

the great gatsby novel

The Great Gatsby novel is a timeless masterpiece penned by F. Scott Fitzgerald that continues to captivate readers worldwide. Set against the opulent backdrop of 1920s America, the novel explores themes of wealth, love, illusion, and the elusive nature of the American Dream. As one of the most analyzed works in American literature, "The Great Gatsby" offers profound insights into the social dynamics and moral questions of its time, making it a must-read for literature enthusiasts and casual readers alike.

Overview of The Great Gatsby Novel

The Great Gatsby, published in 1925, is a novella that encapsulates the decadence and disillusionment of the Roaring Twenties. It narrates the story of Jay Gatsby, a mysterious millionaire known for his lavish parties and unyielding love for Daisy Buchanan. Through the eyes of Nick Carraway, the novel's narrator, readers gain a perspective on the glittering yet hollow society of West Egg and East Egg in Long Island.

Plot Summary

The novel follows Nick Carraway as he moves to Long Island and becomes entangled in the lives of his wealthy neighbors. Gatsby's relentless pursuit of Daisy, who lives across the bay with her husband Tom Buchanan, forms the emotional core of the story. Gatsby's facade of wealth and grandeur hides a humble background and a relentless hope for rekindling his romance with Daisy. The narrative culminates in tragedy, revealing the darker realities behind the glittering surface of the Jazz Age.

Key Themes in The Great Gatsby

Understanding the major themes of the novel enriches the reading experience and highlights its enduring relevance.

The American Dream

The novel critically examines the American Dream—the idea that anyone can achieve success and happiness through hard work. Gatsby embodies this aspiration, yet his rise from poverty to wealth ultimately exposes the corruption and superficiality that can accompany the pursuit of material success.

Love and Obsession

Gatsby's love for Daisy is portrayed as both genuine and obsessive. His idealization of her and his unwavering hope reflect the destructive power of obsession, which leads to tragedy.

Wealth and Class

The novel contrasts the old money aristocracy represented by the Buchanans with the nouveau riche like Gatsby, emphasizing the social divisions and moral decay underlying the glittering surface.

Illusion vs. Reality

Many characters in the novel live in illusions—Gatsby's self-made persona, Daisy's romanticized image of love, and the American Dream itself—highlighting the disparity between appearance and reality.

Characters of The Great Gatsby

A deep understanding of the novel's characters enhances appreciation of its themes.

- **Jay Gatsby:** The enigmatic millionaire known for his extravagant parties and unyielding love for Daisy.
- **Nick Carraway:** The introspective narrator and Gatsby's neighbor, who offers a moral perspective.
- **Daisy Buchanan:** Gatsby's love interest, embodying beauty, charm, but also superficiality and indecisiveness.
- **Tom Buchanan:** Daisy's wealthy and arrogant husband, representing old money and moral decay.
- **Jordan Baker:** A professional golfer and Nick's romantic interest, representing modernity and detachment.
- **George Wilson:** A poor mechanic and husband to Myrtle Wilson, symbolizing the lower class and tragic innocence.

Literary Significance of The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel is celebrated for its lyrical prose, vivid imagery, and incisive social commentary. It is often regarded as a quintessential depiction of the Jazz Age—a period of prosperity, cultural dynamism, and moral ambiguity.

Stylistic Features

The novel's poetic language, rich symbolism, and innovative narrative techniques contribute to its lasting impact. Fitzgerald's use of descriptive imagery and metaphors,

such as the green light at the end of Daisy's dock, enhances thematic depth.

Critical Reception and Legacy

Initially met with mixed reviews, "The Great Gatsby" gained recognition over time as a defining work of American literature. Its portrayal of the American Dream, social stratification, and moral decay remains relevant today, making it a staple in academic curricula and literary discussions.

Adaptations and Cultural Impact

The novel's enduring popularity has led to numerous adaptations across various media.

Film Adaptations

The most famous is the 2013 film directed by Baz Luhrmann, starring Leonardo DiCaprio as Gatsby. This visually stunning adaptation brought renewed attention to the novel's themes and aesthetic.

Theatre and Other Media

Stage adaptations, radio productions, and even musical interpretations have kept the story alive in popular culture.

Why Read The Great Gatsby?

Reading "The Great Gatsby" offers more than just an engaging story; it provides insights into American history, social dynamics, and human nature. Its exploration of universal themes makes it relevant across generations.

- It enhances understanding of 1920s America and the Jazz Age.
- It encourages reflection on the nature of success, love, and identity.
- It exemplifies masterful literary craftsmanship and storytelling.

Conclusion

In conclusion, **The Great Gatsby novel** remains a cornerstone of American literature, celebrated for its poetic language, complex characters, and profound themes. Whether you are interested in literary analysis, historical context, or simply enjoy compelling storytelling, "The Great Gatsby" offers invaluable insights into the human condition and

the American experience. Its enduring relevance ensures that it will continue to be studied and appreciated by readers around the world for generations to come.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Great Gatsby'?

The main themes include the American Dream, wealth and class, love and obsession, and the decline of morality in 1920s America.

Who is the narrator of 'The Great Gatsby'?

Nick Carraway is the narrator of the novel, providing his perspective on the events and characters.

What does the green light symbolize in the novel?

The green light symbolizes Gatsby's hopes and dreams for the future, particularly his desire to reunite with Daisy and achieve his version of the American Dream.

How does 'The Great Gatsby' critique the American Dream?

The novel portrays the American Dream as ultimately corrupt and unattainable, highlighting how the pursuit of wealth and status can lead to moral decay.

What role does Daisy Buchanan play in Gatsby's life?

Daisy is the object of Gatsby's obsession and symbolizes both love and the elusive nature of his dreams; her indecisiveness and carelessness contribute to the tragedy.

How is the setting of the 1920s important to the novel?

The 1920s setting, known as the Jazz Age, reflects themes of excess, decadence, and social change, shaping the characters' lifestyles and the novel's critique of that era.

What is the significance of the novel's ending?

The ending underscores the futility of Gatsby's dreams, the moral decay of the characters, and the loss of innocence, leaving a lasting reflection on the American Dream.

Why is 'The Great Gatsby' considered a classic of American literature?

Because of its rich symbolism, complex characters, and incisive critique of American society, the novel offers timeless insights into human nature and the American experience.

Additional Resources

The Great Gatsby: An In-Depth Exploration of F. Scott Fitzgerald's Timeless Classic

Introduction

When discussing the pinnacle of American literature, few works resonate with the cultural and literary significance of *The Great Gatsby*. Authored by F. Scott Fitzgerald and published in 1925, this novel encapsulates the decadence, disillusionment, and moral ambiguity of the Roaring Twenties. Its enduring appeal lies in Fitzgerald's masterful storytelling, vibrant characters, and incisive critique of the American Dream. In this comprehensive review, we will dissect the novel's themes, characters, narrative style, historical context, and its lasting influence, offering a detailed understanding for both new readers and seasoned literary enthusiasts.

Overview of the Novel

The Great Gatsby is set in the summer of 1922 on Long Island's North Shore and spans across a brief yet impactful timeline. The story is narrated by Nick Carraway, a Yale graduate and World War I veteran, who moves to West Egg, a fictional area representing new money and modernity. He becomes intertwined with Jay Gatsby, a mysterious millionaire known for his lavish parties and unyielding love for Daisy Buchanan, who resides across the bay in East Egg, symbolizing old money and tradition.

The narrative revolves around Gatsby's relentless pursuit of the American Dream, intertwined with themes of love, obsession, social stratification, and the inevitable decline of moral values. Fitzgerald's critique is subtle yet profound, revealing the hollowness of material wealth and the elusive nature of happiness.

Literary Style and Narrative Technique

The Use of First-Person Narration

Fitzgerald employs Nick Carraway as a first-person narrator, which offers readers an intimate window into the story. Nick's perspective is crucial, as it provides a subjective yet considered view of the events and characters. His reliability is occasionally challenged, adding layers of complexity to the narrative.

Symbolism and Imagery

The novel is rich with symbolism, such as:

- The Green Light: Located across the bay, it symbolizes Gatsby's hopes and dreams, as well as the broader American Dream.
- The Valley of Ashes: Represents moral decay and the consequences of unchecked

capitalism.

- The Eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg: An abandoned billboard, symbolizing the loss of spiritual values and the watchful eye of morality.

Fitzgerald's poetic language and vivid imagery evoke a sense of glamour intertwined with decay, capturing the duality of the era.

Major Themes Explored

The American Dream

At the heart of *The Great Gatsby* lies a critique of the American Dream's corruption. Gatsby's rise from humble beginnings to wealth embodies the pursuit of success, yet his relentless quest ultimately leads to tragedy. The novel questions whether material prosperity equates to happiness and whether the Dream is attainable or merely an illusion.

Key points:

- The Dream as a symbol of hope and possibility.
- The decay of moral values underpinning the pursuit of wealth.
- The disparity between appearance and reality.

Love and Obsession

Gatsby's love for Daisy is emblematic of idealism and obsession. His relentless fixation on recreating the past blinds him to reality, illustrating how love can become an unattainable fantasy.

Class and Social Stratification

The divide between East Egg (old money) and West Egg (new money) highlights the rigid social hierarchy of the time. Gatsby's desire to belong to the old-money elite underscores the barriers that prevent true social mobility.

Morality and Decay

Fitzgerald depicts a society riddled with corruption, dishonesty, and moral decay. The characters' superficiality and reckless behavior reflect broader societal decay under the veneer of glamour.

Character Profiles

Jay Gatsby

- Background: Born James Gatz, from North Dakota, Gatsby embodies the self-made man.
- Personality: Charismatic, mysterious, profoundly romantic yet naïve.
- Motivations: To win Daisy's love and attain the American Dream.

- Symbolism: Embodying hope, illusion, and the pursuit of happiness.

Daisy Buchanan

- Background: Wealthy, beautiful, and charming.
- Personality: Flirtatious, superficial, and indecisive.
- Role: The object of Gatsby's obsession and a symbol of wealth and allure.
- Complexity: A symbol of the American Dream's emptiness.

Nick Carraway

- Role: The reflective narrator providing perspective.
- Traits: Honest, judgmental yet tolerant.
- Significance: Serves as the moral center amidst corruption.

Tom Buchanan

- Background: Old money, aggressive, and racist.
- Role: Antagonist representing traditional aristocracy and moral decay.
- Character arc: Embodies entitlement and brutality.

Jordan Baker

- Background: Professional golfer, modern woman.
- Role: Represents the new, liberated woman.
- Personality: Cynical and self-centered.

Supporting Characters

- George Wilson: The tragic mechanic, symbolizing despair.
- Myrtle Wilson: George's mistress, representing social aspirations.
- Klipspringer: The "boarder" who freeloads off Gatsby, symbolizing superficiality.

The Setting's Significance

Long Island's North and South Shores

The contrasting locales symbolize class divisions:

- East Egg: Old money, tradition, aristocracy.
- West Egg: New money, innovation, aspiration.
- The Valley of Ashes: Moral and societal decay.
- New York City: The hub of excitement, corruption, and change.

The 1920s Context

The novel captures the exuberance and excesses of the Jazz Age, marked by prosperity, jazz music, flappers, and a break from Victorian morals. However, beneath the surface, Fitzgerald exposes the era's moral looseness and materialism.

Critical Reception and Literary Legacy

The Great Gatsby was not an immediate commercial success upon publication but gained recognition over time. Today, it is regarded as a quintessential American novel and often cited as a commentary on the American Dream.

Literary Significance

- Themes: Its exploration of identity, class, and aspiration remains relevant.
- Style: Fitzgerald's lyrical prose and symbolism influence countless writers.
- Adaptations: Multiple film versions, stage adaptations, and references in popular culture attest to its enduring influence.

Cultural Impact

The novel has become a staple in American education, often included in high school and university curricula. Its phrases and symbols have permeated cultural consciousness, making it a touchstone for discussions on wealth, morality, and the American identity.

Final Thoughts: The Enduring Appeal

The Great Gatsby is more than a story about love and wealth; it is a mirror held up to American society, revealing its aspirations and illusions. Fitzgerald's poetic language, complex characters, and thematic depth make it a novel that rewards multiple readings. Whether viewed as a critique or celebration of the American Dream, it remains a vital, thought-provoking masterpiece.

Why Read or Revisit the Novel?

- To understand the social fabric of 1920s America.
- To explore themes of love, ambition, and disillusionment.
- To appreciate Fitzgerald's literary craftsmanship.
- To reflect on contemporary society's parallels with the novel's themes.

Conclusion

In evaluating The Great Gatsby as a literary product, it stands out not only for its beautiful prose and compelling characters but also for its incisive commentary on the American ethos. Fitzgerald's masterwork endures because it captures universal truths about human nature, societal aspirations, and the elusive pursuit of happiness. Whether approached as a historical document or a timeless reflection, The Great Gatsby remains a quintessential piece of American literature that continues to enchant, challenge, and inspire generations.

Note: This article aims to provide a thorough and comprehensive understanding of *The Great Gatsby*. For those seeking to delve deeper, reading the novel itself is highly recommended to experience Fitzgerald's poetic language and nuanced storytelling firsthand.

[The Great Gatsby Novel](#)

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby Francis Scott Fitzgerald, 1993 A young man newly rich tries to recapture the past and win back his former love, despite the fact that she has married

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2003-05-27 The only edition of the beloved classic that is authorized by Fitzgerald's family and from his lifelong publisher. This edition is the enduring original text, updated with the author's own revisions, a foreword by his granddaughter, and with a new introduction by National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward. *The Great Gatsby*, F. Scott Fitzgerald's third book, stands as the supreme achievement of his career. First published by Scribner in 1925, this quintessential novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the mysteriously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.

the great gatsby novel: F. Scott Fitzgerald: The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald, 1991-08-30 Classical portrayal of love and violence during the Twenties.

the great gatsby novel: Modern Classics Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2000-02-22 Now the subject of a major new film from director Baz Luhrmann (*Romeo+Juliet*, *Moulin Rouge!*), starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Carey Mulligan, *The Great Gatsby* is F. Scott Fitzgerald's brilliant fable of the hedonistic excess and tragic reality of 1920s America. This Penguin Classics edition is edited with an introduction and notes by Tony Tanner. Young, handsome and fabulously rich, Jay Gatsby is the bright star of the Jazz Age, but as writer Nick Carraway is drawn into the decadent orbit of his Long Island mansion, where the party never seems to end, he finds himself faced by the mystery of Gatsby's origins and desires. Beneath the shimmering surface of his life, Gatsby is hiding a secret: a silent longing that can never be fulfilled. And soon, this destructive obsession will force his world to unravel. In *The Great Gatsby*, Fitzgerald brilliantly captures both the disillusionment of post-war America and the moral failure of a society obsessed with wealth and status. But he does more than render the essence of a particular time and place, for - in chronicling Gatsby's tragic pursuit of his dream - Fitzgerald re-creates the universal conflict between illusion and reality. Like Jay Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) has acquired a mythical status in American literary history, and his masterwork *The Great Gatsby* is considered by many to be the 'great American novel'. In 1920 he married Zelda Sayre, dubbed 'the first American Flapper', and their traumatic marriage and Zelda's gradual descent into insanity became the leading influence on his writing. As well as many short stories, Fitzgerald wrote five novels *This Side of Paradise*, *The Great Gatsby*, *The Beautiful and the Damned*, *Tender is the Night* and, incomplete at the time of his death, *The Last Tycoon*. After his death *The New York Times* said of him that 'in fact and in the literary sense he created a generation'. 'A classic, perhaps the supreme American novel' John Carey, *Sunday Times Books of the Century*

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2021-01-05 Fitzgerald's masterpiece—the quintessential Jazz Age novel—now in a hardcover Everyman's Library Contemporary Classics edition One of The Atlantic's Great American Novels of the Past 100 Years For generations of enthralled readers, F. Scott Fitzgerald's mysterious millionaire, Jay Gatsby, has come to embody all the glamour and decadence of the Roaring Twenties. Gatsby emerges as if from nowhere, evading questions about his past and throwing dazzling parties sparkling with champagne and jazz at his luxurious Long Island mansion. Nick Carraway, a young man who has moved in next door, is fascinated by his oddly detached neighbor, and by his discovery that Gatsby is motivated by

a single-minded quest to regain his long-lost love, Daisy Buchanan. Nick finds something both appalling and appealing about the intensity of Gatsby's ambition to reinvent himself. But Daisy and her wealthy husband are cynical and careless people, and as Gatsby's dream collides with reality, Nick is witness to the violence and tragedy that result. The Great Gatsby's remarkable staying power, nearly a century after its publication, is owed both to the lyrical freshness of its storytelling and to the way that it illuminates the hollow core of the glittering American dream. Everyman's Library pursues the highest production standards, printing on acid-free cream-colored paper, with full-cloth cases with two-color foil stamping, decorative endpapers, silk ribbon markers, European-style half-round spines, and a full-color illustrated jacket.

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2016-12-11 The Great Gatsby is a 1925 novel written by American author F. Scott Fitzgerald that follows a cast of characters living in the fictional town of West Egg on prosperous Long Island in the summer of 1922. The story primarily concerns the young and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and his quixotic passion and obsession for the beautiful former debutante Daisy Buchanan. Considered to be Fitzgerald's magnum opus, The Great Gatsby explores themes of decadence, idealism, resistance to change, social upheaval, and excess, creating a portrait of the Jazz Age or the Roaring Twenties that has been described as a cautionary tale regarding the American Dream. Fitzgerald--inspired by the parties he had attended while visiting Long Island's north shore--began planning the novel in 1923, desiring to produce, in his words, something new--something extraordinary and beautiful and simple and intricately patterned. Progress was slow, with Fitzgerald completing his first draft following a move to the French Riviera in 1924. His editor, Maxwell Perkins, felt the book was vague and persuaded the author to revise over the next winter. Fitzgerald was repeatedly ambivalent about the book's title and he considered a variety of alternatives...Plot summary : The main events of the novel take place in the summer of 1922. Nick Carraway, a Yale graduate and veteran of the Great War from the Midwest--who serves as the novel's narrator--takes a job in New York as a bond salesman. He rents a small house on Long Island, in the fictional village of West Egg, next door to the lavish mansion of Jay Gatsby, a mysterious millionaire who holds extravagant parties but does not participate in them. Nick drives around the bay to East Egg for dinner at the home of his cousin, Daisy Fay Buchanan, and her husband, Tom, a college acquaintance of Nick's. They introduce Nick to Jordan Baker, an attractive, cynical young golfer with whom Nick begins a romantic relationship. She reveals to Nick that Tom has a mistress, Myrtle Wilson, who lives in the valley of ashes,[11] an industrial dumping ground between West Egg and New York City. Not long after this revelation, Nick travels to New York City with Tom and Myrtle to an apartment Tom keeps for his affairs with Myrtle and others. At Tom's New York apartment, a vulgar and bizarre party takes place. It ends with Tom breaking Myrtle's nose after she annoys him by saying Daisy's name several times...Biography of the Author : Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald (September 24, 1896 - December 21, 1940), known professionally as F. Scott Fitzgerald, was an American novelist and short story writer, whose works illustrate the Jazz Age. He is widely regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. Fitzgerald is considered a member of the Lost Generation of the 1920s. He finished four novels: This Side of Paradise, The Beautiful and Damned, The Great Gatsby, and TenderExtrait : In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. 'Whenever you feel like criticizing any one,' he told me, 'just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had.' He didn't say any more but we've always been unusually communicative in a reserved way, and I understood that he meant a great deal more than that. In consequence I'm inclined to reserve all judgments, a habit that has opened up many curious natures to me and also made me the victim of not a few veteran bores. The abnormal mind is quick to detect and attach itself to this quality when it appears in a normal person, and so it came about that in college I was unjustly accused of being a politician, because I was privy to the secret griefs of wild, unknown men. Most of the confidences were unsought--frequently I have feigned sleep, preoccupation, or a hostile levity when I realized by some unmistakable sign that an intimate revelation was quivering on the horizon...

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby: The Authentic Edition from Fitzgerald's Original Publisher F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2013-05-10 The authentic edition from Fitzgerald's original publisher. The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald's third book, stands as the supreme achievement of his career. This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when The New York Times noted "gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession," it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s. The Great Gatsby is one of the great classics of twentieth-century literature.

the great gatsby novel: *The Great Gatsby* Francis Scott Fitzgerald, 1925 Follows the adventures of Jay Gatsby as he tries to win back the woman he loved and lost.

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby (English Edition) F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2016-03-04 Is a 1925 novel written by American author F. Scott Fitzgerald that follows a cast of characters living in the fictional town of West Egg on prosperous Long Island in the summer of 1922. The story primarily concerns the young and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and his quixotic passion and obsession for the beautiful former debutante Daisy Buchanan. Considered to be Fitzgerald's magnum opus, The Great Gatsby explores themes of decadence, idealism, resistance to change, social upheaval, and excess, creating a portrait of the Jazz Age or the Roaring Twenties that has been described as a cautionary tale regarding the American Dream.

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby By F. Scott Fitzgerald F Scott Fitzgerald, 2021-05 The Great Gatsby, third novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald, published in 1925 by Charles Scribner's Sons. Set in Jazz Age New York, the novel tells the tragic story of Jay Gatsby, a self-made millionaire, and his pursuit of Daisy Buchanan, a wealthy young woman whom he loved in his youth. Unsuccessful upon publication, the book is now considered a classic of American fiction and has often been called the Great American Novel.

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby Book by Fitzgerald F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2021-01-10 Paperback format of the book The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Book Size : 6 × 9 Cover : Pink

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby: A Novel F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2021-01-05 A beautifully illustrated version of the original 1925 edition of F. Scott Fitzgerald's classic Great American novel. Widely considered to be the greatest American novel of all time, The Great Gatsby is the story of the wealthy, quixotic Jay Gatsby and his obsessive love for debutante Daisy Buchanan. It is also a cautionary tale of the American Dream in all its exuberance, decadence, hedonism, and passion. First published in 1925 by Charles Scribner's Sons, The Great Gatsby sold modestly and received mixed reviews from literary critics of the time. Upon his death in 1940, Fitzgerald believed the book to be a failure, but a year later, as the U.S. was in the grips of the Second World War, an initiative known as Council on Books in Wartime was created to distribute paperbacks to soldiers abroad. The Great Gatsby became one of the most popular books provided to regiments, with more than 100,000 copies shipped to soldiers overseas. By 1960, the book was selling apace and being incorporated into classrooms across the nation. Today, it has sold over 25 million copies worldwide in 42 languages. This exquisitely rendered edition of the original 1925 printing reintroduces readers to Fitzgerald's iconic portrait of the Jazz Age, complete with specially commissioned illustrations by Adam Simpson that reflect the gilded splendor of the Roaring Twenties.

the great gatsby novel: The Great Gatsby F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2014-08-18 "So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past." --- F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby "I hope she'll be a fool -- that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool." --- F. Scott Fitzgerald, The Great Gatsby The Great Gatsby is a 1925 novel written by American author F. Scott Fitzgerald that follows a cast of characters living in the fictional town of West Egg on prosperous Long Island in the summer of 1922. The story primarily concerns the young and mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and his quixotic passion and obsession for the beautiful former debutante Daisy Buchanan. Considered to be Fitzgerald's magnum opus, The Great Gatsby explores themes of decadence, idealism, resistance to change, social upheaval, and excess, creating a portrait

of the Jazz Age or the Roaring Twenties that has been described as a cautionary tale regarding the American Dream. Fitzgerald, inspired by the parties he had attended while visiting Long Island's north shore, began planning the novel in 1923 desiring to produce, in his words, something new—something extraordinary and beautiful and simple and intricately patterned. Progress was slow with Fitzgerald completing his first draft following a move to the French Riviera in 1924. His editor, Maxwell Perkins, felt the book was too vague and convinced the author to revise over the next winter. Fitzgerald was ambivalent about the book's title, at various times wishing to re-title the novel *Trimalchio in West Egg*. First published by Scribner's in April 1925, *The Great Gatsby* received mixed reviews and sold poorly; in its first year, the book sold only 20,000 copies. Fitzgerald died in 1940, believing himself to be a failure and his work forgotten. However, the novel experienced a revival during World War II, and became a part of American high school curricula and numerous stage and film adaptations in the following decades. Today, *The Great Gatsby* is widely considered to be a literary classic and a contender for the title Great American Novel. The book is consistently ranked among the greatest works of American literature. In 1998 the Modern Library editorial board voted it the 20th century's best American novel and second best novel in the English language.

the great gatsby novel: *THE GREAT GATSBY* by F. Scott Fitzgerald F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2021-06 ONCE AGAIN TO ZELDA *The Great Gatsby* is a 1925 novel by American writer F. Scott Fitzgerald. Set in the Jazz Age on Long Island, the novel depicts narrator Nick Carraway's interactions with mysterious millionaire Jay Gatsby and Gatsby's obsession to reunite with his former lover, Daisy Buchanan. A youthful romance Fitzgerald had with socialite Ginevra King and the riotous parties he attended on Long Island's North Shore in 1922 inspired the novel. Following a move to the French Riviera, he completed a rough draft in 1924. He submitted the draft to editor Maxwell Perkins, who persuaded Fitzgerald to revise the work over the following winter. After his revisions, Fitzgerald was satisfied with the text, but remained ambivalent about the book's title and considered several alternatives. The final title he desired was *Under the Red, White, and Blue*. Painter Francis Cugat's final cover design impressed Fitzgerald who incorporated a visual element from the art into the novel. After its publication by Scribner's in April 1925, *The Great Gatsby* received generally favorable reviews, although some literary critics believed it did not equal Fitzgerald's previous efforts and signaled the end of the author's literary achievements. *Gatsby* was a commercial failure that sold fewer than 20,000 copies by October, and Fitzgerald's hopes of a monetary windfall from the novel were unrealized. When the author died in 1940, he believed himself to be a failure and his work forgotten. After his death, the novel faced a critical and scholarly re-examination amid World War II, and it soon became a core part of most American high school curricula and a focus of American popular culture. Numerous stage and film adaptations followed in the subsequent decades. *Gatsby* continues to attract popular and scholarly attention. The novel was most recently adapted to film in 2013 by director Baz Luhrmann, while contemporary scholars emphasize the novel's treatment of social class, inherited wealth compared to those who are self-made, race, environmentalism, and its cynical attitude towards the American dream. As with other works by Fitzgerald, criticisms include allegations of antisemitism. *The Great Gatsby* is widely considered to be a literary masterwork and a contender for the title of the Great American Novel.

the great gatsby novel: *The Great Gatsby: F. Scott Fitzgerald* Editorial Aleph, F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2015-06-15 A portrait of the Jazz Age in all of its decadence and excess, *The Great Gatsby* captured the spirit of the author's generation and earned itself a permanent place in American mythology. Self-made, self-invented millionaire Jay Gatsby embodies some of Fitzgerald's--and his country's--most abiding obsessions: money, ambition, greed, and the promise of new beginnings. Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgiastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter--tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther.... And one fine morning--Gatsby's rise to glory and eventual fall from grace becomes a kind of cautionary tale about the American Dream. It's also a love story, of sorts, the narrative of Gatsby's quixotic passion for Daisy Buchanan. The pair meet five years before the novel begins, when Daisy is a legendary young Louisville beauty and Gatsby an impoverished officer. They fall in love, but while

Gatsby serves overseas, Daisy marries the brutal, bullying, but extremely rich Tom Buchanan. After the war, Gatsby devotes himself blindly to the pursuit of wealth by whatever means--and to the pursuit of Daisy, which amounts to the same thing. Her voice is full of money, Gatsby says admiringly. His millions made, Gatsby buys a mansion across Long Island Sound from Daisy's patrician East Egg address, throws lavish parties, and waits for her to appear. When she does, events unfold with detached, cynical neighbor Nick Carraway acting as chorus throughout.

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