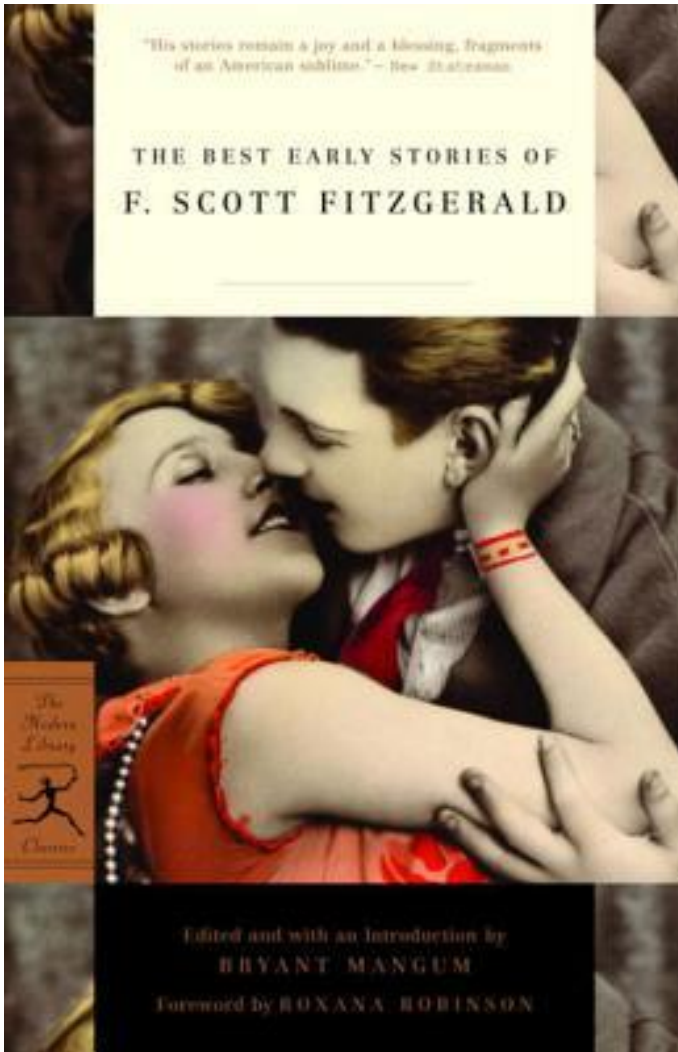

F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Best Early Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald



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Description

Edited and with an Introduction by Bryant Mangum
Foreword by Roxana Robinson

Benediction • Head and Shoulders • Bernice Bobs Her Hair • The Ice Palace • The Offshore Pirate • May Day • The Jelly Bean • The Diamond as Big as the Ritz • Winter Dreams • Absolution

In the euphoric months before and after the publication of *This Side of Paradise*, F. Scott Fitzgerald, the flapper's historian and poet laureate of the Jazz Age, wrote the ten stories that appear in this unique collection. Exploring characters and themes that would appear in his later works, such as *The Beautiful and Damned* and *The Great Gatsby*, these early selections are among the very best of Fitzgerald's many short stories.

This Modern Library Paperback Classic includes notes, an appendix of nonfiction essays by Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald and their contemporaries, and vintage magazine illustrations.

From the Trade Paperback edition.

Insightful reviews

Terri: I haven't actually read that much Fitzgerald (yet), but a thought that occurred to me--one that I haven't subjected to much analysis but that I'll mention anyway--is that Hemingway and Fitzgerald are sort of a Lennon and McCartney for their era. Paul McCartney can grate on me sometimes. He can be too cutesy--sort of like listening to The Boston Pops. McCartney seems to want to ingratiate. Lennon is darker and has more bite. This is all a bit simplistic of course, but overall McCartney paints prettier, but not necessarily better, pictures. In the end I like some McCartney, but prefer Lennon. I think I feel similarly about Hemingway and Fitzgerald (where Hemingway=Lennon and Fitzgerald=McCartney).

Now I'll probably read more from both authors and decide that's crap. Maybe.

Benediction: Unimpressed

Head and Shoulders: Better, but the ending almost feels like bathos to me. Too quaint or something. Too cute.

The Ice Palace: This is far better than the first two stories.

More reaction to come.

Bernice Bobs Her Hair: Catty. The image of Bernice laughing with two long braids in her hands is fun.

The Offshore Pirate: Again, the ending feels a little cute. It's Paul McCartney again!

May Day: This is the longest story in the collection, and as a result many of the characters feel a bit more fleshed out in this one, which I like. The very end feels a little too obvious for me, but

there are some good bits here.

The Jelly-Bean: I like when Fitzgerald writes about place. There's some of that in this story. I also like that the ending isn't too heavy handed. That said, this story isn't that meaty.

The Diamond As Big As the Ritz: This one feels a bit like a sci-fi/fantasy tale.

Winter Dreams: This is another favorite. Does it say something about me (or about Fitzgerald) that my favorites in this collection are The Ice Palace and Winter Dreams?

Absolution: I was ready to dislike this story since the other tale of religion in the collection, Benediction, was nothing special. I ended up liking this one a lot more.

Overall, a mixed bag. There are some good stories and some good parts of stories, definitely, but at times it felt like reading for school, like I had to force myself to get through--a sensation I haven't had in a long, long time.

Michelle Harris: My favorite short stories from this book is The Offshore Pirate. I actually read it back in 2006 and it is the reason I read the rest of the short stories.

Christine Otis: His stories take me back to a much different place and time when men courted woman with marriage being the ideal. I like the language, the motion of the characters, the spunk of the women; they have something to say and are willing to take risks.

His stories make me look up the time period to have a better understanding of life and the language flappers used.

And the hair, oh the hair, from when it was long, to chop, chop, now it is gone.

Such rebels these girls were...

Cpd: My mom despatched me this publication for my twenty ninth Birthday in May, the comic story being that he used to be the nice poet of the 20's and that i was once on my method out -- she additionally slipped ten \$20 money owed among the pages of the book, one for every 12 months spent as a twentysomething -- which, really, is the peeerfect gift.

Johnmichael: i'll quote James Gould Cozzens the following on F. Scott Fitzgerald present for writing: " a expertise for asserting now not simply the right, the apt, the vivid, or relocating thing, however the factor which, having all these qualities, to date transcends your moderate expectation that you simply see that it could not were performed only by means of intelligence, or training, or tough trying, and needs to easily were born in a kind of successful flash open air the normal means of thought".

Mandi Bean: i admire the best way Fitzgerald either develops and explores human connections and relationships. I get pleasure from that his top paintings turns out to pushed extra by way of personality improvement than by way of plot development. whereas he can occasionally be pretentious and whereas a few language and societal features are antiquated, it really is his philosophy on lifestyles and the way he translates the other intercourse which are so much fascinating. Most of his girl characters in the brief tales are decidedly egocentric and unlikeable. However, his expertise is so nice that the reader continues to be forced to take care of those

girls and feature a good wish to keep on with their tales to the conclusion. While not anything will ever evaluate to the good Gatsby, Fitzgerald's different writings are only as illuminating and entertaining.

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