



## The Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald

*F. Scott Fitzgerald*, Malcolm Cowley (Editor, Introduction & Notes by)

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**The Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald** F. Scott Fitzgerald, Malcolm Cowley (Editor, Introduction & Notes by)

A selection of twenty-eight of Fitzgerald's finest stories, representing all periods of his career.

## I. Early Success

The Diamond as Big as the Ritz

Bernice Bobs Her Hair

The Ice Palace

May Day

Winter Dreams

"The Sensible Thing"

Absolution

## II. Glamour and Disillusionment

The Rich Boy

The Baby Party

Magnetism

The Last of the Belles

The Rough Crossing

The Bridal Party

Two Wrongs

## III. Retrospective: Basil and Josephine

The Scandal Detectives

The Freshest Boy

The Captured Shadow

A Woman with a Past

## IV. Last Act and Epilogue

Babylon Revisited

Crazy Sunday

Family in the Wind

An Alcoholic Case

The Long Way Out

Financing Finnegan

Pat Hobby Himself

A Patriotic Short

Two Old Timers

Three Hours Between Planes

The Lost Decade

## The Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald Details

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# From Reader Review The Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald for online ebook

## Realini says

The Bridal Party by F Scott Fitzgerald  
Marriage makes you happy??

F Scott Fitzgerald is acclaimed as one of the best writers, if not the very best that you can read, without a dictionary and a mythology compendium nearby, as is the case for Ulysses.

The Great Gatsby is...great and Tender is The Night a little more complicated and difficult to take in at various stages, for this reader at least.

The Bridal Party has some echoes from both Gatsby and Tender is The Night, albeit there were some parts that made me think of The Hangover (part I, the others are just rubbish).

“There was the usual insincere little note saying: “I wanted you to be the first to know.” It was a double shock to Michael, announcing, as it did, both the engagement and the imminent marriage”

Michael Curly is the hero who receives the note above and Caroline Dandy is his ex- girlfriend who is now going to marry the rich Hamilton Rutherford.

Money is at the center of the plot, taking the personages of the tale up and down, with the swing of the stockmarket, which experiences the Great Crash and the unpredictable inheritance.

In a way, this short saga serves as a reminder of the role of money:

- Yes you can buy a better set of clothes and get yourself admired with money in your pocket,
- But in the end, money do not change you happiness baseline.

Many studies made by positive psychology (and other sciences) have proved that money helps you only slightly in your pursuit of happiness. It does make a huge difference for people in poverty. When there isn't much to put on the table, money to buy food makes people happy.

In The Bridal Party, one of the main characters falls into money and that does not help me get what he wants and another becomes dirt poor, after having a fortune and still gets to keep the girl.

Of course I will keep mum about who's who.

Lottery winners have been researched and it was discovered that, after the initial happiness boost given by the winning of a large sum of money, in a few months these „lucky” people return to their „base level” of life satisfaction.

This is due to the fact that 50% of our happiness level is determined by the genetic inheritance, but also because money does not play the role that is generally attributed to them. The richest men in the world are only very slightly happier on average than the middle income classes, in spite of the huge difference in fortune.

Apart from money, the other main theme of the story is mentioned from the title-  
Marriage.

Referring again to science, research has proved that married people are indeed happier- on average- than the single ones. There are caveats though.

One is that those who are married, but fighting constantly are in the worse situation possible- they would be way better off out of that relationship.

The other seems a bit unexpected, but for a man who is not so fond of children is not such a big surprise: children are not the great contributors to life satisfaction that people thought (and still think) them to be.

In fact, when they leave their parental homes, the parents register an increase in happiness levels, on average.

Daniel Gilbert is the Harvard professor who has highlighted these and other strange findings about the way we find bliss, think we will get happy, but turn out to be wrong- in his classic and huge success *Stumbling Upon Happiness*.

The Bridal Party offers a few surprises and is a solid, good short story, with a good understanding of human

nature, modern women and the impact of new habits on the views of some characters.

There is also a conservative, old fashioned and wrong point of view, held by one of the main personages.

In fact, I regretted the fact that while I supported „one team”, it was the other that took the day. It is for you to find who won what.

And you can read all about it here:

<https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/f/fitz...>

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## **Margie says**

The brilliance of these stories is that they evoke our own endless stream of life's triumphs and tragedies. Some are innocent, exuberant and hopeful (the Basil and Josephine stories), some sad and tragic, and many poignant and nostalgic; they are all a mirror of Fitzgerald's life, and perhaps our own.

Fitzgerald turned out many stories for magazines, especially when he was in need of "quick money" for his ever mounting debts and expenses. The writing, though much of it done quickly, was often flawlessly beautiful. His muse seemed ever at hand.

A few of my favorite lines from these stories:

"It isn't given to us to know those rare moments when people are wide open and the lightest touch can wither or heal. A moment too late and we can never reach them any more in this world." (from *The Freshest Boy*, pp. 344-345)

"It was five o'clock and there was a small crowd gathered there for that soft and romantic time before supper - a time surpassed only by the interim of summer dusk thereafter." (from *The Scandal Detectives*, p. 312)

". . . shading their eyes from the glow of the late sun, that, like youth itself, is too strong to face directly, but must be kept down to an undertone until it dies away." (from *The Scandal Detectives*, p. 312)

From a conversation between Charlie and his nine year old daughter, Honoria, in *Babylon Revisited*, p. 392:

"When you are safe inside, just show yourself in that window.'

'All right. Good-by, dads, dads, dads, dads.'

He waited in the dark street until she appeared, all warm and glowing, in the window above and kissed her fingers out into the night."

But my favorite Fitzgerald quote is not in these stories. It is, of course, the last line of *The Great Gatsby*, "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past." However, it haunts these stories - as it haunts me.

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## **Kate says**

Thus far, the collection is absolutely delightful. Fitzgerald's reputation has been ruined by being declared a "classic" author, which means that I've approached his writing with a mix of obligation and dread. Like my experience with Dumas, I have been absolutely surprised. Full review to follow, but for now Fitzgerald is in

my rotating list of night-time fiction. Do any of you have your favorite Fitzgerald story?

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Will come back to this at some point.

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### **Drew says**

The undoing of many a posthumous short story collection is that it comes with an agenda -- in this case, Malcolm Cowley's. So here, instead of getting top shelf F. Scott Fitzgerald, you get a mixture of his highs and his lows since Cowley is as fixated on the illustrative as he is on the qualitative. I'd have preferred if the anthologist had trimmed this down to Fitzgerald's finest (e.g., "Bernice Bobs Her Hair," "Winter Dreams," and "Babylon Revisited"). Fitzgerald had a perfectly good reason for not including some of the other tales in collections released during his lifetime. Let's respect the creator's taste!

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### **Kimley says**

A lot of people don't realize that Fitzgerald made the better part of his living from his short story writing. And he was a master! These equal his better novels and are all little gems that should not be overlooked.

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### **Sydney Smith says**

Great collection. Most of the stories are worth reading, although there were a few I wish I hadn't spent the time on. That's the only reason I'm giving this a 4 Star, which I usually dominate do, since I generally love most books I read (I pick them carefully now, thanks to goodreads!). "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz" was one of my favorites from my first read of Fitzgerald's stories in high school, and it still holds up as an entertaining short for adults.

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### **D.B. Woodling says**

I could not locate the *Scholar Select* version of this collection, so selected this book as it contains the same content. Although I found the book interesting, particularly as it evidences the author's growth, I would instead recommend either *The Great Gatsby* or *Tender Is the Night* (<https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>).

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### **Maria Silva says**

Uma escrita impecável, no contexto social de uma época em que o grande objetivo da vida de uma mulher era o casamento (muitas vezes uma forma de libertação da casa dos pais). As mulheres eram censuradas até por falar com um homem! Outro aspeto que chama a atenção é o problema do alcoolismo, e os sinais exteriores de riqueza (carros, vestuário, festas). Alguns contos são parecidos, mas todos escritos com estilo e

elegância da época.

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### **Aimee Meester says**

this man's writing will kill me forever. it's the prettiest.

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### **Hayley Shaver says**

I liked this book full of Fitzgerald's stories. These shorts were previously published and unpublished both. If you like The Great Gatsby, you'll like these stories.

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### **Adya Nisita says**

Fitzgerald had a specialty to tell tragedies in a charming way. He was a great literary acrobat. Although many of his words I can't comprehend, surely this book was impressive introduction to his dazzling works.

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### **Gina Dalfonzo says**

Fitzgerald could have done a better job creating distinctive characters. After a while all the eager young men on the cusp of disillusionment, and all the vivacious but remote and unattainable young women, start to blur together. The later stories are better, though. And his descriptive writing is beautiful.

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### **Maria says**

Don't rush to discard Fitzgerald's stories because of their pompous language and sentimentality. If he doesn't win you over with the first one, give him another shot, because behind all the epithets and reminiscence, lies the mind of person who knows the human soul with all its intricacies and imperfections. Fitzgerald certainly knows how to tell an ordinary story and endow it with great depth, perfectly rendering the characters' emotional world and the forces that drive them. My personal favourite are: The Ice Castle, The Last of the Belles, The Bridal Party, and Babylon Revisited

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### **stephanie roberts says**

It is a problematic group of stories. There is a similarity of guy wants girl guy doesn't get girl because the guy or the girl is kind of shallow. I felt that several of the stories are slight re-phrasing of the Great Gatsby myth. His best stories are the ones that do not involve guy wanting that neat society girl. If you didn't like the Great Gatsby you are not going to like this book one bit, if you are a fan of the Fitzgerald style (here here old chap and all) then you've got lots of stories to immerse yourself in. I don't think I would have finished this

book if I wasn't reading it for a course.

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## **Kienie says**

1. Diamond as big as the Ritz: I'm not sure what I'm supposed to feel here. Is this supposed to be commentary on the fact that rich people live in their own universe that does not often represent reality? Or a commentary on how American economics are going to crash and burn? OK, but I would have preferred a protagonist I can...not hate.
2. Bernice bobs her hair: I watched an adaptation of this in high school. It was very mean spirited, and so true to the source material.
3. Ice palace: *STAY HOME! AVOID SNOW!*
4. May day: I had to go back because I couldn't remember anything. I still don't, except for a general sense of depression.
5. Winter dreams: Right. Women fade. Men mature, but women fade. Not sure if the point of the story is to subvert what its statement, because the main guy is one sad sack.
6. "The sensible things:" Look, I don't know. Something about the fleeting sense of true love?
7. Absolution: Childhood + religious guilt = NO. But you gotta get them while they're young.
8. Rich boy: Another story about a financially secure but romantically unfulfilled sad sack.
9. Baby party: In retrospect I liked this story. Complex relationships and power-dynamics. Family obligations. And people getting very protective over their kids. Also, ass kicking. Just something about the immediacy of everyone's anger really touched a nerve: how a situation can escalate from seemingly nothing to an explosion.
10. Magnetism: More marital drama. Maybe you need to be married to truly appreciate the emotions? Or maybe you need to be a celebrity.
11. Last of the belles: The past is GOOOOOOONNNNEEEEE!!!
12. Rough crossing: Everything comes bubbling up as this couple is on a cruise boat in the middle of a storm. Afterwards, both look back at what happened as something done by other people. Not sure if they just both had a moment of insanity, or if the circumstances brought out their real feelings.
13. Bridal party: Or why we have ceremonies: they can help us let go and move on. Or you can end up like that dude on Love Actually who was obsessed with his best friend's wife. Thankfully that did not happen here.
14. Two wrongs: She finally dumps him. Not without emotional turmoil, but she lets go, and it's better for her.



15. Scandal detectives: Kids falling in love and plotting to beat up some people and being kids, I guess.
16. Freshest boy: School can be tough? I feel you, brother. Though I've never been the least popular kid in school.
17. Captured shadow: I know the excitement of being in a play, so I felt this story. I wish we saw more of the rehearsals, but ultimately the story was pretty satisfying.
18. A woman with a past: it is fucked up that a woman can have a "past" because she went out with a lot of guys. The story is trying to de-contract that idea, but it only manages to do so via the girl being validated by a man. She does play a part by refusing to hide herself and saying to the world: I did nothing wrong! But it's the attention of the popular boy which gives her...I don't know...respectability? At the same time I'd like to think that some female camaraderie was involved, and that the guy's girlfriend, who was always nice to the protagonist, had something to do with his plan to help. And besides, it is about a young woman maturing and realizing what she wants in a romantic partner and what she wants from herself.
19. Babylon revisited: gripping, tense, and very bleak, this story held me from beginning to end. Yes, he deserves all the mistrust and hurdles and guilt, but you as a reader feel sympathetic towards him. You want him to succeed, because you believe in second chances and he seems to have his life back on track. The characters are all relatable. I got attached to them within the short time we spent together.
20. Crazy Sunday: We're back to melodrama involving characters I couldn't relate to if I tried. Joel is "in love" with Stella, even though it seems like he doesn't view her as human.
21. Family in the wind: family quarrels aside, I wish they had established the relationship between Helen and the Dr. better...or like, at all. Because now his desire to randomly adopt her seems a little creepy.
22. An alcoholic case: what it says on the tin.
23. Long way out: I don't know anything about treating trauma, but it seemed like these doctors didn't even try, all in the name of tranquility. On the other hand, we don't know if having to face the truth would have helped, or if it would have broken her completely.
24. Financing Finnegan: seriously though, I want to read that story about his adventures in the arctic, but I get a feeling it'll be terribly pretentious.
25. Pat Hobby himself/A patriotic short/Two old timers: this one built atmosphere and character quickly, and then told the story of someone who has been big once. He isn't a failure, but he has become a "has-been." And he remembers the past fondly, and sometimes it breaks his heart. But at the end he moves forward, though not on. I don't know why this counts as three separate stories. Each story is so short, and they are no separated by blank pages.
26. Three hours between planes: identities are mistaken, and memories of childhood are relived. A sort of romance is sort of, but not really, attempted to rekindle? The past, however, cannot be recaptured.
27. The Lost Decade: The guy was drunk for 10 years -- so was America? Or at least a certain portion of the population. Except he was drunk through the 30s. I don't know.

I AM DONE!!! NEVER AGAIN!!!

Ok, to be fair, I liked a few of the stories, but only "Babylon Revisited" and "Pat Hobby Himself" had a combination of an interesting story and a character I actually didn't want to burn in a fire. "Captured Shadow" captured the insanity of preparing a play: the behind the scenes of amateur theater. A few others were not detestable, but on the whole those characters just don't speak to me. I find their experience pitiful at best.

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