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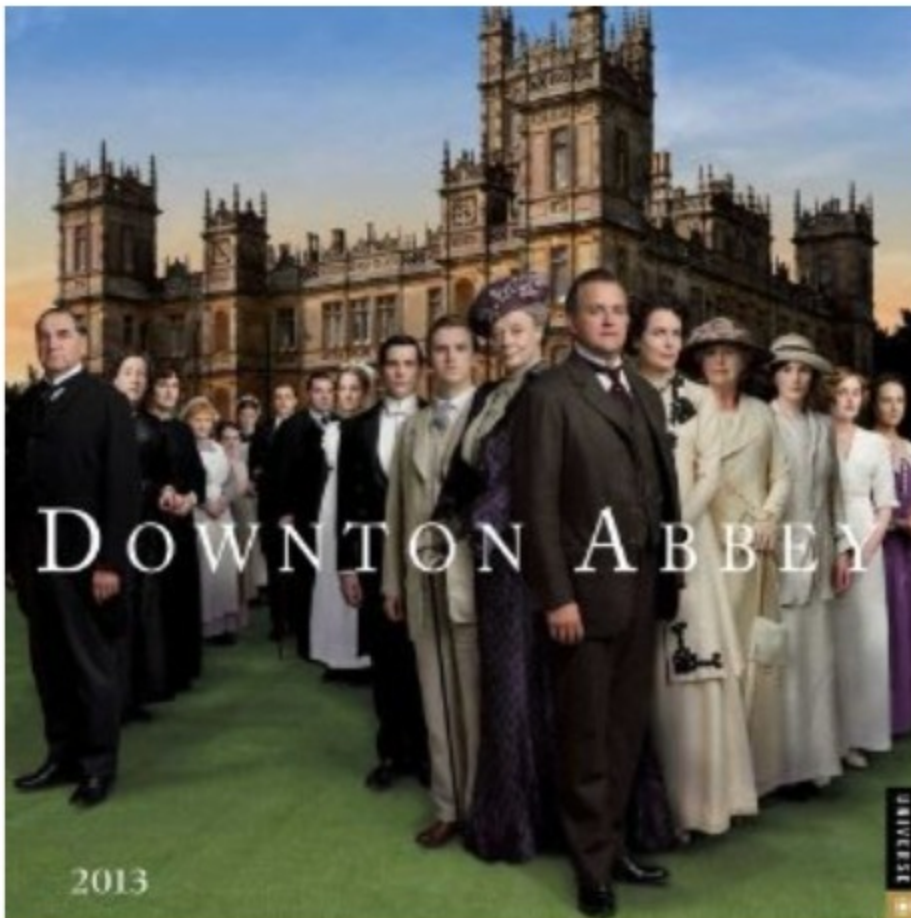
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Abhinav Agarwal's bookshelf pictured above ([Share yours](#))

Upstairs, Downstairs, Downton Abbey, and Beyond (With Quiz)

by Robin A. Rothman on December 29, 2012



Regardless of whether you're among the millions of [Downton Abbey](#) fans who have made the Bafta, Golden Globe and Emmy Award-winning British TV drama a hit, there is no denying that the show has achieved phenomenon status here and abroad. Even if you haven't watched it, you've probably heard of it. And though it's difficult to describe the show compellingly to a non-viewer, one episode tends to be enough to hook a new devotee.

And here's a television program that doesn't distract or detract from reading, but rather encourages it. *Downton* has awakened in viewers a thirst for more and more [stories of the era](#). It's a demand well-met by publishers, who offer not only historical nonfiction and show-specific companion books marketed for fans of the series, but a new breed of post-Edwardian novels, too.

Unlike the classic books of old England (I'm looking at you, [Jane Austen](#)), where the servants were incidental shadows of characters with largely unmemorable names and activities, many of these stories include and even focus on them. Our attention is now evenly divided between the nobility of the "Upstairs" and the staff of the "Downstairs," as the aristocracy and lower class are so often tactfully divided. In fact, *Downton Abbey*'s two-class structure is reminiscent of the equally acclaimed 1970s British series "Upstairs Downstairs."

So, for fans who wait with bated breath for January 6 -- which marks the show's return to BBC America -- and anyone who's interested in learning more before committing, here's a way to narrow down your [vast Downton-inspired reading choices](#).

If you were in the world of *Downton Abbey*, would you be a better fit Upstairs or Downstairs? Click the answers that best reflect your true self and then click the SUBMIT button to find out which books best suit you.

1. When it comes to money and happiness, I believe:

- ☐ Whoever said "Money can't buy happiness" must not have had any.
- ☐ A balance of the two is the true ideal.
- ☐ I'd rather be rich with happiness than with money.

2. My idea of "having dinner plans" is:

- ☐ Going out to a nice restaurant and ordering my heart's desire.
- ☐ Picking something up from the grocery store and maybe heating up a couple of sides or whipping up a dessert myself. Nothing too time-consuming, though.
- ☐ Making a detailed shopping list of ingredients for the homecooked meal I'll be making.

3. If I were to describe my skills in one word, it would be:

- ☐ Creative
- ☐ Logical
- ☐ Practical

4. True knowledge is attained through:

- ☐ Voracious reading
- ☐ Study and practice
- ☐ Experience

5. At social gatherings, I am generally:

- ☐ The life of the party. I'm a social butterfly and I enjoy giving and receiving attention.
- ☐ Laid-back and friendly. I enjoy sharing good conversation with a small group.
- ☐ A wallflower. The best part of a party is the people watching. /p>

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August 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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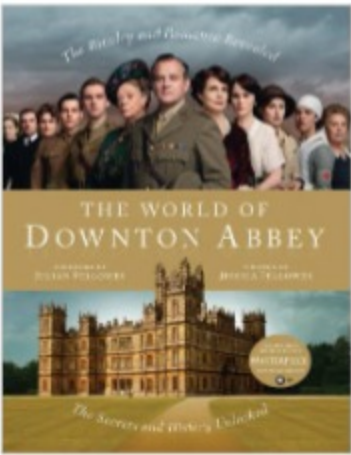
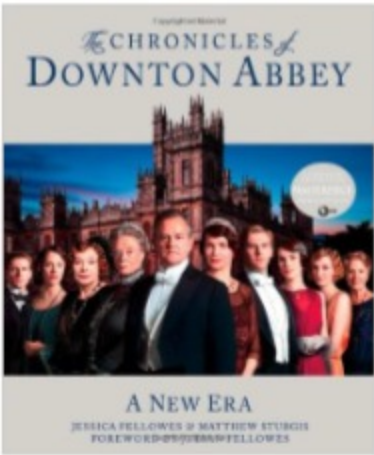
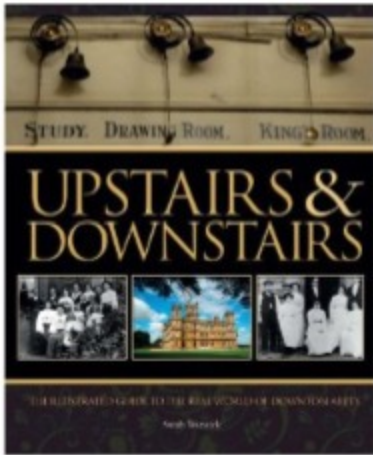
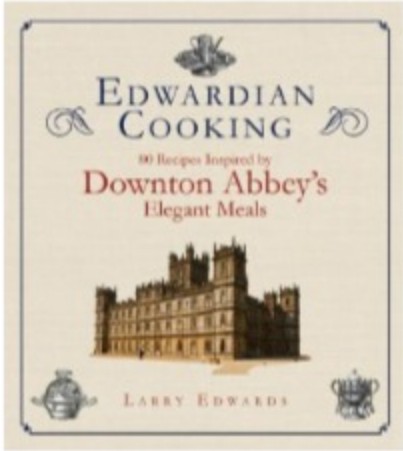
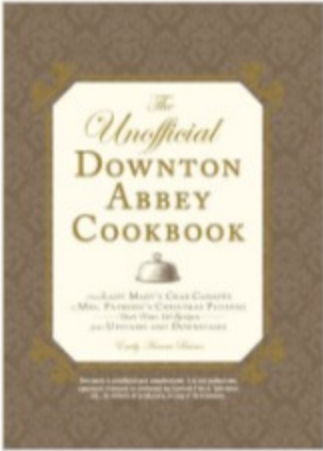
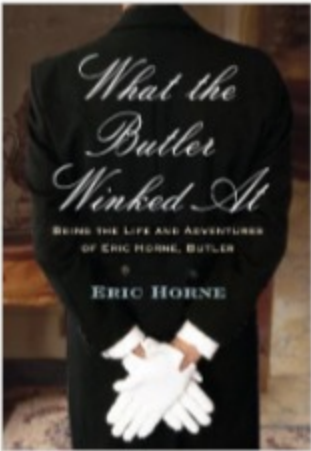
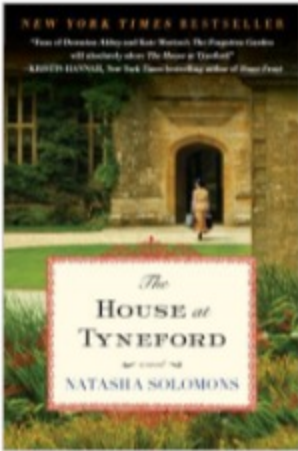
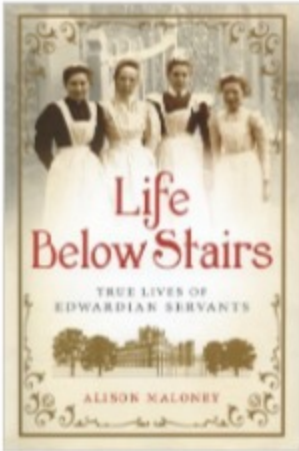
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Downton Abbey Quiz Outcome: Downstairs

You're task-oriented, trustworthy, and true to yourself!

Your willingness and ability to work for what you want would make you a favorite downstairs, where those in the "real world" reside. You fit in just fine with *Downton Abbey's* hardworking help, who truly understand what it means to make things happen. You'd surely rise quickly to the ranks of the most relied-upon members of the staff, like the stoic butler Charles Carson (Jim Carter), the infallible housekeeper Mrs. Hughes (Phyllis Logan), and Lord Grantham's devoted and determined personal valet John Bates (Brendan Coyle).

Here are nine books for you to unwind with after an honest day's work:



See what would have happened if you'd gotten [Upstairs](#).
See what would have happened if you'd gotten [Bit of Both](#).

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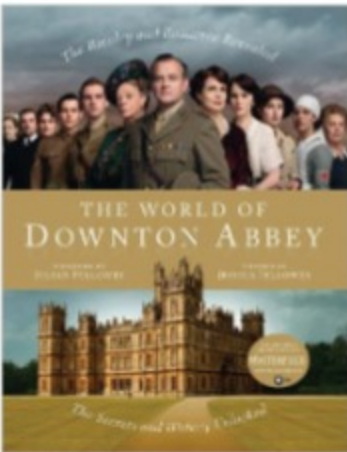
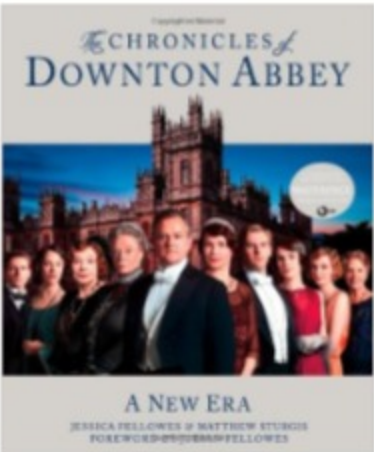
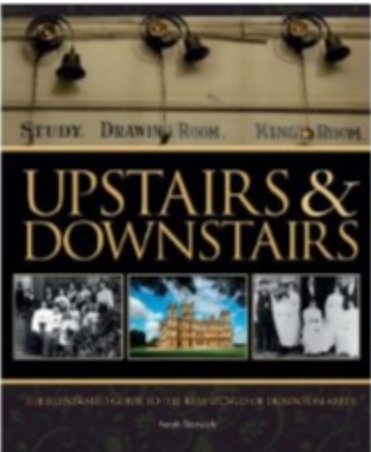
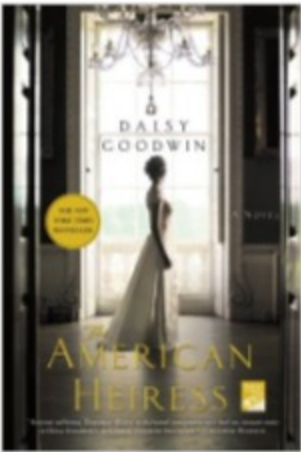
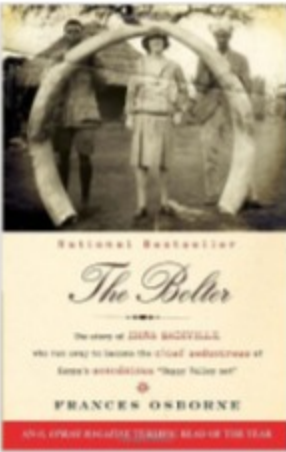
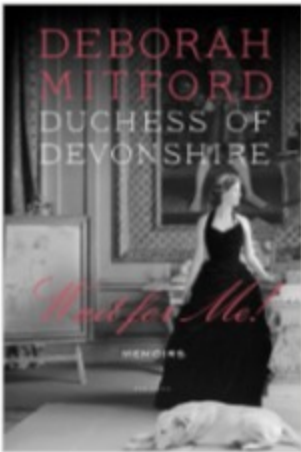
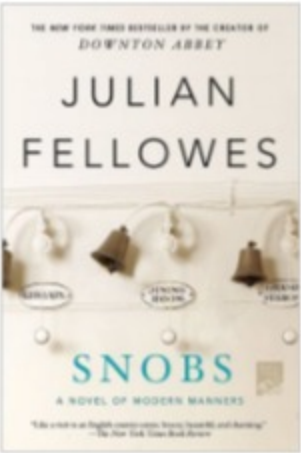
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Downton Abbey Quiz Outcome: Upstairs

You are a true Lord or Lady!

With your impeccable manners and extravagant tastes you're quite worthy to keep company upstairs with the nobles. In *Downton Abbey* your companions would be those who hold the power and the purse strings: the fiery Dowager Countess of Grantham (Maggie Smith), the fair-minded Earl of Grantham Robert Crowley (Hugh Bonneville) and the unflappable Countess of Grantham Cora Crowley (Elizabeth McGovern).

Here are ten books for your library that will appeal to your upper-crust sensibilities:



See what would have happened if you'd gotten [Downstairs](#).
See what would have happened if you'd gotten [Bit of Both](#).

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Downton Abbey Quiz Outcome: Bit of Both

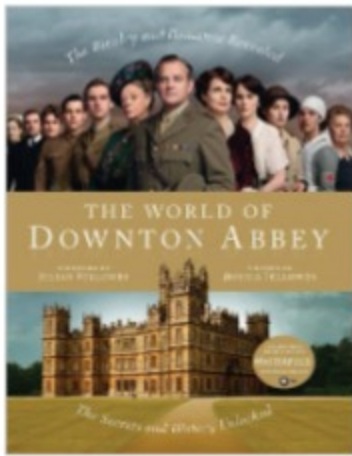
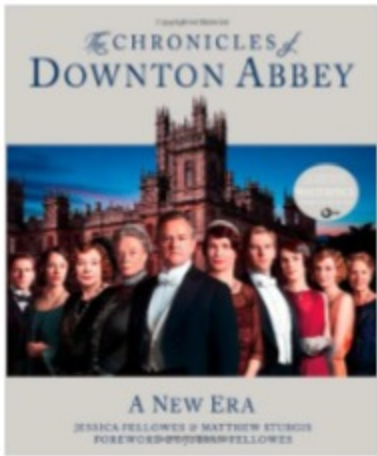
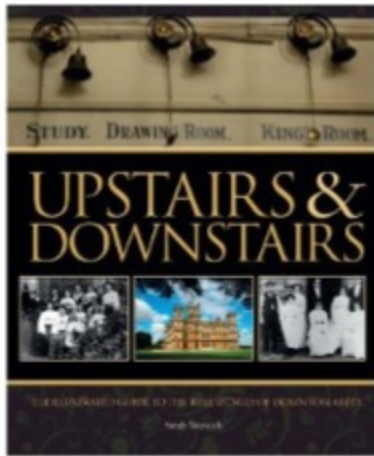
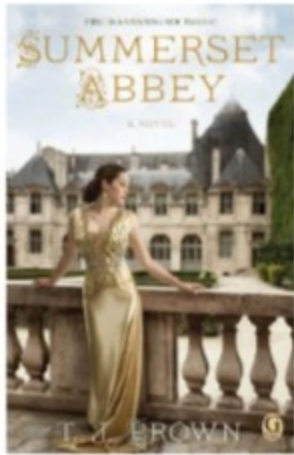
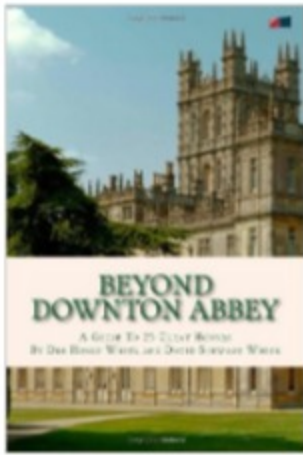
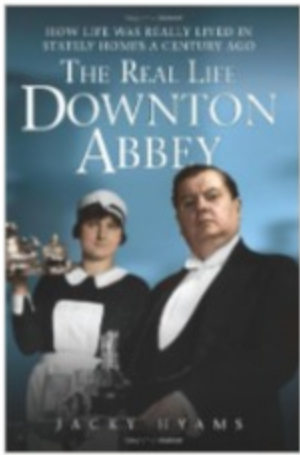
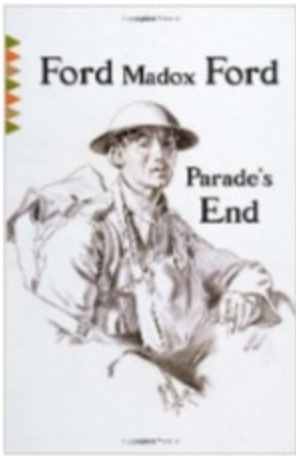
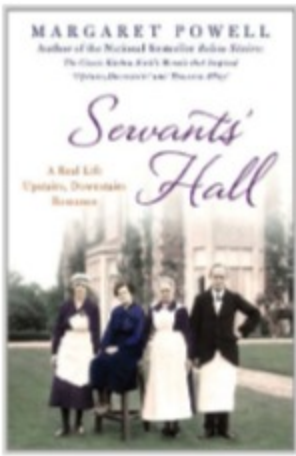
There is a place in this world between two extremes, an Upstairs that identifies with the Downstairs, and vice versa.

You are much like the maid who hides her typewriter while quietly applying for secretarial posts to better her lot, or the noble and irreverent Lady Sybil (Jessica Brown Findlay), who plots to get said maid to her interviews.

Or perhaps you're more like rule-rejecting Isobel Crowley (Penelope Wilton) or the hardworking hesitant heir Matthew Crawley (Dan Stevens).

Whichever character you align with, the bottom line is that you're the perfect balance of courtesy and pragmatism.

Here are nine books that bridge the divide between the two seemingly disparate worlds.



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