short stories of f scott fitzgerald

Short Stories of F Scott Fitzgerald: A Glimpse into the Jazz Age and Beyond

Short stories of f scott fitzgerald offer a fascinating window into the world of the Roaring Twenties, capturing the complexities of love, ambition, wealth, and despair with remarkable finesse. While Fitzgerald is best known for his novels like *The Great Gatsby*, his short stories reveal a different, often more intimate side of his literary genius. These stories not only complement his major works but also stand on their own as brilliant explorations of the American experience during a transformative era.

Exploring the short stories of F Scott Fitzgerald provides readers with a rich tapestry of characters and themes that echo the exuberance and excesses of the Jazz Age. They showcase his impeccable style, sharp social commentary, and deep understanding of human nature, all wrapped in concise narratives that can be enjoyed in a single sitting.

The Significance of Fitzgerald's Short Stories

Fitzgerald's short stories were more than just literary exercises; they were a vital part of his career and financial survival. During the 1920s and 1930s, Fitzgerald supplemented his income by publishing stories in popular magazines such as *The Saturday Evening Post*, *Esquire*, and *The New Yorker*. These publications demanded engaging and accessible fiction, which Fitzgerald delivered with flair.

Why Short Stories Matter in Fitzgerald's Oeuvre

While his novels explored sweeping narratives, his short stories often focused on moments of personal crisis or epiphany, allowing Fitzgerald to experiment with tone, style, and character development. They provided a laboratory for his evolving artistic vision and often introduced themes and motifs later elaborated in his longer works.

Moreover, Fitzgerald's short fiction captures the zeitgeist of the Jazz Age more immediately and vividly. The brevity of the form means that every word counts, resulting in sharp, poignant portrayals of ambition, disillusionment, and the pursuit of happiness.

Notable Short Stories of F Scott Fitzgerald

Among the vast collection of Fitzgerald's short stories, several stand out for their narrative brilliance and thematic depth. Here are some essential ones every reader should explore:

"Bernice Bobs Her Hair"

This story is a sparkling example of Fitzgerald's keen insight into social

dynamics and youth culture. It centers on Bernice, a shy young woman who undergoes a dramatic transformation to fit into the glamorous world of her cousin's social circle. The story deftly tackles themes of identity, popularity, and the sometimes fickle nature of social acceptance.

"Winter Dreams"

Often regarded as a precursor to *The Great Gatsby*, "Winter Dreams" delves into the life of Dexter Green, a man obsessed with wealth and status as he pursues an elusive love. Fitzgerald's portrayal of desire and the American Dream's hollowness shines through, making this story a poignant reflection on ambition and loss.

"The Diamond as Big as the Ritz"

In this imaginative tale, Fitzgerald blends fantasy with sharp social critique. The story follows a young man who visits an incredibly wealthy family guarding a secret diamond mine. Rich with symbolism and commentary on greed, power, and isolation, it stands out as one of his more adventurous pieces.

"The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"

Perhaps one of Fitzgerald's most famous short stories, this narrative tells the unusual life of Benjamin Button, a man who ages backward. Beyond its intriguing premise, the story explores themes of time, mortality, and the human condition, showcasing Fitzgerald's ability to weave profound ideas into compelling fiction.

Themes and Motifs in Fitzgerald's Short Stories

If you delve into the short stories of F Scott Fitzgerald, you'll notice recurring themes that resonate across his work, offering insights into both his worldview and the era he chronicled.

The American Dream and Its Discontents

Many of Fitzgerald's stories grapple with the allure and eventual disillusionment of the American Dream. Characters often strive for wealth, status, or love but find that these pursuits come with unexpected costs. This tension between aspiration and reality is a hallmark of his storytelling.

Love and Relationships

From fleeting romances to deep emotional struggles, Fitzgerald's short stories capture the complexities of human connections. He often portrays love

as passionate yet fragile, sometimes tainted by social expectations or personal flaws.

Wealth and Social Status

The Jazz Age's obsession with glamour and luxury is vividly depicted in Fitzgerald's stories. He examines how money can both empower and corrupt, highlighting the superficiality and moral ambiguity of high society.

Time and Mortality

Especially evident in stories like "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," Fitzgerald meditates on the passage of time and the inevitability of change. His characters frequently confront their own aging, loss, or the fleeting nature of happiness.

Tips for Reading and Appreciating Fitzgerald's Short Stories

If you're new to Fitzgerald's short stories or looking to deepen your appreciation, here are some helpful tips:

- Pay Attention to Context: Understanding the historical backdrop of the 1920s and 1930s enriches your reading experience, as many stories reflect contemporary social attitudes and cultural shifts.
- Look for Symbolism: Fitzgerald's stories often use symbols and motifs—such as the green light in *The Great Gatsby*—to convey deeper meanings. Try to identify these elements and consider their implications.
- Notice Character Development: Even in short form, Fitzgerald crafts nuanced characters. Observe how their desires, fears, and flaws drive the narrative.
- Read Aloud: Fitzgerald's lyrical prose shines when spoken. Reading his stories aloud can reveal rhythmic qualities and emotional nuances that may be missed otherwise.
- Compare Stories to Novels: Many themes and ideas in the short stories reappear in his novels. Drawing connections between these works can provide a fuller picture of Fitzgerald's artistic vision.

Where to Find Fitzgerald's Short Stories Today

Thanks to their enduring popularity, Fitzgerald's short stories are widely available in various formats. Many collections compile his best-known tales,

often alongside lesser-known gems.

For those interested in exploring his short fiction, consider:

- Collected Editions: Books like *The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald* edited by Matthew J. Bruccoli offer comprehensive collections with insightful introductions.
- Online Resources: Public domain platforms sometimes host Fitzgerald's stories, making them accessible for free reading.
- Audio Versions: Audiobooks and podcasts featuring Fitzgerald's stories allow you to enjoy his work during commutes or leisure time.

Engaging with these stories not only deepens one's appreciation of Fitzgerald's craft but also provides a vivid glimpse into the hopes and anxieties of a pivotal moment in American history.

Immersing oneself in the short stories of F Scott Fitzgerald is like stepping into a world where glamour meets melancholy, and where the pursuit of dreams often reveals the fragility beneath. Whether it's the shimmering parties or the quiet moments of introspection, these stories continue to captivate readers with their timeless insights and exquisite storytelling.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are some of the most famous short stories written by F. Scott Fitzgerald?

Some of the most famous short stories by F. Scott Fitzgerald include "Bernice Bobs Her Hair," "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz," "Winter Dreams," "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button," and "Babylon Revisited."

How do F. Scott Fitzgerald's short stories reflect the themes of the Jazz Age?

Fitzgerald's short stories often capture the glamour, excess, and moral ambiguity of the Jazz Age, exploring themes such as wealth, social status, love, and the American Dream, portraying both its allure and its disillusionment.

Are F. Scott Fitzgerald's short stories connected to his novels in terms of themes and style?

Yes, Fitzgerald's short stories share similar themes and stylistic elements with his novels, such as explorations of wealth, decadence, love, and the pursuit of happiness, all written in his elegant and lyrical prose style.

Where can I find collections of F. Scott Fitzgerald's short stories?

Collections of Fitzgerald's short stories can be found in books such as "Tales of the Jazz Age," "Flappers and Philosophers," and "The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald," available in bookstores, libraries, and online platforms like Amazon and Project Gutenberg.

What makes F. Scott Fitzgerald's short stories still relevant today?

Fitzgerald's short stories remain relevant due to their timeless exploration of human desires, societal pressures, and the complexities of personal identity, as well as their vivid depiction of a transformative era in American history.

Did F. Scott Fitzgerald use his own life experiences in his short stories?

Yes, Fitzgerald often drew from his personal experiences and observations of high society, his relationships, and the cultural environment of the 1920s and 1930s to inform the characters and settings in his short stories.

Which F. Scott Fitzgerald short story is considered the best for understanding his literary style?

"Winter Dreams" is often considered one of Fitzgerald's best short stories for understanding his literary style, as it encapsulates his themes of ambition, love, and disillusionment with rich symbolism and elegant prose.

Additional Resources

Exploring the Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald: A Window into the Jazz Age

short stories of f scott fitzgerald represent a vital yet sometimes underappreciated facet of the American literary canon. While Fitzgerald is widely celebrated for his novels—most notably *The Great Gatsby*—his short fiction offers a concentrated glimpse into the thematic preoccupations and stylistic flourishes that define his work. These stories encapsulate the social dynamics, cultural contradictions, and emotional turbulence of the Roaring Twenties and the interwar period, making them invaluable for both literary scholars and casual readers seeking to understand the Jazz Age through Fitzgerald's nuanced lens.

The Short Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald: An Overview

Fitzgerald's short stories were prolific and commercially successful during his lifetime, often published in popular magazines such as *The Saturday Evening Post* and *Esquire*. Unlike his novels, which were sometimes met with

mixed critical reception or modest sales, his short fiction consistently garnered public interest and financial reward. This body of work spans themes from youthful ambition and romantic idealism to the disillusionments of wealth and the fragility of the American Dream.

Crucially, the short stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald frequently function as compact narratives that distill larger social commentaries. Their brevity allows for a sharper focus on character psychology and symbolic imagery, often culminating in poignant or ironic endings. The precision of his prose and the subtlety of his insights into human behavior make these stories enduringly relevant.

Key Themes in Fitzgerald's Short Fiction

The short stories reflect recurrent motifs that mirror those in his novels:

- **The Illusion of the American Dream: ** Fitzgerald's stories often depict characters chasing wealth and status, only to face moral or emotional emptiness.
- **Youth and Innocence Lost:** A sense of nostalgia tinged with regret permeates many narratives, highlighting the fleeting nature of youth.
- **Social Stratification and Class Anxiety:** The tension between old money and new wealth, as well as the anxieties of social mobility, are frequent subjects.
- **Love and Disillusionment:** Romantic relationships in Fitzgerald's stories tend to expose the gap between idealized love and harsh reality.

Notable Short Stories and Their Literary Significance

Several of Fitzgerald's short stories stand out for their narrative complexity, thematic depth, and stylistic innovation. Below is an analytical overview of a few prominent examples:

"Winter Dreams"

Often compared to *The Great Gatsby* for its exploration of class and desire, "Winter Dreams" traces the life of Dexter Green, a young man from a modest background obsessed with achieving wealth and winning the affection of Judy Jones, a wealthy and capricious socialite. The story is a microcosm of Fitzgerald's broader critique of the American elite and the emotional cost of relentless ambition. Its concise yet evocative prose captures the intoxicating allure of glamour alongside the eventual disenchantment that follows.

"Bernice Bobs Her Hair"

This story offers a sharp examination of gender roles and social expectations in the 1920s. Bernice, a socially awkward young woman, attempts to reinvent herself to gain popularity among her peers, culminating in the symbolic act

of bobbing her hair. Fitzgerald deftly uses humor and irony to critique the performative nature of femininity and the often superficial criteria of social acceptance.

"The Diamond as Big as the Ritz"

A departure from Fitzgerald's more realistic stories, this novella blends satire with fantasy to critique the excesses of wealth. The plot revolves around a family guarding a mountain-sized diamond, highlighting themes of greed, secrecy, and moral corruption. The story's imaginative premise allows Fitzgerald to explore social criticism with a speculative twist, showcasing his versatility as a short story writer.

Stylistic Features of Fitzgerald's Short Fiction

Fitzgerald's prose style is a defining attribute of his short stories. The elegance and lyricism of his language create a vivid sense of time and place, while his use of symbolism and metaphor adds layers of meaning. Notable stylistic features include:

- Economy of Language: Fitzgerald's stories often rely on precise, economical language that conveys complex emotions and social dynamics efficiently.
- Symbolism: Objects such as the green light in *The Great Gatsby* find their echoes in motifs like Judy Jones's beauty or the diamond's brilliance in the short stories.
- **Dialogue:** Naturalistic and often witty, Fitzgerald's dialogue reveals character traits and social tensions subtly.
- Atmosphere: Through detailed descriptions, Fitzgerald evokes the decadence and restlessness of the Jazz Age milieu.

The Role of Social Commentary

Embedded within the narratives is Fitzgerald's incisive social critique. The short stories serve as snapshots of American society's contradictions during the 1920s—an era marked by economic boom, cultural shifts, and impending economic collapse. Fitzgerald exposes the hollowness beneath the glittering surface of wealth and glamour, often emphasizing the emotional and moral costs borne by individuals caught in this milieu.

For example, in "The Rich Boy," Fitzgerald explores the limitations imposed by privilege, illustrating how wealth can isolate and ultimately diminish a person's capacity for genuine happiness. This nuanced portrayal challenges simplistic notions of success and failure, making the story resonate beyond its historical context.

Comparative Insights: Fitzgerald's Short Stories vs. His Novels

While Fitzgerald's novels tend to provide expansive narratives with intricate plots and multiple characters, his short stories are marked by their compactness and concentrated thematic focus. This difference in form affects the reader's engagement and the type of literary impact achieved:

- Accessibility: Short stories are more accessible for casual readers due to their brevity and self-contained nature.
- Intensity: The short form allows Fitzgerald to hone in on particular moments of emotional or social significance with heightened intensity.
- Experimentation: Fitzgerald often used his short fiction to experiment with style, tone, and narrative voice, offering insights into his evolving craft.

Moreover, the short stories frequently function as "laboratories" for themes and characters that Fitzgerald later developed in his novels, providing a richer understanding of his oeuvre when studied in tandem.

Enduring Legacy and Contemporary Relevance

Today, the short stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald continue to be studied and appreciated for their literary craftsmanship and historical value. They offer educators potent teaching tools to illuminate early 20th-century American literature and culture. For contemporary readers, these stories provide timeless reflections on ambition, identity, and societal pressures.

The resurgence of interest in short fiction as a literary form also highlights Fitzgerald's mastery in this domain. As digital media and changing reading habits prompt renewed appreciation for concise narratives, Fitzgerald's short stories gain fresh resonance.

In sum, the short stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald stand as a testament to his ability to capture the complexities of a transformative era in American history. Their blend of lyrical prose, incisive social observation, and emotional depth ensures their place as enduring works of art and critical study.

Short Stories Of F Scott Fitzgerald

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short stories of f scott fitzgerald: The Best Early Stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2007-12-18 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.

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comprehensive collection of the esteemed author's masterful prose. Fitzgerald's literary style is characterized by his lush, poetic language and vivid depictions of the Jazz Age. This compilation includes timeless classics such as 'The Great Gatsby', 'Tender is the Night', and 'This Side of Paradise', showcasing the author's exploration of themes such as wealth, love, and the American Dream. Fitzgerald's writing exhibits a keen eye for detail and a deep understanding of human nature, making his works both captivating and thought-provoking. The book also features insightful introductions and annotations that provide valuable context for readers looking to delve into Fitzgerald's rich body of work. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1896, F. Scott Fitzgerald became synonymous with the Roaring Twenties and is considered one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century. His own experiences of wealth and excess in the Jazz Age inspired much of his writing, allowing him to capture the complexities of his era with unparalleled eloquence and depth. For lovers of classic literature and fans of the Jazz Age, 'The Complete Works of F. Scott Fitzgerald' is a must-read. This anthology offers a glimpse into the dazzling world of Fitzgerald's imagination, showcasing the brilliance of a literary giant whose legacy continues to resonate with readers today.

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Fitzgerald, 2019-01-29 In Fitzgerald's world, everything that's delicious turns bitter; every party is a tragedy. At first, things seem sexy and sumptuous and doused in champagne. When the music stops, though, everything falls apart. Money is the beginning and end of everyone's troubles, and the world is sharply divided between those who have it and those who need it. Travel through the rich universe of this great author through these seven short stories specially chosen to please old readers and newcomers to Fitzgerald's work. The Diamond as Big as the Ritz The Jelly-Bean May Day The Curious Case of Benjamin Button Bernice Bobs Her Hair Head and Shoulders The Cut-Glass Bowl

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short stories of f scott fitzgerald: New Essays on F. Scott Fitzgerald's Neglected Stories Jackson R. Bryer, 1996 F. Scott Fitzgerald's short stories are the most critically undervalued and ignored segment of his fiction. Despite the fact that most of his short fiction has been published in various extant collections, critics nonetheless continue to focus primarily on his novels. Moreover, even when they turn their attention to Fitzgerald's stories, they tend to deal with the half dozen most frequently anthologized to the exclusion of the vast majority. This volume presents twenty-three previously unpublished essays on Fitzgerald's other stories. The first section contains close readings of individual stories and ranges chronologically over his entire career--from The Spire and the Gargoyle (published in 1917, when Fitzgerald was at Princeton) through such early efforts as Bernice Bobs Her Hair (1920) and John Jackson's Arcady (1924) down to late stories such as An Alcoholic Case (1937) and The Lost Decade (1939). The second section includes essays on Fitzgerald's three story groups--the Basil and Josephine stories, the Count of Darkness stories, and the Pat Hobby stories. By placing these stories within the context of Fitzgerald's total fictional achievement, this collection serves as a resource for a deepened understanding of the intensely autobiographical nature of Fitzgerald's work, offering insights into his methods of composition and his aims, both artistic and human. The roster of contributors includes long-time Fitzgerald critics such as John Kuehl, Scott Donaldson, and Ruth Prigozy, along with distinguished critics of modern American literature such as Robert Merrill, Alan Cheuse, and James Nagel, and younger scholars like Gerald Pike and Heidi Kunz Bullock. The editor, Jackson R. Bryer, deliberately chose such a diverse group to ensure a variety of critical perspectives. The resulting volume is not the last word on these neglected stories; rather, these are the first words on stories that will now begin to receive more attention in what will be a continuing discovery of the pleasures in the full range of F. Scott Fitzgerald's fiction.

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and pleasure, and the underlying sense of disillusionment. His narratives explore the societal changes, the clash between old traditions and modern values, and the yearning for something more profound amidst the surface glamour. Fitzgerald's portrayal of the Jazz Age serves as a lens through which readers can examine the complexities of a transformative era. Rich Characterizations and Exploration of Identity: Fitzgerald's stories are renowned for their rich characterizations and exploration of individual identity. His narratives delve into the desires, ambitions, and vulnerabilities of his characters, revealing their inner conflicts and aspirations. Fitzgerald crafts complex and multidimensional characters who grapple with issues of social status, personal dreams, and the pursuit of love and happiness. Through his exploration of their journeys, he offers profound insights into the human condition, the quest for self-discovery, and the consequences of societal pressures. Themes of Illusion and Disillusionment: Fitzgerald's works often revolve around themes of illusion and disillusionment. His stories probe beneath the surface glamour and reveal the hollowness of the American Dream, the fragility of success, and the consequences of chasing unattainable ideals. Fitzgerald's narratives explore the gulf between appearance and reality, the fleeting nature of happiness, and the harsh realities that lurk beneath the shimmering façade. His stories serve as cautionary tales, inviting readers to reflect on the consequences of pursuing illusions and the true nature of fulfillment.

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short stories of f scott fitzgerald: The Complete Works of F. Scott Fitzgerald: Novels, Short Stories, Poetry, Articles, Letters, Plays & Screenplays F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2024-01-06 The Complete Works of F. Scott Fitzgerald encapsulates the literary genius of one of the 20th century's most influential writers. This anthology includes his celebrated novels, poignant short stories, vibrant poetry, and insightful articles, alongside previously unpublished letters and screenplays. Fitzgerald's signature style'—marked by lyrical prose, rich symbolism, and incisive social commentary'—offers profound insights into the Jazz Age and the American Dream's ambivalences. Through this comprehensive collection, readers are invited to traverse a spectrum of human experiences, from the opulent lifestyles of the rich to the haunting despair beneath the glittering surface. F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) emerges as a guintessential chronicler of the 1920s, drawing inspiration from his own life experiences, including his tumultuous marriage to Zelda Sayre and the societal upheavals surrounding him. His acute understanding of the era, embedded in both his personal struggles and imaginative prowess, informs this exquisite body of work that has far-reaching implications on the understanding of identity, love, and disillusionment in modernity. This complete collection is indispensable for both scholars and casual readers alike. It invites an examination of the intricate layers of Fitzgerald's work, providing a deeper appreciation for his contributions to literature. For those who seek to understand not only the complexities of early 20th-century America but also the timeless themes of love and ambition, this collection stands as an essential companion. In this enriched edition, we have carefully created added value for your reading experience: - A comprehensive Introduction outlines these selected works' unifying features, themes, or stylistic evolutions. - The Author Biography highlights personal milestones and literary influences that shape the entire body of writing. - A Historical Context section situates the works in their broader era—social currents, cultural trends, and key events that underpin their creation. - A concise Synopsis (Selection) offers an accessible overview of the included texts, helping readers navigate plotlines and main ideas without revealing critical twists. - A unified Analysis examines recurring motifs and stylistic hallmarks across the collection, tying the stories together while spotlighting the different work's strengths. - Reflection questions inspire deeper contemplation of the author's overarching message, inviting readers to draw connections among different texts and relate them to

modern contexts. - Lastly, our hand-picked Memorable Quotes distill pivotal lines and turning points, serving as touchstones for the collection's central themes.

short stories of f scott fitzgerald: The Complete Works of F. Scott Fitzgerald: Novels, Short Stories, Poetry, Articles, Letters, Plays & Screenplays F. Scott Fitzgerald, 2015-06-20 This carefully crafted ebook: The Complete Works of F. Scott Fitzgerald: Novels, Short Stories, Poetry, Articles, Letters, Plays & Screenplays" is formatted for your eReader with a functional and detailed table of contents. Francis Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was an American author of novels and short stories. whose works are the paradigmatic writings of the Jazz Age. Fitzgerald is considered a member of the Lost Generation of the 1920s. Contents: Novels: The Great Gatsby The Side of Paradise Tender Is the Night The Beautiful and Damned The Love of the Last Tycoon Collections of Short Stories: Tales from the Jazz Age All the Sad Young Men The Pat Hobby Stories Taps at Reveille Flappers and Philosophers Plays and Screenplays: The Vegetable The Girl from Lazy J The Captured Shadow Coward Shadow Laurels Assorted Spirits Porcelain and Pink Three Comrades Mr. Icky Send me in, Coach" Infidelity Poetry: First Love Clay Feet Football For a Long Illness Fragment Marching Streets (1919 version) Marching Streets (1945 version) Lamp in the Window Oh, Sister, Can you spare you heart Oh Misseldine's Princeton - The Last Day The Staying up all night The Rope at Confession Thousand-and-First Ship Our April Letter One Southern Girl To Boath Rain Before Dawn Articles: The Claims of the Lit Contemporary Writers and Their Work Who's Who — and Why What I Was Advised to Do — and Didn't" Some Stories They Like to Tell Again 10 Best Books I Have Read The Pampered Men How to Live on \$36,000 a Year How to Live on Practically Nothing a Year How to Waste Material Princeton Ten Years in the Advertising Business Echoes of the Jazz Age My Lost City One Hundred False Starts Ring Sleeping and Waking My Ten Favorite Plays The Crack-up Pasting It Together Handle with Care Author's House Afternoon of an Author Early Success Preface My Generation Letters To Zelda Fitzgerald To Ernest Hemingway To Frances Scott Fitzgerald To Maxwell Perkins To John Peale Bishop To Mrs Bayard Turnbull ...

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