

Upton Sinclair

LibriVox



The Jungle

The Jungle

by Upton Sinclair (1878-1968)

It is the end of the 19th century. Like thousands of others, the Rudkus family has emigrated from Lithuania to America in search of a better life. As they settle into the Packingtown neighborhood of Chicago, they find their dreams are unlikely to be realized. Jurgis, the main character of the novel, has brought his father, his fiancée Ona, her stepmother Teta Elzbieta, Teta Elzbieta's brother and her six children, and Ona's cousin along. The family, naïve to the ways of Chicago, quickly falls prey to con men and makes a series of bad decisions that lead them into wretched poverty and terrible living conditions. All are forced to find jobs in dismal working conditions for their very survival. Jurgis, broken and discouraged, eventually finds solace in the American Socialist movement.

An ardent socialist, Sinclair wrote *The Jungle* to expose the corruption and the grim working conditions of immigrant laborers in Chicago's meat packing industry. Published in 1906, *The Jungle* had a major impact on public opinion and led to labor and food quality reforms.

Total running time: 16:02:48
Read by Tom Weiss

Cover design by Kathryn Delaney, painting by
Everett Shinn, *Docks of New York City (detail)*, (1901)

LibriVox

acoustical liberation of books
in the public domain

THE JUNGLE

Upton Sinclair

Upton Sinclair

THE JUNGLE