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## Salammbo

By Gustave Flaubert

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Paperback. 188 pages. Dimensions: 10.0in. x 7.0in. x 0.4in. Perhaps wearied by his years in the company of the pathetic bourgeoisie Emma Bovary, Gustave Flaubert chose as his next creation what may be the most extravagantly exotic novel ever written, Salammbo. The critic Charles Augustin Sainte-Beuve called it this laboriously artistic work and the book, published in 1863, does require a great deal of patience from its readers. To begin with, there is the esoteric vocabulary: a suffete is a judge with tyrannical power, a hierodule is a temple slave, and the all-important zamph is a holy veil, the theft of which causes many problems for the main characters. Most of these characters are historical, such as Matho, Spendius, Hanno and the great Hamilcar himself. Flaubert spent several years researching this book about an army of mercenaries who revolt against ancient Carthage. The book is a combination of history and myth not unlike Homers Iliad. Like the Iliad it is a larger than life epic tale, but this tale has neither poetry nor heroes. Carthage does not want to pay the mercenaries their due; the mercenaries seek...



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