

F. No. 3180

19 (6)

**AMERICAN SOCIETY IN THE FICTION OF  
F. SCOTT FITZGERALD**

**ABSTRACT**

SUBMITTED TO

**CH. CHARAN SINGH UNIVERSITY, MEERUT**

FOR THE AWARD OF THE DEGREE OF

**DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY**

IN

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**



*Bindu Karanwal*  
*Supervisor :*

**Dr. BINDU KARANWAL**  
Associate Professor  
Dept. of English  
S.D. College, Ghaziabad

*Vaishali Jain*  
*Submitted by:*

**VAISHALI JAIN**  
Research Scholar  
Dept. of English  
S.D. College, Ghaziabad

2019

Life and death are the cycles of life. One, who is born, will have to die one day, surely. No one in the universe is able to prevent the death. In short it can be stated over here that death is a universal truth. Moreover it is impartial too. However in rare cases, it makes an intellectual re-live instead of sleeping. Rare and unique gems get another life after death. Such type of people remains evergreen in the mind as well as in the hearts of others. It would never get hyperbolic to write that death turns them in always memorable ones through their writings. And F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of such kind of gems.

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was a great South American author. He was born in 1896 in St. Paul, Minnesota into a Catholic, middle-class family. The family, although considered respectable, had financial difficulties all through Scott's childhood. In school Scott was mainly preoccupied with football, dreaming of name and fame in the field but he had little success. He was, in fact, very unpopular in school, considered by his peers to be boastful, a coward and a bully. On the whole, his reputation was not that of a good student.

At school he used to write the stories of his own interest in the home work and consequently his scholastic result was utterly poor. Scott was determined to study at Princeton University and explained his reasons as he

thought of Princeton as being lazy and good looking and aristocratic like a spring day. However, his entrance examinations did not go well, but in the personal interview he managed to persuade the officials not to reject him on his birthday. Another problem in his way was money. An inheritance left to his mother made the studies possible.

In Princeton Scott wanted to be the big man on campus and to fulfill his dream he turned to the college humor magazine. Another one of his interest was a student club that wrote and performed musical comedies. He devoted more and more time to extra-curricular activities than study and instead of following the advice of his professors, he preferred to read according to his own tastes. The lyrics he wrote for the musical comedies brought him the popularity he had dream of but, on the other hand, his academic record was nearly disastrous.

After some time, he fell in love with Ginevra King. She was rich, beautiful, popular and sophisticated sixteen-year-old. But the romance ended partly because he was considered too poor for her and partly because she did not share the intensity of his emotions. In 1918 he met Zelda Sayre, a celebrated local beauty. She came from a respectable, though not wealthy family and was known for her wild behavior. They fell in love almost immediately and soon got engaged. However Zelda began to have doubts

because of his insecure future and she eventually broke off their engagement. After this break-up, Fitzgerald was entirely crushed and returned to his hometown. And now he chose the way of writing as a source of earning money for getting name, fame as well as Zelda. From now onwards, he had to face a number of hindrances in his professional as well as married life. Struggling with the problems with the passage of time, he suffered from the heart problem. Moreover he had also been addicted to drinking. Consequently, in 1940 he suffered a fatal heart attack and died at home just at the age of forty-four. The following words are written on Fitzgerald's tomb-

*"So We Beat On Boats Against The Current.*

*Borne Back Ceaselessly Into The Past."*

Actually Fitzgerald was a great individual. He is regarded as the representative of the Jazz Age. In the forties, the public opinion seemed to be that Fitzgerald never fulfilled the promise of his early talent. F. Scott Fitzgerald began to interest the public again in the fifties, when the collection of his short stories, as well as two biographies, one by Sheilah Graham, were published. His literary reputation rose gradually after his death along with the interest in his life and work and today Fitzgerald is

widely regarded as one of the most significant writers of the 20<sup>th</sup> century America.

Actually Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was the great representative writer of the contemporary American society. And its proof can transparently be seen in his great novels as well as in short stories. Undoubtedly his works provide us the true and life-like picture of the 20<sup>th</sup> century American society, where the various kinds of characters are portrayed by the author as they were of real contemporary society. Fitzgerald reflects through his works the features of the contemporary age. In 1929 during depression, there was a great stock market crash. Only a few months earlier economic experts had predicted the era of prosperity to continue. Herbert Hoover became the President at this time, just before the crash in the spring of 1929, when the future still looked bright. His administration did what it considered best but the result could only be called a failure. When Franklin D. Roosevelt became President in 1933, the banks had been closed and economy was at its lowest point. He immediately started his famous New Deal Program to make the nation recover from the crash. It did help the country significantly but the depression was not really over until the break of the Second World War.