



Tales of the Jazz Age

F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896 - 1941)

In 1922 the publication of *Tales of the Jazz Age* confirmed the conventional wisdom of the time that F. Scott Fitzgerald was the most popular, most widely read author in the United States. Like any marketing agent intent on influencing popular culture, Fitzgerald's publisher, Scribner & Sons, rightfully capitalized on the demand for the author's work by publishing the bound collection of eleven stories written between 1920 and 1922, and during Fitzgerald's undergraduate days at Princeton. The difference between *Tales of the Jazz Age* and other more recent examples of "rush-to-print" product by artists of lesser stature is that F. Scott Fitzgerald was and remains one of America's greatest writers. And the eleven stories that comprise *Tales of the Jazz Age* evidence that fact. Sometimes writers compare writing with breathing: The quick exhalation is a poem; the deep breath is a short story, and breathing in the steady sinus rhythm of life is akin to a novel. In his twenties, and even later when hard living began to take its toll, Fitzgerald breathed deeply, and these short stories exhibit the inevitability of his genius, what Hemingway realized was the tautology of his gift – that his gifts were his, having been given to him, virtually whole and complete.

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.

Read by:	Don W. Jenkins
Length:	8 hours and 43 minutes
Language:	English
Style:	Solo
Genre(s):	Short Fiction

SKU	Format	Pack	List	UPC/EAN
DB-1059	MP3 CD	DVD box	11.99	0684758936370
JB-1059	MP3 CD	Jewel case	11.99	-
CD-1059	MP3 CD	Paper sleeve	5.99	NA
DL-1059	MP3 download	Zip file	4.99	NA