



Reading Up: Middle-Class Readers and the Culture of Success in the Early Twentieth-Century United States

Amy Blair

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A person who reads a book for self-improvement rather than aesthetic pleasure is “reading up.” *Reading Up* is Amy Blair's engaging study of popular literary critics who promoted reading generally and specific books as vehicles for acquiring cultural competence and economic mobility. Combining methodologies from the history of the book and the history of reading, to mass-cultural studies, reader-response criticism, reception studies, and formalist literary analysis, Blair shows how such critics influenced the choices of striving readers and popularized some elite writers.

Framed by an analysis of Hamilton Wright Mabie's role promoting the concept of “reading up” during his ten-year stint as the cultivator of literary taste for the highly popular *Ladies' Home Journal*, *Reading Up* reveals how readers flocked to literary works that they would be expected to dislike. Blair shows that while readers could be led to certain books by a trusted adviser, they frequently followed their own path in interpreting them in unexpected ways.

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From reader reviews:

Ethel Davidson:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specially book entitled Reading Up: Middle-Class Readers and the Culture of Success in the Early Twentieth-Century United States your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe unfamiliar for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The Reading Up: Middle-Class Readers and the Culture of Success in the Early Twentieth-Century United States giving you yet another experience more than blown away your mind but also giving you useful details for your better life in this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning an activity. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

Diana Castillo:

Your reading 6th sense will not betray a person, why because this Reading Up: Middle-Class Readers and the Culture of Success in the Early Twentieth-Century United States book written by well-known writer whose to say well how to make book which can be understand by anyone who have read the book. Written with good manner for you, still dripping wet every ideas and composing skill only for eliminate your current hunger then you still skepticism Reading Up: Middle-Class Readers and the Culture of Success in the Early Twentieth-Century United States as good book not just by the cover but also by the content. This is one book that can break don't assess book by its protect, so do you still needing one more sixth sense to pick this specific!?! Oh come on your reading sixth sense already said so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Kathryn Patterson:

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