Record Nr. UNINA9910457828503321 Autore Blair Amy L. <1972-> Titolo Reading up: middle-class readers and the culture of success in the early twentieth-century United States / / Amy L. Blair Philadelphia,: Temple University Press, 2012 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-283-31969-1 9786613319692 1-4399-0669-6 Edizione [1st ed.] Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (264 p.) Disciplina 306.4/88097309041 American literature - Appreciation - United States - History - 20th Soggetti century Popular literature - United States - History and criticism Books and reading - United States - History - 20th century Middle class - Books and reading - United States - History - 20th century Success in literature Literature and society - United States - History - 20th century Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Monografia Livello bibliografico Note generali Description based upon print version of record. Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Contents: Acknowledgments: Introduction: Cultivating Taste in a Mass-Market World; 1. Mr. Mabie Tells What to Read; 2. The Compromise of Silas Lapham; 3. James for the General Reader; 4. Misreading The House of Mirth: 5. The Comforts of Romanticism: Epilogue: Reading Up into the Twenty-first Century; Appendix A: The Mabie Canon; Appendix B: "Novels Descriptive of American Life"; Notes; Bibliography; Index Sommario/riassunto 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