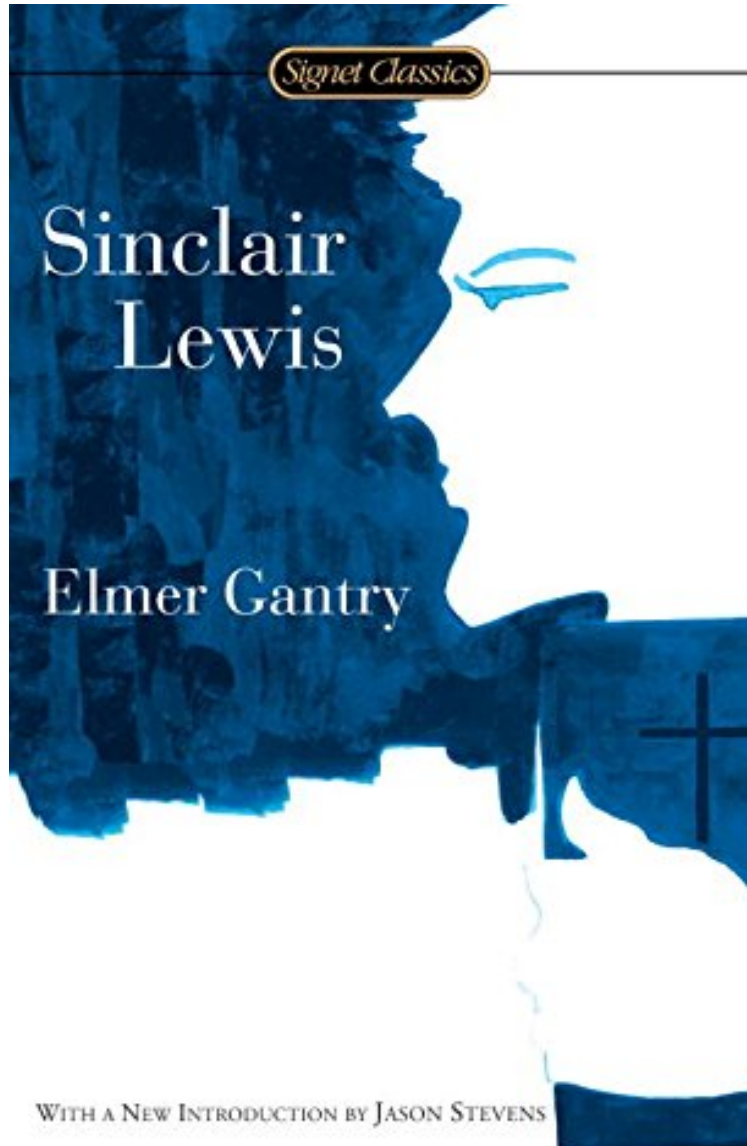


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Elmer Gantry

Sinclair Lewis

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#357966 in Books 2007-12-04 2007-12-04 Original language: English PDF # 1 6.80 x 1.20 x 4.20l, Binding: Mass Market Paperback 496 pages | File size: 78.Mb

Sinclair Lewis : Elmer Gantry before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Elmer Gantry:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Gantries abound By Julio Santos Fictional story that in many ways has always been real (just read Republican Gomorrah and you will see what I mean) and it is an explicit documentary

of our revival period. The book is not a critique of religion but about the lack of religion that many reviewers of the time never understood. I recently watched the movie which enticed me to read the book again. Although it is entertaining it is not true to the book and in my opinion it generously treats Gantry as a tragic hero who ends up learning some modicum of morality. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A deserving classic
By Customer
I hope this book remains listed among the classic for all times, to be read by all future generations, in the hope that it will help to recognize charlatans walking among us. Done with humour, and tongue in cheek wit, Lewis' creation of Elmer Gantry epitomizes how easy it is for society to make heroes of characters who have no redeeming character. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Captivating Insight Into The Stasis Of American Culture
By Mark Mitchell
Reading this, written in the mid-1920s, is a reflection back at how little so much has changed. America today is hardly different than Lewis's America, especially with respect to American Christianity, the Great Christian Scam, the Conservative Right, ignorance, racism, greed, and the patriotic jingoism that Elmer Gantry and those around him portray as fine American characteristics. Like Elmer, American today (as then) is still one thing on the surface, and an entirely different beast running riot just below. "Elmer Gantry" is a great read for anyone frustrated by America today; there is perverse relief in realizing that, on one side of the fence at least, same as it ever was.

Sinclair Lewis' world-famous satire of religious hypocrisy and the excesses of the Roaring '20s. Universally recognized as a landmark in American literature, Elmer Gantry scandalized readers when it was first published, causing Sinclair Lewis to be "invited" to a jail cell in New Hampshire and to his own lynching in Virginia. His portrait of a golden-tongued evangelist who rises to power within his church—a savior of souls who lives a life of duplicity, sensuality, and ruthless self-indulgence—is also the record of a period, a reign of grotesque vulgarity, which but for Lewis would have left no trace of itself. Elmer Gantry has been called the greatest, most vital, and most penetrating study of hypocrisy that has been written since the works of Voltaire. With an introduction by Jason Stevens

Elmer Gantry is charismatic without being likable, which makes voicing him a tricky business for Anthony Heald... Heald's pacing, his accents, his narrative drive are all excellent... --AudioFile
About the Author
Sinclair Lewis was born in 1885 in Sauk Centre, Minnesota, and graduated from Yale University in 1908. His college career was interrupted by various part-time occupations, including a period working at the Helicon Home Colony, Upton Sinclair's socialist experiment in New Jersey. He worked for some years as a free lance editor and journalist, during which time he published several minor novels. But with the publication of *Main Street* (1920), which sold half a million copies, he achieved wide recognition. This was followed by the two novels considered by many to be his finest, *Babbitt* (1922) and *Arrowsmith* (1925), which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1926, but declined by Lewis. In 1930, following *Elmer Gantry* (1927) and *Dodsworth* (1929), Sinclair Lewis became the first American author to be awarded the Nobel Prize for distinction in world literature. This was the apogee of his literary career, and in the period from *Ann Vickers* (1933) to the posthumously published *World So Wide* (1951) Lewis wrote ten novels that reveal the progressive decline of his creative powers. From *Main Street* to *Stockholm*, a collection of his letters, was published in 1952, and *The Man from Main Street*, a collection of essays, in 1953. During his last years Sinclair Lewis wandered extensively in Europe, and after his death in Rome in 1951 his ashes were returned to his birthplace.
From AudioFile
Lewis's classic story of a corrupt and cynical evangelical preacher would seem torn from the pages of current newspapers if the dialogue weren't surprisingly dated. Elmer Gantry is charismatic without being likable, which makes voicing him a tricky business for Anthony Heald. His Elmer is an ambitious, self-righteous sociopath, whose timbre betrays no trace of conscience, self-doubt, regret, or sympathy for others, even at the beginning of his career. Heald's pacing, his accents, his narrative drive are all excellent, although his women tend to sound the same, mostly breathy, credulous ninnyes. It may be that that's all there was on the page, but with no character growth in sight, the dispiriting effect is of one jarring note overwhelming the music from beginning to end. B.G. 2009 Audies Finalist
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