Books Like ... Downton Abbey

Do you like stories about the rich and their servants? Grand British country houses? Drama? Intrigue? WWI? Why not try one of these stories? Lady Violet would surely approve!

An * after a title indicates it is also available in our Digital Collection as an eBook.

The American Heiress*
Daisy Goodwin
The early twentieth-century marriage of vivacious Cora Cash to England’s most eligible duke is overshadowed by his secretive nature and the traps and betrayals of London’s social scene.

Below Stairs: The Classic Kitchen Maid’s Memoir That Inspired “Upstairs, Downstairs” and “Downton Abbey”*
Margaret Powell
This is the remarkable true story of an indomitable woman who, though she served in the Great houses of England, never stopped aiming high.

Brideshead Revisited*
Evelyn Waugh
A Londoner of lower class befriends and begins a relationship with an aristocrat that becomes complicated when the aristocrat introduces his new friend to his sister.

The Buccaneers*
Edith Wharton
Two wealthy American sisters marry into the British aristocracy in the 1870s.

Fall of Giants*
Ken Follett
Five interrelated families move through the world-shaking dramas of WWI, the Russian Revolution, and the struggle for women's suffrage.

The Golden Prince
Rebecca Dean
In 1912, 17-year-old Prince Edward, feeling the burden of his position as England’s Golden Prince of Wales, falls in love with a commoner. Will their love last?

The House at Riverton*
Kate Morton
98-year-old Grace reflects on her life as a maid for the Hartford family at the grand house Riverton while the family struggles through World War I, family deaths, financial problems, and illicit love.

The House at Tyneford
Natasha Solomons
In 1938 Vienna, Jewish Elise Landau is forced to leave her family for England to work as a maid at the great house of Tyneford.
Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey: The Lost Legacy of Highclere Castle
Non-Fiction: 942.271 C288L
Fiona, Countess of Carnarvon
This is the story of Lady Almina, the 5th Countess of Carnarvon and one of the most famous inhabitants of Highclere Castle, the real life setting and inspiration for Downton Abbey.

Lady Catherine, the Earl, and the Real Downtown Abbey*
Biography: 941.082092 C288 C
Fiona, Countess of Carnarvon
In this transporting companion piece to the New York Times bestseller Lady Almina and the Real Downton Abbey, Catherine, a beautiful and spirited American woman who married Lady Almina’s son, the man who would become the 6th Earl of Carnarvon, presides over the grand estate during a tumultuous time for the British aristocracy.

Park Lane
Frances Osborne
Upon arrival in London, Grace Carlisle becomes a housemaid and quickly caught up in the lives of the family’s privileged son, Edward, and daughter, Beatrice.

The Passing Bells
Philip Rock
A titled British family, their friends, their servants, and the society in which they live are impacted by the Great War, WWI.

Regeneration*
Pat Barker
A decorated English officer is sent to a military hospital after publicly declaring he will no longer fight in WWI.

The Stranger's Child*
Allan Hollinghurst
Starting in 1913, this saga tells about a love triangle that spawns a myth, a family mystery, the lingering power of desire, how the heart creates its own history, and how legends are made.

Upstairs and Downstairs: An Illustrated Guide to the Real World of Downton Abbey
Non-Fiction: 941.0823 W311U
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. It includes accounts from actual masters and servants, along with famous figures like Winston Churchill.

The World of Downton Abbey*
Non-Fiction: 791.4572 D751F
Jessica Fellowes
This companion book to the PBS series Downton Abbey is full of rich, historical detail and takes fans deeper into the period and into characters’ lives. It includes information on costumes, props, and actors.

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