

OPINIONS

Concerning the Lanny Budd Series

By UPTON SINCLAIR

"A World to Win"

SEVENTH VOLUME—1946

Phyllis Bottome: This series of novels—the modern world history of Europe—is singularly interesting to anyone who deeply feels our individual responsibility to human life. Every word of it, tho' thrown into a novel form, has the scholar's precise and accurate wisdom. It is not only history in the making, it is **how** history is made. No one can find it too long who wants to know what lay behind events which have stirred and uprooted lives by the million, murdered the third of a whole valuable race, wiped out empires, sent kings packing, and altered the map of the civilized world. Such a book—such a series of books—we owe to one of the most valuable minds of the twentieth century, Mr. Upton Sinclair's.

Lewis Browne: The least inadequate thing one can say about Upton Sinclair is that he is a phenomenon. What other writer, after plying his craft for more than forty years, and producing more than sixty books, would be capable of turning out a novel as fresh and absorbing, as shrewd and well informed, as wide in scope and clear in purpose, as is "A World to Win"? This man is obviously one of the literary titans, a giant whose vigor is as inexhaustible as his talent.

Irving Stone: The latest book in the series, "A World to Win," stands right up with the finest volumes in the series. I wish I were terribly rich, I wish I had an inexhaustible quantity of paper: for I would supply a full set of the "Lanny Budd" novels to every boy and girl graduating from high school. I think they would then have a better chance of entering the adult world with an understanding grasp of what life holds in store for them.

"A World to Win," 624 pages, cloth bound, price, postpaid \$3. Price of the earlier volumes, "World's End," "Between Two Worlds," "Dragon's Teeth," "Wide Is The Gate," "Presidential Agent," and "Dragon Harvest," \$2 per volume. Each novel stands by itself and can be read separately. Write for price list of other books. Upton Sinclair, Monrovia, California.

"World's End"

FIRST VOLUME OF SERIES—1940

H. G. Wells: "World's End" is a great and well-balanced design and it has kept me vividly interested from Los Angeles to Omaha. I think it is the completest and most faithful picture of that period that has been done or is likely to be done.

W. E. Woodward: I hate to prophesy, but in this case I will lay

aside that inhibition and my prediction is that "World's End" will be considered one of the great novels of our time.

Theodore Dreiser: A powerful, timely novel that I believe all Americans should read.

Pearl S. Buck: I very rarely say anything about books but I am very glad to acknowledge Upton Sinclair's "World's End," because I read it with real enjoyment. I think that it is Mr. Sinclair's very best book and one which is very timely. To read it now is like seeing the future in a mirror.

Louis Bromfield: I certainly agree with Mr. Sinclair in believing that this is his best novel. It is a large and comprehensive work, very human and moving, dealing with a large subject of passionate interest to all the world at this moment.

"Between Two Worlds"

SECOND VOLUME—1941

George Bernard Shaw: I have been contemplating your extraordinary career and intending to write to you for thirty years, but have never found the needed leisure at the right moment . . . When people ask me what has happened in my long lifetime I do not refer them to newspaper files and to authorities, but to your novels. They object that the people in your books never existed; that their deeds were never done and their sayings never uttered. I assure them that they were, except that Upton Sinclair individualized and expressed them better than they could have done . . . Lanny, by the way, is just the right choice for a peg to hang your history on.

Nation: That the old warrior, after three or four decades of single-handed, often quixotic combats in the politico-library arena, should turn out two novels of the breadth and objectivity of "World's End," and "Between Two Worlds"—that is a minor miracle . . . Sinclair uses his people frankly as lenses and mirrors for observing and reflecting the events, trends, scenes, personalities of the times . . . offers you a boxseat at the morbidly fascinating drama-spectacle of Europe and America in the twenties.

New Yorker: Handles a crowd of characters, a score of locales, and dozens of events with remarkable skill, insight, and moral courage.

"Dragon's Teeth"

THIRD VOLUME—1942

(Pulitzer Prize Winner)

New York Times: The finest yet turned out by Mr. Sinclair.

Time Magazine: The third and best volume in Upton Sinclair's rich cyclorama of 20th-century history . . . few works of fiction are more fun to read; fewer still make history half as clear, or as humane.

Dorothy Canfield Fisher: "Dragon's Teeth" has arrived and I have read it with attention and admiration, much moved by its power and sincerity. It seems to me the best book of yours I have read, and one

of the most poignant of the many stories written about the world's tragic situation. It is remarkable—how heartening your story is without being shrill or unreal, and how realistic in economics and politics without losing its personal narrative flow. The book and its characters are rich in human complexity.

Professor Frederick L. Schuman: There is nothing else I have read, in prose or verse, fiction or fact, which has impressed me so vividly with the realities of National Socialism . . . Grippingly dramatic and almost devastating in the clarity and intensity of its portraiture. A great story . . . a true and incisive picture . . . even more absorbing than what has gone before . . . Your pictures of the Nazi leaders are superb, and you have almost achieved the impossible in catching the spirit and atmosphere of the movement.

Thomas Mann: I want to thank you very much for the copy of your strong and truthful new novel which you sent me with your kind inscription. It is painful reading-matter, especially for a German, but the pain is turned into pleasure by the art of the presentation—a pleasure, of course, mingled with rage and shame. Whoever knows Nazi-Germany will admit that not a word in your book is exaggerated.

While I read it, my principal feeling was one of satisfaction that all this has been written down and preserved for the future. Naturally, one is inclined to ask whether those to come will believe all these unbelievable things which even our contemporaries never quite could or wanted to believe. Those to come, however, will have less interest in not believing it than our contemporaries, and therefore I count on them. Sincere congratulations and my respect as a colleague.



Tecnológico de Monterrey

“Wide Is the Gate”

FOURTH VOLUME—1943

New York Herald Tribune Books: This greatly daring, ambitious history in story form of our times.

New York Post: We see a whole civilization in these pages.

London Times Literary Supplement: “Wide is the Gate,” covering the years from 1934 to 1938, continues the story of Lanny Budd and the history of his times. It is the fourth volume in the series which began with “World’s End” and as handsomely sustained a feat of narrative and as skillful a digest of world affairs as any of them. The inventive power, intellectual resource and technical craft of these volumes, indeed, are easily underrated . . . How full, varied and decisive a job he makes of it! For the fascination of *la haute politique* in our time of destiny he adds the wonders of the worlds of art, finance, Marxism, travel, spiritualism and a good deal more. At the same time how irrespressible and all but disinterested is the storyteller in Mr. Sinclair, who switches from a burst of left-wing elucidation to a chapter of thrills without turning a hair. The first impression he leaves here is of the sweep and diversity of his knowledge . . . What matters is the liveliness and power of Mr. Sinclair’s conjuration of the years of crisis, the pointed, dramatic quality of his French, German and Spanish scenes, the breadth and proportion of his sense of the historic issues of our time. This is the truth, constantly sharpened by excitement, such as only the trick of imagination can wrest from the day-to-day material of politics, economics and the rest.

"Presidential Agent"

FIFTH VOLUME—1944

New York Times Review of Books: Something of a miracle . . . one of the nation's most valued literary properties.

Newsweek: Phenomenal twentieth-century world history . . . astonishingly popular group.

New York Herald Tribune Books: This series of novels is the phenomenon of our times.

New York Post: Historian and maker of history, world citizen and defender of world citizenship, Upton Sinclair, dean of American novelists, goes his quiet and powerful way writing the planetary saga of our era . . . Sinclair has made history as exciting as a detective story, as beautiful as a tragic poem, and as real as a personal injury.

Lewis Browne: Incredibly, you have managed to make this even better than the Lanny Budd novels which preceded it.

Thomas Mann: Exciting book . . . sincere congratulations . . . masterful work . . . brilliant critique of our times.

Louis Adamic: It's got just about everything; action, thrills, suspense, "high life," Fascism in the flesh and the underground's pre-war efforts to stop this Moloch.

Albert Einstein: I thank you from all my heart for your last book, "Presidential Agent." I am convinced that you are doing very important and valuable work in giving to the American public a vivid insight into the psychological and economical background of the tragedy evolving in our generation. Only a real artist can accomplish this. I am convinced that you have influenced political thought more effectively than nearly all of the politicians on the stage.

"Dragon Harvest"

SIXTH VOLUME—1945

New York Times: He is able to carry the reader along with him through some of the most complex and critical pages of history with a breathlessness increased by a sense of intimacy . . . never more vividly than in the present volume.

New York Herald-Tribune: For this great work as well as for the great body of work that preceded it, a great spirit deserves well of this world. Long live Upton Sinclair!

New York World Telegram: It is loaded with gossip and color, decorated with mistresses and luxury—but it has an ultimate factual accuracy.

Gertrude Atherton: One of our indisputable classics.

The Manchester Guardian: Lanny Budd is the romantic rider of a documentary whirlwind. . . . English detail, unfailingly right, reinforces confidence in the whole, and while, certainly, readers of previous volumes can best appreciate the high degree of plausibility attaching to Lanny's position as under-cover man de luxe, this book is sufficient in itself. Criticism kneels.