

downton abbey season 1 episode guide

Downton Abbey Season 1 Episode Guide: A Journey Through the Crawley Family's World

downton abbey season 1 episode guide offers a captivating insight into the beginning of one of television's most beloved period dramas. For fans old and new, exploring the first season is like stepping back into early 20th-century England, where aristocratic grandeur meets social upheaval. Whether you're revisiting the Crawley estate or discovering it for the first time, this guide unpacks the intricate plotlines, character developments, and historical context that make Season 1 truly unforgettable.

Setting the Stage: What Makes Downton Abbey Season 1 Special?

Before diving into the episode-by-episode breakdown, it's important to understand why Downton Abbey's inaugural season stands out. Set against the backdrop of 1912, just after the sinking of the Titanic, the series introduces viewers to the Crawley family and their loyal servants. The show artfully captures the tensions between the fading aristocracy and the changing social landscape of post-Edwardian Britain.

Downton Abbey season 1 is rich with themes like class distinction, duty, love, and tragedy, all woven together with sharp dialogue and stunning visuals. The brilliant cast, including Hugh Bonneville, Maggie Smith, and Michelle Dockery, brings authenticity and depth to their roles, making the storylines resonate deeply.

Downton Abbey Season 1 Episode Guide: Episode Summaries and Insights

Episode 1: “A New Era Begins”

The first episode sets the tone by revealing the impact of the Titanic disaster on the Crawley family's future. The news that the heir to the estate perished sparks uncertainty, as the title and fortune are now set to pass to a distant cousin, Matthew Crawley. This shift threatens the traditional family dynamics and the very future of Downton Abbey. Meanwhile, the servants are introduced, showcasing the complex relationships between upstairs and downstairs.

This episode is essential for understanding the power struggles and loyalties that will define the series. It's also a great example of how historical events are seamlessly integrated into personal drama.

Episode 2: “Adjusting to Change”

As Matthew Crawley arrives at Downton Abbey, tensions rise. His unfamiliarity with aristocratic customs creates awkward moments but also sparks curiosity and subtle conflicts. Lady Mary Crawley, the eldest daughter, struggles with her feelings regarding Matthew's arrival, while her siblings begin to reveal their own ambitions and desires.

Downstairs, the introduction of new staff and the evolving roles of existing servants highlight the social hierarchies and expectations in Edwardian England. This episode deepens the viewer's understanding of the Crawley household's intricate ecosystem.

Episode 3: “Secrets and Scandals”

Episode 3 delves into personal secrets that threaten reputations. Lady Mary’s past indiscretions come to light, creating tension and drama that ripple through both the family and the staff. At the same time, the servants’ lives are explored more fully, revealing their own ambitions and vulnerabilities.

This episode is a masterclass in character development and subtle social commentary, illustrating how private matters can have public consequences in a tightly knit community.

Episode 4: “Love and Duty”

Romantic entanglements take center stage in Episode 4. Lady Sybil’s burgeoning relationship with Tom Branson, the family’s chauffeur, challenges class boundaries and expectations. Meanwhile, the servants’ relationships are also tested, highlighting the personal sacrifices made in the name of duty.

This episode beautifully balances the grandeur of the upstairs world with the humanity of those downstairs, emphasizing the universal nature of love and conflict.

Episode 5: “The Gathering Storm”

Political and social tensions begin to surface as the Crawleys face external pressures. The estate’s financial future is uncertain, and the family grapples with modernity encroaching on tradition. Additionally, the servants confront challenges that threaten their positions and livelihoods.

Episode 5 underscores the broader historical changes shaping England at the time, making the personal dramas more poignant and relevant.

Episode 6: “Choices and Consequences”

The season finale brings many storylines to a head. Decisions made by the Crawley family and their staff have lasting repercussions, setting up conflicts and alliances for future seasons. The episode highlights themes of sacrifice, loyalty, and the struggle to maintain dignity amid uncertainty.

This final episode of Season 1 leaves viewers eager for what's next, showcasing Downton Abbey's strength in blending emotional depth with historical drama.

Exploring Key Themes and Characters in Season 1

Downton Abbey's first season is as much about its characters as it is about the era it portrays.

Understanding the dynamics between the Crawley family members and their servants enriches the viewing experience.

The Upstairs: Family Drama and Aristocratic Expectations

- **Robert Crawley, Earl of Grantham** – The patriarch, torn between preserving the estate and adapting to change.
- **Cora Crawley, Countess of Grantham** – A wealthy American bride, bringing both new money and modern ideas.
- **Lady Mary Crawley** – Strong-willed and complex, grappling with love and duty.
- **Lady Edith and Lady Sybil** – Each with distinct personalities and aspirations, adding layers to family interactions.
- **Matthew Crawley** – The unexpected heir, whose outsider perspective challenges tradition.

The Downstairs: Servants' Lives and Loyalties

- **Mr. Carson** – The steadfast butler, embodying loyalty and tradition.
- **Mrs. Hughes** – Housekeeper with a maternal touch and firm principles.
- **Anna and Bates** – The lady's maid and valet, whose relationship offers a tender subplot.
- **Thomas and O'Brien** – Complex servants whose ambitions create tension.

These characters provide a rich tapestry of perspectives, highlighting class distinctions and personal struggles.

Tips for Watching Downton Abbey Season 1

If you're new to the series or revisiting Season 1, here are some tips to enhance your viewing experience:

- **Pay attention to historical context:** The series is deeply rooted in real events like the Titanic sinking and the changing social order. Knowing this background adds depth to the story.
- **Notice the character development:** Many characters undergo significant growth and change; small details in early episodes foreshadow later developments.
- **Appreciate the costumes and settings:** The attention to period detail is remarkable and helps immerse viewers in the era.
- **Watch the upstairs and downstairs storylines in parallel:** Both worlds are interconnected, and understanding both perspectives enriches the narrative.

Why Downton Abbey Season 1 Remains a Must-Watch

Downton Abbey's first season lays a solid foundation for the series' success. It balances historical authenticity with compelling storytelling, creating a drama that appeals to a wide audience. The careful pacing, combined with moments of humor, heartbreak, and suspense, ensures that viewers become emotionally invested in the characters and their fates.

Moreover, the show's exploration of class, gender roles, and societal change remains relevant, offering viewers more than just entertainment – it provides a window into a pivotal moment in history.

Whether you're a fan of British drama, historical fiction, or character-driven stories, the Downton Abbey season 1 episode guide serves as the perfect roadmap to navigate this richly woven narrative. Each episode adds layers to the Crawley family saga, making it a rewarding experience to watch from start to finish.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main plot of Downton Abbey Season 1?

Downton Abbey Season 1 follows the aristocratic Crawley family and their servants as they navigate personal and societal changes following the sinking of the Titanic, which affects the line of succession to the family estate.

How many episodes are there in Downton Abbey Season 1?

Downton Abbey Season 1 consists of 7 episodes.

What significant event happens in the first episode of Downton Abbey

Season 1?

In the first episode, the news of the Titanic sinking is delivered, revealing that the heir to Downton Abbey has died, creating uncertainty about the estate's future.

Who are the main characters introduced in Season 1 of Downton Abbey?

Key characters introduced include Robert Crawley, Cora Crawley, Lady Mary Crawley, Lady Edith Crawley, Lady Sybil Crawley, Matthew Crawley, and the main household staff such as Mr. Carson and Mrs. Hughes.

Does Downton Abbey Season 1 explore the class differences between the Crawleys and their servants?

Yes, Season 1 explores the strict social hierarchy and interactions between the aristocratic Crawley family and their domestic servants, highlighting themes of duty, loyalty, and social change.

Are there any notable romantic storylines in Downton Abbey Season 1?

Yes, Season 1 features several romantic storylines, including the developing relationship between Lady Mary and Matthew Crawley, as well as the budding romance between Tom Branson, the chauffeur, and Lady Sybil.

Where can I find a detailed episode guide for Downton Abbey Season 1?

A detailed episode guide for Downton Abbey Season 1 can be found on official websites, fan sites, and entertainment platforms like IMDb and TV Guide, which provide summaries and analysis of each episode.

Additional Resources

Downton Abbey Season 1 Episode Guide: A Detailed Exploration of the Series' Inaugural Season

downton abbey season 1 episode guide offers an insightful overview of the first episodes that set the tone for one of the most acclaimed British period dramas in recent television history. Created by Julian Fellowes, Downton Abbey premiered in 2010, captivating audiences with its intricate portrayal of early 20th-century British aristocracy and the lives of those who serve them. This comprehensive episode guide not only provides a synopsis of each installment but also analyzes key themes, character developments, and the historical context that shaped the narrative.

Setting the Scene: An Introduction to Downton Abbey's First Season

Season 1 of Downton Abbey begins in 1912, immediately following the tragic sinking of the RMS Titanic. This event acts as a catalyst for the drama that unfolds at the Crawley family estate, Downton Abbey, in Yorkshire. The death of the heir to the estate challenges the traditional lines of inheritance and social order, forcing the characters to navigate shifting cultural, social, and economic landscapes.

This season is pivotal as it introduces viewers to a vast ensemble cast, from the aristocratic Crawley family to their loyal servants, each with their own story arcs, ambitions, and conflicts. The dual narrative of upstairs and downstairs life is a hallmark of the series, providing a layered exploration of class dynamics and historical change.

Episode-by-Episode Breakdown

Episode 1: “Episode 1”

The premiere episode establishes the core conflict: the heir to Downton Abbey, Patrick Crawley, perishes on the Titanic, leaving the estate without a direct male successor. This event triggers a crisis for the family, as the title and fortune pass to Matthew Crawley, a distant cousin and a middle-class lawyer. The episode skillfully introduces key characters such as Robert Crawley, the Earl of Grantham, and his wife Cora, alongside their daughters Mary, Edith, and Sybil.

Upstairs, tensions arise over the future of the estate, while downstairs, the servants prepare for the arrival of new staff and the repercussions of the changed inheritance. The episode balances historical events with intimate character moments, showcasing the show’s signature blend of personal and political drama.

Episode 2: “Episode 2”

The second episode deepens the exploration of the social upheaval caused by the new heir, Matthew. His arrival at Downton Abbey is met with mixed feelings, particularly from Lady Mary, who perceives him as an outsider. Meanwhile, the servants’ storylines begin to develop, with Thomas Barrow’s ambition and scheming coming into focus.

The episode also highlights the tensions between tradition and modernity, as Matthew’s progressive ideas clash with the established aristocratic norms. The historical backdrop of 1912 England continues to influence character decisions and social interactions.

Episode 3: “Episode 3”

In episode three, relationships and rivalries intensify. Lady Mary’s resistance to Matthew’s presence grows, while her sister Sybil forms a romantic connection with the family chauffeur, Tom Branson. This

subplot introduces themes of class transgression and personal freedom, which become central to the series.

The servants' quarters also see notable developments, with the arrival of new staff and the unveiling of personal secrets. The episode skillfully interweaves upstairs and downstairs narratives, emphasizing the interconnectedness of all characters within the estate's microcosm.

Episode 4: "Episode 4"

Episode four focuses on the consequences of romantic entanglements and social expectations. Sybil's relationship with Tom Branson faces scrutiny from both the family and the staff, highlighting class prejudices. Meanwhile, Lady Mary continues to navigate her complex feelings toward Matthew and other suitors.

At the same time, the episode explores the role of women in Edwardian society, particularly through the ambitions and frustrations of characters like Lady Edith and the housemaids. The balance of power within Downton Abbey begins to shift subtly, reflecting broader societal changes.

Episode 5: "Episode 5"

The penultimate episode of the season builds dramatic tension as secrets threaten to unravel relationships. Matthew's legal troubles and Lady Mary's manipulations create conflict, while downstairs, the servants face challenges of loyalty and ambition.

This episode is notable for its intricate plotting and character development, setting the stage for the season finale. Themes of duty, honor, and personal desire are explored with nuance, illustrating the complex moral landscape of the period.

Episode 6: “Episode 6”

The season finale resolves several storylines while leaving others tantalizingly open for future exploration. Key moments include the solidification of certain relationships and the revelation of critical secrets. The episode encapsulates the season’s thematic concerns, such as the tension between tradition and change, the rigidity of class structures, and the personal cost of social expectations.

This concluding episode reinforces why Downton Abbey’s first season was critically acclaimed and beloved by viewers worldwide, thanks to its compelling storytelling, rich character portrayals, and meticulous historical detail.

Analyzing the Impact and Themes of Downton Abbey Season 1

Downton Abbey’s inaugural season stands out for its meticulous attention to period detail and the complex interplay of class, gender, and power. The series expertly weaves historical events — including the Titanic disaster, the Irish Home Rule crisis, and the rise of the labor movement — into its narrative fabric, grounding personal dramas in real-world contexts.

A key strength of this season is its dual focus on both the aristocracy and their servants, providing a holistic view of Edwardian England. This approach allows for a nuanced examination of social hierarchies and the evolving roles of women and men during a time of significant societal transformation.

Furthermore, the season’s writing and performances highlight the tensions between duty and desire, tradition and progress, which resonate beyond the historical setting. Characters like Lady Mary symbolize the struggle to maintain status and identity amid change, while servants such as Tom Branson challenge established class boundaries.

Production Quality and Historical Accuracy

The production values of Downton Abbey season 1 contribute substantially to its critical success. Lavish costumes, authentic set designs, and carefully researched dialogue immerse the audience in the early 20th century. The show's commitment to historical accuracy extends to its portrayal of social customs, technology, and political concerns of the era.

This dedication enhances the viewing experience, offering both entertainment and an educational glimpse into a pivotal period in British history. The authenticity also bolsters the credibility of the characters' struggles, making their dilemmas both believable and compelling.

Character Dynamics and Development

The season excels in presenting a diverse cast whose interactions reveal the complexities of their social world. The Crawley family members each embody different responses to the changing times—ranging from conservative adherence to aristocratic privilege to cautious openness to new ideas.

Similarly, the servants display a variety of ambitions and loyalties, illustrating the nuances within their social class. The interplay between upstairs and downstairs characters not only fuels dramatic tension but also highlights the porous boundaries between classes, especially through romantic relationships and shared crises.

Why This Episode Guide Matters for Downton Abbey Fans and Scholars

For fans and analysts alike, a detailed Downton Abbey season 1 episode guide serves multiple

purposes. It acts as a reference tool for tracking plot developments, character arcs, and historical references. Additionally, it facilitates deeper engagement with the series by contextualizing episodes within broader themes.

Given the show's enduring popularity and influence on period drama, such guides contribute to ongoing discussions about class, history, and television storytelling. They also assist viewers in appreciating the intricate craftsmanship behind each episode, from writing and directing to acting and production design.

In sum, the first season of *Downton Abbey* is a masterclass in storytelling that combines historical authenticity with rich character drama. This episode guide illuminates the nuances and complexities that have made the series a cultural phenomenon and an essential study in British television drama.

Downton Abbey Season 1 Episode Guide

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downton abbey season 1 episode guide: Another 1000 Famous Horses FJH Glover, 2022-11-13 This 2nd book is a continuation of the 1st book. The index at the back of the book is brilliant. The contents list, at the front of the book, is in alphabetical order, and is a list of the horses names, gives paragraph numbers. Whereas the Index gives the Rider/Owner in alphanumeric order and gives paragraph numbers. So if you do not know the name of a persons horse you would look up the person in the Index and it would indicate the paragraph numbers to find the answer. For instance: Steptoe and Son would be under 'S' in the Index and this would lead you to 'Hercules', the strong man from Greek Mythology. Or Toy Story 2 would lead you to 'Bullseye' Books 3 and 4 are in

the process of compiling, it's a "Never Ending Story".

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James Floyd Kelly, 2013-03-27 Make the most of your new iPad or iPad mini-without becoming a technical expert! This book is the fastest way to get comfortable, get productive, get online, connect with friends and family, enjoy media, play games, post to Facebook and Twitter, and more! Even if you've never used an iPad before, this book will show you how to do what you want, one incredibly clear and easy step at a time. iPads have never, ever been this simple! Who knew how simple iPad and iPad mini could be? This is today's best beginner's guide to using your new iPad or iPad mini...simple, practical instructions for doing everything you really want to do! Here's a small sample of what you'll learn: Master gestures and touchscreen tips you can use in any iPad app Get productive fast with Notes, Calendar, Contacts, Reminders, and Notifications Use iCloud to automatically sync and share data with iPads, iPhones, and Macs Browse the Web more efficiently with Safari's best shortcuts Capture high-quality photos and video with your iPad Share "Photo Stream" albums with other iPad, iPhone, or iPod touch users Make free FaceTime video calls Post to Facebook and Twitter from your iPad Get the best new free and paid apps from Apple's App Store Make the most of iTunes and your iPad's amazing media capabilities Read new bestsellers and free classics with iBooks Transform your iPad into a great online gaming device Use Find My iPhone to find a lost iPad in the house, or lock it if it's stolen Adding hardware that makes your iPad more fun and useful Finding Wi-Fi connections and making the most of paid data plans

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Clendenen, 2024-04-15 What happens after we die? The Ultimate Guide to Heaven and Hell is a summary guide to the afterlife that seeks to provide answers based on biblical teaching. Throughout, readers will encounter questions like: What is heaven, and how can I be sure I will get there? Is it different from the new heavens and the new earth? Will my body be there, or just my spirit/soul? What is hell, and how can I be sure to avoid it? CHAPTERS INCLUDE: Is it Just Hype? How Can I Know? Geography of Heaven and Earth Heaven the Celestial Fire Heaven: Avoiding the Fire Is Heaven Our Home? The New Creation The Necessity and Power of Jesus's Resurrection How Can I Know Jesus Was Raised? What Is a Person? Intermediate State: Old Testament Evidence Intermediate State: New Testament Evidence What Do We Know about Hades? Did Christ Descend to Hades? Gehenna, the Lake of Fire, Tartarus, and the Abyss Death and Dying Human mortality can be quite paralyzing to some people, but the truth remains—our individual, bodily lives will one day come to an end. What happens after? The Bible has much to say in response to that question, and ultimately provides hope on this topic as we look to Jesus, the one who has conquered death.

downton abbey season 1 episode guide: The Kaleidoscope British Christmas Television Guide 1937-2013 Chris Perry, 2016-02-03 A Guide to British television programmes shown at Christmas time, throughout the years.

downton abbey season 1 episode guide: Disability, Human Rights and the Limits of Humanitarianism Michael Gill, Cathy J. Schlund-Vials, 2016-05-23 Disability studies scholars and activists have long criticized and critiqued so-termed 'charitable' approaches to disability where the capitalization of individual disabled bodies to invoke pity are historically, socially, and politically circumscribed by paternalism. Disabled individuals have long advocated for civil and human rights in various locations throughout the globe, yet contemporary human rights discourses problematically co-opt disabled bodies as 'evidence' of harms done under capitalism, war, and other forms of conflict, while humanitarian non-governmental organizations often use disabled bodies to generate resources for their humanitarian projects. It is the connection between civil rights and human rights, and this concomitant relationship between national and global, which foregrounds this groundbreaking book's contention that disability studies productively challenge such human rights paradigms, which troublingly eschew disability rights in favor of exclusionary humanitarianism. It relocates disability from the margins to the center of academic and activist debates over the vexed relationship between human rights and humanitarianism. These considerations thus productively destabilize able-bodied assumptions that undergird definitions of personhood in civil rights and

human rights by highlighting intersections between disability, race, gender ethnicity, and sexuality as a way to interrogate the possibilities (and limitations) of human rights as a politicized regime.

downton abbey season 1 episode guide: Downton Abbey: Series 1 Scripts (Official) Julian Fellowes, 2012-12-20 Immerse yourself in Julian Fellowes' multi-award-winning drama. The full scripts of Series One include previously unseen dialogue and drama.

downton abbey season 1 episode guide: *Lady Sybil Crawley as a Suffragette in the First Three Seasons of Downton Abbey*, 2022-05-11 Seminar paper from the year 2020 in the subject Didactics for the subject English - Literature, Works, grade: 1,7, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, language: English, abstract: This term paper deals with the thesis that Lady Sybil Crawley is a Suffragette, even if she never becomes one officially. The aim of this work is to depict characteristics of Sybil which accentuates her as one. During this work, the focus will be on the first three seasons of Downton Abbey as Sybil dies in the third season. In the following, the Edwardian era will be explained as well as the political situation and the Suffragette movement to create a tight historical context of the discussed topic. Then, general aspects, which are important for the main body, of the series Downton Abbey will be given. The main body is made of the depiction of three characteristics of Lady Sybil Crawley which represents her as a Suffragette: Supporting the maid Gwen, her political interest, and falling in love with Tom Branson. Subsequently, it will be explained if Downton Abbey can be regarded as cultural memory. The conclusion rounds off the term paper. Die Arbeit thematisiert die Darstellung der Figur Lady Sybil Crawley der britischen Serie Downton Abbey als Suffragette der Edwardian Era. Hierzu werden auch einige historische Hintergründe zu der Suffragetten-Bewegung der Edwardian Era aufgezeigt.

downton abbey season 1 episode guide: Serving Well Jonathan Trotter, Elizabeth Trotter, 2019-02-22 Are you dreaming of working abroad? Imagining serving God in another land? Or are you already on the field, unsure about what to do next or how to manage the stresses of cross-cultural life? Or perhaps you've been on the field a while now, and you're weary, maybe so weary that you wonder how much longer you can keep going. If any of these situations describes you, there is hope inside this book. You'll find steps you can take to prepare for the field, as well as ways to find strength and renewal if you're already there. From the beginning to the end of the cross-cultural journey, *Serving Well* has something for you.

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downton abbey season 1 episode guide: My iPad for Kids Sam Costello, 2012-06-04 Step-by-step instructions and corresponding step number callouts on photos show you exactly what to do Help when you run into problems or limitations of your iPad or its apps and you need to figure out what to do Tips and Notes to help you get the most out of your iPad and its apps Costello Full-color, step-by-step tasks walk you through learning how to use your iPad for home, school, and just for fun! Learn how to: Safely surf the Internet on the iPad to do research for school and find interesting facts. Use email, texting, and chatting apps to stay in touch with friends, family, and teachers. Have fun (or do group projects for school) using FaceTime and Skype video chatting. Use the iPad in school and for homework. Four chapters of suggestions for grade-specific apps (4th through 7th grade) to help you excel in the classroom. Use the built-in Music app so you can rock out to your favorite tunes. Watch movies and TV shows from iTunes and videos on YouTube (only when homework is done, of course). Use iPad's built-in cameras to take photos and video of you and your friends. Use the Photo Booth app to make them even more interesting (or a little crazy!). Set new high scores playing the tens of thousands of great games available at the App Store. Discover great apps for school or just for fun through recommendations in nearly every chapter. Parents can feel more secure thanks to special tips that help kids use the Internet safely and responsibly. Become your own tech support team by learning to maintain and solve problems with your iPad, including tips on restarting, backing up, and cleaning the iPad. Includes coverage of the latest iPad technologies, including iOS 5.1 and 4G LTE.

downton abbey season 1 episode guide: Hollywood or History? Paul J. Yoder, Aaron P. Johnson, 2022-05-01 Traumagenic events—episodes that have caused or are likely to cause trauma—color the experiences of K-12 students and the social studies curriculum they encounter in

U.S. schools. At the same time that the global COVID-19 pandemic has heightened educators' awareness of collective trauma, the racial reckoning of 2020 has drawn important attention to historical and transgenerational trauma. At a time when social studies educators can simply no longer ignore "difficult" knowledge, instruction that acknowledges trauma in social studies classrooms is essential. Through employing relational pedagogies and foregrounding voices that are too often silenced, the lessons in *Hollywood or History? An Inquiry-Based Strategy for Using Film to Acknowledge Trauma in Social Studies* engage students in examining the role of traumatic or traumagenic events in social studies curriculum. The 20 *Hollywood or History?* lessons are organized by themes such as political trauma and war and genocide. Each lesson presents film clips, instructional strategies, and primary and secondary sources targeted to the identified K-12 grade levels. As a collection, they provide ready-to-teach resources that are perfect for teachers who are committed to acknowledging trauma in their social studies instruction.

downton abbey season 1 episode guide: The Times Index , 2013-02 Indexes the Times, Sunday times and magazine, Times literary supplement, Times educational supplement, Time educational supplement Scotland, and the Times higher education supplement.

downton abbey season 1 episode guide: Pandemic Re-awakenings Guy Beiner, 2021-12-30 A multi-level and multi-faceted exploration of a century of remembering, forgetting, and rediscovering the influenza pandemic of 1918-1919, arguably the greatest catastrophe in human history. Twenty-three researchers chart the worldwide historiographical neglect and silences, and trace vestiges of social and cultural memories of this pandemic.

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downton abbey season 1 episode guide: Edwardians on Screen Katherine Byrne, 2015-09-22 This book explores television's current fascination with the Edwardian era. By exploring popular period dramas such as *Downton Abbey* , it examines how the early twentieth century is represented on our screens, and what these shows tell us about class, gender and politics, both past and present.

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