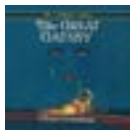


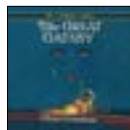
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The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896 - 1940)

Read by: Kara Shallenberg
 Length: 5 hours 37 minutes
 Genre(s): Fiction

Language: English
 Style: Solo

Format	Package	SKU	EAN/UPC	MSLP
MP3 CD	CD Jacket	CJ-6006	0682550991627	\$9.99
MP3 CD	DVD Case	DB-6006	0682550991405	\$9.99
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After serving in the Third Infantry Division in World War I, Nick Carraway, the narrator of the *Great Gatsby* (1925), declined to return to his roots in the Midwest and moved instead to West Egg, a wealthy section of Long Island, and settled near his cousin Daisy Buchanan and her affluent husband Tom, a classmate of Nick's at Yale. Before long he is dating Jordan Baker, a young heiress and golf champion, and attending lavish parties at the estate of neighbor Jay Gatsby. Nick is intrigued by Gatsby's relationship with the gangster Meyer Wolfsheim and wonders at the origin of the fortune that the self-made Gatsby has somehow amassed. Gatsby takes a liking to Nick and confides that he has been in love with Daisy since before the war and asked for his help and winning her over. He arranges a rendezvous and serves as their confidant as they resume their love affair. Things come to a head one night in an automobile accident following an evening of drunken revelry. Lies, betrayal, revenge, and bloodshed follow and lead to a tragic end. A disillusioned Nick abandons West Egg and returns to the Midwest convinced that the era of high times

and big dreams is over. The book received generally favorable reviews but was a commercial failure, which led Fitzgerald to think himself a failure. After his death, the book was recognized as a masterpiece and became a symbol of its era, a part of popular culture, and, some say, the Great American Novel.

Born in St. Paul, Minnesota in 1896, **F. Scott Fitzgerald** is the archetype of the youthful, handsome, tragic, Romantic American writer burdened with the heat of genius and the sting of excessive appetite. Fitzgerald was America's first pop-star writer. He ushered in the Jazz Age with his first novel, *This Side of Paradise* and a collection of short stories, *Flappers* and *Philosophers*. Fitzgerald attended Princeton, where he wrote and drank incessantly, did poorly, and made friends with the literary critic, Edmund Wilson, the man Fitzgerald called his aesthetic conscience. He did not graduate, but entered the Army in 1917 as World War I came to its close. Assigned to Camp Sheridan outside Montgomery, Alabama, he met and pursued Zelda Sayre (1900-1948), the golden girl from Alabama who possessed Fitzgerald from first sight. He courted her, and they were engaged until she broke it off, concerned that the writer and ad man would not be able to provide for her. Fitzgerald returned to his Minnesota home where he rewrote his first novel, which Scribner & Sons accepted for publication in 1919. With the success of *Paradise* Zelda agreed to marry the young writer. Fitzgerald and Zelda moved to Paris where he became friends with Hemingway and other ex-patriots. He wrote five novels in all. *The Great Gatsby* (1925) is considered his masterpiece and *The Last Tycoon* was published posthumously. Fitzgerald had been alcoholic since his college days, and during the 20's his legendary drinking damaged his health. In his mid-forties he suffered two severe heart attacks, the second taking his life at the home of Sheila Graham on December 21, 1940. His influence on writers is felt to this day. Despite all the press and stories and legends, F. Scott Fitzgerald was "all that" and more. In effect Fitzgerald was better than Fitzgerald.