



To Marry an English Lord: Tales of Wealth and Marriage, Sex and Snobbery

By Gail MacColl, Carol McD. Wallace

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From the Gilded Age until 1914, more than 100 American heiresses invaded Britannia and swapped dollars for titles--just like Cora Crawley, Countess of Grantham, the first of the Downton Abbey characters Julian Fellowes was inspired to create after reading To Marry An English Lord. Filled with vivid personalities, gossipy anecdotes, grand houses, and a wealth of period details--plus photographs, illustrations, quotes, and the finer points of Victorian and Edwardian etiquette--To Marry An English Lord is social history at its liveliest and most accessible.

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To Marry an English Lord: Tales of Wealth and Marriage, Sex and Snobbery By Gail MacColl, Carol McD. Wallace Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #95146 in Books
- Brand: imusti
- Published on: 2012-03-15
- Released on: 2012-03-15
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.06" h x .88" w x 6.00" l, 1.42 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 414 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

This delightful account of how American heiresses in the post-Civil War era packed up their trunks and went husband-hunting in England demonstrates that our national infatuation with British aristocracy is nothing new. The young women had good looks and big bucks; the often debt-ridden Brits had titles, castles and a society that was "more stimulating and more permissive, more leisurely and more sophisticated than Old New York." MacColl and Wallace (editor of and contributor to, respectively, *The Preppy Handbook*) chronicle the lives of the rich and famous on both sides of the ocean, dishing up spicy gossip, pithy social commentary (by 1910, "Society in America became more sure of itself. Social climbers no longer needed titles for legitimacy") and obscure historical tidbits (because they were almost never allowed to sit in Queen Victoria's presence, her ladies-in-waiting "habitually bought shoes a size too big since their feet swelled so badly"). The book also includes witty profiles of leading American ladies and their British lords, piquant period photographs and handy tips on proper etiquette, such as "Any man who reverses changes the direction in which he's spinning his partner during a waltz is a cad." BOMC alternate.

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From Library Journal

Large fortunes were made in post-Civil War America. Young heiresses, cold-shouldered by an entrenched aristocracy that scorned new money, looked across the sea to find husbands among titled young Englishmen who were long on status but very short of cash. Nancy Astor and Jennie Churchill are the most famous of more than 100 of these trans-Atlantic brides. This light-hearted bit of social history is lavishly illustrated and bedecked with sidebars and boxes of charts, lively quotes, and other supplementary material. A full register of these enterprising young ladies and a "Walking Tour" are included. Not only fun, but a definitive round-up of the players. Recommended.

- *Nancy C. Cridland, Indiana Univ. Libs., Bloomington*

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Review

"In your very flattering article about books that might please fans of *Downton Abbey*, I was sorry that one title was missing: *To Marry an English Lord*. . . . It is a marvelous and entertaining study." ---Julian Fellowes, writer and creator of *Downton Abbey*

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Patricia Hooper:

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