

Beat: Arts

BELGRAVIA by Julian FELLOWES, the Author of DOWNTON ABBEY

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USPA NEWS - BEGRAVIA by the Author of DOWNTON ABBEY Julian FELLOWES (JC Lattès Editions). The original Title is 'Julian Fellowes's Belgravia'. The story is as follows : The Duchess of Richmond throws a magnificent ball in Brussels for the Duke of Wellington. It is 15th June 1815, the eve of the Battle of Waterloo.

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The novel concerns two families, the aristocratic Bellasises, who live in a mansion on Belgrave Square, and the rather more down-market Trenchards, whose fortune was made from trade and who reside in Eaton Square. In social terms they are worlds apart. James Trenchard wants nothing more than to be admitted to the drawing rooms and soirees of the houses he builds and in Belgravia that is beginning to be possible. The aristocrats may resist, but money talks.

The plot devices of 'Belgravia' will be familiar to anyone who has a passing acquaintance with Victorian fiction and reading this book is rather like visiting a modern re-creation of a Victorian house in a 21st-century's style. The plot has plenty of surprises and many of the female characters have been granted a significant and complex role. Brilliant Novel and expected from Julian Fellowes.

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