

TENDER IS THE NIGHT

by F. Scott Fitzgerald



THE AUTHOR

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was born in St. Paul, Minnesota, the namesake and second cousin three times removed of the author of the National Anthem. Fitzgerald's given names indicate his parents' pride in his father's ancestry. His father, Edward, was from Maryland, with an allegiance to the Old South and its values. Fitzgerald's mother, Mary (Mollie) McQuillan, was the daughter of an Irish immigrant who became wealthy as a wholesale grocer in St. Paul. Both were Catholics.

During 1911-1913 he attended the Newman School, a Catholic prep school in New Jersey, where he met Father Sigourney Fay, who encouraged his ambitions for personal distinction and achievement. As a member of the Princeton Class of 1917, Fitzgerald neglected his studies for his literary apprenticeship. He wrote the scripts and lyrics for the Princeton Triangle Club musicals and was a contributor to the Princeton Tiger humor magazine and the Nassau Literary Magazine. On academic probation and unlikely to graduate, Fitzgerald joined the army in 1917 and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry. Convinced that he would die in the war, he rapidly wrote a novel, *The Romantic Egotist*, which, after being rejected twice, was published in 1920 as *This Side of Paradise*.

In June 1918 Fitzgerald was assigned to Camp Sheridan, near Montgomery, Alabama. There he fell in love with a celebrated belle, eighteen-year-old Zelda Sayre, the youngest daughter of an Alabama Supreme Court judge. The war ended just before he was to be sent overseas; after his discharge in 1919 he went to New York City to seek his fortune in order to marry. Unwilling to wait while Fitzgerald succeeded in the advertisement business and unwilling to live on his small salary, Zelda broke their engagement.

In the fall-winter of 1919 Fitzgerald commenced his career as a writer of stories for the mass-circulation magazines. *The Saturday Evening Post* became Fitzgerald's best story market. His early commercial stories about young love introduced a fresh character: the independent, determined young American woman who appeared in "The Offshore Pirate" and "Bernice Bobs Her Hair." Fitzgerald's more ambitious stories, such as "May Day" and "The Diamond as Big as the Ritz," were published in *The Smart Set*, which had a small circulation.

The publication of *This Side of Paradise* on March 26, 1920, made the twenty-four-year-old Fitzgerald famous almost overnight, and a week later he married Zelda in New York. They embarked on an extravagant life as young celebrities. Fitzgerald endeavored to earn a solid literary reputation, but his playboy image impeded the proper assessment of his work. After a riotous summer in Westport, Connecticut, the Fitzgeralds took an apartment in New York City. When Zelda became pregnant, they took their first trip to Europe in 1921 and then settled in St. Paul for the birth of their only child. Frances Scott (Scottie) Fitzgerald was born in October 1921.

Fitzgerald expected to become affluent from his play, *The Vegetable*; in the fall of 1922 they moved to Great Neck, Long Island, in order to be near Broadway. The political satire - subtitled "From President to Postman" - failed at its tryout in November 1923, and Fitzgerald wrote his way out of debt with short stories. The distractions of Great Neck and New York prevented Fitzgerald from making progress on his third novel. During this time his drinking increased. Fitzgerald was an alcoholic, but he wrote sober. Zelda regularly got "tight," but she was not an alcoholic. There were frequent domestic rows, usually triggered by drinking bouts.

Literary opinion makers were reluctant to accord Fitzgerald full marks as a serious craftsman. His reputation as a drinker inspired the myth that he was an irresponsible writer, but he was a painstaking reviser whose fiction went through layers of drafts. The chief theme of Fitzgerald's work is aspiration - the idealism he regarded as defining American character. Another major theme was mutability or loss. As a social historian Fitzgerald became identified with "The Jazz Age": "It was an age of miracles, it was an age of art, it was an age of excess, and it was an age of satire."

The Fitzgeralds went to France in the spring of 1924 seeking tranquillity for his work. He wrote *The Great Gatsby* during the summer and fall in Valescure near St. Raphael, but the marriage was damaged by Zelda's involvement with a French naval aviator. The extent of the affair - if it was in fact consummated - is not known. The Fitzgeralds spent the winter of 1924-1925 in Rome, where he revised *The Great Gatsby*; they were en route to Paris when the novel was published in April. *The Great Gatsby* marked a striking advance in Fitzgerald's technique, utilizing a complex structure and a controlled narrative point of view. Fitzgerald's achievement received critical praise, but sales of *Gatsby* were disappointing, though the stage and movie rights brought additional income. Meanwhile, Zelda's unconventional behavior became increasingly eccentric. In April 1930 she suffered her first breakdown. Zelda was treated at Prangins clinic in Switzerland until September 1931, while Fitzgerald lived in Swiss hotels. Work on his next novel was again suspended as he wrote short stories to pay for psychiatric treatment.

The Fitzgeralds returned to America in the fall of 1931 and rented a house in Montgomery. Fitzgerald made a second unsuccessful trip to Hollywood in 1931. Zelda suffered a relapse in February 1932 and entered Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. She spent the rest of her life as a resident or outpatient of sanitariums. Fitzgerald rented a house outside Baltimore where he completed his fourth novel, *Tender Is the Night*, on which he had been working intermittently since 1925. Published in 1934, his most ambitious novel was a commercial failure and its merits were matters of critical dispute. Set in France during the 1920s, *Tender Is the Night* examines the deterioration of Dick Diver, a brilliant American psychiatrist, during the course of his marriage to a wealthy mental patient.

Fitzgerald went to Hollywood alone in the summer of 1937, where he fell in love with movie columnist Sheilah Graham. Their relationship endured despite his benders. After MGM dropped his option at the end of 1938, Fitzgerald worked as a freelance scriptwriter and wrote short-short stories for *Esquire*. He began his Hollywood novel, *The Love of the Last Tycoon*, in 1939 and had written more than half of a working draft when he died of a heart attack in Graham's apartment on December 21, 1940. Zelda Fitzgerald perished in a fire in Highland Hospital in 1948.

PLOT SUMMARY

BOOK I

Chapter 1 - The story begins in 1925 at Gausse's Hotel des Etrangers, five miles from Cannes on the French Riviera. An American woman, Mrs. Hoyt, and her seventeen-year-old daughter Rosemary arrive at the hotel. Once they are settled, Rosemary goes swimming and is soon addressed by people who recognize her as a famous actress. They warn her to watch out for sunburn.

Chapter 2 - Rosemary finds their company unwelcome and tries to avoid them, first by swimming out to a raft and then by falling asleep on the beach. When she wakes, she sees a fascinating man with whom she is now alone, the handsome Dick Diver.

Chapter 3 - At lunch that day, Rosemary tells her mother that she has fallen in love on the beach, though unfortunately the man in question is married. The next day she and her mother take a drive in a rented car, and she looks forward to going to the beach again the following morning.

Chapter 4 - As soon as she arrives at the beach, Dick Diver invites her to spend the day with him, his wife Nicole, and their friends. They begin looking through the society pages of the newspaper and making fun of the odd names of the foreign guests in the local hotels. Soon the crowd that Rosemary sought to avoid two days earlier arrives. Dick wants to invite them to dinner, but Nicole refuses. By the end of the day, Rosemary is even more convinced that she is in love with Driver.

Chapter 5 - The next day, Rosemary and her mother go to Monte Carlo and visit a movie set where Earl Brady is directing a film. He tells Rosemary that he wants her in his next picture, but she is noncommittal, as her mother instructed her to be.

Chapter 6 - After lunch, Nicole Diver takes a walk in her garden. Dick goes down to his workroom, and on the way tells Nicole that he intends to organize a party and hopes that it will be truly horrible. That evening, he greets the guests as they arrive, including Rosemary, her mother, and Earl Brady. Brady, who knows the family well, asks the two Diver children to sing a song for him. The rest soon arrive, including those Rosemary sought out and those she despised. On the way to dinner, she takes a moment to tell Dick that she fell in love with him the first time she saw him. Rosemary was seated next to Brady at dinner, but she ignores him, only having eyes for Dick Diver.

Chapter 7 - As dinner proceeds, Rosemary gives her attention one by one to each of the guests around the table, commenting on them in her mind. After dinner she hopes to get Dick alone, but is interrupted when Violet McKisco, a rude and self-centered woman, comes rushing from the house eager to talk about a scene she witnessed upstairs.

Chapter 8 - Dick appears and defuses the tension that exists, then draws Rosemary aside. He tells her that he and Nicole would like to invite her to join them on a trip to Paris, and that her mother has already agreed. Soon the party is over and the guests depart. On the way back to the hotel, Rosemary sees the other car carrying guests stopped by the side of the road and hears a violent argument.

Chapter 9 - Rosemary's mother gives her permission to pursue the relationship with Dick in any direction she chooses, and that night she lies awake imagining that she is kissing him. She finally gives up trying to sleep and goes out on the terrace, where she finds Luis Campion, another of the party guests, in tears. He finally tells her that as a result of the quarrel in the car, McKisco and Tommy Barban are going to fight a duel.

Chapter 10 - Abe North, another one of the guests, tells Rosemary the story. Apparently Violet McKisco insisted on telling the people in her car what she had seen upstairs in the Divers residence, and Tommy Barban tried to stop her. McKisco called Tommy a bully, and words passed to actions when Tommy challenged McKisco to a duel. Abe and Rosemary go upstairs and find McKisco in a horrible state, writing a letter to his wife because he is convinced that he is going to die. Abe, who is to be McKisco's second, tries to reassure him by telling him that the distance has been arranged for forty paces, and at that distance the chance of getting hit is slim indeed.

Chapter 11 - Campion tries to get Rosemary to go to see the duel, but she has no desire to do so. Her mother, however, encourages her to expose herself to new experiences. By the time the principals are ready to commence the duel, McKisco is drunk and Barban is furious. Given the long distance, no one is surprised that both men miss. Afterwards, McKisco brags about his courage, Campion is sick in the bushes, and Rosemary laughs uproariously at the farcical nature of it all.

Chapter 12 - Dick, Rosemary, and some of the others are in a restaurant in Paris waiting for Nicole to arrive; they are debating whether or not Dick is the only American man with "repose." Nicole arrives and they have lunch. When Rosemary goes into the hallway to make a phone call, she hears Dick and Nicole making an assignation for that afternoon. The desperation of their longing for one another surprises her. After lunch she and Nicole go shopping and Rosemary is astounded that Nicole buys far more than she could ever use. At the appointed time, Nicole leaves for the hotel.

Chapter 13 - One day the friends visit some of the trenches left behind by the First World War and Dick describes trench warfare to the uninitiated. Rosemary is falling more and more in love with him by the day.

Chapter 14 - That night back in Paris Nicole turns in early, Abe North gets drunk, and Rosemary has her first glass of champagne after announcing that the day before had been her eighteenth birthday. Dick insists that they will have a party for her at a restaurant the next night.

Chapter 15 - On the way back to the hotel, Dick and Rosemary kiss in the taxi. She invites him into her hotel room and tries to seduce him, but he resists, giving her reason after reason why sex would not be a good idea for them.

Chapter 16 - Rosemary's shame at her failed seduction of Dick Diver is not improved any by the reception of a letter from the boy who took her to the Yale prom the year before announcing that he had arrived in Paris. When she and Nicole continue their meanderings around the city, she for the first time feels jealousy. When the Divers and the Norths and Rosemary are joined that afternoon by Collis Clay, Rosemary's former boyfriend, she becomes more convinced than ever that Dick is falling in love with her, especially when they sit beside one another in a dark theater watching *Daddy's Girl*, the film that made Rosemary famous. The movie makes them all weep, and Dick is astounded at Rosemary's talent, though the sentimental ending makes the psychologist in him cringe. Rosemary then announces that she has arranged for Dick to take a screen test, but he immediately refuses. Later she and Dick stop at the address of a man from whom Nicole wants to buy pictures.

Chapter 17 - They enter the apartment briefly, and Rosemary finds it exceedingly strange. They leave five minutes later, and in the taxi Dick admits that he has fallen in love with Rosemary, though he doubts that this is a good thing, and they kiss hungrily. By the time they get to the hotel, he warns her that Nicole must never know of their love, because Dick and his wife are committed to one another and nothing can change that. Dick tells her that his relationship with his wife is complicated and that they were responsible for the silly duel between Barban and McKisco. They kiss repeatedly and part outside Rosemary's room.

Chapter 18 - That night Dick throws a party, and Rosemary marvels at the smoothness with which the evening appears to be organized. She has eyes only for Dick, however, and thinks about nothing but him all night long.

Chapter 19 - The Divers and Rosemary go to the train station the next morning to see the Abe North off. Abe is hung over and miserable. The farewells are interrupted when an acquaintance of Nicole's, a young woman, pulls out a gun and shoots a young Frenchman. Dick immediately insists on going to the police station to try to help her out, but Nicole steps in and calls the woman's sister, who lives in Paris.

Chapter 20 - Later that afternoon Rosemary goes to meet someone at her studio and Nicole returns to the hotel. Before Dick can follow, he is approached by Collis Clay, who soon begins to ramble about Rosemary and some of her more salacious adventures in New Haven. Strangely, this makes Dick jealous. After going to the post office and the bank, Dick takes a taxi to Rosemary's studio.

Chapter 21 - After forty-five minutes of pacing in front of the studio, Dick is accosted by a rude American, whom he soon shakes, but then decides that he somehow missed Rosemary. When he calls the hotel, he and Rosemary express their desire to be together, but Dick thinks better of it. When he gets there, he and Nicole decide to go to dinner and a play.

Chapter 22 - Nicole is awakened the next morning by a gendarme looking for Abe North. She tells him that he left for America, but he insists that Abe was seen earlier that morning in the hotel, which turns out to be true. Totally confused, Nicole decides to go shopping with Rosemary. When they get back to the hotel, Dick is trying unsuccessfully to sort out Abe's problem, but gaining no idea of what that problem might be.

Chapter 23 - Abe North, meanwhile, spends most of the day getting thoroughly drunk in the bar of the Ritz.

Chapter 24 - Late that afternoon Dick takes a taxi back to the hotel and goes to Rosemary's room, where she sits on his lap as the two kiss passionately. They are interrupted by a knock on the door. When they open it, they find Abe North and a colored man named Jules Peterson who are in need of Dick's help. Abe, in his earlier drunken stupor, believed that he had been robbed by a Negro. He identified the wrong man several times, and the involvement of the police had complicated matters further. Peterson had offered assistance, and now the falsely accused men were after *him*. Dick finally manages to get rid of them.

Chapter 25 - When Rosemary returns to her room, she finds Peterson dead on her bed. She screams and rushes to find Dick. He calls Nicole and tells her to get a blanket, which he uses to move the body into the hall. He knows that if the death is connected to Rosemary in any way that her career will be ruined. He then calls the hotel manager, insisting that his name be kept out of any investigation. The manager brings a gendarme and they take the body into a nearby room. When Dick goes back to his room, Rosemary overhears strange noises. She enters to see Nicole in the bathroom, raving in a total mental breakdown. Now Rosemary knows what Violet McKisco saw at the Divers' home on the Riviera.

BOOK II

Chapter 1 - This chapter begins a flashback into the earlier life of Dick Diver. He was a graduate of Johns Hopkins, a Rhodes Scholar, and spent most of the First World War studying in Zurich. He met Freud in Vienna, finished his graduate degree in psychology, then served briefly in a neurological unit behind the lines. When the war ended, he returned to Zurich and completed a short book.

Chapter 2 - He met Nicole in a clinic in 1918, not knowing that she was a patient. For the next eight months they corresponded. Initially her letters clearly were the product of a disturbed mind, but after the armistice her missives were not only normal, but intensely intelligent.

Chapter 3 - When one of the doctors at the clinic found out about the burgeoning relationship between Dick and Nicole, he told Dick Nicole's story. She was raised by her widowed father in Chicago and seemed to be a normal, bright girl. At the age of fifteen, she began to make frequent accusations about men trying to take advantage of her - often people she didn't even know. By the time she was sixteen, her father could do nothing with her and took her to the clinic in Switzerland, where she was diagnosed with schizophrenia. Finally her father admitted that they had an incestuous relationship, though it only happened once.

Chapter 4 - The clinic agreed to take Nicole as a patient as long as her father promised to have no contact with her for five years, and the correspondence with Dick served as an indicator of her progress. When his friend Franz Gregorovius, a doctor at the clinic, asked Dick what he planned to do, he said he had been offered a job at a nearby clinic, but that ultimately he wanted to be the greatest psychologist in the world.

Chapter 5 - Dick's friend left when Nicole came out, and the two took a walk around the grounds. He was captivated by her beauty and innocence and began to visit regularly. She played her phonograph records for him and sang simple songs of her childhood, and he had eyes and ears only for her.

Chapter 6 - A few weeks later he took her to a luncheon in Zurich and found himself getting jealous when other men looked at her. He discovered that she was rich since the death of her grandmother, and she delighted in buying new clothes and showing them off to him. Franz recognized that Nicole was in love with Dick and suggested that he pursue a relationship with her as a sort of scientific study of transference. The head of the clinic was opposed to the experiment, certain that it would be harmful to Nicole if the relationship were ever broken. He recommended that either Dick or Nicole leave Zurich, but Dick admitted that he not only had fallen in love with her, but that he was considering marrying her.

Chapter 7 - After Dick left Franz, he went outside and found Nicole waiting for him. The two took a walk and Dick, trying to maintain a polite distance, encouraged her to return to America, marry, and raise a family. She was clearly disappointed at this advice, and when they returned to the clinic, she went to her room and refused to come down for dinner.

Chapter 8 - For the next few weeks Dick avoided Nicole and did his best to think of her in clinical fashion, but found that his emotions would not allow him to retain such cold detachment. He then tried to distract himself by researching another book. He then began to travel around Switzerland until at Montreux he surprisingly encountered Nicole in a cable car, accompanied by the Count of Marmora. Nicole introduced Dick to her sister Beth, known as Baby, and they invited him to dinner, but he declined, though he could not help but sense the power of Nicole's love for him.

Chapter 9 - Dick joined them after dinner and Baby Warren pulled him aside and asked him about Nicole's condition. He assured her that her sister was cured and that she should anticipate behavior that was eccentric, not crazy. She asked Dick's opinion about her plan to take Nicole back home and fix her up with one of the doctors at the University of Chicago, where her father had considerable influence. While they talked Nicole disappeared, and Dick went off to find her. She was outside by the lake, and while they were alone, she asked if he would ever consider marrying her had she not gotten sick. He tried to deflect her question with humor, but soon they were kissing. Suddenly a thunderstorm broke across the mountain and they rushed inside, soaking wet. The next morning Dick climbed on the mountain and rode his bicycle to the bottom. When he got to the hotel, he found a note from Nicole telling how much she had enjoyed their brief interlude, and one from Baby, asking Dick to accompany Nicole back to Zurich. By the time they arrived, he knew that whatever the future held, it held for both of them.

Chapter 10 - The chapter moves rapidly from a conversation between Dick and Baby about his marriage to Nicole to the successful publication of his book to Nicole's pregnancy with their firstborn son to their travels around the Mediterranean to the birth of their second, a little girl, to the purchase of a house on the Riviera to the gathering of the friends we met in Book I to the arrival of Rosemary Hoyt and her mother, thus bringing the flashback to an abrupt end.

Chapter 11 - Dick is eating lunch with Rosemary's mother and discussing the events in Paris. She tells him that she has never seen Rosemary so much in love with anyone before and that she gave her full permission to follow her heart. In any case, they plan to sail for America the next day. Dick then surprises himself by admitting to Mrs. Speers that he loves her daughter. The next day, as Dick and Nicole travel by train, they discuss Rosemary, "each speaking for the other," with Nicole praising her virtues while Dick emphasizes her weaknesses. Dick is becoming increasingly annoyed with Nicole, whom he thinks ought to recognize the signs of her occasional relapses; she had gone through a serious period of depression after the birth of their daughter, but the two recent episodes, coming so quickly on the heels of one another, were disturbing enough that Dick felt himself distancing himself from his wife.

Chapter 12 - Dick becomes increasingly uncomfortable about their financial situation. Nicole's income continues to grow as her share of the family fortune increases, while his remains moderate at best. His efforts to maintain financial independence from his wife prove futile, as she insists on using her vast resources for his benefit as well as hers. Toward the end of the year she shows signs of improvement in her condition, and they decide to spend Christmas skiing in Gstaad in the Swiss Alps.

Chapter 13 - Baby joins them at the resort. Dick is met there by his friend from the clinic in Zurich, Franz Gregorovius, who proposes that he and Dick go into business together by purchasing a clinic on the Zugersee, the current owner of which is retiring. Dick asks about the financial end of the deal and Franz admits that it would cost \$220,000, none of which he is in a position to contribute. Dick tells him that he does not have anywhere near that much money, though both of them know that Nicole does. Baby encourages him to go for it, thinking that having Nicole living at a clinic would be a good idea, but Dick has no intention of taking advantage of the Warren fortune. By the time they leave Gstaad, however, he is seriously thinking of taking Franz up on his offer.

Chapter 14 - After a year and a half heading up his own clinic on the Zugersee, Dick has still been unable really to reach Nicole. She shows few outward signs of her illness, but is emotionally dependent on him in ways he is unable to fathom. The clinic is attractive, not at all institutional, and Dick spends the morning making his daily rounds.

Chapter 15 - After having lunch with the patients, Dick goes home to find Nicole in a foul mood. She has just received a letter from a former patient who accuses Dick of trying to seduce her daughter (the daughter had tried to start an affair with him and become angry when he rejected her). That afternoon they take the children to a fair, but Nicole remains distant. Suddenly she runs away and Dick goes after her. When he catches up to her, a crowd has gathered, observing her hysteria. When Dick asks why she ran away, she says that a teenage girl looked at him flirtatiously; she is increasingly overwhelmed with jealousy. After shouting nonsense, she realizes what she has been doing and begs Dick for help. On the way home, Nicole grabs the steering wheel and causes an accident, the car swerving out of control and rolling down the mountain to come to rest against a tree. No one is hurt, but Nicole shows no awareness of the dangerous way in which she had put herself and her whole family at risk.

Chapter 16 - Three months later, Nicole seems to have settled down and Dick asks Franz for a month leave of absence, intending to leave Nicole and the children at the clinic. He leaves for the

Psychiatric Congress in Berlin, though he has no intention of attending any of the sessions. As he travels, he daydreams of far-off places and lovely young women.

Chapter 17 - At a stop in Munich he finds Tommy Barban, one of his friends from the Riviera, who tells him a tale about he and a Russian prince escaping the Communists by killing three border guards. Then he informs Dick that Abe North is dead, beaten to death in a speakeasy in New York.

Chapter 18 - He stops next in Innsbruck, and as he wanders the streets, he thinks of his life with Nicole and the toll it has taken on him. The next day he goes mountain climbing, but is stopped by a sudden storm. That night he receives a telegram telling him that his father has peacefully passed away at the age of seventy-five in Buffalo. Sorry at having left his father to die alone, he plans a trip to America.

Chapter 19 - Upon arrival in Buffalo, he takes his father's body to be buried in the family graveyard in Virginia. On the voyage back to Europe he encounters the Albert and Violet McKisco; Albert is now a successful if pedestrian novelist. He switches to a train that takes him to Rome, where he finds the person he is looking for - Rosemary, who is there making a movie. They had not seen one another for four years. On the way up to Rosemary's room, he encounters Collis Clay, who tells him that Rosemary has become quite the woman of the world.

Chapter 20 - Once in her room, they kiss passionately and wind up tangled together on the bed. Rosemary stops the inevitable, however, suggesting that despite all her worldly experience, she is still a virgin. The moment having passed, they go out for a walk. The next morning she takes him to the set to watch a morning's filming, then they have lunch and go back to the hotel, where their romance is consummated at last.

Chapter 21 - That night he runs into Baby Warren, who asks him if Nicole is with him. They have dinner together and Dick tells her about Nicole's deteriorating condition. She encourages him to get her out of the clinic and take a house in London where they would be surrounded by sane people, advice that he has no intention of taking. The next day he has lunch with Rosemary, after which he asks her for the truth about her love life. She dances around the question, then admits that her leading man in the movie has proposed to her. She doesn't love him, and Dick soon realizes that he and Rosemary don't love one another anymore either.

Chapter 22 - That night Dick and Collis Clay have a drink together. While they are at the bar he receives a note from Rosemary inviting him up to her room, but he ignores it. They then go to a cabaret, where Dick is miserable. Half drunk, he gets into an argument with a cab driver and winds up at the police station, where he punches a police lieutenant and finds himself in a cell, bruised and battered. He then sends a message to Baby Warren.

Chapter 23 - Baby rushes to the jail, then to the American embassy, then to the Consulate, and gets no satisfaction in any of those places. Finally she looks up Collis Clay, who is badly hung over from the night before, and he accompanies her to the jail, where they are permitted to see Dick. While Baby tries to locate the Consul and a doctor, Clay stays with Dick. When the Consul finally arrives, Baby bullies him into dealing with Dick's situation, and he is soon free from the authorities. He goes back to the hotel, where a doctor treats his broken nose and ribs and puts a dressing on his eye. For

some strange reason Baby is pleased by all of this, certain that she will forever after have moral superiority over her sister's husband.

BOOK III

Chapter 1 - While Dick is away, Franz is charged with keeping an eye on Nicole, and his wife Kaethe, who doesn't like Nicole in any case, becomes jealous. When Dick returns, she turns on him, insisting to Franz that Dick has "been on a debauch" and is no longer good for the clinic's reputation. Franz defends his friend, but gradually comes to believe that his wife is right.

Chapter 2 - Dick lies to Nicole about the incident in Rome and proceeds to throw himself energetically into his work at the clinic. Dick is distraught when one of his patients dies, and Franz sends him to Lausanne to deal with a problem case there. A Chilean man is concerned about his son, who is an alcoholic and a homosexual. While Dick is dealing with the boy, whom he knows he is unable to help, he is interrupted by the news that Nicole's father is dying and is in fact in Lausanne at that moment. Warren is only fifty years old, but has drunk himself to death by ruining his liver and has only days to live. Warren wants to see Nicole before he dies, but Dick wonders if she is able to handle the renewed contact. He calls Franz for his opinion, but gets Kaethe instead. She promptly tells Nicole, who leaves immediately for Lausanne. Just as Dick receives a phone call from Franz, a nurse rushes in to tell him that Mr. Warren has fled the hospital and is on his way to Paris. When Dick meets Nicole, he doesn't know what to tell her.

Chapter 3 - A week later, the father of one of Dick's patients angrily removes him from the clinic because the young man smelled liquor on Dick's breath. He had been committed for kleptomania, but the father insists that drink was behind his condition and is furious that Dick would reek of alcohol while treating him. After the family leaves, Dick takes an honest look at himself and realizes that he is drinking too much. When Franz arrives, the two come to a mutual agreement that Dick should leave the practice by the end of the year.

Chapter 4 - Dick and his family then return to the Riviera. Dick does little work, spends a lot of time with the children, and meanwhile their fortune continues to increase. At one point they visit Mary North, who has remarried some sort of Eastern potentate. Dick is less than courteous, and Nicole worries that he has been drinking too much again. An incident of misunderstanding involving the children causes a breach in the relationship between Mary and the Divers, and they leave on less than good terms.

Chapter 5 - Back on the Riviera that winter, Nicole awakes one morning to find Dick and the cook in a violent argument about alcohol consumption; he accuses her of drinking the vintage wines while she tells him he is drunk all the time. He fires the woman, but pays her off to keep her from attacking him with a knife and hatchet. That night they wonder what has happened to their marriage and if they are really happy. They decide to visit the yacht of an acquaintance to find out if he and his friends are truly happy. There they unexpectedly encounter Tommy Barban. During dinner, Dick gets drunk again and offends one of the guests, who was seeking a quarrel in any case. Dick then wanders off, and Nicole goes looking for him. When she finds him, the two semi-jokingly talk of jumping overboard because they are both ruined souls.

Chapter 6 - Tommy Barban drives the Divers home and stays the night. The next morning Nicole fantasizes about having an affair with him, knowing that he has always loved her. She and Dick become increasingly distant, but neither knows what to do about it. A week later, they get a telegram from Rosemary telling them that she will be in the neighborhood.

Chapter 7 - Even without the reappearance of Rosemary, Nicole fears what Dick might do next. The next day they meet Rosemary at the beach, and Nicole notices that Dick seems to emerge from his depression in her presence. Rosemary suggests they go aquaplaning behind a speedboat owned by a friend of hers, and Dick readily agrees. Nicole knows he is going to try to show off for Rosemary. He tries an old trick of lifting another man on his shoulders while riding the board, but fails three times. Later on the beach Dick is snubbed by Mary North and Rosemary remembers the rumors she heard about Dick no longer being received in polite social circles. Nicole becomes disgusted with the way Dick is playing up to Rosemary and leaves the beach, drives herself home, and writes a provocative letter to Tommy Barban. The next morning, Dick drives up to Provence for a few days and Nicole gets a note informing her that Tommy is driving down to see her.

Chapter 8 - Nicole does everything she can to make herself beautiful for Tommy's arrival. She is determined to have an affair with him. After lunch they kiss, then take a drive along the coast, where they stop at a small hotel. They quickly get on to the business at hand. They have dinner in Monte Carlo, then enjoy a moonlight swim before Tommy takes her back home.

Chapter 9 - Dick arrives home the next afternoon. He tells Nicole that he dropped Rosemary off at Avignon and she tells him that she and Tommy went dancing together. Neither really wants to know the truth about what the other had done. After Dick goes to his workshop, Tommy calls, trying to convince Nicole to leave Dick and meet him, but she puts him off. She realizes happily that she is no longer under Dick's control, but feels guilty at the same time for pushing aside all he has done for her. She goes to the workshop and finds him brooding and angry. He suspects what she's been up to, and she relishes her freedom from him as a sort of victory. He strangely feels free as well, and by the time she leaves the shop, their relationship is irrevocably broken.

Chapter 10 - The police call in the middle of the night. Mary North and her friend are in some sort of trouble and want Dick to bail them out. They had foolishly decided to dress as men and pick up a couple of silly French girls, who on discovering the truth had started a row. Dick lies about the identities of the women, arranges to hush the whole thing up, and offers large bribes to everyone involved.

Chapter 11 - The next day Dick and Nicole go to the hairdresser's to have their hair done. While they are being attended to, Tommy Barban enters the establishment and demands to see both of them. They go to a nearby café, where Tommy bluntly tells Dick that Nicole no longer loves him, that he has always treated her as a patient. From Nicole's perspective, things have never been the same since Rosemary entered the picture. Tommy demands that Dick give Nicole a divorce, and Dick agrees.

Chapter 12 - The next day, his last on the Riviera before returning to America, Dick spends the day with his children. He then goes to the beach, where he sees Nicole, Baby, and Tommy in the

distance. Neither one shows any desire to approach the other. Even when Dick talks to Mary North, she wonders aloud about how much his drinking has affected him and his relationships.

Chapter 13 - Nicole marries Tommy and Dick goes to America, where he drifts from one small town in New York to another, never again finding the success he enjoyed in Switzerland.

MAJOR CHARACTERS

- Dick Diver - A brilliant American psychologist who deteriorates badly after marrying one of his patients, having an affair with a young actress, and gradually turning to drink.
- Nicole (Warren) Diver - Dick's wife, younger daughter of a wealthy family from Chicago, she struggles with mental illness after having been sexually abused by her father. Dick met her when she was a patient at a clinic in Switzerland and married her, convinced that she was cured.
- Beth "Baby" Warren - Nicole's elder sister, she is an Anglophile, highly conscious of her family's wealth and social position, and she despises Dick.
- Rosemary Hoyt - A beautiful young movie star who idolizes her mother. She falls in love with Dick and engages in a ruinous love affair with him.
- Elsie Speers - The widow of a doctor and Rosemary's mother, she has given her life to guiding her daughter's career.
- Tommy Barban - A former military officer who has long been in love with Nicole, he has an affair with her and eventually marries her after she divorces Dick.
- Abe North - Formerly a renowned musician, he squanders his talent through drink and eventually is murdered in a New York speakeasy.
- Mary North - Abe's wife, she is a social climber who marries Count Minghetti after Abe dies.
- Albert McKisco - An "ugly American" in France who fights an uneventful duel with Tommy Barban and later becomes a best-selling author.
- Collis Clay - A classmate of Rosemary's at Yale, the two used to date. He appears in her life periodically throughout the novel.
- Franz Gregorovius - A colleague of Dick's in Zurich who later opens a clinic with him.

NOTABLE QUOTATIONS

"I fell in love on the beach." (Rosemary, Book I, ch.3)

“Oh, she chose him, and Nicole, lifting her head saw her choose him, heard the little sigh at the fact that he was already possessed.” (Book I, ch.4)

“Rosemary thought she would not like to have Nicole for an enemy.” (Book I, ch.4)

“At that moment the Divers represented externally the exact furthest evolution of a class, so that most people seemed awkward beside them - in reality a qualitative change had already set in that was not at all apparent to Rosemary.” (Book I, ch.4)

“[Nicole] knew few words and believed in none, and in the world she was rather silent.” (Book I, ch.6)

“You were brought up to work - not especially to marry. Now you’ve found your first nut to crack, and it’s a good nut - go ahead and put whatever happens down to experience. Wound yourself or him - whatever happens it can’t spoil you because economically you’re a boy, not a girl.” (Elsie, Book I, ch.9)

“Their point of resemblance to each other and their difference from so many American women, lay in the fact that they were all happy to exist in a man’s world - they preserved their individuality through men and not by opposition to them.” (Book I, ch.12)

“The strongest guard is placed at the gateway to nothing. Maybe because the condition of emptiness is too shameful to be divulged.” (Dick, Book I, ch.16)

“Don’t you know you can’t do anything about people?” (Dick, Book I, ch.18)

“[Dick] knew that what he was doing now marked a turning point in his life - it was out of line with everything that had preceded it - even out of line with what effect he might hope to produce upon Rosemary.” (Book I, ch.20)

“Oh, we’re such *actors* - you and I.” (Rosemary, Book I, ch.24)

“In the dead white hours in Zurich staring into a stranger’s pantry across the upshine of a street-lamp, he used to think that he wanted to be good, he wanted to be kind, he wanted to be brave and wise, but it was all pretty difficult. He wanted to be loved, too, if he could fit it in.” (Book II, ch.4)

“The dualism in his views of her - that of the husband, that of the psychiatrist - was increasingly paralyzing his faculties.” (Book II, ch.15)

“A schizophrenic is well named as a split personality - Nicole was alternately a person to whom nothing need be explained and one to whom nothing *could* be explained.” (Book II, ch.15)

“Not without desperation he had long felt the ethics of his profession dissolving into a lifeless mass.” (Book III, ch.3)

“You ruined me, did you? Then we’re both ruined.” (Dick, Book III, ch.5)

“And suddenly, in the space of two minutes she achieved her victory and justified herself to herself without lie or subterfuge, cut the cord forever.” (Book III, ch.9)

ESSAY QUESTIONS

Discuss the following in a five-paragraph essay:

1. F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *Tender is the Night* is the story of the deterioration of Dick Diver from a brilliant upcoming psychiatrist in demand socially to a perpetual failure who cannot hold a steady job, but drifts from town to town in upstate New York. What is the main reason for Diver’s deterioration - his marriage to one of his mental patients, his infidelity with a young actress, his alcoholism, or something deeper in his character? Support your conclusion with specifics from the novel.
2. In F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *Tender is the Night*, the two central female characters, Nicole Diver and Rosemary Hoyt, are both independently wealthy and therefore are not attracted to Dick Diver based on financial considerations. Why is each woman attracted to him? What do the differences in their motivations indicate about their personalities and values? Are the frequent positive comments they make about one another real or feigned?
3. In F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *Tender is the Night*, young actress Rosemary Hoyt becomes a star through her role in a movie entitled *Daddy’s Girl*. What is the significance of this title in the context of the story? In your answer, consider both her relationship to her own father and her romance with Dick Diver.
4. F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *Tender is the Night* is punctuated with numerous scenes of violence, from a duel to murders to fistfights. What is the purpose of these scenes, most of which involve secondary characters, in the context of the novel? What might these acts of violence symbolize?
5. F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *Tender is the Night* does not contain a linear narrative. Instead, Book I takes place in 1925, then Book II circles back to 1918 before moving forward to the time when Rosemary meets the Divers. From that point, the story follows in chronological order. Why do you think Fitzgerald structured the novel in this way? What advantages does it have in terms of the reader’s perceptions of the central characters? Why is it important that the reader see Dick at the height of his powers before being exposed to the circumstances of his rise and fall?
6. In F. Scott Fitzgerald’s *Tender is the Night*, Dick Diver’s decline is accompanied by Nicole’s rise to self-reliance and mental health. To what extent does his fall contribute to her rise? Would she have recovered as fully as she did had her husband continued to love her faithfully? Why or why not?

7. To what extent is F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* a critique of the American character? In your answer give particular attention to the frequent contrasts between Americans and Europeans found throughout the novel.
8. Compare and contrast the rise and fall of the central characters in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* and *The Great Gatsby*. Give particular attention to the roles played by money and sex in the arcs of their lives.
9. Compare and contrast the ways in which F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* and *The Great Gatsby* demonstrate the shallowness of the "American aristocracy," the social elite of the Jazz Age. Consider what the two novels say about the character, values, and ultimate end of the figures around whom the stories center.
10. F. Scott Fitzgerald's two greatest novels, *Tender is the Night* and *The Great Gatsby*, both can be seen as critiques of the American Dream, but they illustrate its essential emptiness in very different ways. Compare and contrast the two novels in their treatment of the expectation that wealth will lead to happiness.
11. French literary critic Paul Carmignani argued in his discussion of the novels of F. Scott Fitzgerald that "Whereas *The Great Gatsby* was a novel of what could never be, *Tender is the Night* is a novel about what could have been." Do you agree with this assessment? Why or why not? Support your conclusion with specifics from both novels.
12. Both F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* and Ernest Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* portray American expatriates in Europe after the First World War. Compare and contrast the two portrayals. Which one gives a more incisive picture of "The Lost Generation"? Support your conclusion with specifics from both novels.
13. What does F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* reveal about the nature of psychology as an academic discipline and as a clinical practice in the years following the First World War? Discuss its understanding of human behavior and its treatment methods in your answer, along with the way in which it was used by the wealthy.
14. Discuss the ways in which F. Scott Fitzgerald utilizes varying perspectives in his novel *Tender is the Night*. The entire novel is written in the third person, yet the perspective shifts in such a way that the reader is able to view the action through the eyes of each of the main characters at one or more points in the story. What is the purpose of this shifting perspective? How does it help the reader understand the central characters better, and how does it shape the reader's view of the characters before a more complete picture is revealed?
15. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, was Dick Diver right to marry Nicole Warren? Why or why not? Was love a sufficient motive? Should he have realized the impossibility of being both husband and doctor to the same person?

16. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, the protagonist, Dick Diver, is portrayed at the beginning as a thoroughly admirable character, though his flaws are revealed in some detail later in the novel. What do you consider his most admirable characteristics? To what extent were these qualities responsible for the ways in which people, especially young women, were attracted to him?
17. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, to what extent does Nicole's family fortune contribute to the downfall of the protagonist? Does Dick Diver's acceptance of and use of the Warren money undermine his character and lead to his inability to write, to perform the duties of his profession, and ultimately to be a good husband? Support your arguments with specifics from the novel.
18. F. Scott Fitzgerald had considerable experience with psychiatry because of the mental instability of his wife Zelda. Much of his attitude toward the profession is on display in his novel *Tender is the Night*. Discuss the author's attitude toward psychiatry. Be sure to consider not only the protagonist, but also the other psychiatrists who appear in the novel and the psychiatric practices that Fitzgerald describes.
19. At the beginning of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, Dick Diver, the protagonist, is highly successful and widely admired. Discuss the qualities that underlie the admiration that he receives from others and evaluate those qualities from a biblical perspective. Why should we not be surprised that even his best traits lead to his downfall?
20. Discuss the character flaws of the protagonist in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*. What are the personality traits that lead to his downfall? We know that God is able to forgive sin and bring about real change in people's lives. Why were the ways in which Diver attempted to address his flaws ineffective in bringing about real change in his life?
21. In I Timothy 6:10, Paul warns his young friend that "the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils." To what extent does F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* illustrate the truth of Paul's words? Discuss different ways in which the love of money contributes to the troubles experienced by many of the characters in the book.
22. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* is in many ways the tragedy of a wasted life. What values considered important by the protagonist lead him to waste the considerable talents he possesses? To what extent is he guilty of "worshiping other gods" and thus bringing about his own destruction?
23. Dick Diver, the protagonist of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, is a man who lacks self-control. How does this lack of self-control bring about his eventual downfall? How does the novel illustrate the importance placed on self-control in the Scriptures?
24. Discuss the symbolism of light and darkness, day and night in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*. The title suggests that the author seeks to contrast the beauties of night with the harshness of the daylight. How do these images relate to illusion and reality? What does that contrast suggest about the characters in the book and the society of which they are a part?

25. Both F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda struggled with alcohol through much of their adult lives. His novel *Tender is the Night* contains many characters who illustrate the problems that alcohol causes, both in people's lives and in their relationships. Choose three characters in the book who could have benefitted from Paul's advice in Ephesians 5:18, where he says, "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery." How are their lives and relationships damaged by their failure to exercise self-control in this area?
26. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, Nicole Diver is portrayed as mentally ill. The novel raises questions, however, about the legitimacy of that diagnosis. What evidence do you find in the book that Nicole is "crazy"? What indications would point to her as merely "eccentric"?
27. Discuss the role played by need in the romance of Dick and Nicole Diver in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*. Consider the extent to which her need of him and his need of her brings them together and how changes in their sense of need contribute to the dissolution of their marriage. Why is need a poor foundation for a marital relationship?
28. F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* centers on the relationship between Dick Diver, a brilliant psychiatrist, and his wife Nicole, a former mental patient. During the course of the novel, who changes more, Dick or Nicole? Support your conclusion with specifics from the novel.
29. In analyzing the character of Dick Diver in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, critics have differed in significant ways. What is at the heart of the protagonist's downfall? Is he so unselfish that he destroys himself by marrying a patient he hopes to save, or is he so selfish that he seeks satisfaction in sex and alcohol when his marriage does not meet his expectations? Support your arguments with specifics from the novel.
30. F. Scott Fitzgerald completed work on his last finished novel, *Tender is the Night*, at the height of the Great Depression. The novel itself, however, ends in the summer of 1929, months before the stock market crash. In what ways does the collapse of the American Dream evidenced by the Great Depression influence the sense of emptiness and hopelessness evident in the characters of the novel as they pursue happiness in the context of a lifestyle that cannot possibly last?
31. In Mark 8:36, Jesus says to His disciples, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?" In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, the protagonist faces a difficult choice when offered his wife's money to open his own clinic. To what extent does his decision illustrate the point Jesus is making? In the end, does Dick Diver sacrifice his soul for material wealth and popular acclaim?
32. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, both Nicole Warren and Rosemary Hoyt are for all practical purposes girls without effective fathers in their lives. In the respective relationships with Dick Diver, to what extent are the two looking for surrogate fathers as well as lovers? Why can such an attitude be damaging to any romantic relationship, and how does the novel demonstrate these dangers?

33. In F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, Dick Diver is said to possess "illusions of eternal strength and health and of the essential goodness of people." Needless to say, anyone grounded in the Scriptures would not share these illusions. To what extent do Dick's illusions lead to his downfall, and how might his life have turned out differently had he approached life with a biblical understanding of himself, others, and human experience in general?
34. In Book I, chapter 4 of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, the narrator says, "At that moment the Divers represented externally the exact furthestmost evolution of a class, so that most people seemed awkward beside them - in reality a qualitative change had already set in that was not at all apparent to Rosemary." To what extent do the central characters in the novel serve as archetypes, representing the American upper class or even America itself? Support your arguments with details from the novel.
35. In Book I, chapter 18 of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, Dick Diver says to his wife Nicole, "Don't you know you can't do anything about people?" Explain why this statement overflows with irony. Discuss situations in which Dick would have been much better off had he heeded his own advice.
36. In Book I, chapter 24 of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, Rosemary Hoyt says to Dick Diver, "Oh, we're such *actors* - you and I." To what extent do most of the characters in the novel suffer from the consequences of playing a role before others rather than being themselves? What damage is done by their play-acting?
37. In Book II, chapter 15 of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night*, the narrator describes Nicole Diver in these words: "A schizophrenic is well named as a split personality - Nicole was alternately a person to whom nothing need be explained and one to whom nothing *could* be explained." Is this an accurate description of Nicole's character? Cite specific instances from the novel to support or refute this assertion.