



If you like *Downton Abbey*, then you might like...

These Fiction Books...

F/God (BL) The American Heiress: A Novel by Daisy Goodwin. Be careful what you wish for. Traveling abroad with her mother at the turn of the 20th century to seek a titled husband, beautiful, wealthy, vivacious Cora Cash suddenly finds herself Duchess of Wareham. Nothing is quite as it seems, however: her husband is withdrawn and secretive, and the English social scene is full of traps and betrayals.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.

F/Tod (BL) A Bitter Truth: A Bess Crawford Mystery by Charles Todd. A battlefield nurse during World War I, Bess Crawford, returning to London for a well-earned Christmas leave, finds her holiday fraught with mystery and murder when she agrees to help a bruised and battered woman return to her small village in Sussex. See also his other Bess Crawford mysteries: A Duty to the Dead(BL), An Impartial Witness (BL Audio), and An Unmarked Grave (BL).

F/Bya (BL & RL) The Children's Book: A Novel by A.S. Byatt. A tale spanning the end of the Victorian era through World War I finds famous children's book author Olive Wellwood taking in a runaway and exposing the boy to dark truths about her family's summer bacchanals at their rambling country house.

F/Fol (BL & RL) Fall of Giants by Ken Follett. Follows the fates of 5 interrelated families -- American, German, Russian, English, and Welsh -- as they move through the dramas of the First World War, the Russian Revolution and the struggle for women's suffrage. [Also available in audio (PLWY F Fol) in RL and in Spanish: (F/Fol La Caida de los Gigantes) in RL.]

F/Che (BL & RL) Falling Angels by Tracy Chevalier. An exploration of social and political history that examines the prejudices and flaws of a changing time. The Colemans and the Waterhouses are divided by social class but forced to interact when their daughters become friends. [Also available in audio: Aud/F/Che in RL.]

YA/Coo (RL) The FitzOsbornes in Exile by Michelle Cooper. Although this novel takes place right before WWII and not WWI as Downton Abbey does, it does have a similar theme about a family of royals, the FitzOsbornes, who try to save their home while being caught up in London's social scene as Hitler begins his conquest of Europe in 1937.

YA/Sed (RL) The Foreshadowing by Marcus Sedgwick. It's 1915 and WWI has just begun. 17-year-old Sasha is a well-to-do, sheltered-English girl. Just as her brother Thomas longs to be a doctor, she wants to nurse, yet girls of her class don't do that kind of work. But as the war begins and the hospitals fill with young soldiers, she gets a chance to help. Working in the hospital confirms what Sasha has suspected—she can foresee when someone is going to die. Her premonitions show her the brutal horrors on the battlefields of the Somme, and the faces of the soldiers who will die. One of them is her brother Thomas.

F/Gal (BL) The Forsyte Saga by John Galsworthy. Tells the story of three generations of an upper-middle class British family, from the late 1800s to the early 1900s.

F/Mor (BL) The House at Riverton: A Novel by Kate Morton. A story set in England between the two world wars about an aristocratic family, a house, a mysterious death and a way of life that vanished forever, told in flashback by a woman who witnessed it all and kept a secret for decades.

F/Sol (BL) The House at Tyneford by Natasha Solomons. An irresistible World War II story of a forbidden upstairs-downstairs romance in a great English country house. It's the spring of 1938 and no longer safe to be a Jew in Vienna. Nineteen-year-old Elise Landau is forced to leave her glittering life of parties and champagne to become a parlor maid in England. She arrives at Tyneford, the great house on the bay, where servants polish silver and serve drinks on the lawn. But war is coming, and the world is changing.

F/For (BL) In Howard's End, E.M. Forster unveils English character, exploring the underlying class warfare involving three distinct groups--a wealthy family bound by the rules of tradition and property, two independent, cultured sisters, and a young man living on the edge of poverty. The source of their conflict? Howards End, a house in the countryside which ultimately becomes a symbol of conflict within British society.

F/Bar (BL) Life Class by Pat Barker. No one has explored the legacy of World War I quite like Barker. Life Class details the pioneering days of plastic surgery, first developed to help disfigured veterans. [Also available in Audio: CD/F/Bar in BL.]

F/Say (BL) Lord Peter : A Collection of All the Lord Peter Wimsey Stories by Dorothy L. Sayers. Tales of an aristocratic, debonair, amateur sleuth.

F/Hul (RL) Losing Julia by Jonathan Hull. Tells the story of a World War I soldier who comes to know his friend Daniel's fiancée through her letters to him. When they meet 10 years after the war (and Daniel's death), there's a connection between Patrick and Julia that can't be denied.

YA/God The Luxe (RL) by Anna Godbersen. It's 1899 and the book opens with Elizabeth Holland's funeral. She was a well-bred beauty, believed to have died after plunging to her death in the Hudson River. The narrative then travels back several weeks, tracing the relationships and events that have led to the somber assembly. This tangled web includes not one but two sets of star-crossed lovers; an upstairs/downstairs romance; a scheming social climber; a bitter servant girl; and oodles of money.

LT/F/Win (RL) Maisie Dobbs: A Novel by Jacqueline Winspear. In the first installment of Winspear's Masie Dobbs series, private detective Maisie Dobbs must investigate the reappearance of a dead man who turns up at a cooperative farm called the Retreat that caters to men who are recovering their health after World War I. [The other titles in this series are available in RL and BL: Birds of a Feather, Pardonable Lies, Messenger of Truth, An Incomplete Revenge, Among the Mad, The Mapping of Love and Death, A Lesson in Secrets, and Elegy for Eddie.]

F/Bas (BL) A Mansion and Its Murder by Bernard Bastable. Set during the Edwardian Era through the 1940s, the death of a way of life seen through the eyes of one character, a troubled young woman who may or may not have witnessed a murder.

F/Per (BL & RL) No Graves as Yet: A Novel of World War I by Anne Perry. The first installment in Perry's World War I series sweeps readers into the golden summer of 1914, a time of brief enchantment when English men and women basked in the security of wealth and power, even as the last weeks of their privileged world were swiftly passing. [See also Shoulder the Sky, Angels in the Gloom, At Some Disputed Barricade (BL & RL), and We Shall Not Sleep (BL).]

F/ Har (BL) The Observations by Jane Harris. Scotland, 1863. In an attempt to escape her not-so-innocent past in Glasgow, Bessy Buckley takes a job as a maid in a big house outside Edinburgh working for the beautiful Arabella. Bessy is intrigued by her new employer, but puzzled by her increasingly strange requests and her insistence that Bessy keep a journal of her most intimate thoughts. And it seems that Arabella has a few secrets of her own - including her near-obsessive affection for Nora, a former maid who died in mysterious circumstances.

F/For (BL) Parade's End by Ford Madox Ford. First published as four separate novels (*Some Do Not . . .*, *No More Parades*, *A Man Could Stand Up*—, and *The Last Post*) between 1924 and 1928, *Parade's End* explores the world of the English ruling class as it descends into the chaos of war. Christopher Tietjens is an officer from a wealthy family who finds himself torn between his unfaithful socialite wife, Sylvia, and his suffragette mistress, Valentine. A profound portrait of one man's internal struggles during a time of brutal world conflict.

F/Fel (BL) Past Imperfect by Julian Fellowes. Wishing to track down a past girlfriend who claims he had fathered her child, the rich and dying Damian Baxter contacts an old friend from his days at Cambridge. The search takes the narrator back to 1960s London, where everything is changing -- just not always quite as expected. (Written by the creator of "Downton Abbey.")

YA/Mor Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo. At 15, Thomas "Tommo" Peaceful lied about his age in order to follow his beloved older brother, Charlie, to fight in France during WWI. Now, nearly two years later, as Tommo sits waiting in the dark for the horror he knows will come at dawn, he remembers it all, including his past and his present, stuck in a hellish war.

F/Ish (BL) The Remains of the Day by Kazuo Ishiguro. A tragic, spiritual portrait of a perfect English butler and his reaction to his fading insular world in post-war England.

F/Spe (BL) The Return of Captain John Emmett by Elizabeth Speller. This sensitive novel tells the story of a young WWI veteran investigating the apparent suicide of one of his fellow soldiers.

JF/Mor (BL) and JPBC/Mor (RL) War Horse by Michael Morpurgo. A powerful story told by Joey, a red-bay horse, of his experiences after he was sold by his beloved young master's father at the beginning of WWI to the British Army to help them fight the Germans in France by charging the enemy, dragging heavy artillery, and carrying wounded soldiers. He survives numerous skirmishes and becomes the only horse to survive the fighting in "no man's land." Through it all, Joey never loses hope that he will be reunited with his young master. The Oscar nominated film for Best Picture and the Broadway play are based on this book.

YA/Wol (RL) Watch that Ends the Night: Voices from the Titanic by Allan Wolf. The author recreates the voices of 24 passengers, spanning different social classes and stations and lets the reader experience from these passengers' point-of-view the event that they never imagined could happen. The author includes telegrams, undertaker's reports, and other historic records in his novel in verse, and offers a unforgettable and powerful glimpse at the lives of these passengers.

And These Nonfiction Books...

940.3092/Eng (BL) The Beauty and the Sorrow : An Intimate History of the First World War by Peter Englund. This narrative history of World War I explores its impact on everyday men and women, drawing on diaries and letters by 20 individuals from various countries to present an international mosaic of perspectives.

B/Pow (BL) Below Stairs: The Classic Kitchen Maid's Memoir that Inspired "Upstairs, Downstairs" and "Downton Abbey" by Margaret Powell. The remarkable true story of an indomitable woman who, though her position was lowly, never stopped aiming high.

942.082092/OSB (BL) The Bolter by Frances Osborne. One of those larger-than-life Edwardian characters was Idina Sackville. Written by her great-granddaughter Frances Osborne, we learn of a young woman who rejected Edwardian morals, left her children and husband at the end of World War I, and embarked on a life of parties, scandalous love affairs, and a decadent life in Kenya.

942/Lan (BL) Edwardian Farm: Rural Life at the Turn of the Century by Alex Langlands, Ruth Goodman & Peter Ginn. This book accompanied a BBC series of the same name, in which contemporary people immerse themselves in a reproduced English Edwardian community and spend a year exploring all aspects of its working landscape—restoring boats, buildings, and equipment; cultivating crops; fishing; rearing animals; and rediscovering the lost heritage of this fascinating era.

942.5/Tho (BL) The Illustrated Lark Rise to Candleford: A Trilogy by Flora Thompson. Born in Juniper Hill, Oxfordshire, Flora Thompson left school at 14 to work in the local post office. She married young, and wrote mass-market fiction to help support her increasing family. In her 60s she published the semi-autobiographical trilogy, "Lark Rise"; "Over to Candleford"; and "Candleford Green," later combined as Lark Rise to Candleford (1945).

796.552/Mal (BL) Into the Silence: the Great War, Mallory, and the Conquest of Everest by Wade Davis, a book capturing the twilight of the elite Edwardian era.

942.2/Cou (BL) Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey : The Lost Legacy of Highclere Castle by Fiona, Countess of Carnarvon. True stories about the grandeur of British estates.

941.082/Hya BL) Real Life Downton Abbey: How Life was Really Lived in Stately Homes a Century Ago by 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 exactly what goes on behind the magisterial doors of their favorite stately home. Using the characters and setting of the popular television show as a point of reference for the reader, this is a closer look at the Edwardian period.

941.082/Har (BL) Rose : My life in Service to Lady Astor by Rosina Harrison. Like Gosford Park and "Downton Abbey," Rose is a captivating insight into the great wealth 'upstairs' and the endless work 'downstairs', but it is also the story of an unlikely decades-long friendship that grew between Her Ladyship and her spirited Yorkshire maid.

791.4572/Fel (BL & RL) 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 Masterpiece TV series, "Downton Abbey."

...These DVDs,

DVD/Bri (BL & RL) Brideshead Revisited. Starring Jeremy Irons and Anthony Andrews. Dramatization of the novel Brideshead Revisited by Evelyn Waugh. Tells the story of the Marchmain family, as narrated by friend Charles Ryder. Aristocratic, beautiful, and charming, the Marchmains are indeed a symbol of England and her decline; the novel is a mirror of the upper-class of the 1920s and the abdication of responsibility in the 1930s.

DVD/Buc (BL) The Buccaneers. Starring Carla Gugino and Mira Sorvino. Four young American women journey from America to England in search of romance and adventure in this exquisite production of Edith Wharton's final book.

DVD/Gos (RL & BKM) Gosford Park. Starring Helen Mirren and Maggie Smith. Drama 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.

DVD/Hou (BL) The House of Eliott (Complete Collection) Starring Louise Lombard, Stella Gonet and Aden Gillett. Set in London during the 1920s, it is the perfect look at a changing British society. It tells the story of two independent and enterprising sisters who turn their dressmaking business into a fashion house.

DVD/Jee (RL) Jeeves and Wooster. Starring Stephen Fry and Hugh Laurie. An adaptation of the hilarious "Jeeves" stories by P.G. Wodehouse. Fry is Jeeves, the stoic secret genius valet who must extract Laurie's Bertie Wooster from social disasters of Bertie's own making, like accidental engagements, stolen manuscripts, and assorted arrests.

DVD/Lar (BL) Lark Rise to Candleford. Starring Linda Bassett, Claudie Blakley, Brendan Coyle, et al. Follows the relationship of two contrasting communities: Lark Rise, a small hamlet gently holding onto the past, and Candleford, a neighboring market town bustling into the future. Based on the autobiography of Flora Thompson.

DVD/Man (BL) Manor House. Manor House takes a fascinating look at the grand British class system of the early 1900s. Resembling prior cultural-reality series “1900 House” and “Frontier House,” this unique series includes nineteen contemporary Britons playing members of three distinct classes: aristocratic family, upper servants, and lower servants, who must act according to etiquette, not just the rigors or technical realities of the time.

DVD/Roo (BL) A Room with a View by E.M. Forster. Starring Maggie Smith, Helena Bonham Carter, Denholm Elliott, et al. A story set in Florence, Italy, and Surrey, England during the early 1900s about young Lucy Honeychurch's choice between propriety and love.

DVD/Sec (BL) Secrets of the Manor House. This documentary looks beyond the fiction to the truth of how life was in these ancient British houses, and how mounting financial, political and social pressures were about to bring momentous changes to both the wealthy and their servants.

DVD/Ups (BL) Upstairs, Downstairs. Starring Jean Marsh and Gordon Jackson. Classic British television series about the lives of an aristocratic English family and their servants during the first two decades of the 20th century. (Seasons 1-5)

...Plus These Websites!

Downton Abbey | Masterpiece | PBS Features on this site includes behind-the-scenes information, a chance for you to rate how you feel about each character and a quiz to find out which Downton character you are. <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/downtonabbey/>

Edwardian Promenade A website devoted to all aspects of the Edwardian time period. Contains a section on "Downton Abbey." <http://edwardianpromenade.com>

Highclere Castle The website for the actual castle where "Downton Abbey" is filmed. <http://www.highclerecastle.co.uk/>. See also the Highclere Castle Wikipedia page: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Highclere_Castle

Downton Abbey's Wikipedia Page: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Downton_Abbey

Downton Abbey Fan Page: <http://downtonline.com/>

A tour of Downton Abbey's film locations: <http://austenprose.com/2011/01/28/downton-abbey-stunning-film-locations/>

Compiled by Abbie Harris, Branch Librarian, Madison County Public Library, July 3, 2012