

CHRONOLOGY

GRETCHEN COMBA

This chronology situates F. Scott Fitzgerald's personal and professional life within a broader historical, political, cultural, literary, and artistic context. When both biographical and contextual details are represented in a single entry marked by year, the biographical details related to Fitzgerald are listed first, and are followed by the contextual details.¹

1896 Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald is born to Edward and Mary ("Mollie") McQuillan Fitzgerald on September 24 in St. Paul, Minnesota.

1898 The Fitzgeralds move to Buffalo, New York, where Edward takes a job with Proctor & Gamble.

1900 Zelda Sayre is born to Anthony D. and Minnie Machen Sayre on July 24 in Montgomery, Alabama.

A hurricane kills more than 6,000 people in Galveston, Texas. William McKinley is elected President. Joseph Conrad's *Lord Jim* is published. Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* is published. Sigmund Freud's *The Interpretation of Dreams* is published.

1901 Edward's job takes the family to Syracuse, New York. Annabel Fitzgerald, sister of Fitzgerald, is born in Syracuse.

William McKinley is assassinated. Theodore Roosevelt assumes Presidency. Alabama adopts a constitution with provisions to bar African Americans from voting.

1902 Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* is published. Henry James's *The Wings of the Dove* is published.

1903 The Fitzgeralds return to Buffalo.

Theodore Roosevelt is elected President. W. E. B. DuBois' *The Souls of Black Folk: Essays and Sketches* is published. James's *The Golden Bowl* is published. Jack London's *The Call of the Wild* is published. The film *The Great Train Robbery* is released.

1904 Conrad's *Nostramo* is published.

1905 Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth* is published.

1906 An earthquake and fire kill more than 3,000 people in San Francisco, California. A race riot erupts in Atlanta, Georgia, and the city is placed under Marshall Law.

1907 A downturn in the stock market touches off the Panic of 1907. Henry Adams's *The Education of Henry Adams* is published

1908 The Fitzgeralds return to St. Paul. Fitzgerald enrolls in the St. Paul Academy and begins to write plays and short stories.

King Leopold II is forced to relinquish control of the Congo Free State. William Howard Taft is elected President. A race riot occurs in Springfield, Illinois. The Model T is introduced by the Ford Motor Company. E. M. Forster's *A Room with a View* is published.

1909 The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is founded. Gertrude Stein's *Three Lives* is published.

1910 The Mexican Revolution begins after Francisco Madero calls for an end to the Díaz regime. DuBois publishes the first issue of *Crisis*. Forster's *Howards End* is published.

1911 Fitzgerald enrolls in the Newman School in Hackensack, New Jersey.

Dreiser's *Jennie Gerhardt* is published. Wharton's *Ethan Fromme* is published.

1912 Fitzgerald meets Father Cyril Sigourney Webster Fay and Shane Leslie.

Woodrow Wilson is elected President.

1913 Fitzgerald enters Princeton University as a member of the class of 1917. He meets Edmund Wilson and John Peale Bishop.

Over 8,000 people march in Washington, D.C. for women's suffrage. Leo Frank is tried and convicted, and later lynched, in Atlanta. The Anti-Defamation League is formed. Henry Ford introduces the assembly-line model of production. Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!* is published. The Armory Show opens in New York City.

1914 World War I begins when Archduke Ferdinand of Austria is assassinated in Sarajevo. Edgar Rice Burroughs's *Tarzan of the Apes* is published.

1915 Fitzgerald meets Ginevra King. *The Nassau Literary Magazine* publishes "The Ordeal," which is later revised and published as "Benediction" in *The Smart Set* in 1919. Fitzgerald drops out of Princeton.

T. S. Eliot's "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" is published. Franz Kafka's "The Metamorphosis" is published. The film *The Birth of a Nation* is released.

1916 Fitzgerald returns to Princeton as a member of the class of 1918.

Pancho Villa raids Columbus, New Mexico. Woodrow Wilson is re-elected. James Joyce's *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* is published. The Cabaret Voltaire opens in Zurich.

1917 Fitzgerald receives commission as infantry second lieutenant in the US Army. He begins "The Romantic Egotist," an early draft of *This Side of Paradise*, while stationed in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.

Czar Nicholas II is overthrown in the Russian Revolution. The US enters World War I. Margaret Sanger publishes the first issue of *The Birth Control Review*.

1918 While stationed at Camp Sheridan, Fitzgerald meets Zelda Sayre of Montgomery, Alabama. Charles Scribner's Sons rejects "The Romantic Egotist." Scribner's editor Maxwell Perkins encourages Fitzgerald to revise the manuscript and resubmit it.

In 1918 and 1919, the Spanish Influenza pandemic kills between 50 and 100 million people worldwide. World War I ends with Germany's surrender. Woodrow Wilson proposes the formation of the League of Nations. Cather's *My Antonia* is published.

1919 Fitzgerald is discharged from the army. He moves to New York, where he works for the Barron Collier advertising agency. Zelda breaks their engagement. Fitzgerald returns to St. Paul, where he rewrites "The Romantic Egotist." *The Smart Set* publishes "Babes in the Woods." Scribner's accepts "The Romantic Egotist," now titled *This Side of Paradise*. Fitzgerald becomes a client of Harold Ober at the Paul Revere Reynolds Agency. *The Saturday Evening Post* buys "Head and Shoulders."

The Treaty of Versailles is signed. Congress passes the Eighteenth Amendment, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors. The Chicago Black Sox scandal occurs. Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg, Ohio* is published.

1920 On April 3, Fitzgerald marries Zelda Sayre in New York City. Scribner's publishes *This Side of Paradise*. Scribner's publishes *Flappers and Philosophers*. Fitzgerald begins work on *The Beautiful and Damned*.

The American Civil Liberties Union is established. The Department of Justice arrests 4,000 suspected Communists and radicals. Congress passes the Nineteenth Amendment, which grants women the right to vote. Warren G. Harding is elected President. Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* is published.

- 1921** The Fitzgeralds travel to Europe. Upon their return, they rent a house at Dellwood, White Bear Lake in Minnesota. On October 26, Frances Scott (“Scottie”) Fitzgerald is born in St. Paul. Fitzgerald finishes *The Beautiful and Damned*.

A race riot erupts in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Second International Congress of Eugenics is held in New York City; during the Congress, the Eugenics Committee of the U.S.A. (later the American Eugenics Society) is formed. The American Birth Control League is founded. The films *The Kid* and *The Sheik* are released.

- 1922** The Fitzgeralds rent a house in Great Neck, Long Island, New York. Fitzgerald develops a friendship with Ring Lardner. Scribners publishes *The Beautiful and Damned* and *Tales of the Jazz Age*.

Benito Mussolini and the Fascist Party rise to power in Italy. Eliot’s *The Waste Land* is published. Joyce’s *Ulysses* is published. Emily Post’s *Etiquette in Society, in Business, in Politics and at Home* is published.

- 1923** Scribners publishes *The Vegetable*. The play fails at a tryout in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Warren G. Harding dies in office. Calvin Coolidge assumes Presidency. The National Women’s Party proposes the Lucretia Mott Amendment. Jean Toomer’s *Cane* is published.

- 1924** The Fitzgeralds travel to Paris, and then the French Riviera. Zelda has an affair with French aviator Edouard Jozan. The Fitzgeralds meet Gerald and Sara Murphy at Cap d’Antibes. Fitzgerald writes *The Great Gatsby*.

Joseph Stalin comes to power in the USSR. Congress passes the National Origins Act, which restricts the annual number of European immigrants and prohibits all Asian immigration. Congress passes the Indian Citizen Act. Calvin Coolidge is elected president. Leopold and Loeb are sentenced to life imprisonment. Forster’s *A Passage to India* is published. The Bureau for Surrealist Research opens in Paris.

- 1925** The Fitzgeralds move to Paris. Fitzgerald meets Ernest Hemingway at the Dingo Bar. Scribners publishes *The Great Gatsby*. Fitzgerald plans Francis Melarky version of *Tender Is the Night*.

The Ku Klux Klan holds a rally in Washington, D. C. The Tennessee v. Scopes Trial takes place in Dayton, Tennessee, culminating in Scopes’s conviction. Dreiser’s *An American Tragedy* is published. Hemingway’s *In Our Time* is published. Alain Locke’s anthology *The New Negro* is published. The Decorative Art Exhibition is held in Paris.

- 1926** The Fitzgeralds spend the summer on the Riviera with Gerald and Sara Murphy, and with Hemingway and his first wife Hadley Richardson. Scribners publishes *All the Sad Young Men*.

Hemingway's *The Sun Also Rises* is published. Langston Hughes's *The Weary Blues* is published.

- 1927** The Fitzgeralds go to Hollywood. They meet Lois Moran. The Fitzgeralds move to "Ellerslie" near Wilmington, Delaware, where Zelda studies ballet.

Following the Shanghai Massacre, the Chinese Civil War begins. Charles Lindbergh flies solo across the Atlantic Ocean. The Buck v. Bell case is decided, and Virginia's right to sterilize a poverty-stricken woman involuntarily is upheld. Sacco and Vanzetti are executed in Massachusetts. Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* is published. The films *The General* and *It* are released.

- 1928** The Fitzgeralds move to Paris, where Zelda studies ballet under Lubov Egorova of the Ballets Russe, and then return to the US.

Herbert Hoover is elected President. Babe Ruth bats .625 for the New York Yankees in the World Series.

- 1929** The Fitzgeralds return to Europe.

The US stock market crashes. The St. Valentine's Day Massacre occurs in Chicago. William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury* is published. Hemingway's *A Farewell to Arms* is published. Thomas Wolfe's *Look Homeward, Angel* is published. Woolf's *A Room of One's Own* is published.

- 1930** Zelda suffers a nervous breakdown. She is admitted to the Malmaison Clinic outside Paris; and then the Val-Mont Clinic in Glion, Switzerland; and then the Prangins Clinic in Nyon, Switzerland.

John Dos Passos's *42nd Parallel* is published. Faulkner's *As I Lay Dying* is published. The Colonial Exhibition is held in Paris. The film *All Quiet on the Western Front* is released.

- 1931** Fitzgerald's father dies. Zelda is released from the Prangins Clinic. The Fitzgeralds return to Montgomery, Alabama. Fitzgerald returns to Hollywood in order to make money in the motion picture industry. *The Saturday Evening Post* publishes "Babylon Revisited," which would become Fitzgerald's most widely anthologized, read, and studied short story.

Hoover signs bill making "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem. Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth* is published. Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* is published. The films *Dracula*, *Frankenstein*, and *Svengali* are released.

- 1932** Zelda enters the Phipps Clinic in Baltimore, where she writes *Save Me the Waltz*. Fitzgerald lives in Towson, a town outside Baltimore. Zelda is discharged from the Phipps Clinic. Scribners publishes *Save Me the Waltz*.

Mahatma Gandhi begins his nonviolent campaigns for the poverty-stricken. Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected President. The Lindberghs' son is kidnapped and murdered. Amelia Earhart flies solo across the Atlantic Ocean. Dos Passos's *Nineteen-Nineteen* is published. Faulkner's *Light in August* is published. The film *Tarzan the Ape Man* is released.

- 1933** Zelda's play *Scandalabra* opens to poor reviews in Baltimore.

Adolf Hitler and the Nazi Party rise to power in Germany. Congress passes the Twenty-First Amendment, which repeals Prohibition. The NAACP unsuccessfully sues The University of North Carolina on behalf of Thomas Hocutt. Stein's *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas* is published. Nathanael West's *Miss Lonelyhearts* is published. The films *42nd Street*, *Gold Diggers of 1933*, and *King Kong* are released.

- 1934** Zelda returns to the Phipps Clinic, and then moves to Craig House in Beacon, New York, and then transfers to Sheppard-Pratt Hospital outside Baltimore. Scribners publishes *Tender Is the Night*.

John O'Hara's *Appointment in Samara* is published. The films *Babes in Toyland* and *It Happened One Night* are released.

- 1935** Scribners publishes *Taps at Reveille*. Fitzgerald, while staying at a hotel in Hendersonville, North Carolina, writes "The Crack-Up," the first of three confessional articles that appear in *Esquire* in consecutive months the following year.

- 1936** Zelda enters Highland Hospital in Asheville, North Carolina. Fitzgerald's mother dies.

The Spanish Civil War begins with a military uprising against the Popular Front government. Roosevelt is re-elected. Djuna Barnes's *Nightwood* is published. Faulkner's *Absalom, Absalom!* is published. Margaret Mitchell's *Gone with the Wind* is published.

- 1937** Fitzgerald returns to Hollywood, where he meets Sheilah Graham. He works under a six-month contract with Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is published. Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* is published.

1938 Scottie enters Vassar. Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer does not renew Fitzgerald's contract.

Joe Louis defeats Max Schmeling.

1939 Fitzgerald travels to Dartmouth College with Budd Schulberg to work on the film *Winter Carnival*. He is fired for drunkenness, and then hospitalized in New York City. Fitzgerald's relationship with Harold Ober ends. In Hollywood, he begins work on *The Last Tycoon*.

World War II begins when Germany invades Poland. The NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund is organized. West's *The Day of the Locust* is published. Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath* is published. The films *Gone with the Wind*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *The Wizard of Oz* are released.

1940 Zelda is released from Highland Hospital and returns to Montgomery. Fitzgerald dies of a heart attack in Sheilah Graham's apartment in Hollywood on December 21.

Roosevelt wins third presidential term. Hemingway's *For Whom the Bell Tolls* is published. Richard Wright's *Native Son* is published.

1941 Scribners publishes the unfinished novel *The Last Tycoon* in a volume, together with *The Great Gatsby* and selected short stories.

The Nazi plan known as "The Final Solution" begins. Japan bombs Pearl Harbor and the US enters WWII. James Agee's *Now Let Us Praise Famous Men* is published.

1942 Roosevelt signs Executive Order 9066, authorizing the internment of Japanese and Japanese Americans on the Pacific Coast and in Hawaii. Albert Camus' *The Stranger* is published.

1944 Roosevelt wins fourth presidential term.

1945 Edmund Wilson edits and publishes *The Crack-Up*, in effect, inaugurating the Fitzgerald revival.

Roosevelt dies in office. Harry S. Truman assumes Presidency. The US drops atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. WWII ends with Germany's and Japan's surrender.

1947 India wins freedom from British rule and is partitioned. Jackie Robinson plays for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

1948 Zelda dies in a fire at Highland Hospital on March 10.

¹ In the biographical entries, selected details related to Fitzgerald's personal life (listed chronologically) appear first, and are followed by selected details related to his professional life (listed chronologically). In the contextual entries, selected details appear in the following order: global historical events; US historical events (listed chronologically); US political events (listed chronologically); US cultural events (listed chronologically); European and US publications (listed alphabetically by author); European and US art events and openings; US film releases (listed alphabetically by title).