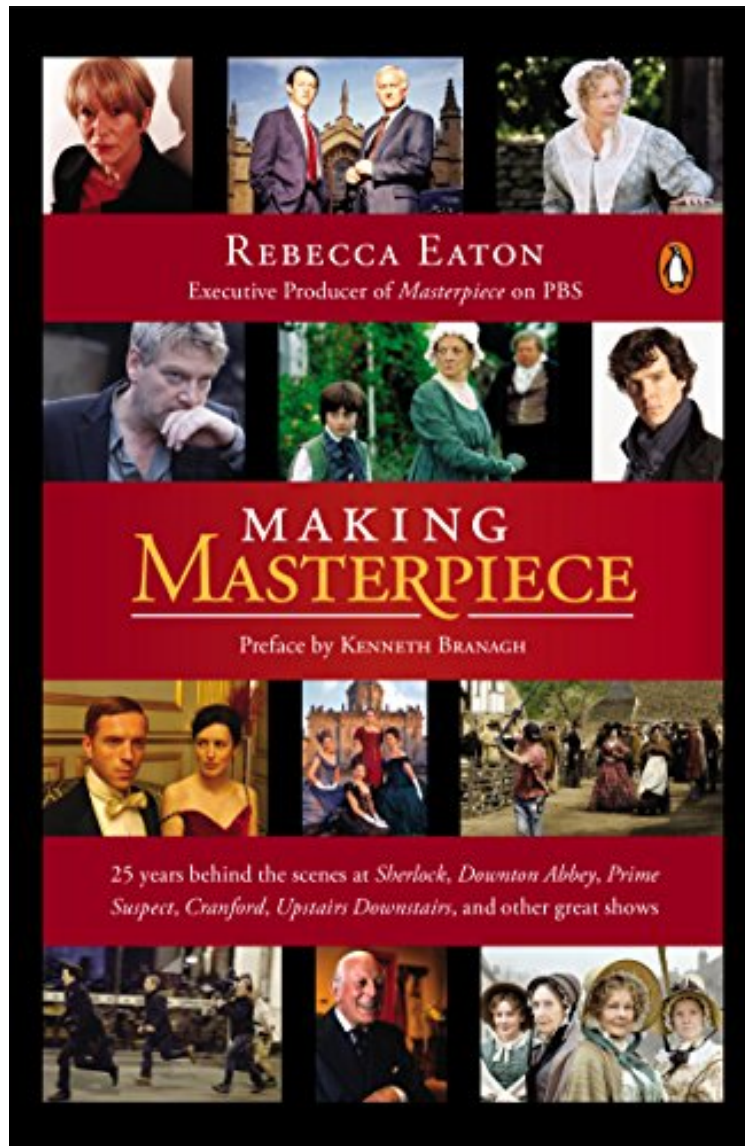


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Making Masterpiece: 25 Years Behind the Scenes at Sherlock, Downton Abbey, Prime Suspect, Cranford, Upstairs Downstairs, and Other Great Shows

Rebecca Eaton

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Rebecca Eaton : Making Masterpiece: 25 Years Behind the Scenes at Sherlock, Downton Abbey, Prime Suspect, Cranford, Upstairs Downstairs, and Other Great Shows before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Making Masterpiece: 25 Years Behind the Scenes at Sherlock, Downton Abbey, Prime Suspect, Cranford, Upstairs Downstairs, and Other Great Shows:

22 of 22 people found the following review helpful. Funny, Insightful Look at Downton Abbey, Sherlock and Other Iconic Masterpiece Shows By Matt Cole Like a lot of people, I came to Masterpiece as a family affair -- I would dart through the room when my parents would be watching, and catch a glimpse of Poirot or some period drama. It didn't all seep in right away, but once it did, I became a regular viewer and fan. Naturally, I was excited when I saw this book, and devoured it in a weekend. The book is a mix of memoir and Masterpiece. On the professional side, it recounts how Eaton came into her role as Executive Producer, tracing her early career in the UK, and jumping on board the Masterpiece series after it started. As someone who is always interested in how people got to where they are, I thought this narrative was engaging -- it really does seem like the job she was born to do. Then, personally, Eaton talks about her parents (her mother was in show business), her daughter, her miscarriages and more. Because I feel such a familial attachment to Masterpiece, this storyline seemed intimate, thoughtful and honest. Eaton is a very personable narrator throughout. And then -- making Masterpiece! Eaton reveals some great details about some iconic Masterpiece programs, and working with UK actors and producers. Amusingly, she also talks about programs she passed on at first. If you're a Downton Abbey fan in particular, you'll find some rewarding anecdotes here about her visit to the set and the cast coming to America. You totally get the feeling that Eaton loves it all as much as we do, and that for me was my favorite part of this book. With decades of programs, there is obviously more that Eaton omits than includes. But I thought the book was a fun, insightful cross section of stories on programs you'll recognize and remember. At the end, Eaton talks about how writing the book made her fall in love with Masterpiece again, and it did the same for me. I've already bought the book for several Masterpiece fans in the family and friends.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. making Masterpiece magnificent By Maxine A. Hartley If you watch PBS whatsoever, you should get this book by Rebecca Eaton. Also, if you are a woman wanting to get ahead in the media fields, you should be highly interested in Eaton's story of her journey to the top. Eaton tells the story of how Masterpiece and Mystery were established at PBS. When I'm watching, I know I've always considered them to be permanent fixtures in the PBS lineup. Not so. It is an ongoing battle to keep these programs there, mainly because they are very costly and funding has to be found every time. Also, there's the problem of drawing in a younger audience. The new "Sherlock Holmes" set in modern times has drawn in many younger folk. I am not a fan of it myself, preferring the older Jeremy Brett Sherlock series, but I understand their need to draw more younger viewers so that airing of these Mystery can continue. Masterpiece itself has evolved from its first great hit, "Upstairs, Downstairs." She talks of "Downton Abbey" which surprised PBS and the Brits when it became such a big hit in the U.S. Eaton turned it down twice before accepting it and it almost didn't happen. (What a grievous loss if she hadn't changed her mind!) To find out what turned her around and what she has to say about the series and all others, you'll have to buy the book. I have rated it at four stars rather than five stars because although it is thoroughly readable and absolutely fascinating, it didn't grab my heart. It isn't poignant due to its subject matter, I suppose. And, I suspect that Rebecca Eaton is a pragmatist and pragmatists don't write heartfelt books. But if she weren't a pragmatist, it's possible that she couldn't have kept Mystery and particularly, Masterpiece, on the air and developing all these years. She considered retirement, but couldn't. That's good news for all of us who love Masterpiece and Mystery and can't wait for Sunday night to watch Downton Abbey - or to buy the latest episodes on DVD the moment they're released. And it's good news for all of us who believe that most of television fare is garbage and that PBS can be relied upon to have entertaining and educating fare.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Masterful -Magical -Masterpiece! By Nina L. Mazzo Fascinating look at the unique ability of PBS Masterpiece to entertain us over and over again! Rebecca Eaton takes you along on her personal journey and she writes in an engaging manner - I felt as though we were sitting down to a cup of tea as she reminisces. Book includes photos and fabulous quips and quotes with various actors and writers. I purchased in both an e-edition and hardback. Great Christmas gift. Nina Mazzo

The Emmy Award-winning producer of PBS's Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery! reveals the secrets to Downton Abbey, Sherlock, and its other hit programs For more than twenty-five years and counting, Rebecca Eaton has presided over PBS's Masterpiece Theatre, the longest running weekly prime time drama series in American history. From the runaway hits Upstairs, Downstairs and The Buccaneers, to the hugely popular Inspector Morse, Prime Suspect, and Poirot, Masterpiece Theatre and its sibling series Mystery! have been required viewing for fans of quality drama. Eaton interviews many of the writers, directors, producers, and other contributors and shares personal anecdotes -- including photos taken with her own camera -- about her decades-spanning career. She reveals what went on behind the scenes during such triumphs as Cranford and the multiple, highly-rated programs made from Jane Austen's novels, as well as her aggressive campaign to attract younger viewers via social media and online streaming. Along the way she shares stories about actors and other luminaries such as Alistair Cooke, Maggie Smith, Diana Rigg, Benedict Cumberbatch and Daniel Radcliffe, whose first TV role was as the title character in David Copperfield. Readers will also get to know Eaton on a personal level. With a childhood steeped in theater, an affinity for nineteenth century novels and culture, and an "accidental apprenticeship" with the BBC, Eaton was practically born to lead the Masterpiece and Mystery! franchises. Making Masterpiece marks the first time the driving force behind the enduring flagship show reveals all.

From Booklist In this thoroughly engaging memoir, Eaton recounts her 25 years as an executive producer of PBS's oft-lauded Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery! series beloved for bringing British classics and popular detective series, respectively, to the small screen. After a year in England working for the BBC, shy;American-born Eaton spent more than a decade working for public television in Boston before being tapped to executive-produce PBS's Masterpiece Theatre. From its inception in 1970, Masterpiece appeared on PBS with Mobil as a sponsor. Eaton stepped into her role in 1985, and she shares her successes here, from bringing Kenneth Branagh and Emma Thompson to Fortunes of War and getting Helen Mirren to sign on to Prime Suspect. She is equally candid about her missteps, from losing the 1995 Pride Prejudice series starring Colin Firth to AE to initially passing on Downton Abbey because of its similarity to the reboot of Upstairs Downstairs. Eaton is a warm and witty guide to Masterpiece Theatre's storied history, and this lively memoir will appeal equally to Downton diehards and longtime Masterpiece loyalists. --Kristine Huntley "Chronicling her twenty-five-year career with PBS, Eaton provides a behind-the-camera look into the creative process involved in producing Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery! A delightful trek into the world of TV production and a substantive treat for the truly addicted PBS fan." --Kirkus sAbout the Author REBECCA EATON has been executive producer of Masterpiece Theatre and Mystery! for more than twenty-five years. She has won multiple Emmys for her work. She lives in Boston.