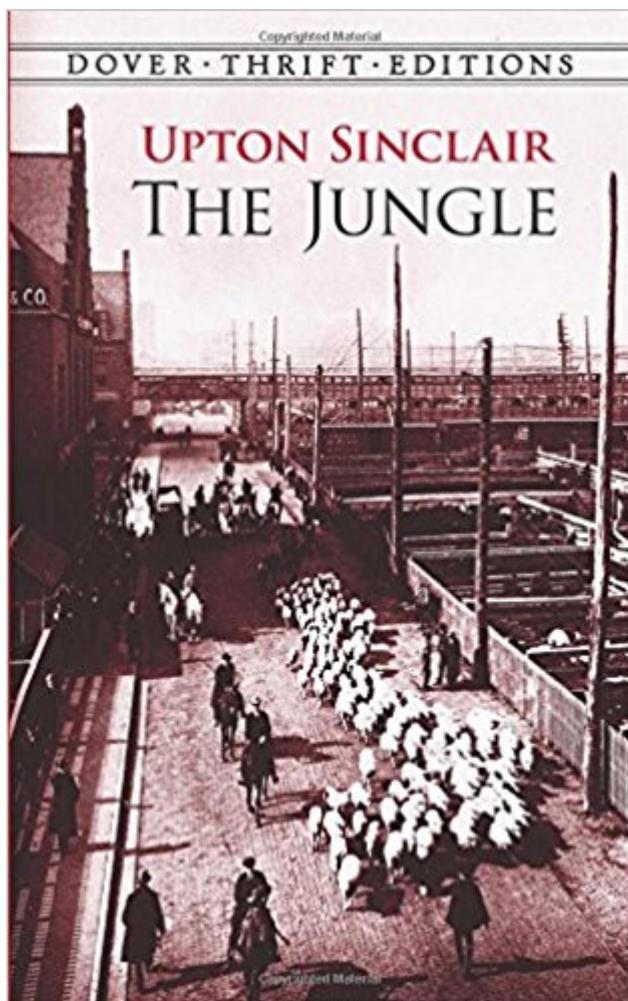


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# The Jungle (Dover Thrift Editions)



## Synopsis

An ardent activist, champion of political reform, novelist, and progressive journalist, Upton Sinclair is perhaps best known today for *The Jungle* — his devastating exposé of the meat-packing industry. A protest novel he privately published in 1906, the book was a shocking revelation of intolerable labor practices and unsanitary working conditions in the Chicago stockyards. It quickly became a bestseller, arousing public sentiment and resulting in such federal legislation as the Pure Food and Drug Act. The brutally grim story of a Slavic family who emigrates to America, *The Jungle* tells of their rapid and inexorable descent into numbing poverty, moral degradation, and social and economic despair. Vulnerable and isolated, the family of Jurgis Rudkus struggles — unsuccessfully — to survive in an urban jungle. A powerful view of turn-of-the-century poverty, graft, and corruption, this fiercely realistic American classic is still required reading in many history and literature classes. It will continue to haunt readers long after they've finished the last page.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Originally published in 1991 as part of a short-lived revival of the Classics Illustrated line, this adaptation of Sinclair's muckraking socialist novel succeeds because of its powerful images. When Kuper initially drew it, he was already a well-known left-wing comics artist. His unenviable task is condensing a 400-page novel into a mere 48 pages, and, inevitably, much of the narrative drama is lost. Kuper replaces it, however, with unmatched pictorial drama. The story follows Lithuanian immigrant Jurgis Rudkis and his family as they are eaten up and spit out by

capitalism (represented by Chicago's packing houses). Kuper uses an innovative full-color stencil technique with the immediacy of graffiti to give Sinclair's story new life. When Jurgis is jailed for beating the rich rapist Connor, a series of panels suffused with a dull, red glow draw readers closer and closer to Jurgis's face, until they see that the glint in his eye is fire. Jurgis, briefly prosperous as a strong-arm man for the Democratic machine, smokes a cigar; the smoke forms an image of his dead son and evicted family. Perhaps most visually dazzling is the cubist riot as strikers battle police amid escaping cattle. Kuper infuses this 1906 novel with the energy of 1980s-era street art and with his own profoundly original graphic innovation, making it a classic in its own right. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 10 Up  
In 1906, Sinclair published *The Jungle*, a realistic and scathing portrayal of the life of an immigrant worker. Kuper's revised adaptation focuses solely on its hero, Jurgis Rudkus. Readers follow him from his emigration from Lithuania to downtown Chicago, eager to find the American Dream he's heard so much about. But the harsh world of Chi-town quickly shatters his hopes; forced to take a job at a slaughterhouse, he performs the most menial and vile tasks. An injury pushes him to unemployment and, unable to provide for them, he leaves his family in shame. Rudkus transforms from a starry-eyed dreamer into a cynical but valiant man who fights for workers' rights. Kuper's artwork effectively mimics some of the major art movements of the day. The book opens in a Chagall-inflected form of cubism, lending a folksy, dreamy, and hopeful quality to the early pages. Then, the visuals become increasingly jagged and frenetic until they reach the Futurist-inspired panels that illustrate the story's climax. Well-plotted and beautifully illustrated, Kuper's adaptation breathes new life into this classic American story. --Matthew L. Moffett, Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I'm skimming the reviews and seeing all these comments about "children", and then spotted the #1 Most Helpful Review, which references Rudyard Kipling. If you think this is "The Jungle Book," you are ever so wrong. This is *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair. It's a gruesome, shocking account of life for immigrants in the early 1900s. When we did our family tree, we found that the 1880 census in Chicago lists my seven-year-old great grandfather by occupation. He worked in the Chicago Stockyards, using a squeegee to push blood down a drain, probably for 12 hours a day. Once again, he was seven years old. I just bought this book for my son, who was bitterly complaining

about how unfairly he was treated at work this week. I told him about the seven-year-old ancestor. He's a voracious reader, so I am hopeful the message will sink in.

"The Jungle Book" is a classic novel, one that ALL children should either hear read, or read themselves. THIS version (by Minalima Ltd. w/Interactive Elements) should be the one you get. IT IS INCREDIBLE!! It is chalked-full of interactive "stuff," and has the most beautiful illustrations. One of the better things with this version is that all the "stuff" it comes with is attached to the book, which means it will be much more difficult to lose. Really, if you're trying to decide which version of this timeless book you should buy, get the Minalima version. They also have a Peter Pan, which is just as delightful. (No, I do not work for this company, and in fact know nothing about them other than the fact that these two books are totally magical.)

When I was a student, teachers always referred to "The Jungle" as the exposé that led to the Pure Food and Drug Act, and described the book as an exposé of the rats and filth that went into the meat packaged and sold at that time. While this is true, there was much left out of those scant explanations. This is a novelized depiction of life in Chicago in the early 19th century. Yurgis and Ono, along with other members of their family, move to America to participate in the land of opportunity and riches. They quickly become pulled into the horrific world of the Chicago stockyards, and halfway through the novel, the idyllic life envisioned by Yurgis has been destroyed. He experiences other adventures over the next few years until he finds happiness by embracing Socialism. Throughout this long journey, Yurgis encounters more misery than the average man would be able to endure. Sinclair accomplished a journalistic feat with his undercover investigation of the meat packing process (he spent almost two months working in the Chicago plants). This book also has a political undertone which reveals itself at the end with a long explanation of the benefits of Socialism (though this should not be a surprise to the reader, as capitalism and the two-party system is at the heart of Yurgis's problems). This is a good read for those who have a desire to learn more about life in the early 1900s and the affects on immigrants and citizens.

A classic spanning generations! In particular this edition is worth every penny! The pages are of thick card stock and the dust jacket is just fantastic! The illustrations really bring the story to life. And the story is of course riveting. A GREAT classic!! This edition is one of those books that will be an heirloom. It is hardy enough in construction to endure and the story will be relevant forever. Again a wonderful classic presented in such a way to rival the characters and plot. I would gladly

recommend this book and the others in the series to others, and as a mom of five and a nanny to many this book can be appreciated and enjoyed for many, many years. A great investment to encourage reading, creative writing and most especially time with your children reading together!! The other books in this series (Sterling Illustrated Classics) are also of great quality.

This book is a classic. I just bought it recently, but my mother used to read it to me when I was a child and I absolutely loved it then. . I am rereading it now and it is even more wonderful. This book is for both adults and children. Real classic literature, like the very best of all stories, the stories in the Jungle book are timeless and universal and deeply satisfying reads. Well worth it! Read it to your kids too! Studies show that reading to kids stimulates brain development and these are stories that children will absolutely love. I know I did-- both then and now!

As always, the book is better than the movie! After the great animated movie and two live action ones, it was fun reading the two books of short stories as the source of all three movies. There's a lot not included in the movies to keep them child-oriented and I agree with Disney on this, though glad I know the whole story now, including the negative take on humans and how Mowgli really killed Shere Kahn and his return to the humans in the end. Plus the other short stories like Riki Tiki Tavi! Good read!

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