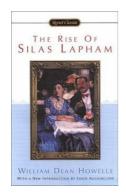
THE RISE OF SILAS LAPHAM

"Let fiction cease to lie about life; let it portray men and women as they are, actuated by the motives and the passions in the measure we all know."—William Dean HowellsThe Rise of Silas Lapham, first published in book form in 1885, was the first important novel to center on the American businessman and the first to treat...



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Those novels with old-fashioned heroes and heroines in them -- are ruinous! William Dean Howells, The Rise of Silas Lapham //

Reader's Opinions

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This novel twins the marriage plot with the rise and fall of a self-made paint magnate. Howell's was doing something ahead of his time, investigating and celebrating the American businessman. The story runs very dry at points. Howells is much better writing about Silas than the thin love triangle, with its extremely obvious complications,...