

If You Love the Downton Abbey Series You Might Want to Try...

Non-Fiction

Lady Almina and Real Downton Abbey: the Lost Legacy of Highclere Castle

Fiona Carnavon

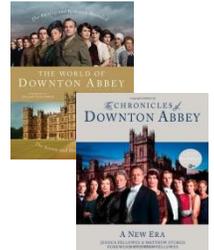


This is the story behind Highclere Castle, the real-life inspiration and setting for Julian Fellowes' Emmy Award winning PBS show, and the life of one of its most famous inhabitants: Lady Almina, the fifth Countess of Carnarvon. The current Lady Carnarvon has written a tale that contrasts the splendor of Edwardian life in a great house against the backdrop of the First World War and offers an inspiring and revealing picture of the woman at the center of the history of Highclere Castle.

World of Downton Abbey and The Chronicles of Downton Abbey: A New Era

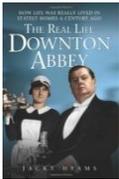
Jessica Fellowes

Jessica Fellowes' books take us deeper into the stories of every important member of the Downton estate. These lavishly illustrated books focus on each character individually, examining their motivations, their actions, and the inspirations behind them. With evocative combinations of story, history, and behind-the-scenes drama, they will bring fans even closer to the secret, beating heart of the house.



Real Life Downton Abbey: How Life Was Really Lived in Stately Homes a Century Ago

Jacky Hyams



Fans of Julian Fellowes' hit show can step back 100 years to the world of the pampered, privileged upper classes and take a look at what went on behind the magisterial doors of their favorite stately home. Using the plots and characters of the series as reference points, Hyams explains exactly what the toffs and servants would have really done at the close of the Edwardian era.

Aristocrats: Power, Grace, and Decadence: Britain's Great Ruling Classes from 1066 to the Present

Lawrence James

A manageable and entertaining, 900-year history of the British aristocracy that offers insight into key conflicts and the extremes that shaped aristocratic agendas while describing the influences of classical art, sports and scandals.



Below Stairs

Margaret Powell



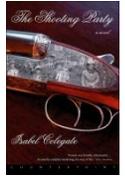
Brilliantly evoking the long-vanished world of masters and servants, Powell's 1968 memoir is the remarkable true story of an indomitable woman who, though she served in the great houses of England, never stopped aiming high. Margaret Powell's true story of a life spent in service is a fascinating "downstairs" portrait of the glittering, long-gone worlds behind the closed doors of Downton Abbey and 165 Eaton Place.

Fiction

The Shooting Party

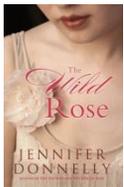
Isabel Colegate

It is 1913, and Sir Randolph Nettleby has assembled guests at his Oxfordshire estate for the biggest shoot of the season. Everything about this splendid weekend would seem a perfect affirmation of the privileges and certainties of Edwardian country life. However, the social and moral code of this set is under siege from within and without.



Wild Rose

Jennifer Donnelly

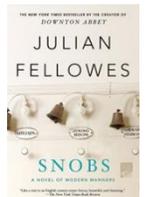


London, 1914: World War I is looming on the horizon, women are fighting for the right to vote, and global explorers are pushing the limits of endurance in the most forbidding corners of the earth. Polar explorer Seamus Finnegan tries to forget Willa, a passionate mountain climber, as he marries a beautiful young woman back home in England. This is the third book in Donnelly's Rose Trilogy which includes *The Tea Rose* and *The Winter Rose*.

Snobs

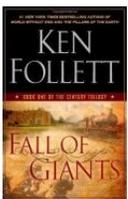
Julian Fellowes

This is the first novel written by the creator of *Downton Abbey*. Edith Lavery, an English blonde with large eyes and nice manners, is the daughter of a moderately successful accountant and his social-climbing wife. While visiting his parents' stately home as a paying guest, Edith meets Charles, Earl of Broughton, and heir to the Marquess of Uckfield, one of the most eligible young aristocrats around. A meeting that will lead to marriage, but will they live happily ever after?



Fall of Giants

Ken Follett

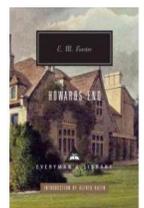


The first novel in the Century trilogy, it follows the fates of five interrelated families – American, German, Russian, English and Welsh – as they move through the world-shaking dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage. The novel moves seamlessly from Washington to St. Petersburg, 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. The second novel in the trilogy, *Winter of the World*, also is available.

Howard's End

E.M. Forster

A 20th-century classic on British society's class warfare, as seen through the eyes of three different castes. 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. As much about the clash between individual wills as the clash between the sexes and the classes.



*Also a film starring Anthony Hopkins.

The American Heiress

Daisy Goodwin

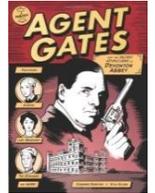


Traveling abroad with her mother at the turn of the twentieth century to seek a titled husband, beautiful, vivacious Cora Cash, whose family mansion in Newport dwarfs the Vanderbilts', suddenly finds herself Duchess of Wareham, married to Ivo, the most eligible bachelor in England. Nothing is quite as it seems, however: Ivo is withdrawn and secretive, and the English social scene is full of traps and betrayals. Cora soon learns money cannot buy everything, as she must decide what is truly worth the price in her life and her marriage.

Agent Gates and the Secret Adventures of Devonton Abbey: A Parody of Downton Abbey

Camaren Subhiyah

While the Granville family dutifully entertains their guests at Devonton Abbey, an ace team of Secret Service agents camp out as unsuspecting household staff, protecting the Royal Crown and her citizens from impending world war. Who is aware of the international intrigue concealed below stairs? Will Agent Gates save Britain from her enemies while ensuring Devonton Abbey's reputation is upheld? Get the answers in this graphic novel parody.



Habits of the House

Fay Weldon



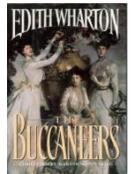
From the award-winning novelist and writer of *Upstairs Downstairs*, this novel launches a brilliant new trilogy about what life was really like for masters and servants before the world of *Downton Abbey*.

The Buccaneers

Edith Wharton

Set in the 1870s, this book 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.

*Also released as 1995 mini-series starring Mira Sorvino.



DVDs

Downton Abbey, the First Three Seasons

Relive those wonderful Downton moments or catch up before the fourth series begins.



Forsyte Saga (Television series 1969, Miniseries 2002)



John Galsworthy's nine novels created the inimitable Forsyte family, exploring their triumphs and tragedies over four tumultuous decades during the 19th century. First filmed in the 1960s, the books came to life again in two sweeping miniseries in 2002 and 2003.

Gosford Park (Feature Film 2001)

Written by Julian Fellowes, the creator of Downton Abbey, this drama is set at the country estate of Sir William McCordle in 1932, showing the lives of upstairs guests and downstairs servants at a hunting party weekend when one of the group is murdered.



The Pallisers (Television Series 1974)



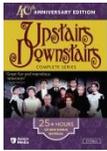
Lady Glencora is being forced to marry Plantagenet Palliser. The British House of Commons serves as the backdrop as we watch the coming and goings and loves and tragedies of the powerful and not so powerful, including the lives of the Pallisers' friends and children.

Room with a View (Feature Film 1985, Masterpiece Theater 2007)

The love of a young British woman named Lucy Honeychurch for a British expatriate living in Italy is condemned by her stuffy, middle-class guardians, who prefer an eligible man of their own choosing. Based on the novel by E.M. Forester.



Upstairs Downstairs (Television Series 1971)



This is the saga of the aristocratic Bellamy family and their loyal and lively servants. Real-life events from 1903-1930 are incorporated into the stories of the Bellamy household.

*Sequel also available that aired in 2010.