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## Salamambo

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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, Salammb. 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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