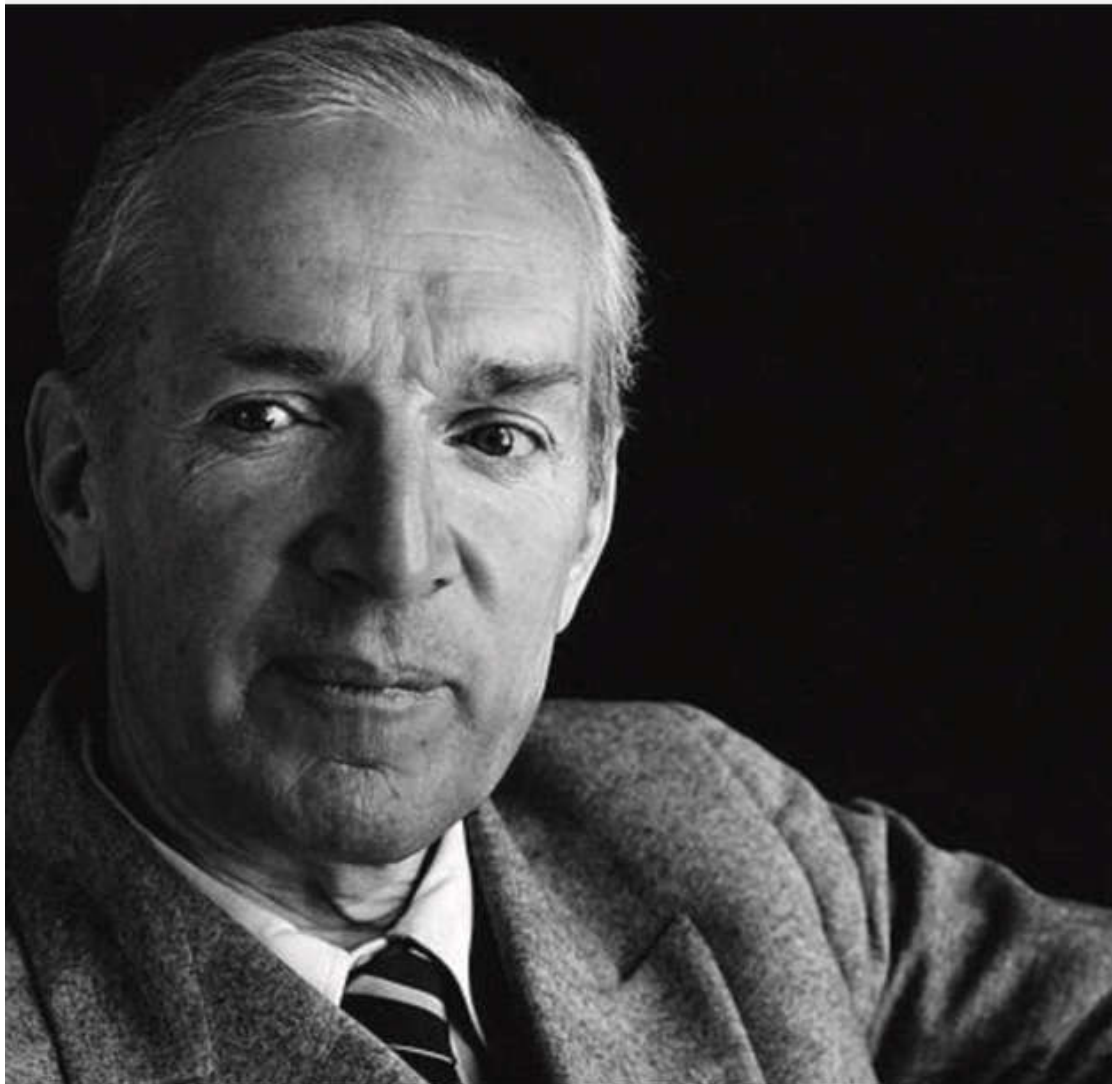




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Upton Sinclair

Collected Works



Series Thirteen

The Collected Works of
UPTON SINCLAIR

(1878-1968)



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The Lanny Budd Series

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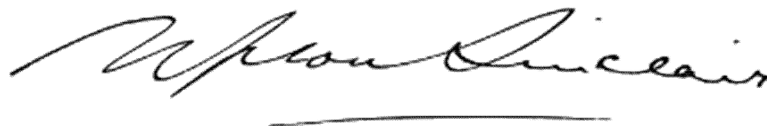
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The Delphi Classics Catalogue

A stylized, handwritten signature of Upton Sinclair in black ink, featuring a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

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Version 1

The Collected Works of
UPTON SINCLAIR



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Collected Works of Upton Sinclair



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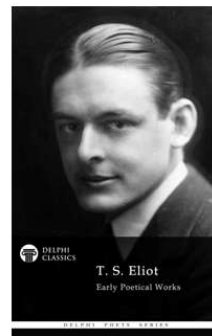
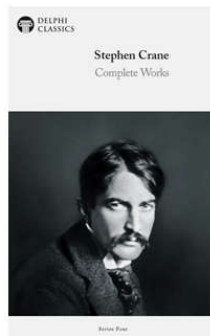
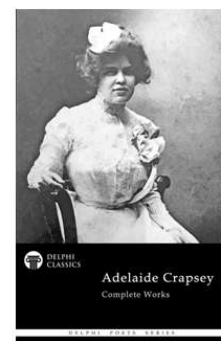
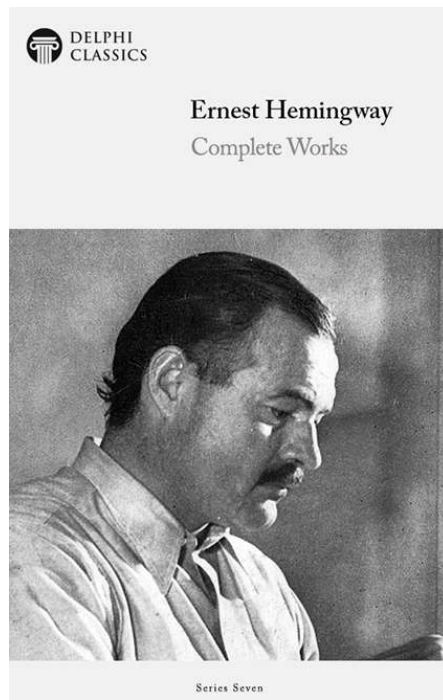
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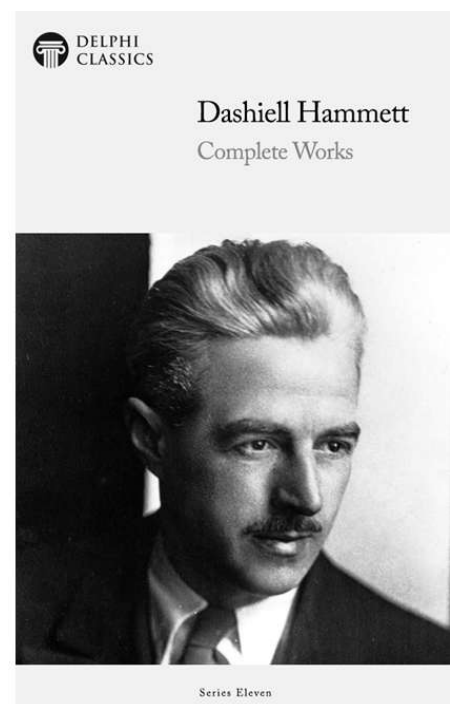
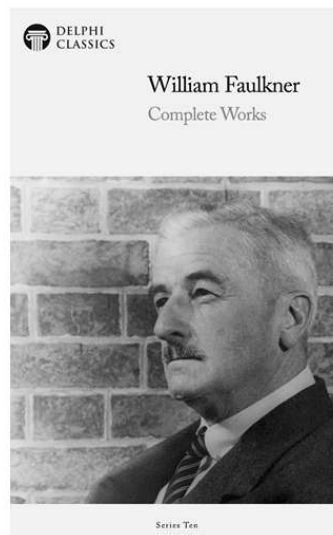
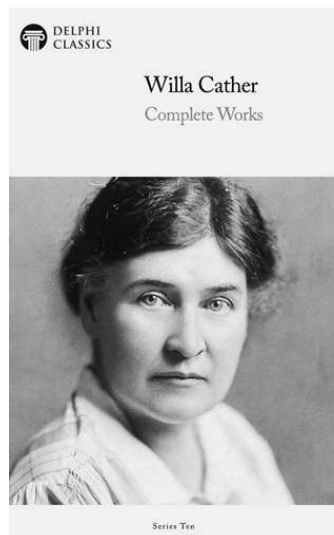


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The Lanny Budd Series



Baltimore, Maryland — Upton Sinclair's birthplace



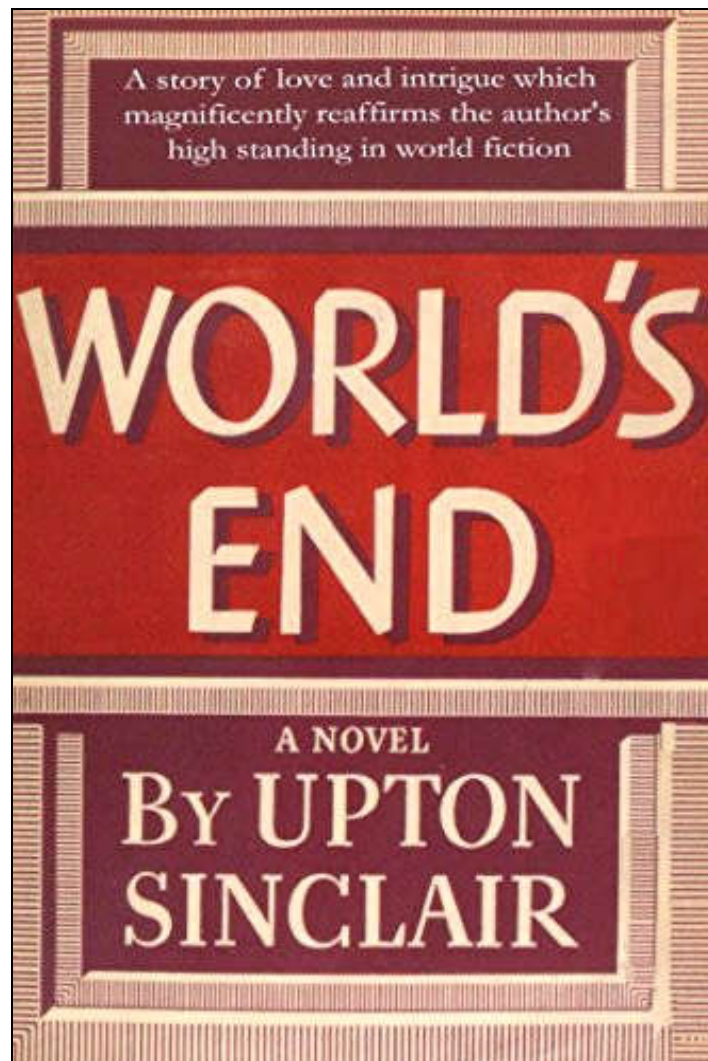
Baltimore harbor in 1849

World's End (1940)



World's End was first published in the USA by Viking Press in 1940. It was the first novel of what would become known as the 'Lanny Budd' series, which Sinclair wrote and published over thirteen years between 1940 and 1953. All eleven books in the series feature the protagonist Lanning 'Lanny' Budd, the son of a prominent American arms manufacturer. He encounters and socialises with prominent historical figures and is a witness to major political events in Europe and America. The series spans Lanny's life from the outbreak of World War I until shortly after the end of the Second World War. The third novel in the collection, *Dragon's Teeth* (1942), set during the rise and consolidation of Nazism in the early 1930's, won the 1943 Pulitzer Prize for the Novel. Budd is portrayed as a sophisticated socialite, who mingles easily with people from all cultures and classes; therefore, he has been characterised as the antithesis of the stereotyped 'Ugly American'.

World's End opens in the summer of 1913, as the thirteen-year-old Lanny, who has been raised on the French Riviera by his American mother, is spending time in a village outside of Dresden. He has become close friends with Rick, an English boy that is the son of a baronet, and Kurt, a German boy from a prominent Prussian family. Lanny's father, Robbie, is an arms manufacturer from Connecticut, whose politics consist of a loathing for socialism. When the war breaks out in 1914, Lanny and his friends are initially uninterested in the conflict and do not believe it will be of consequence to them. This changes as Rick and Kurt join the British and German armies respectively and later Lanny finds himself working at the Paris Peace Conference. The war and its turbulent aftermath leave Lanny disillusioned as he realises his childhood belief in the world as a place of beauty, peace and reason has been misplaced.



The first edition

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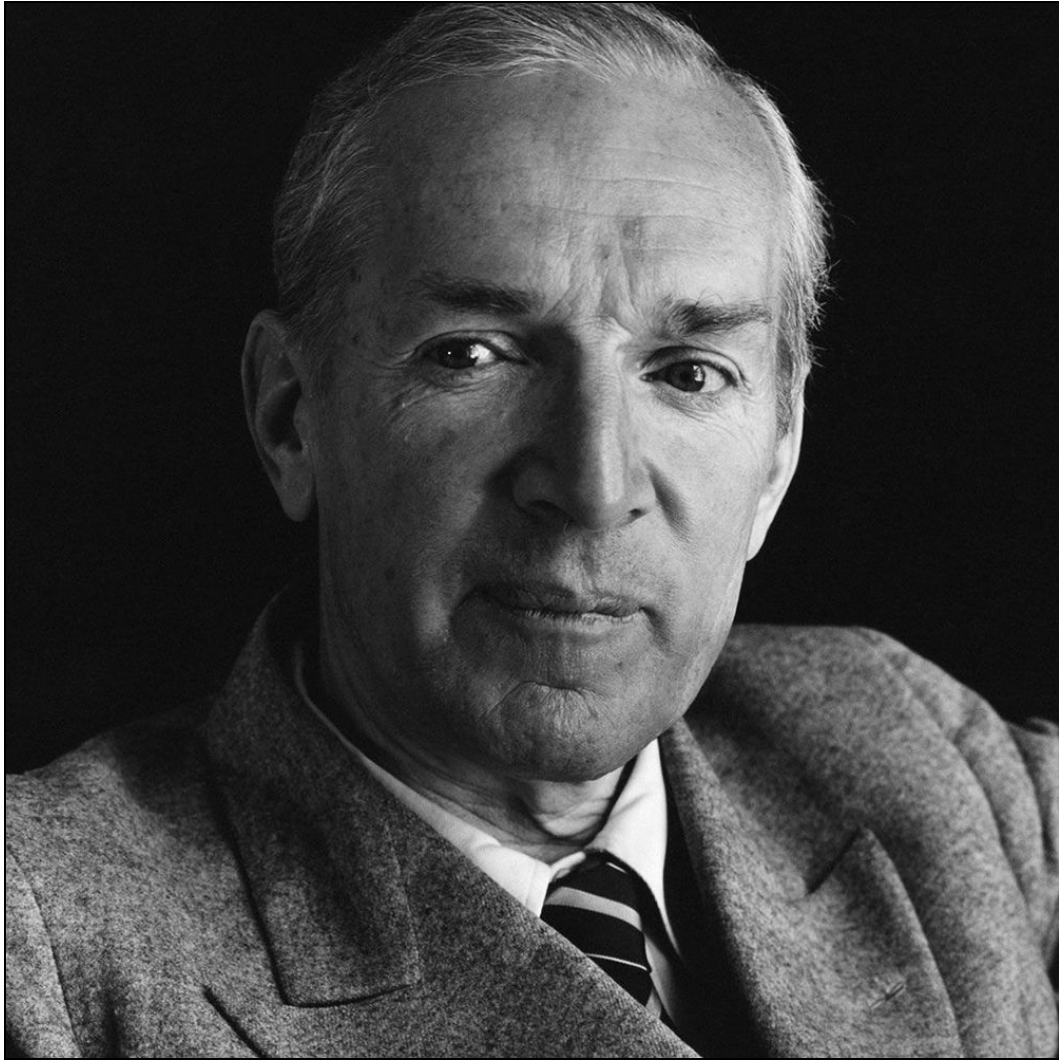
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Sinclair, close to the time of publication

Author's Note



IN THE COURSE of this novel a number of well-known persons make their appearance, some of them living, some dead; they appear under their own names, and what is said about them is factually correct.

There are other characters which are fictitious, and in these cases the author has gone out of his way to avoid seeming to point at real persons. He has given them unlikely names, and hopes that no persons bearing such names exist. But it is impossible to make sure; therefore the writer states that, if any such coincidence occurs, it is accidental. This is not the customary "hedge clause" which the author of a *roman à clef* publishes for legal protection; it means what it says and is intended to be so taken.

Various European concerns engaged in the manufacture of munitions have been named in the story, and what has been said about them is also according to the records. There is one American firm, and that, with all its affairs, is imaginary. The writer has done his best to avoid seeming to indicate any actual American firm or family.

UPTON SINCLAIR

BOOK ONE. God's in His Heaven



End of Sample