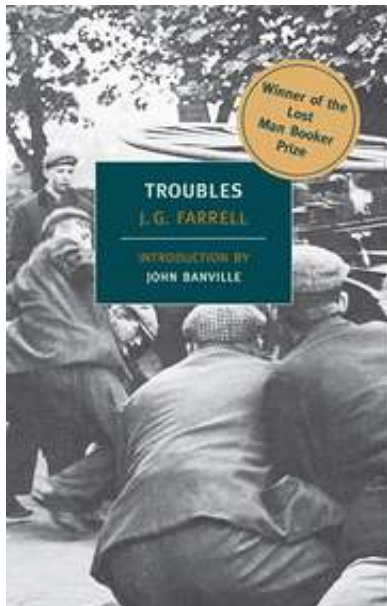
Dedman and Huguette’s cousin, Paul Clark Newell, Jr., one of the few relatives to have had frequent conversations with Huguette, present a fairy tale told in reverse: a daughter born into privilege who in time locks herself away from the outside world. By age twenty, Huguette had inherited her fortune from her father, copper industrialist W. A. Clark, who at the dawn of the twentieth century was one of the richest men in America, possibly even as rich as John D. Rockefeller. The money afforded Huguette gorgeous paintings by Degas and Renoir, a world-renown Stradivarius violin, a vast collection of antique dolls, lavish gifts for friends (and even strangers), the freedom to pursue her own work as an artist, and the privacy she valued above all else.

The Clark family story encompasses the entire span of American history in just three generations, from a log cabin in Pennsylvania to mining camps in the Montana gold rush, from cross-country travel in private railroad cars of the nineteenth-century to a police investigation in one of the largest apartments on Fifth Avenue in the twenty-first-century. The same Huguette who held a ticket for the return trip of the Titanic was touched by the terror attacks of 9/11.

Making use of twenty thousand pages of personal and financial correspondence, Dedman and Newell transport us into Huguette’s private world, where we meet her extravagant father, her publicity-shy mother, her star-crossed sister, her noble French boyfriend, the nurse who received more than \$30 million in gifts, and the relatives seeking to inherit Huguette’s \$300 million fortune. Including previously unseen photographs of Huguette and her homes, Empty Mansions is a rich and touching story of an eccentric of the highest order, a last jewel of the Gilded Age who lived life on her own terms.

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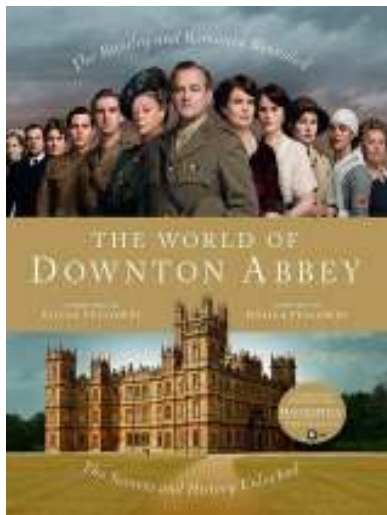


## **TROUBLES**

by J. G. Farrell

Major Brendan Archer travels to Ireland - to the Majestic Hotel and to the fiancée he acquired on a rash afternoon's leave three years ago. Despite her many letters, the lady herself proves elusive, and the Major's engagement is short-lived. But he is unable to detach himself from the alluring discomforts of the crumbling hotel. Enconced in the dim and shabby splendour of the Palm Court, surrounded by gently decaying old ladies and proliferating cats, the Major passes the summer.

So hypnotic are the faded charms of the Majestic, the Major is almost unaware of the gathering storm. But this is Ireland in 1919 - and the struggle for independence is about to explode with brutal force.



## **THE WORLD OF DOWNTON ABBEY**

by Jessica Fellowes

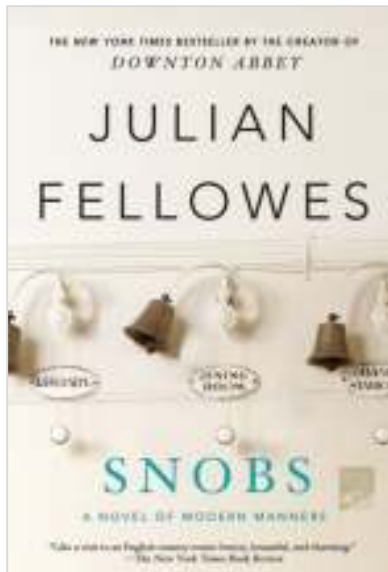
***A lavish look at the real world - both the secret history and the behind-the-scenes drama - of the spellbinding Emmy Award-winning Masterpiece TV series Downton Abbey.***

April 1912. The sun is rising behind Downton Abbey, a great and splendid house in a great and splendid park. So secure does it appear that it seems as if the way it represents will last for another thousand years. It won't.

Millions of viewers are enthralled by the world of Downton Abbey, the mesmerizing TV drama of the aristocratic Crawley family - and their servants - on the verge of dramatic change.

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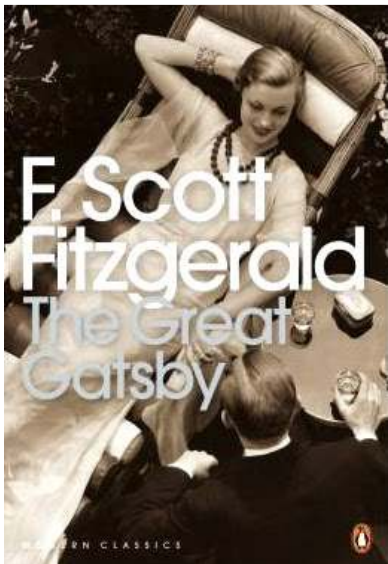
## **SNOBS**

by Julian Fellowes

Edith Lavery is a woman on the make. The attractive only child of a middle-class accountant, she leaves behind her dull job in a Chelsea estate agent and manages to bag one of the most eligible bachelors of the day - Charles Broughton, heir to the Marquess of Uckfield.

But is life amongst the upper echelons of 'good' society all that it seems? Edith soon discovers there's much more to the aristocracy than dancing in Anabel's, shooting small birds and understanding which fork to use at dinner. And then there is Charles's mother, the indomitable Lady Uckfield, or 'Googie' to her friends, who is none too pleased with her son's choice of breeding partner.

With twists and turns aplenty, this is a comical tale worthy of a contemporary Jane Austen.



## **THE GREAT GATSBY**

by F. Scott Fitzgerald

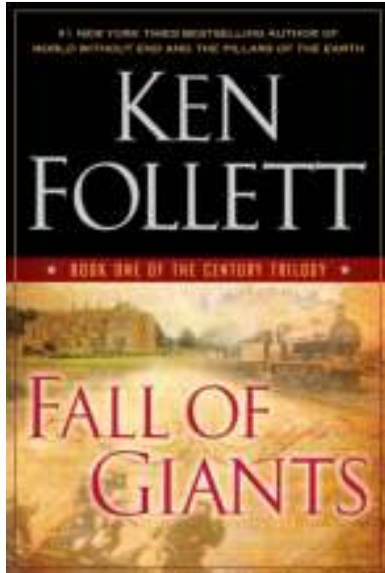
**Jay Gatsby is the man who has everything. But one thing will always be out of his reach...**

Everybody who is anybody is seen at his glittering parties. Day and night his Long Island mansion buzzes with bright young things drinking, dancing and debating his mysterious character. For Gatsby - young, handsome, fabulously rich - always seems alone in the crowd, watching and waiting, though no one knows what for.

Beneath the shimmering surface of his life he is hiding a secret: a silent longing that can never be fulfilled. And soon this destructive obsession will force his world to unravel...

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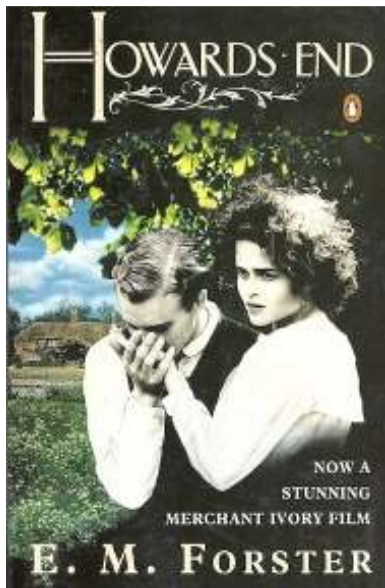
## **FALL OF GIANTS**

by Ken Follett

*Ken Follett's Century Trilogy begins, as five interrelated families move through the momentous dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage.*

A thirteen-year-old Welsh boy enters a man's world in the mining pits.... In American law student rejected in love finds a surprising new career in Woodrow Wilson's White House.... A housekeeper for the aristocratic Fitzherberts takes a fateful step above her station, while Lady Maud Fitzherbert herself crosses deep into forbidden territory when she falls in love with a German spy.... And two orphaned Russian brothers embark on radically different paths when their plan to emigrate to America falls afoul of war, conscription, and revolution.

From the dirt and danger of a coal mine to the glittering chandeliers of a palace, from the corridors of power to the bedrooms of the mighty, *Fall of Giants* takes us into the inextricably entangled fates of five families - and into a century that we thought we knew, but that now will never seem the same again.



## **HOWARDS END**

by E.M. Forster

**A vibrant portrait of life in Edwardian England, and the wonderful characters who inhabit the charming old country house in Hertfordshire called Howards End.**

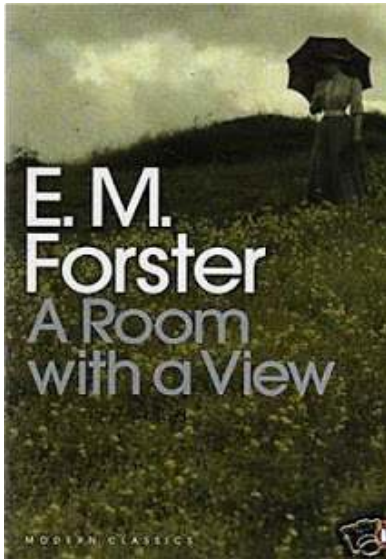
At *Howards End*'s heart lie two families - the wealthy and business-minded Wilcoxes and the cultured and idealistic Schlegels.

When the beautiful and independent Helen Schlegel begins an impetuous affair with the ardent Paul Wilcox, a series of events is sparked - some very funny, some very tragic - that results in a dispute over who will inherit Howards End, the Wilcoxes' charming country home.



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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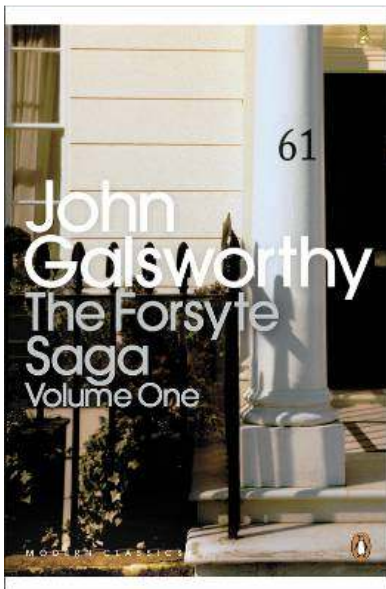
## **A ROOM WITH A VIEW**

by E.M. Forster

One of E. M. Forster's most celebrated novels, *A Room With a View* is the story of a young English middle-class girl, Lucy Honeychurch.

While vacationing in Italy, Lucy meets and is wooed by two gentlemen, George Emerson and Cecil Vyse. After turning down Cecil Vyse's marriage proposals twice Lucy finally accepts. Upon hearing of the engagement George protests and confesses his true love for Lucy.

Lucy is torn between the choice of marrying Cecil, who is a more socially acceptable mate, and George who she knows will bring her true happiness...



## **THE FORSYTE SAGA**

by John Galsworthy

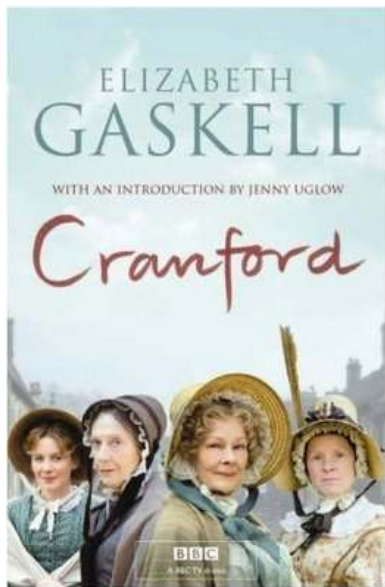
*The Forsyte Saga* is the first part of John Galsworthy's magnificent, well-loved "Forsyte Chronicles", which trace the changing fortunes of the wealthy Forsyte dynasty through fifty years of material triumph and emotional disaster.

*The Forsyte Saga* begins as the nineteenth century is drawing to a close, and the upper middle classes, with their property and propriety, are becoming a dying section of society. The Forsytes are blind to this fact, clinging to their conventions and 'brilliant respectability'.

As dignified Soames Forsyte struggles to uphold the old moral code in the face of the social revolution resulting from the Great War, his wife Irene's extraordinary beauty causes even more disruption. The bitter feud between them comes to split the Forsyte family for two generations...

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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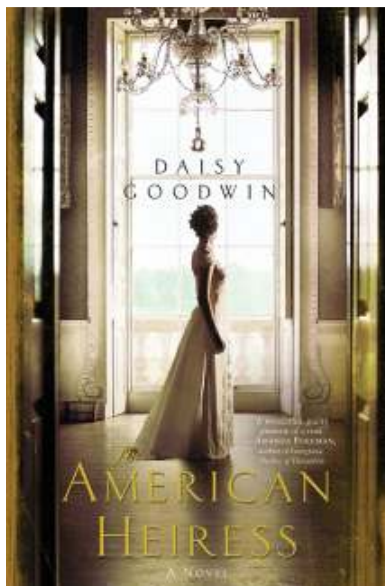
## **CRANFORD**

by Elizabeth Gaskell

*"A man... is so in the way in the house!"*

A vivid and affectionate portrait of a provincial town in early Victorian England, Elizabeth Gaskell's ***Cranford*** describes a community dominated by its independent and refined women.

Undaunted by poverty, but dismayed by changes brought by the railway and by new commercial practices, the ladies of Cranford respond to disruption with both suspicion and courage. Miss Matty and her sister Deborah uphold standards and survive personal tragedy and everyday dramas; innovation may bring loss, but it also brings growth - and welcome freedoms...



## **THE AMERICAN HEIRESS**

by Daisy Goodwin

**Be careful what you wish for...**

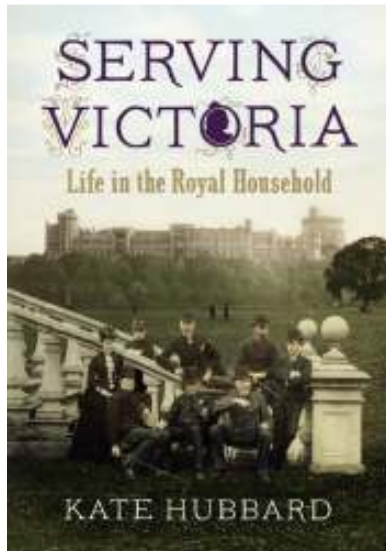
Traveling abroad with her mother at the turn of the twentieth century to seek a titled husband; beautiful, vivacious Cora Cash - whose family mansion in Newport dwarfs the Vanderbilts' - suddenly finds herself Duchess of Wareham, married to Ivo, the most eligible bachelor in England.

Nothing is quite as it seems, however: Ivo is withdrawn and secretive, and the English social scene is full of traps and betrayals.

Money, Cora soon learns, cannot buy everything, as she must decide what is truly worth the price in her life and her marriage...

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **SERVING VICTORIA: LIFE IN THE ROYAL HOUSEHOLD**

by Kate Hubbard

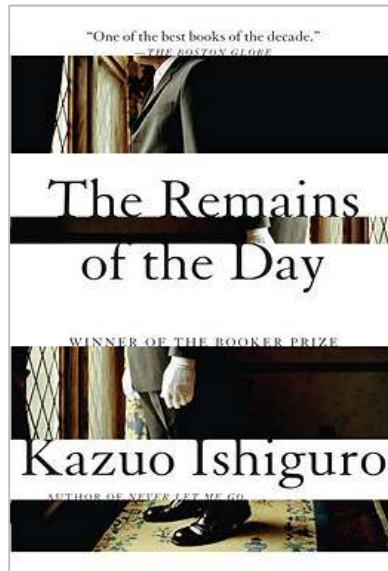
During her sixty-three-year reign, Queen Victoria gathered around herself a household dedicated to her service. For some, royal employment was the defining experience of their lives; for others it came as an unwelcome duty or as a prelude to greater things. *Serving Victoria* follows the lives of six members of her household, from the governess to the royal children, from her maid of honour to her chaplain and her personal physician.

Drawing on their letters and diaries - many hitherto unpublished - *Serving Victoria* offers a unique insight into the Victorian court, with all its frustrations and absurdities, as well as the Queen herself, sitting squarely at its center. Seen through the eyes of her household as she traveled among Windsor, Osborne, and Balmoral, and to the French and Belgian courts, Victoria emerges as more vulnerable, more emotional, more selfish, more comical, than the austere figure depicted in her famous portraits. We see a woman who was prone to fits of giggles, who wept easily and often, who gobbled her food and shrank from confrontation but insisted on controlling the lives of those around her. We witness her extraordinary and debilitating grief at the death of her husband, Albert, and her sympathy toward the tragedies that afflicted her household.

Witty, astute, and moving, *Serving Victoria* is a perfect foil to the pomp and circumstance - and prudery and conservatism - associated with Victoria's reign, and gives an unforgettable glimpse of what it meant to serve the Queen.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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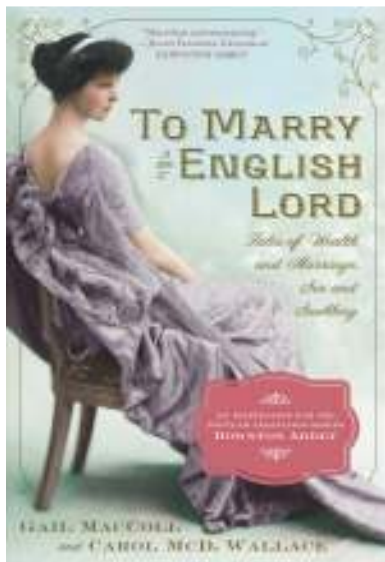
## **THE REMAINS OF THE DAY**

by Kazuo Ishiguro

***The Remains of the Day* is a profoundly compelling portrait of the perfect English butler and of his fading, insular world postwar England.**

At the end of his three decades of service at Darlington Hall, Stevens embarks on a country drive, during which he looks back over his career to reassure himself that he has served humanity by serving "a great gentleman."

But lurking in his memory are doubts about the true nature of Lord Darlington's "greatness" and graver doubts about his own faith in the man he served...



## **TO MARRY AN ENGLISH LORD**

by Gail MacColl

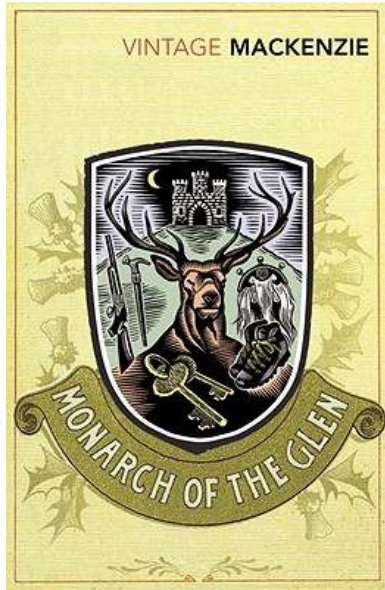
From the Gilded Age until 1914, more than 100 American heiresses invaded Britannia and swapped dollars for titles - just like Cora Crawley, Countess of Grantham, the first of the Downton Abbey characters Julian Fellowes was inspired to create after reading ***To Marry An English Lord***.

Filled with vivid personalities, gossipy anecdotes, grand houses, and a wealth of period details - plus photographs, illustrations, quotes, and the finer points of Victorian and Edwardian etiquette - ***To Marry An English Lord*** is social history at its liveliest and most accessible.



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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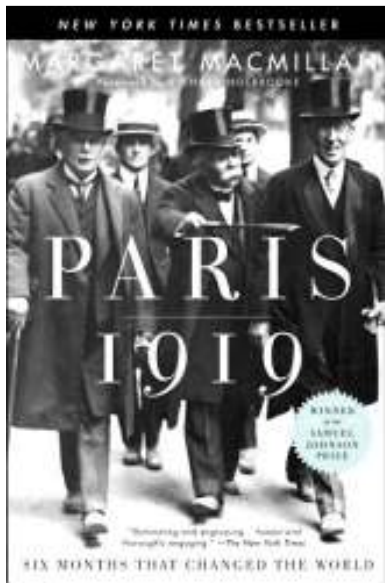
## **THE MONARCH OF THE GLEN**

by Sir Compton MacKenzie

American millionaire Chester Royde is in Scotland with his new bride Carrie and sister Myrtle to research Carrie's Scottish ancestry. Their new 'relatives' turn out to be rather more authentically Scottish than they bargained for.

Ben Nevis, Laird of Glenbogle Castle, is cash-strapped and fiercely protective of his lands and the Macdonald clan spirit, but he's not above attempts to marry heiress Myrtle to one of his brawny sons.

When a group of hikers stumble on his moor and spoil a day's hunting, it sparks an all-out war between gentry and commoners...



## **PARIS 1919: SIX MONTHS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**

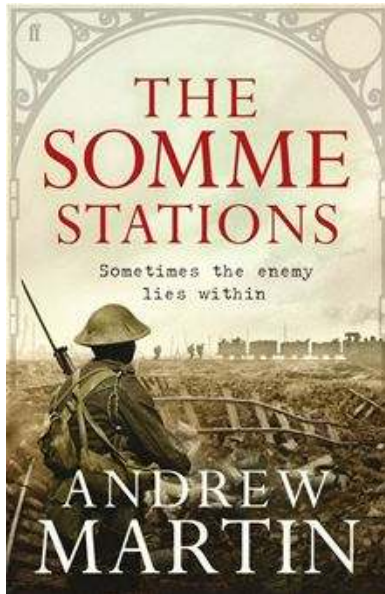
by Margaret MacMillan

For six months in 1919, after the end of “the war to end all wars,” the Big Three - President Woodrow Wilson, British prime minister David Lloyd George, and French premier Georges Clemenceau - met in Paris to shape a lasting peace.

In this landmark work of narrative history, Margaret MacMillan gives a dramatic and intimate view of those fateful days, which saw new political entities - Iraq, Yugoslavia, and Palestine, among them - born out of the ruins of bankrupt empires, and the borders of the modern world redrawn.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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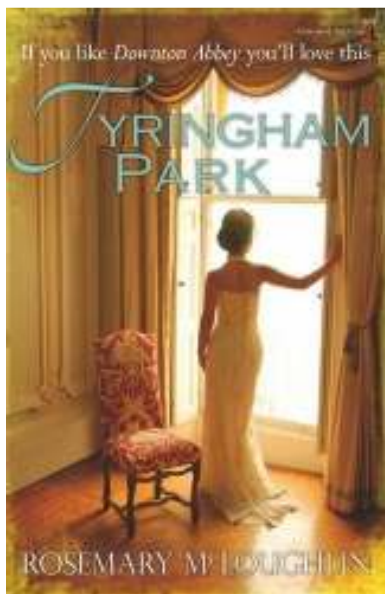
## **THE SOMME STATIONS**

by Andrew Martin

On the first day of the Somme enlisted railwayman Jim Stringer lies trapped in a shell hole, smoking cigarette after cigarette under the bullets and the blazing sun. He calculates his chances of survival - even before they departed for France, a member of Jim's unit had been found dead.

During the stand-off that follows, Jim and his comrades must operate by night the vitally important trains carrying munitions to the Front, through a ghostly landscape of shattered trees where high explosive and shrapnel shells rain down.

Close co-operation and trust are vital. Yet proof piles up of an enemy within, and as a ferocious military policeman pursues his investigation into the original killing, the finger of accusation begins to point towards Jim himself...



## **TYRINGHAM PARK**

by Rosemary McLoughlin

**The country estate of Tyringham Park is the epitome of wealth and privilege. Home to the Blackshaws, it finds itself the backdrop to tragedy.**

It is a beautiful day in 1917, and Tyringham Park is in an uproar after Victoria Blackshaw, an innocent toddler, disappears without a trace. The feverish search for Victoria soon uncovers jealousies and deceptions that both the upstairs and downstairs inhabitants of the grand estate have fought for years to keep hidden.

As time passes, Victoria's disappearance casts a long shadow over all of their lives. Charlotte, the Blackshaws' less-favored eight-year-old daughter, finds herself severely impacted by the loss of her sister. Charlotte's greatest wish is to escape the confines of the estate, but Tyringham Park and its many mysteries may never release their hold on her. Like all those at Tyringham Park, she is caught in a web of passions and secrets, trysts and betrayals that seems to ensnare everyone connected to this once great house.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **THE CRIMSON ROOMS**

by Katharine McMahon

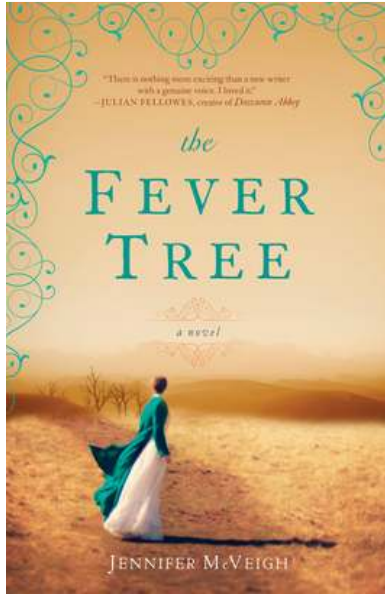
Evelyn is a young woman who has defied convention to become one of the country's pioneer female lawyers. Living at home with her mother, aunt, and grandmother, Evelyn is still haunted by the death of her younger brother James in the First World War. Therefore when the doorbell rings late one night and a woman appears, claiming to have mothered James's child, her world is turned upside down. Evelyn distrusts Meredith at first, but also finds that this new arrival challenges her work-obsessed lifestyle. So far her legal career has not set the world alight.

But then two cases arise that make Evelyn realise perhaps she can make a difference. The first concerns woman called Leah Marchant whose children have been taken away from her simply because she is poor. The second, Stephen Wheeler - a former acquaintance of Daniel Breen, her boss - has been charged with murdering his own wife. It is clear to Breen and Evelyn that Wheeler is innocent but he won't talk. After being humiliated in court, Evelyn is approached by a dashing lawyer called Nicholas Thorne. She is needed by his privileged background and old-fashioned attitudes, but despite being engaged, he cannot seem to resist sparring with this feisty young female. In the meantime, Meredith makes an earth-shattering accusation about James.

With the Wheeler case coming to a head, and her heart in limbo, Evelyn takes matters into her own hands...

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **THE FEVER TREE**

by Jennifer McVeigh

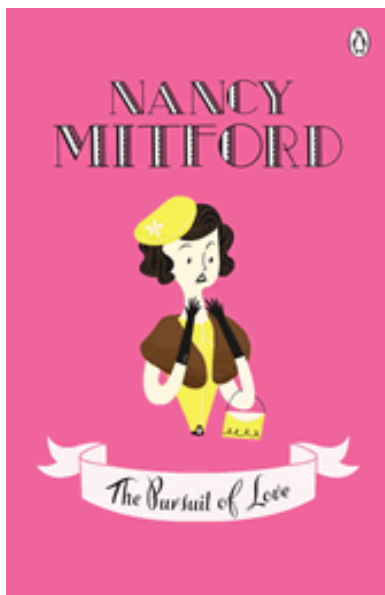
**In London she was caged by society.**

**In South Africa, she is dangerously free.**

Frances Irvine, left destitute in the wake of her father's sudden death, has been forced to abandon her life of wealth and privilege in London and emigrate to the Southern Cape of Africa. 1880 South Africa is a country torn apart by greed. In this remote and inhospitable land she becomes entangled with two very different men - one driven by ambition, the other by his ideals. Only when the rumor of a smallpox epidemic takes her into the dark heart of the diamond mines does she see her path to happiness.

But this is a ruthless world of avarice and exploitation, where the spoils of the rich come at a terrible human cost and powerful men will go to any lengths to keep the mines in operation. Removed from civilization and disillusioned by her isolation, Frances must choose between passion and integrity, a decision that has devastating consequences.

**"There is nothing more exciting than a new writer with a genuine voice. I loved it." —Julian Fellowes, creator of *Downton Abbey***



## **THE PURSUIT OF LOVE**

by Nancy Mitford

***'Obsessed with sex!' said Jassy, 'there's nobody so obsessed as you, Linda. Why if I so much as look at a picture you say I'm a pygmalionist.'***

***In the end we got far more information out of a book called Ducks and Duck Breeding. 'Ducks can only copulate,' said Linda, after studying this for a while, 'in running water. Good luck to them.'***

Oh, the tedium of waiting to grow up! Longing for love, obsessed with weddings and sex, Linda and her sisters and cousin Fanny are on the lookout for the perfect lover.

But finding Mr. Right is much harder than any of the sisters had thought. Linda must suffer marriage first to a stuffy Tory MP and then to a handsome and humourless communist, before finding real love in war-torn Paris ...



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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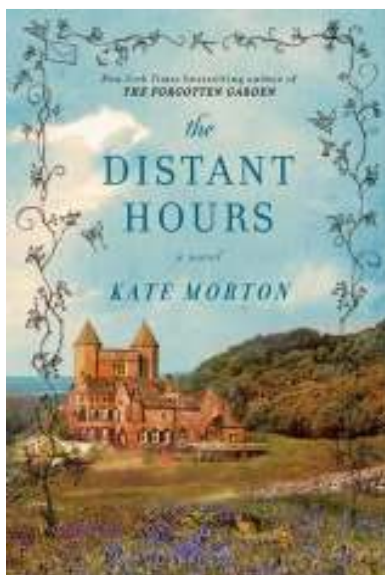
## **SASHENKA**

by Simon Montefiore

Winter, 1916: In St Petersburg, Russia on the brink of revolution. Outside the Smolny Institute for Noble Young Ladies, an English governess is waiting for her young charge to be released from school. But so are the Tsar's secret police...

Beautiful and headstrong, Sashenka Zeitlin is just 18. In the evenings when her mother is partying with Rasputin and her dissolute friends, Sashenka becomes Comrade Snowfox and slips into the frozen night to play her part in a dangerous game of conspiracy and seduction. Twenty years on, and Sashenka is married to a dashing Communist leader with whom she has two children. Around her people are disappearing, but her own family is safe. But she is about to embark on a forbidden love affair, which will have devastating consequences.

Sashenka's story lies hidden for half a century, until a young historian goes deep into Stalin's private archives and uncovers a heart-breaking story of passion and betrayal, savage cruelty and unexpected heroism - and one woman forced to make an unbearable choice.



## **THE DISTANT HOURS**

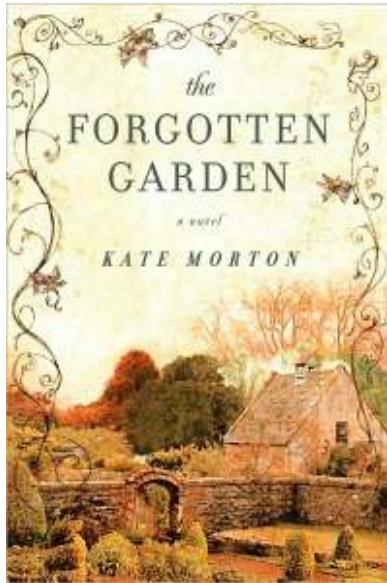
by Kate Morton

A long lost letter arrives in the post and Edie Burchill finds herself on a journey to Middelhurst Castle, a great but mouldering old place, where the Blythe spinsters live and where her mother was billeted fifty years before as a thirteen-year-old child during WW II. The elder Blythe sisters are twins and have spent most of their lives looking after the third and youngest sister, Juniper, who hasn't been the same since her fiancé jilted her in 1941.

Inside the decaying castle, Edie begins to unravel her mother's past. But there are other secrets hidden in the stones of Middelhurst, and Edie is about to learn more than she expected. The truth of what happened in "the distant hours" of the past has been waiting a long time for someone to find it...

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **THE FORGOTTEN GARDEN**

by Kate Morton

In 1913 London, a little girl plays hide-and-seek on the deck of a ship while waiting for the woman who left her there to return. But as darkness comes, the girl is still alone when the ship pulls out from the dock and steams away on a long, gruelling journey to Australia. There, the dock master and his wife take in the small castaway who is carrying nothing but a child's white suitcase containing a few clothes and a book of fairytales. They name her Nell and raise her as their own. It's not until her twenty-first birthday that they tell her the truth.

Nell returns to England in search of her identity and that of the mysterious woman who abandoned her. Her quest is not fulfilled until after her death, when her granddaughter, Cassandra, travels to a cottage on the cliffs of Cornwall and discovers the secrets of its forgotten garden.



## **THE HOUSE AT RIVERTON**

by Kate Morton

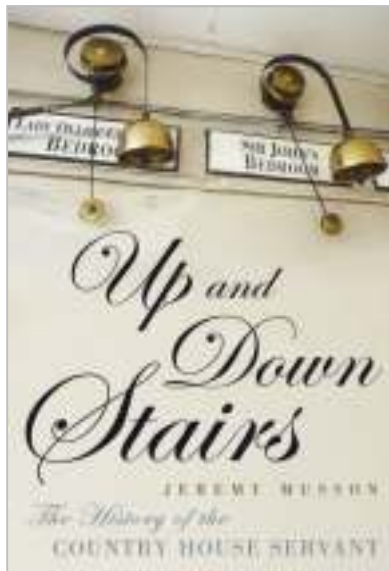
Grace Bradley went to work at Riverton House as a servant when she was just a girl, before the First World War. For years her life was inextricably tied up with the Hartford family, most particularly the two daughters, Hannah and Emmeline.

In the summer of 1924, at a glittering society party held at the house, a young poet shot himself. The only witnesses were Hannah and Emmeline and only they - and Grace - know the truth.

In 1999, when Grace is ninety-eight years old and living out her last days in a nursing home, she is visited by a young director who is making a film about the events of that summer. She takes Grace back to Riverton House and reawakens her memories. Told in flashback, this is the story of Grace's youth during the last days of Edwardian aristocratic privilege shattered by war, of the vibrant twenties and the changes she witnessed as an entire way of life vanished forever...

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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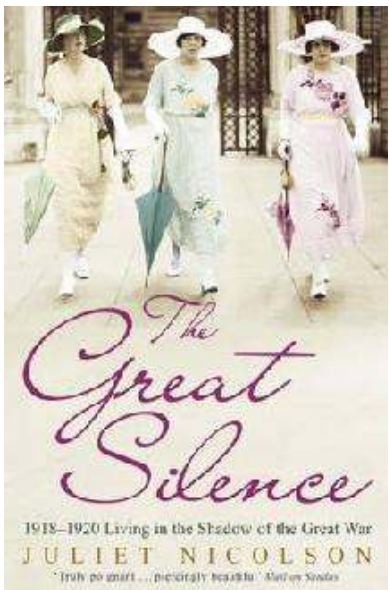
## UP AND DOWN STAIRS: THE HISTORY OF THE COUNTRY HOUSE SERVANT

by Jeremy Musson

Country houses were reliant on an intricate hierarchy of servants, each of whom provided an essential skill. *Up and Down Stairs* brings to life this hierarchy, showing how large numbers of people lived together under strict segregation and how sometimes this segregation was broken, as with the famous marriage of a squire to his dairymaid at Uppark.

Jeremy Musson captures the voices of the servants who ran these vast houses and made them work. From unpublished memoirs to letters, wages, and newspaper articles, he pieces together their daily lives from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.

The story of domestic servants is inseparable from the story of the country house as an icon of power, civilization, and luxury. This is particularly true with the great estates such as Chatsworth, Hatfield, Burghley and Wilton. Jeremy Musson looks at how these grand houses were, for centuries, admired and imitated around the world...



## THE GREAT SILENCE : 1918 – 1920, LIVING IN THE SHADOW OF THE GREAT WAR

by Juliet Nicolson

At the end of the Great War, those who had danced their way through settled Edwardian times faced a changed world. Many found themselves struggling to accept the past, while others were anxious to move toward a new future.

Told from many perspectives, *The Great Silence* is the story of the neglected pause between 1918 and 1920. A two-minute silence to honour those who died was underpinned by a more enduring silence born out of national grief. As the cost of living rose, unemployment billowed in a climate of loneliness and disbelief.

From Nancy Astor, the first woman MP, to Eric Horne, an overworked butler, people either embraced or hid from the changes around them. In her trademark style, Juliet Nicolson evokes what life was like during this fascinating hinge in history.



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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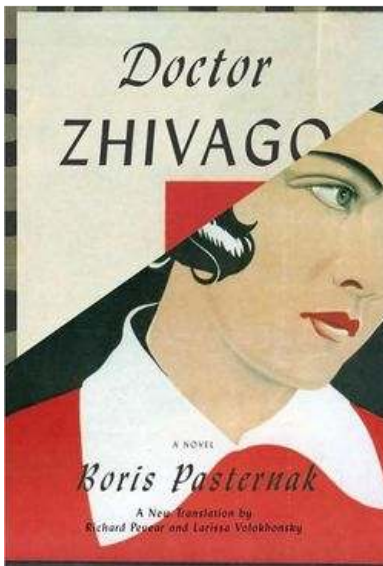
## PARK LANE

by Frances Osborne

When eighteen-year-old Grace Campbell arrives in London in 1914, she's unable to fulfill her family's ambitions and find a position as an office secretary.

Lying to her parents and her brother, Michael, she takes a job as a housemaid at Number 35, Park Lane, where she is quickly caught up in lives of its inhabitants - in particular, those of its privileged son, Edward, and daughter, Beatrice, who is recovering from a failed relationship that would have taken her away from an increasingly stifling life.

Desperate to find a new purpose, Bea joins a group of radical suffragettes and strikes up an intriguing romance with an impassioned young lawyer. Unbeknownst to each of the young women, the choices they make amid the rapidly changing world of WWI will connect their chances at future happiness in dramatic and inevitable ways...



## DOCTOR ZHIVAGO

by Boris Pasternak

*Doctor Zhivago* is the story of the life and loves of a poet-physician during the turmoil of the Russian Revolution.

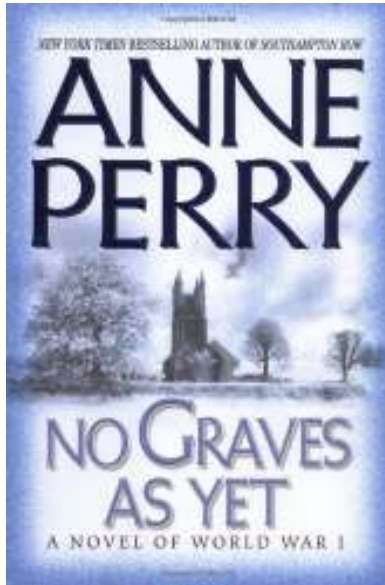
Taking his family from Moscow to what he hopes will be shelter in the Ural Mountains, Zhivago finds himself instead embroiled in the battle between the Whites and the Reds.

Set against this backdrop of cruelty and strife is Zhivago's love for the tender and beautiful Lara: pursued, found, and lost again, Lara is the very embodiment of the pain and chaos of those cataclysmic times...



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **NO GRAVES AS YET**

by Anne Perry

*This novel kicks off the WWI suspense series by bestselling author Anne Perry, who puts to effective use her talent for detailing the fine historical minutiae but moves her period setting from Victorian London to Cambridge on the eve of World War I.*

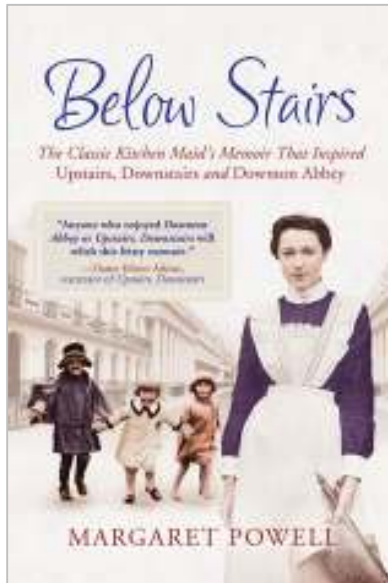
On a sunny afternoon in late June, Cambridge professor Joseph Reavley is summoned from a student cricket match to learn that his parents have died in an automobile crash. Joseph's brother, Matthew, an officer in the Intelligence Service, reveals that their father had been en route to London to turn over to him a mysterious secret document - allegedly with the power to disgrace England forever and destroy the civilized world. A paper so damning that Joseph and Matthew dared mention it only to their restless sister. Now it has vanished.

What has happened to this explosive document, if indeed it ever existed? How had it fallen into the hands of their father, a quiet countryman? Not even Matthew, with his Intelligence connections, can answer these questions. And Joseph is soon burdened with a second tragedy: the shocking murder of his most gifted student, handsome Sebastian Allard, loved and admired by everyone. Or so it appeared.

Meanwhile, England's seamless peace is cracking - as the distance between the murder of an Austrian archduke by a Serbian anarchist and the death of a brilliant university student by a bullet to the head becomes shorter with each day...

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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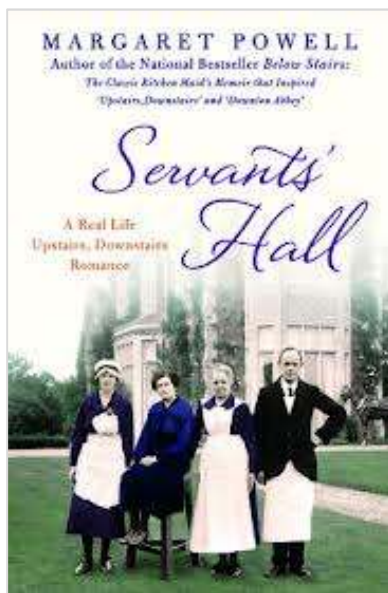
## **BELOW STAIRS**

by Margaret Powell

Arriving at the great houses of 1920s London, fifteen-year-old Margaret's life in service was about to begin... As a kitchen maid - the lowest of the low - she entered an entirely new world; one of stoves to be blacked, vegetables to be scrubbed, mistresses to be appeased, and even bootlaces to be ironed. Work started at 5:30am and went on until after dark.

It was a far cry from her childhood on the beaches of Hove, where money and food were scarce, but warmth and laughter never were. Yet from the gentleman with a penchant for stroking the housemaids' curlers, to raucous tea-dances with errand boys, to the heartbreaking story of Agnes the pregnant under-parlourmaid, fired for being seduced by her mistress's nephew, Margaret's tales of her time in service are told with wit, warmth, and a sharp eye for the prejudices of her situation.

Brilliantly evoking the long-vanished world of masters and servants, ***Below Stairs*** is the remarkable true story of an indomitable woman, who, though her position was lowly, never stopped aiming high.



## **SERVANTS' HALL : A REAL LIFE UPTOWN, DOWNSTAIRS ROMANCE**

by Margaret Powell

Margaret Powell's ***Below Stairs*** became a sensation among readers reveling in the luxury and subtle class warfare of Masterpiece Theatre's hit television series *Downton Abbey*. Now in the sequel *Servants' Hall*, Powell tells the true story of Rose, the under-parlourmaid to the Wardham Family at Redlands, who took a shocking step: She eloped with the family's only son, Mr. Gerald.

Going from rags to riches, Rose finds herself caught up in a maelstrom of gossip, incredulity and envy among her fellow servants. The reaction from upstairs was no better: Mr. Wardham, the master of the house, disdained the match so completely that he refused ever to have contact with the young couple again. Gerald and Rose marry, leave Redlands and Powell looks on with envy, even as the marriage hits on bumpy times: ***"To us in the servants' hall, it was just like a fairy tale... How I wished I was in her shoes."***

Once again bringing that lost world to life, Margaret Powell trains her pen and her gimlet eye on her "betters" in this next chapter from a life spent in service. ***Servants' Hall*** is Margaret Powell at her best - a warm, funny and sometimes hilarious memoir of life at a time when wealthy families like ruled England.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE**

by Jennifer Robson

**A daring young woman will risk her life to find her destiny in this atmospheric, beautifully drawn historical debut novel - a tale of love, hope, and danger set during the First World War.**

Lady Elizabeth Neville-Ashford wants to travel the world, pursue a career, and marry for love. But in 1914, the stifling restrictions of aristocratic British society and her mother's rigid expectations forbid Lilly from following her heart. When war breaks out, the spirited young woman seizes her chance for independence. Defying her parents, she moves to London and eventually becomes an ambulance driver in the newly formed Women's Army Auxiliary Corps - an exciting and treacherous job that takes her close to the Western Front.

Assigned to a field hospital in France, Lilly is reunited with Robert Fraser, her dear brother Edward's best friend. The handsome Scottish surgeon has always encouraged Lilly's dreams. She doesn't care that Robbie grew up in poverty - she yearns for their friendly affection to become something more. Lily is the most beautiful - and forbidden - woman Robbie has ever known. Fearful for her life, he's determined to keep her safe, even if it means breaking her heart.

In a world divided by class, filled with uncertainty and death, can their hope for love survive - or will it become another casualty of this tragic war?

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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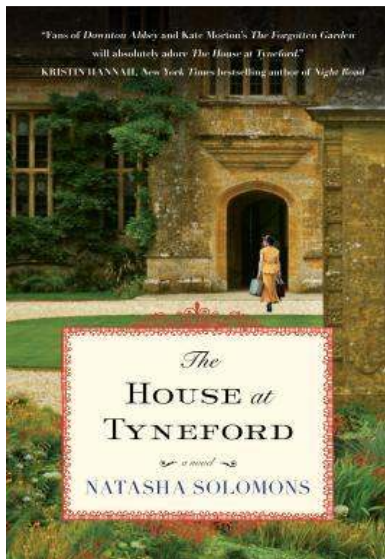
## **THE EDWARDIANS**

by Vita Sackville-West

At nineteen, Sebastian is a duke and heir to a vast country estate. A deep sense of tradition binds him to his inheritance, though he loathes the social circus he is a part of. Deception, infidelity and greed hide beneath the glittering surface of good manners.

Among the guests at a lavish party are two people who will change Sebastian's life: Lady Roehampton, who will initiate him in the art of love; and Leonard Anquetil, a polar explorer who will lead Sebastian and his free-spirited sister Viola to question their destiny.

A portrait of fashionable society at the height of the era, ***The Edwardians*** revealed all that was glamorous about the period - and all that was to lead to its downfall...



## **THE HOUSE AT TYNEFORD**

by Natasha Solomons

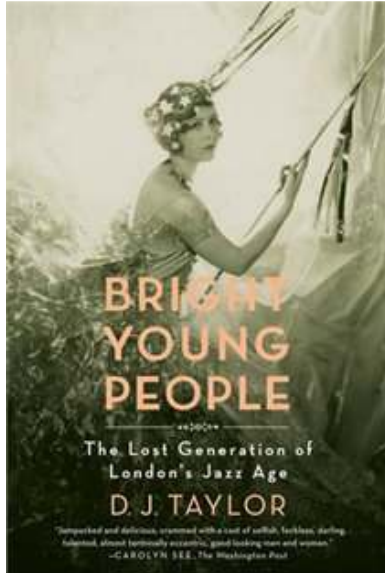
In the spring of 1938 Elise Landau arrives at Tyneford, the great house on the bay. A bright young thing from Vienna forced to become a parlour-maid, she knows nothing about England, except that she won't like it. As servants polish silver and serve drinks on the lawn, Elise wears her mother's pearls beneath her uniform, and causes outrage by dancing with a boy called Kit.

But war is coming and the world is changing. And Elise must change with it. At Tyneford she learns that you can be more than one person - and that you can love more than once...



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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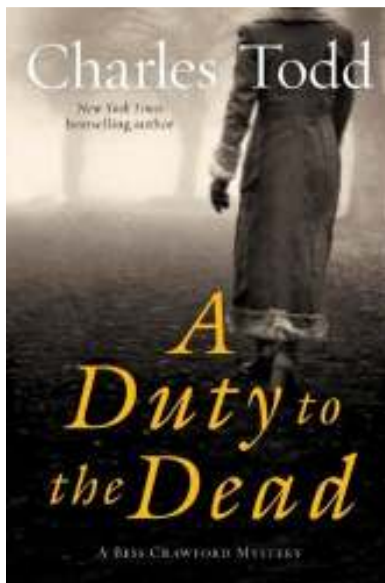


## **BRIGHT YOUNG PEOPLE : THE LOST GENERATION OF LONDON'S JAZZ AGE**

by D.J. Taylor

The modern obsession with celebrity began with the Bright Young People, a voraciously pleasure-seeking band of bohemian party-givers and blue-blooded socialites who romped through the gossip columns of 1920s London.

Drawing on the virtuosic and often wrenching writings of the Bright Young People themselves, the biographer and novelist D. J. Taylor has produced an enthralling account of an age of fleeting brilliance.



## **A DUTY TO THE DEAD**

by Charles Todd

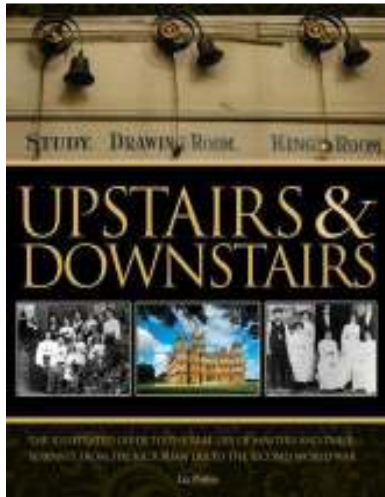
Dedicated to helping the many wounded during the Great War, Bess Crawford receives a desperate request from a dying lieutenant while serving as a nurse aboard a hospital ship. ***"Tell my brother Jonathan that I lied,"*** the young man says. ***"I did it for Mother's sake. But it has to be set right."***

Back home in England, Bess receives an unexpected response from the dead soldier's family, for neither Jonathan Graham, his mother, nor his younger brother admit to understanding what the message means.

But the Grahams are harbouring a grim secret, and Bess must, somehow, get to the bottom of it. It is her sacred duty to the dead, no matter how painful, or dangerous, that obligation might be.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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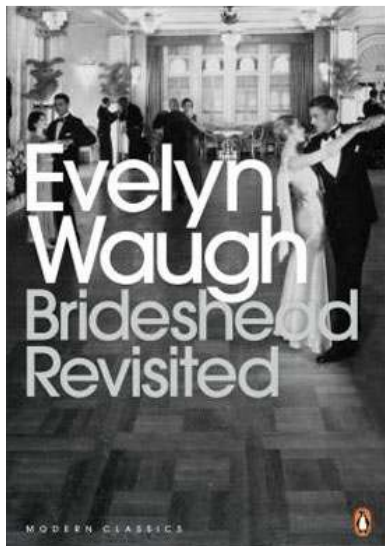


## **UPSTAIRS AND DOWNSTAIRS: THE ILLUSTRATED GUIDE TO THE REAL WORLD OF DOWNTON ABBEY**

by Sarah Warwick

This beautifully illustrated book takes readers on a guided tour of a single day in an upper-crust English home of the Edwardian era.

Starting with the servants hard at work while the family is still abed, and culminating in a lavish dinner party, Upstairs & Downstairs lifts the curtain on this fascinating period, as well as its historical bookends, the Victorian and post-World War I eras. Included are accounts from actual masters and servants, along with feature spreads on famous figures like Winston Churchill and Virginia Woolf.



## **BRIDESHEAD REVISITED**

by Evelyn Waugh

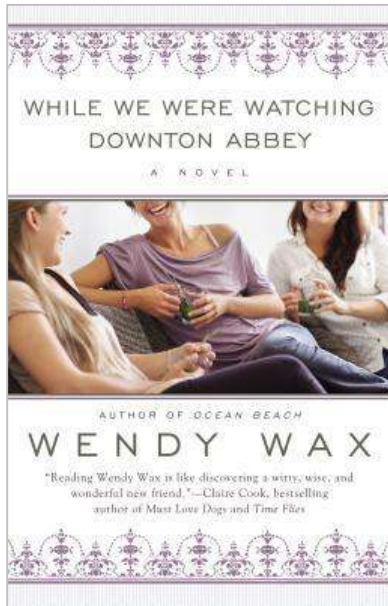
*'I knew Sebastian by sight long before I met him. That was unavoidable for, from his first week, he was the most conspicuous man of his year by reason of his beauty, which was arresting, and his eccentricities of behaviour, which seemed to know no bounds'.*

Charles Ryder, a lonely student at Oxford, is captivated by the outrageous and exquisitely beautiful Sebastian Flyte. Invited to Brideshead, Sebastian's magnificent family home, Charles welcomes the attentions of its eccentric, aristocratic inhabitants.

But Charles also discovers a world where duty and desire, faith and earthly happiness are in conflict - a world which threatens to destroy his beloved Sebastian...

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **WHILE WE WERE WATCHING DOWNTON ABBEY** by Wendy Wax

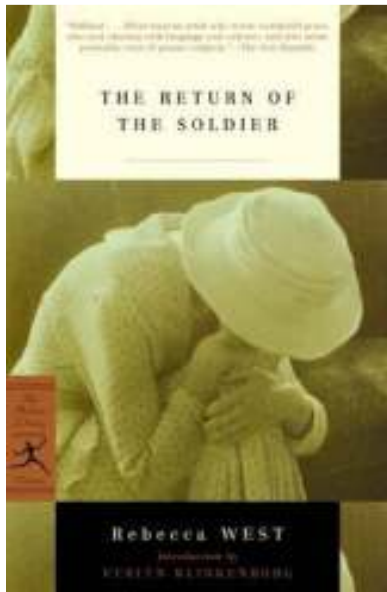
When the concierge of The Alexander, a historic Atlanta apartment building, invites his fellow residents to join him for weekly screenings of *Downton Abbey*, four very different people find themselves connecting with the addictive drama, and - even more unexpectedly - with each other...

Samantha Davis married young and for the wrong reason: the security of old Atlanta money - for herself and for her orphaned brother and sister. She never expected her marriage to be complicated by love and compromised by a shattering family betrayal.

Claire Walker is now an empty nester and struggling author who left her home in the suburbs for the old world charm of The Alexander, and for a new and productive life. But she soon wonders if clinging to old dreams can be more destructive than having no dreams at all.

And then there's Brooke MacKenzie, a woman in constant battle with her faithless ex-husband. She's just starting to realize that it's time to take a deep breath and come to terms with the fact that her life is not the fairy tale she thought it would be.

For Samantha, Claire, Brooke - and Edward, who arranges the weekly gatherings - it will be a season of surprises as they forge a bond that will sustain them through some of life's hardest moments - all of it reflected in the unfolding drama, comedy, and convergent lives of *Downton Abbey*.



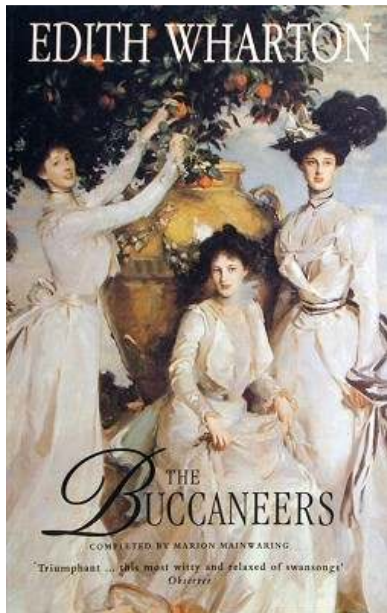
## **THE RETURN OF THE SOLDIER** by Rebecca West

In 1916 on an isolated country estate just outside London, Captain Chris Baldry, a shell-shocked captain suffering from amnesia, makes a bittersweet homecoming to the three women who have helped shape his life.

Will the devoted wife he can no longer recollect, the favorite cousin he remembers only as a childhood friend, and the poor innkeeper's daughter he once courted leave Chris to languish in a safe, dreamy past - or will they help him recover his memory so that he can return to the front? The answer is revealed through a heart-wrenching, unexpected sacrifice.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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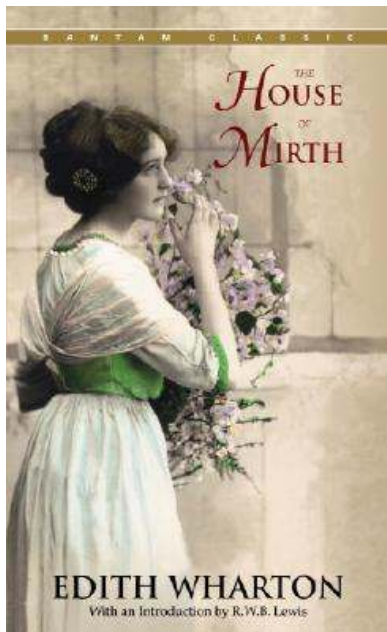
## THE BUCCANEERS

by Edith Wharton

Set in the 1870s, the same period as Wharton's *The Age of Innocence*, *The Buccaneers* is about five wealthy American girls denied entry into New York Society because their parents' money is too new. At the suggestion of their clever governess, the girls sail to London, where they marry lords, earls, and dukes who find their beauty charming - and their wealth extremely useful.

After Wharton's death in 1937, *The Christian Science Monitor* said, "If it could have been completed, *The Buccaneers* would doubtless stand among the richest and most sophisticated of Wharton's novels."

Now, with wit and imagination, **Marion Mainwaring** has finished the story, taking her cue from Wharton's own synopsis. It is a novel any Wharton fan will celebrate and any romantic reader will love. This is the richly engaging story of Nan St. George and guy Thwarte, an American heiress and an English aristocrat, whose love breaks the rules of both their societies.



## THE HOUSE OF MIRTH

by Edith Wharton

In *The House of Mirth*, Edith Wharton depicts the glittering salons of Gilded Age New York with precision and wit, even as she movingly portrays the obstacles that impeded women's choices at the turn of the century.

The beautiful, much-desired Lily Bart has been raised to be one of the perfect wives of the wealthy upper class, but her spark of character and independent drive prevents her from becoming one of the many women who will succeed in those circles.

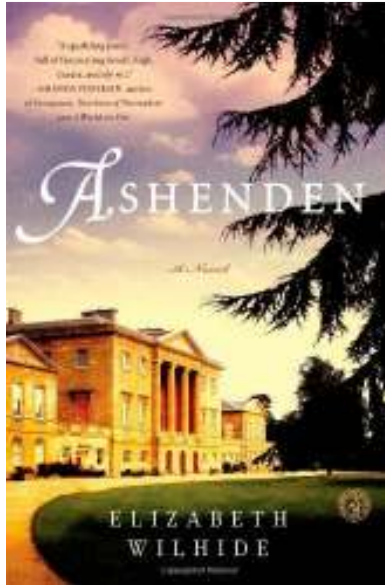
Though her desire for a comfortable life means that she cannot marry for love without money, her resistance to the rules of the social elite endangers her many marriage proposals. As Lily spirals down into debt and dishonour, her story takes on the resonance of classic tragedy.

One of Wharton's most bracing and nuanced portraits of the life of women in a hostile, highly ordered world, *The House of Mirth* exposes the truths about American high society that its denizens most wished to deny...



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **ASHENDEN**

by Elizabeth Wilhide

When Charlie and Ros inherit Ashenden from their aunt Reggie a decision must be made. The beautiful eighteenth-century house, set in acres of English countryside, is in need of serious repair. Do they try to keep it in the family, or will they have to sell?

Moving back in time, in an interwoven narrative spanning two and a half centuries, we witness the house from its beginnings through to the present day. Along the way we meet those who have built the house, lived in it and loved it; those who have worked in it, and those who would subvert it to their own ends, including Mrs Trimble, housekeeper to the rakety, spendthrift Mores; the wealthy Henderson family, in their Victorian heyday; six-year-old Pudge; Walter Beckmann, prisoner in its grounds.

A novel about people, architecture and living history, **Ashenden** is an evocative and allusive reflection on England and its past.



## **THE ASHFORD AFFAIR**

by Lauren Willig

As a lawyer in a large Manhattan firm, just shy of making partner, Clementine Evans has finally achieved almost everything she's been working towards - but now she's not sure it's enough. Her long hours have led to a broken engagement and, suddenly single at thirty-four, she feels her messy life crumbling around her. But when the family gathers for her grandmother Addie's ninety-ninth birthday, a relative lets slip hints about a long-buried family secret, leading Clemmie on a journey into the past that could change everything...

Growing up at Ashford Park in the early twentieth century, Addie has never quite belonged. When her parents passed away, she was taken into the grand English house by her aristocratic aunt and uncle, and raised side-by-side with her beautiful and outgoing cousin, Bea. Though they are as different as night and day, Addie and Bea are closer than sisters, through relationships and challenges, and a war that changes the face of Europe irrevocably. But what happens when something finally comes along that can't be shared? When the love of sisterhood is tested by a bond that's even stronger?

From the inner circles of British society to the skyscrapers of Manhattan and the red-dirt hills of Kenya, the never-told secrets of a woman and a family unfurl.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **MAISIE DOBBS**

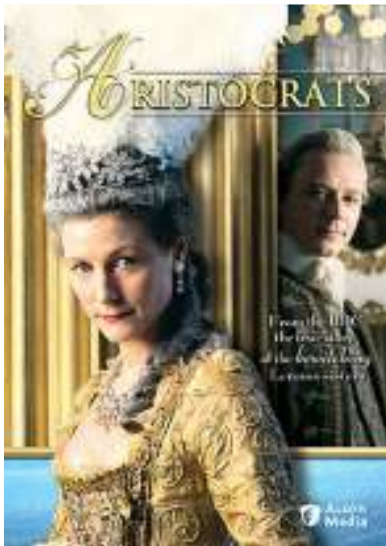
by Jacqueline Winspear

Hailed as “part *Testament of Youth*, part Dorothy Sayers, and part *Upstairs, Downstairs*”, this astonishing debut has already won fans from coast to coast and is poised to add Maisie Dobbs to the ranks of literature’s favorite sleuths.

Maisie Dobbs isn’t just any young housemaid. Through her own natural intelligence - and the patronage of her benevolent employers - she works her way into college at Cambridge. When World War I breaks out, Maisie goes to the front as a nurse. It is there that she learns that coincidences are meaningful and the truth elusive.

After the War, Maisie sets up on her own as a private investigator. But her very first assignment, seemingly an ordinary infidelity case, soon reveals a much deeper, darker web of secrets, which will force Maisie to revisit the horrors of the Great War and the love she left behind.

# You also might like to watch:



## **ARISTOCRATS**

***Aristocrats*** vividly re-creates a different world that would eventually be shattered by rebellion and bloodshed. The much pampered Emily Lennox narrates her family's history, as tumultuous as it was charmed. The Lennox sisters, Caroline, Emily, Louisa, and Sarah were of royal blood and they mixed with royalty.

Part 1 chronicles elder daughter Caroline's "small rebellion" that tears her family apart. Against her father's wishes ("I would sooner let you sell fish in the street," he thunders), she marries for love Henry Fox, a politician who is 20 years older. Caroline is banished from the house and her sisters' lives.

Part 2 charts the misfortunes of sister Sarah, who as a child was a favorite of the king and is later courted, but ultimately rejected, by his heir. She becomes "an inconvenient woman," scandalizing her family with her indiscretions.

Part 3 makes the last reel of *Gone with the Wind* look like *Singin' in the Rain* as bittersweet reunions, sibling rivalries, death, infidelities, and revolution take their tragic toll.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## BERKELEY SQUARE

In 1902 three young nannies find jobs in well-to-do London households and get to know each other. Naive farm girl Lydia finds an unfamiliar world both in city life and with the progressive-thinking family who employs her. Earnest, rule-abiding Matty is a hard-working East End girl who slowly learns to loosen up. And, after a tragic affair with the eldest son of a grand Yorkshire family, Hannah's life in London is full of chilling secrets and grave life-and-death decisions.

A classic coming-of-age tale on par with *Anne of Avonlea* and *Little Women*, ***Berkeley Square*** is worth watching over and over again. This 10-episode British miniseries will awe you with its erudite script, wonderfully believable characters, high-caliber production values, meticulous Edwardian details, and topnotch acting.



## CRANFORD

Adapted from Elizabeth Gaskell's novels, the five-episode miniseries, ***Cranford*** focuses on female characters in the 19th-century British town to thematically contemplate encroaching modernity in rural England.

With the camera roving house to house, each drama within the grander story is constructed of scenes featuring dialogue between several gossipy ladies obsessed with moral code, romantic ideas about courtship, and social occasions. Three main characters, the ever-appropriate Deborah Jenkyns, her sweet sister, Matilda, and their younger, savvier relative, Miss Smith, continuously weigh in on situations, providing a dependable view when other ladies, like the nosey Miss Pole are too judgmental.

In fine period dress, the women of *Cranford* remind the viewer of how little action was needed in their small-town lives to provide unceasing entertainment. The series' most intriguing aspect lies not in the ample female conversation but rather in its display of earlier technologies and ways of life.



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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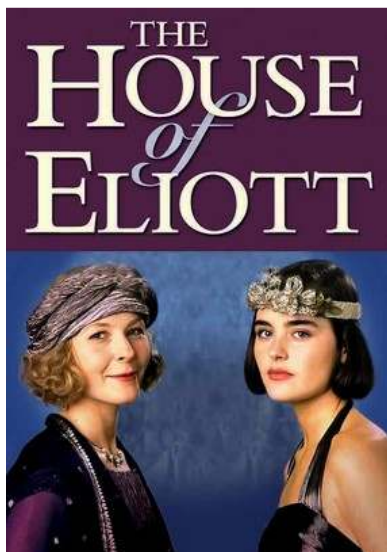


## GOSFORD PARK

Set in the 1930's the story takes place in an old fashioned English country house where a family has invited many of their friends up for a weekend shooting party.

The story centers around the McCordle family, particularly the man of the house, William McCordle. Getting on in years, William has become benefactor to many of his relatives and friends.

As the weekend goes on and secrets are revealed, it seems everyone, above stairs and below, wants a piece of William and his money, but how far will they go to get it?



## THE HOUSE OF ELIOTT

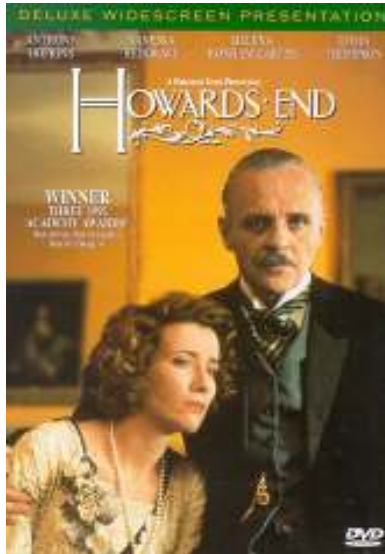
**Family secrets, scandal, thwarted love, intriguing characters, and great clothes: what more could an Anglophile want for a satisfying series of evening entertainment?**

Stella Gonet and Louise Lombard star as Beatrice and Evangeline Eliott, two free-spirited, talented sisters whose lives come unraveled when their father dies and leaves them unexpectedly broke. Their discovery of where his money went is just the first of several betrayals that befall them as they struggle to start their own fashion business. Yes, it's about women and clothes, but ***The House of Eliott*** is much more than a chick flick. Bea and Evie's determination to make it on their own terms reflects every artist's struggle, and the fact that they are women trying to start a business in 1920s England adds another layer to that challenge.

They have no education or training, just a passion for fashion design. As suitors try to woo them and scoundrels try to trip them up, they make independent, exciting lives for themselves and the women they employ in their house of haute couture.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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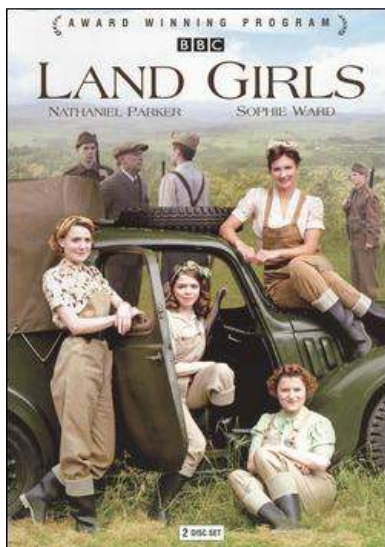


## HOWARDS END

**Howards End** is E. M. Forster's beautifully subtle story of the criss-crossing paths of the privileged and those they disdain - and of a remarkable pair of women who can see beyond class distinctions.

Dramatic and tragic but also surprisingly funny, this James Ivory film focuses on a pair of unmarried sisters (Margaret and Helen) who befriend a poor young clerk and, without meaning to, ruin his life.

Meanwhile, Margaret also makes the acquaintance of a dying neighbour, who leaves her a family home in her will - which her husband destroys. But, ironically, he meets and falls in love with Margaret, even as their paths once more intersect with the increasingly miserable young clerk...



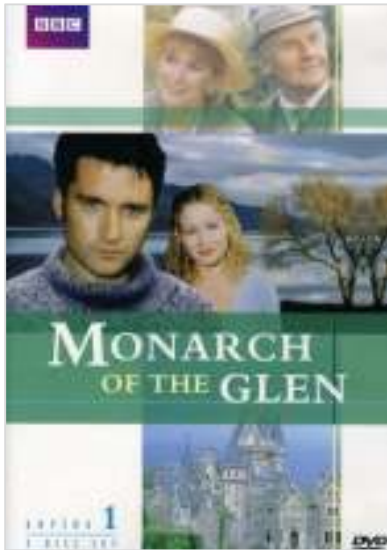
## LAND GIRLS

They were the backbone of the World War II home front in England - the Women's Land Army - and their story was as important to the war effort as those of the soldiers fighting abroad.

Toiling in the fields alongside captured POWs, Annie, Bea, Joyce, and Nancy - the four main characters in this BBC-commissioned docudrama - pay tribute to the women who answered the 1940s call.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

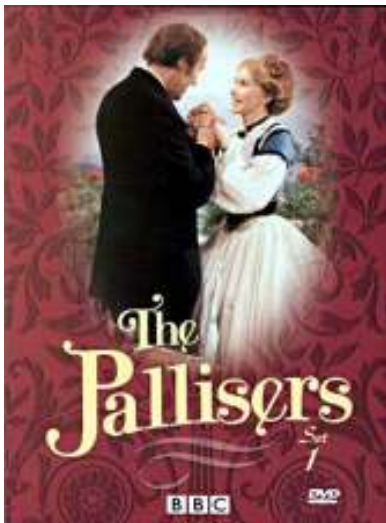
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## MONARCH OF THE GLEN

Archie MacDonald, a budding London restaurateur, receives word from his home in the Highlands that his father Hector has been taken ill. Archie returns home to discover the family estate in dire trouble and is hoodwinked into staying on.

A never-ending series of obstacles including indignant employees, his mother Molly's gambling debts, the eventual death of his father, affairs of the heart with Lexie and parsimonious city bankers intent on foreclosure dog his every step.



## THE PALLISERS

From 1863 onwards Anthony Trollope wrote a series of six novels which became classics of the Victorian period. Under the collective title ***The Pallisers*** the BBC turned the novels into an epic 22-episode serial in 1974.

The series is a mixture of political and romantic intrigue as various male characters vie for power and the women look for love - and all are regularly thwarted by the rigid social codes of the era. Lady Glencora is unsuitably in love with Burgo Fitzgerald while aspiring politician Plantagenet Palliser yearns for another man's wife. The arranged marriage of spirited Glencora and decent but distant Plantagenet is the catalyst for the saga, which gradually expands to encompass considerable political wheeling and dealing.

With a wide streak of satire, ***The Pallisers*** is as witty as it is moving.

# If you like Downton Abbey...

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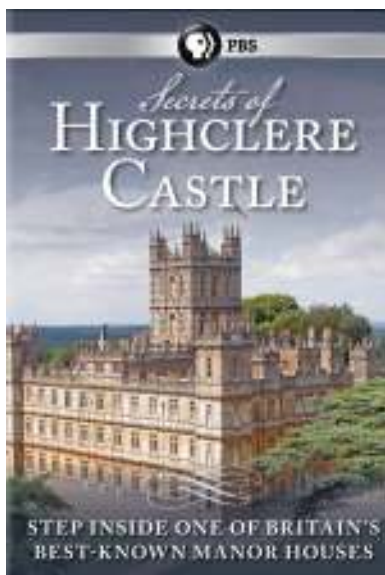
## THE REMAINS OF THE DAY

This excellent film is probably best described as subtle elegance. Framed in the present, the movie deals with the lives inside an English country home just prior to World War II. Reunited with the filmmakers from *Howards End* are Emma Thompson as Miss Kenton, the head housekeeper, and Anthony Hopkins as Stevens, the impeccable butler.

The bittersweet story centers on Stevens and his dedication to his master, Lord Darlington. Stevens summarizes: ***"I don't believe a man can consider himself fully content until he has done all he can to be of service to his employer."***

Enveloping Stevens' world are the pending war with Germany, Darlington's horribly misguided interests in said war, and, most effectively, his relationship with Miss Kenton. Stevens is the very essence of repression, but as played by Hopkins he is neither piteous nor self-righteous. Like his master, Stevens becomes misguided in his loyalties, although his is an emotional deprivation, possibly condemning him to lifelong regret.

There's so much going on in this film, and yet the action is skillfully depicted through understanding and knowing glances, through emotions expressed only through eye contact.



## SECRETS OF HIGHCLERE CASTLE

***Secrets of Highclere Castle*** is the true story of one of the world's most famous homes, Highclere Castle in England.

**Highclere may be more famous now than any time in its 1,300-year history as the setting of Downton Abbey, but the castle also has its own extraordinary tales to tell...**

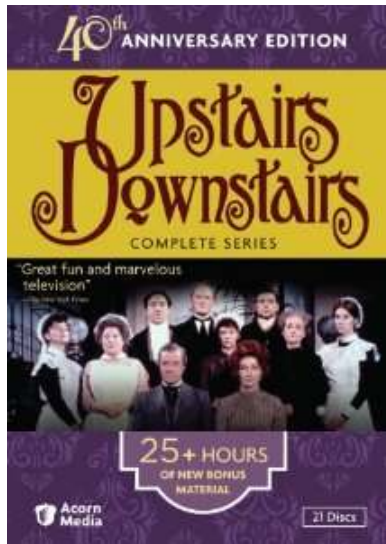
In its heyday, Highclere was the social epicenter of Edwardian England. See how all the inhabitants of Highclere lived, from the aristocrats who enjoyed a life of luxury to the army of servants toiling "below stairs."

Also find out how the current inhabitants, Lord and Lady Carnarvon, spend their \$1 million in annual upkeep funds, and what life in a fairytale castle is like today...



# If you like Downton Abbey...

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## **UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS**

**Upstairs:** the wealthy, aristocratic Bellamys.

**Downstairs:** their loyal and lively servants.

For nearly 30 years, they share a fashionable townhouse at 165 Eaton Place in London's posh Belgravia neighborhood, surviving social change, political upheaval, scandals, and the horrors of the First World War.

The most popular and successful British drama series in television history, ***Upstairs, Downstairs*** won seven Emmy® Awards, a Golden Globe, and a Peabody. This epic saga of life and love in Edwardian England captivated viewers for five heart-tugging, humorous, and satisfying seasons. Seen by a billion people in over 40 countries, it's beloved around the world.