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内容简介

"The Jungle," by Upton Sinclair, is part of the "Barnes and Noble Classics" series, which offers quality editions at affordable prices to the student and the general reader, including new scholarship, thoughtful design, and pages of carefully crafted extras. Here are some of the remarkable features of "Barnes and Noble Classics": New introductions commissioned from today's top writers and scholars; Biographies of the authors; Chronologies of contemporary historical, biographical, and cultural events; Footnotes and endnotes; Selective discussions of imitations, parodies, poems, books, plays, paintings, operas, statuary, and films inspired by the work; Comments by other famous authors; Study questions to challenge the reader's viewpoints and expectations; Bibliographies for further reading; Indices and Glossaries, when appropriate. All editions are beautifully designed and are printed to superior specifications; some include illustrations of historical interest. "Barnes and Noble Classics" pulls together a constellation of influences—biographical, historical, and literary—to enrich each reader's understanding of these enduring works. Upton Sinclair's muckraking masterpiece "The Jungle" centers on Jurgis Rudkus, a Lithuanian immigrant working in Chicago's infamous Packingtown. Instead of finding the American Dream, Rudkus and his family inhabit a brutal, soul-crushing urban jungle dominated by greedy bosses, pitiless con-men, and corrupt politicians. While Sinclair's main target was the industry's appalling labor conditions, the reading public was most outraged by the disgusting filth and contamination in American food that his novel exposed. As a result, President Theodore Roosevelt demanded an official investigation, which quickly led to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug laws. For a work of fiction to have such an impact outside its literary context is extremely rare. (At the time of "The Jungle"'s publication in 1906, the only novel to have led to social change on a similar scale in America was "Uncle Tom's Cabin,") Today, "The Jungle" remains a relevant portrait of capitalism at its worst and an impassioned account of the human spirit facing nearly insurmountable challenges. Maura Spiegel teaches literature and film at Columbia University and Barnard College. She is the coauthor of "The Grim Reader and The Breast Book: An Intimate and Curious History," She co-edits "Literature and Medicine," a journal.

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