



The Beautiful and the Damned

By Francis Scott Fitzgerald

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The novel provides a portrait of the Eastern elite during the Jazz Age, exploring New York Café Society. As with his other novels, Fitzgerald's characters are complex, especially in their marriage and intimacy, much like how he treats intimacy in *Tender Is the Night*. The book is believed to be largely based on Fitzgerald's relationship and marriage with Zelda Fitzgerald.

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The Beautiful and the Damned By Francis Scott Fitzgerald Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

How can a reader not lose patience with Anthony and Gloria Patch, the "beautiful couple," as they squander their money, idle away their days, and drink themselves into blissful oblivion? Although the obvious parallel between the fictional Patches and the real-life Fitzgeralds is somewhat intriguing, anyone reading the book would be sorely tempted to close it long before the final scenes of degradation. Not so, however, with the audiobook. Peter Marinker's sympathetic narration is so effective that the listener, gradually and almost reluctantly, begins to feel a measure of compassion for Gloria and Anthony--almost as if they are naive children who can't understand what is happening to them or why. Marinker's rendition of Gloria's soft voice is especially persuasive. By the end, it seems as if Fitzgerald's flawed second novel has been redeemed by audio. For most serious literature collections.

Jo Carr, Sarasota, Fla.

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Review

'Cambridge editions of [Fitzgerald's] works contribute to such an intricate access through their wealthy textual apparatus, explanatory notes, and background materials.' Stefan L. Brandt, John F. Kennedy-Institut, Berlin

From the Inside Flap

Following the great critical and financial success of his first novel, *This Side of Paradise*, F. Scott Fitzgerald published *The Beautiful and the Damned* in 1922. An immediate success upon its first publication, Fitzgerald's second novel is a dazzling portrait of love and life among the beautiful people. Through the story of two newlyweds, Anthony Patch of New York and Gloria Gilbert of Kansas City, Fitzgerald flawlessly captures the heady atmosphere and jaded values of the Jazz Age. Patch, expecting to become the sole heir to his grandfather's millions, embraces a life of endless parties and intellectual pretensions. In Gloria, he finds an exquisite ornament and a passionate lover. The couple whirls through days that mirror Fitzgerald's own--a fast life amid a smart set for which there is never enough cash. Beginning with wit and clever repartee, *The Beautiful and the Damned* quickly becomes a scathing chronicle of a dying marriage and a hedonistic society where beauty is all too fleeting. Through the character of Richard Caramel, a successful hack writer whose talent fails as he prospers, Fitzgerald caricatures himself. But today's readers will find an even more poignant self-portrait of Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda in Anthony and Gloria, a couple whose days of wine and roses fade quickly toward a tragic end.

Users Review

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Lisa Auyeung:

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Doris Stanford:

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Lawrence Fox:

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Ronda Powers:

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