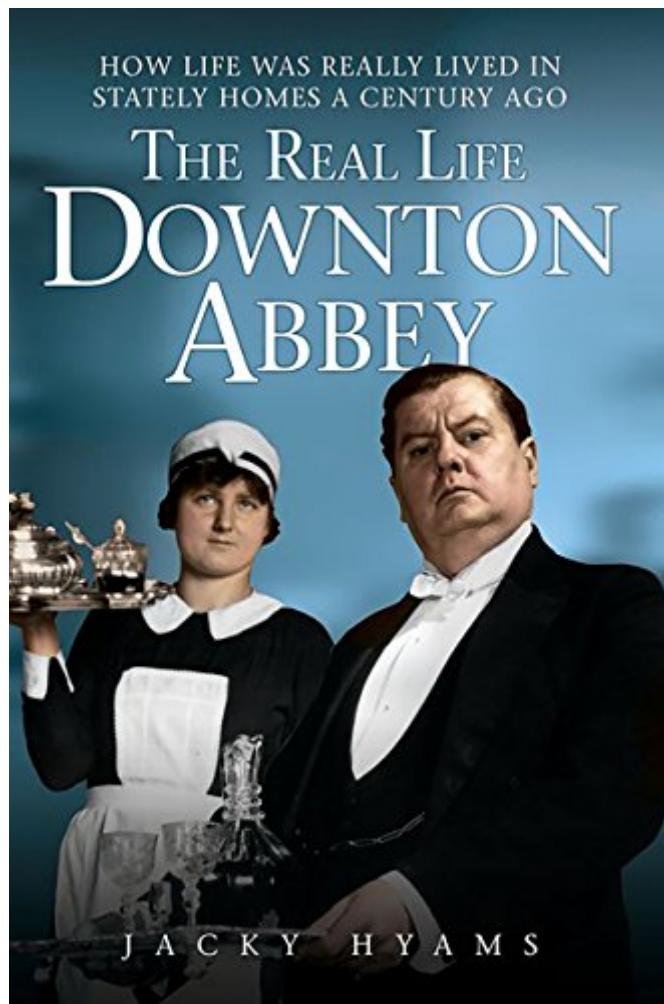


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# Real Life Downton Abbey: How Life Was Really Lived In Stately Homes A Century Ago



## Synopsis

Fans of Julian Fellowes' hit show—*Upstairs, Downstairs*—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. They were the super rich of their times, pampered beyond belief—the early 20th century Edwardian gentry, who lived like superstars, their every desire or need catered to by an army of butlers, servants, footmen, housekeepers, and grooms. Class, money, inheritance, luxury, and snobbery dominated every aspect of the lives of the upper crust Edwardian family. While below stairs the staff inhabited a completely different world, their very lives dependent on servicing the rich, pandering to their masters' every whim, and rubbing shoulders with wealth and privilege. While privy to the most intimate and darkest secrets of their masters, they faced ruin and shame if they ventured to make the smallest step outside the boundaries of their class-ridden world. From manners and morals to etiquette and style, this book opens the doors to the reality of the era behind TV's favorite stately home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This gives you a wide range look at the period of Downton Abbey. Interesting!

I liked it very much. It totally makes sense when comparing the PBS series to the real-life daily tasks of the butler, lady's maid, and footmen in the British series. I was exhausted when reading their daily work loads that were expected of them and the fact that they also had to continue this work and routine into the late evening. I was really interested in the rank of various jobs in the mansion especially the nannies job and her relationship "upstairs" with the children and parents. Seems like she was in a totally different domestic class being that she worked and lived upstairs near the family and nursery compared to the other servants, as I am a nanny myself. We are considered very important, however still considered the "hired help" when the parents want to get rid of you.

Very interesting book. The one downside was toward the end of the book when the author somehow switches to the political and social issues of the time such as healthcare and living conditions of the general populace.

I found the info in this book merely average. I would have liked it more if it had been better written and researched.

I liked the information presented in the book - it was a fairly easy read and entertaining (most of the time). However, the organization of the book was a bit confusing as it seemed as if there were random topics inserted into a particular chapter or section that didn't always "fit". It rather interrupted the flow of the chapter at times and left me puzzled and thinking that I had somehow skipped over a section (I was reading this via my Kindle). Besides that, I enjoyed the book and found it very interesting.

Loved it! Gives you real insight into what life was like for all classes of British people during the Edwardian (&Victorian period to a degree) period. You realize how very special the Crawleys of Downton Abbey were in that series.

I found the information interesting, but was not Impressed with the little too glib writing style. I think the style could have used a few less "toffs".

Very interesting .... and very informative. I know life on the Estates of Victorian England was VERY different than life in the cities, and especially for the 'downstairs group' .... they also lived far better than their counterparts in the larger cities, were more healthy AND also seemed more 'well adjusted' .... this book extolls life as it was and is well worth the time to read. I enjoyed it!

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