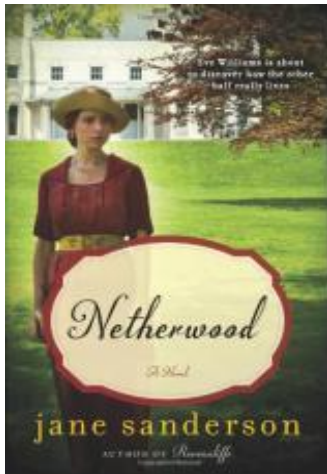


Netherwood

by Jane Sanderson



About the Book

Upstairs: Lord Netherwood, a coal baron, earns his considerable wealth from the three mines he owns. Supplying a bustling industrial empire with the highest-quality coal keeps his coffers filled --- money he needs to run his splendid estate, Netherwood Hall, and to dress his wife and daughters in the latest fashions. And keeping his heir, the charming but feckless Tobias, out of trouble, doesn't come cheap.

Downstairs: Eve Williams, the wife of one of Lord Netherwood's most stalwart employees, cleverly manages her family's well-being on the low wages her hardworking husband earns in the mines. But when her ordered life amid the terraced rows of miners' houses is brought crashing down by the twin arrivals of tragedy and charity, Eve must look to her own self-sufficiency and talent to provide for her three young children.

And soon the divide between "upstairs" and "downstairs" is about to close...and neither world will ever be the same.

Discussion Guide

1. NETHERWOOD draws heavily on class distinctions in early twentieth-century Britain?did you find the attitudes discussed surprising or shocking?
2. How would you compare and contrast Eve and Henrietta?
3. What is the central theme of the book and how did it resonate with you?
4. There is much food imagery in this novel. Can you explain why imagery is so important in the story and how effective it is?

5. How are relationships between the classes portrayed in the book? Who is your favorite/least favorite character, and how true did each of them feel?
6. What do you think will happen in the next book in the series?
7. There are a number of significant?and very different?male characters in this book. In what ways did each of them help or hinder Eve?
8. There are various different businesses described in this novel?how does working life differ from today?
9. What do you think Anna's presence in Netherwood says about the political situation in the wider world?
10. The turn of the twentieth-century was a time of great political change in Britain too?how does NETHERWOOD reflect the catalysts for that?
11. Do you think Eve, Henrietta, and Anna are typical of their era and class?

Author Bio

Jane Sanderson is a former BBC radio producer. She lives with her husband, author and journalist Brian Viner, in Herefordshire, England.

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