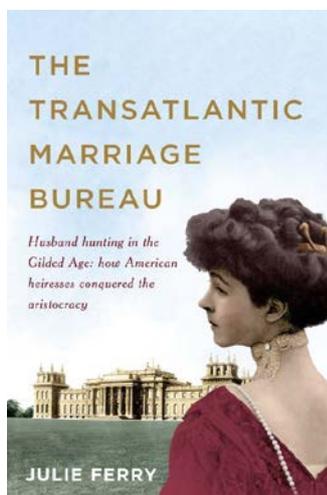


Fame, money, power, prestige, perhaps even love – the fascinating story of the marriages that took place in 1895 between American heiresses and the English aristocracy.



The Transatlantic Marriage Bureau

**Husband Hunting in the Gilded Age:
How American Heiresses
Conquered the Aristocracy**

By Julie Ferry

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£20 | Hardback & eBook**

Already optioned for a major TV series by Blueprint Pictures

In 1895, a crop of American heiresses travelled across the Atlantic and used their fortunes to procure themselves husbands and titles. For those families who had plenty of new money but were barred from the drawing rooms of the American upper classes, the English aristocracy, who were increasingly broke and struggling to maintain their enormous estates, provided the perfect opportunity to achieve the social acceptance they craved. And who better to help them attain it? The American women who had conquered the aristocracy a generation before. The original buccaneers and now unofficial marriage brokers Lady Minnie Paget and Consuelo Yzanga, Duchess of Manchester who would instruct, cajole and manipulate their protégées into making the perfect match.

Featuring a captivating cast of characters including the beautiful Consuelo Vanderbilt who would become mistress of Blenheim Palace and her domineering mother, Alva, the effervescent Maud Burke, who would reinvent herself as Emerald Cunard and Lily Hammersely who found herself marrying once for money, twice for a title and a third time for love, *The Transatlantic Marriage Bureau* will romp through the year to tell their stories – the seasons, the parties, the money and the titles - always with one eye on the remarkable women who made it happen behind the scenes.

Julie Ferry is a freelance journalist who has written for the *Guardian*, *Sunday Times*, *Sunday Telegraph* and the *Independent*, among others. She writes on subjects ranging from protecting women's rights to discovering Paris alone. She lives with her husband and two children in Bristol. *The Transatlantic Marriage Bureau* is her first book.

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