

# F Scott Fitzgerald

A presentation by Lisa Webb



# His Life

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born on September 24 1896 in St. Paul, Minnesota to parents, Edward and Mollie Fitzgerald. He was named after his cousin, Francis Scott Key, who wrote the Star Spangled Banner.

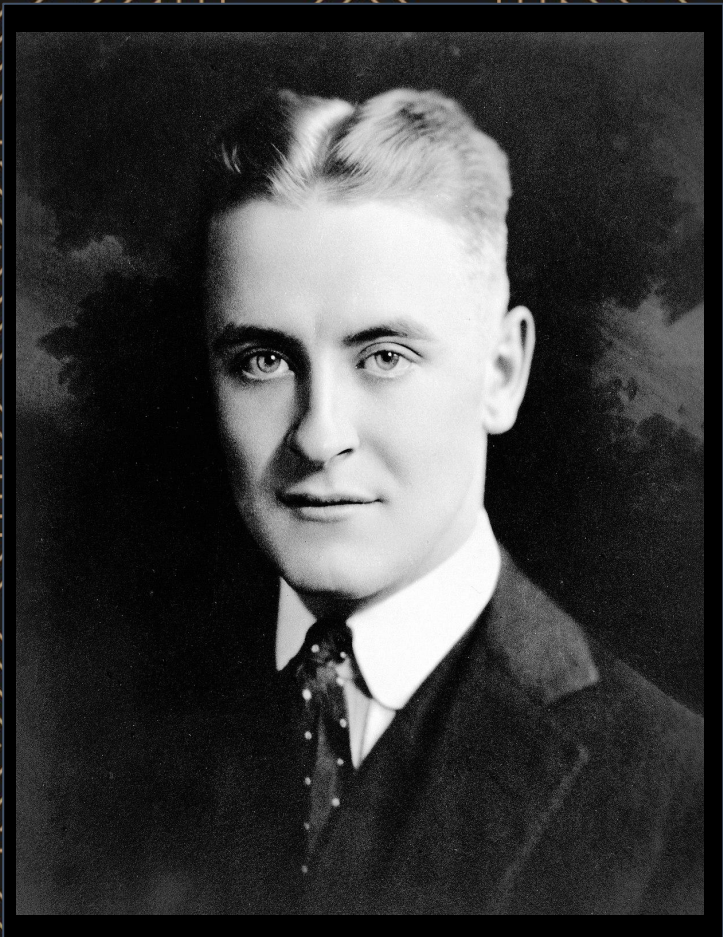
Scott was not a great student, but he did love to write. He eventually attended Princeton College. While there, he joined the Triangle Club and wrote scripts for them. This took importance over his school work.

Soon he dropped out of Princeton and joined the Army in 1917.



A young Fitzgerald poses here at the beginning of his career.





F. Scott Fitzgerald's Publicity Photo

## His Life

Scott met Zelda Sayre, his future wife, while stationed as a young soldier at Camp Sheridan in Alabama. Zelda at first refused to marry Scott because he was unable to support her and the lifestyle she was used to. Eventually, after the publication of Scott's first book, they married in New York.



Scott and Zelda's official wedding portrait when they married in New York in 1920.

# His Life

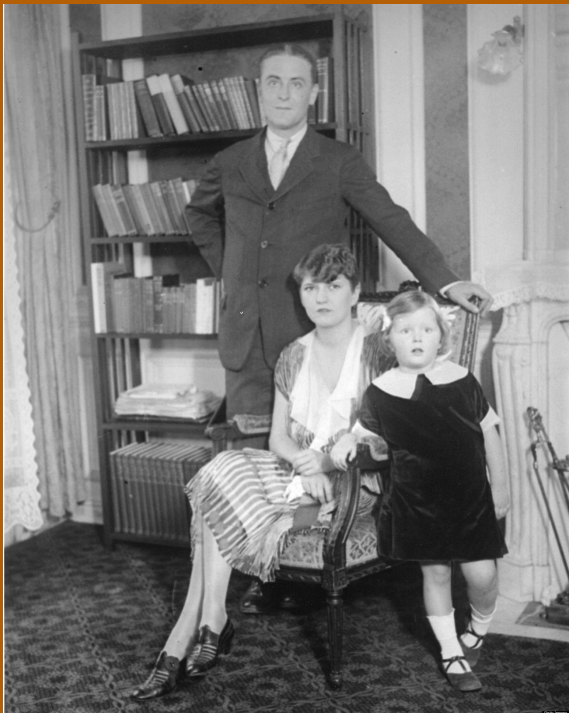
Scott and Zelda traveled extensively, visiting parts of Europe. He began drinking excessively, but wrote sober. Alcohol caused many issues between Scott and Zelda.

In October 1921, the couple welcomed their only child. Their daughter, Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald, who they called Scotty, was their joy.

Later, because of things that happened, Scotty grew up in boarding schools away from her parents. But she was never forgotten.



This photo shows Scott, Zelda, and Scotty at Christmastime in Paris in front of their Christmas tree.



Scott, Zelda, and Scotty on one of Scott's press tours for his books.



# His Life

Scott's career was not seen as a success until long after his death. He died thinking himself a failure. He died of heart failure at the age of 44 in 1940. He is buried in Rockvale, Maryland.



Scott's grave in Rockvale, Maryland

# F Scott's Career

Scott's first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, was a rewrite of a quick novel he had penned before heading to war in the Army. It made Fitzgerald an overnight success.

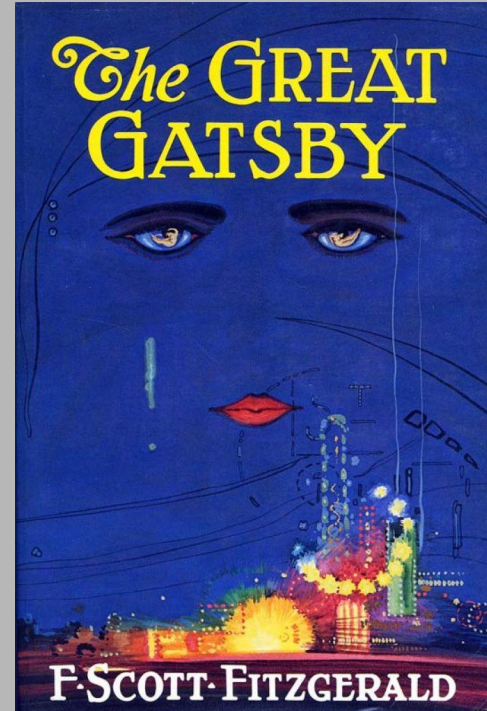
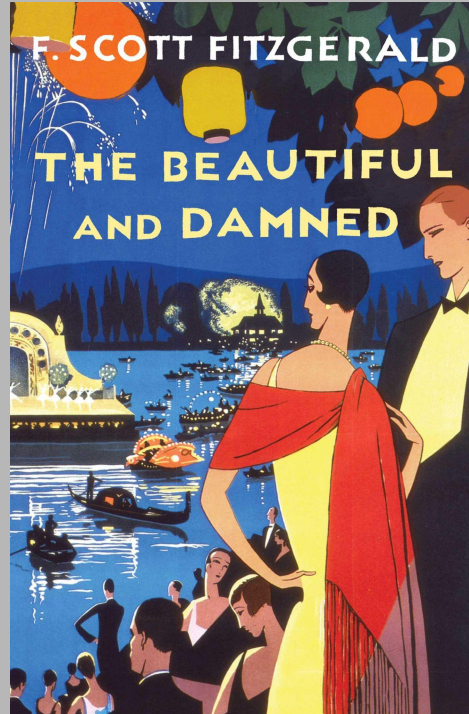
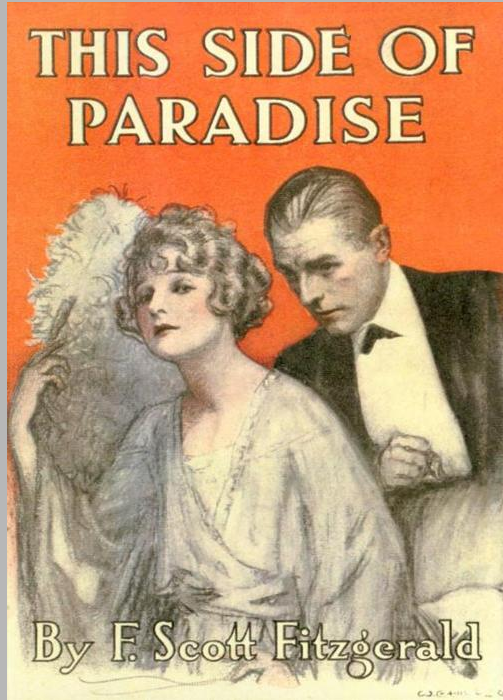
His second novel was *The Beautiful and The Damned*, written in 1922. This novel was a bit biographical of Zelda and Scott. It showed their fear of becoming nobodies in the world. It too was a commercial success.

Fitzgerald continued to try to write, but was unable to duplicate the success of his first two novels. His drinking contributed to this quite a bit. He and Zelda took time away to clear their heads and moved to Paris, France in 1925.

# F Scott's Career

While in France, Scott wrote *The Great Gatsby*. He continued to rewrite and revise the piece until it suited him. Fitzgerald was very picky and tended to revise extensively. The novel was published, but it was a commercial failure. Critics liked it, but people didn't buy it.

*The Great Gatsby* would not see success until long after Fitzgerald's death. It was published as a morale booster for soldiers in World War II. Soldiers sent these copies home and the rest is history. By 1960, it was known as the great American Novel. It is still taught to this day in classrooms and has been translated into every major language.



Covers of Fitzgerald's three most famous and successful books

# Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald

Zelda Sayre was born in 1900 in Montgomery, Alabama. She was the daughter of an Alabama Supreme Court Judge. The youngest of six children, Zelda was spoiled and rebellious. There are tales of her rebelliousness all over Montgomery - she frequently smoked, hung out with boys, and swam in the downtown public fountain.

She was a free-thinker and a socialite. After marrying Scott, she became the first Flapper girl of the 1920s. She was often noted for her style and attitude.

# Zelda Sayre Fitzgerald

Zelda largely influenced Scott's writing. She was the inspiration for many characters in his novels. Daisy in *The Great Gatsby*, Rosalind in *This Side of Paradise*, among others.

She trained in ballet all her life, but decided to train professionally in 1928. It damaged her health and affected her mentally. She had a mental breakdown at the age of 27 and was diagnosed of schizophrenia. She lived in and out of mental facilities the rest of her life. She died in a hospital fire in Asheville, NC in 1948.

Zelda  
studying  
ballet



Zelda smoking,  
always the rule  
breaker.

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