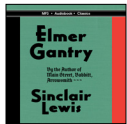


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Elmer Gantry

Sinclair Lewis (February 7, 1885 – January 10, 1951)

Read by: William Allan Jones Genre: Fiction
 Length: 19 hours 59 minutes Style: Solo
 Language: English

Product Formats and Options				
Format	Package	Catalog	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	DVD case	DB-1348	0674012595849	\$11.99
MP3 CD	CD jacket	CJ-1348	0674012595856	\$11.99
MP3 CD	Security sleeve	CD-1348	NA	\$3.99
MP3 download	Zip file	DL-1348	NA	\$3.99

Elmer Gantry explores the life of its charismatic and opportunistic protagonist, Elmer Gantry. Set in the early 20th century, the story follows Gantry’s journey from a young and reckless student to a successful but morally compromised evangelist with a magnetic personality and a gift for public speaking. He becomes a preacher, leveraging his captivating oratory skills to attract large congregations and financial contributions. However, behind his charismatic facade lies a complex character driven by ambition, greed, and a penchant for indulgence. Throughout the novel, Gantry’s hypocrisy and moral contradictions are evident as he engages in illicit affairs, alcohol consumption, and other vices, while preaching piety and righteousness. The narrative delves into the tensions between religious fervor and the darker aspects of human nature, highlighting the manipulation and corruption that can occur within the realm of organized

religion. It is probably the best known critique of religious hypocrisy, institutionalized faith, and the power of charismatic personalities to exploit the vulnerabilities of believers. Lewis’ exploration of the blurred lines between faith and manipulation makes for a thought-provoking commentary on the intersection of religion, ethics, and personal ambition in a rapidly changing society.

The book created a furor when it was published in 1927. It was banned in Boston, denounced from pulpits, and provoked threats of violence against Lewis, who preacher Billy Sunday called “Satan’s cohort”. It was also the best-selling work of fiction that year. The book was adapted for the screen in 1960 by Richard Brooks in a film starring Burt Lancaster, which won three Oscars.

Harry Sinclair Lewis (February 7, 1885 – January 10, 1951) was an American author known for his novels and short stories of middle class American life between the World Wars. He was the youngest of three boys born and raised in the town of Sauk Center, Minnesota. He attended Oberlin Academy and Yale University, where he became editor of the Yale Literary Magazine. Following graduation in 1908 he wrote for magazines and newspapers, developing a gift for producing shallow but popular stories, and started publishing novels in 1914. He struck gold in 1920 with *Main Street*, an exceptionally realistic novel about small town life that sold 180,000 copies in the first six months and over two million within a few years. He followed with *Babbitt* in 1922, the Pulitzer Prize winner *Arrowsmith* in 1925, *Elmer Gantry* in 1927, and *Dodsworth* in 1929. The strength of these works earned him the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1930, the first American to receive the honor. He wrote eleven more novels, notably *It Can’t Happen Here* in 1935 about the election of a fascist President. His friend William Shirer summarized his career by noting that “compared to ... Fitzgerald, Hemingway, Dos Passos, and Faulkner ... Lewis lacked style. Yet his impact on modern American life ... was greater than all of the other four writers together.”