



# The Lees of Happiness

*F. Scott Fitzgerald*

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## **The Lees of Happiness** F. Scott Fitzgerald

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald (1896-1940) was an Irish American Jazz Age novelist and short story writer. He is regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the twentieth century. He was the self-styled spokesman of the Lost Generation - Americans born in the 1890s who came of age during World War I. He finished four novels, left a fifth unfinished, and wrote dozens of short stories. The 1920s proved the most influential decade of Fitzgeralds development. His debut novel, *This Side of Paradise* (1920) examines the lives and morality of post-World War I youth. *Flappers and Philosophers* (1920) was his first collection of short stories. His second novel, *The Beautiful and Damned* (1922), demonstrates an evolution and maturity in his writing, and provides an excellent portrait of America during the Jazz Age, as does *Tales of the Jazz Age* (1922). *The Great Gatsby*, which many consider his masterpiece, was published in 1925. It has since been adapted for the theatre and filmed several times. His last novel was *Tender is the Night* (1934).

## **The Lees of Happiness Details**

Date : Published October 24th 2008 by Dodo Press (first published 1920)

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# From Reader Review The Lees of Happiness for online ebook

## Betsy says

Sad, but not heart breaking. A look at how life can seem wonderful one minute, turn quickly and you are done in, but choose to soldier on.

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## Ria says

I am not into romantic novels or love stories. But this one was one of a kind! The main characters exist not in our everyday lives but once in a while you listen to the news about that couple holding hands till death or the ones that were married for 70 years and in love. This is it! a strange for my taste unconditional love. Maybe this one will make you rethink what love or passion or romantism . Certainly it will leave you with bittersweet feelings about Roxanne. And what her future holds for her.

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## Toni says

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## Elisabeth says

Version française: L'étrange histoire de Benjamin Button  
La lie du bonheur

1921-1922

Deux nouvelles très délicieuses, avec une touche de tristesse face à l'existence.

Première nouvelle: L'étrange histoire de Benjamin Button est celle d'un enfant qui naît vieux à l'âge de 70 ans et qui rajeunit de jour en jour. La nouvelle diffère beaucoup du film éponyme. Pas d'histoire d'amour, ni de difficultés majeures, seulement une conscience sociale-familiale à rebours. La nouvelle reste sur le terrain anecdotique. L'enfant finit avec un seul souvenir conscient, celui du lait chaud. La nouvelle n'explore pas les sentiments confus et les conflits intérieurs générés par une telle situation alors que le film y arrive beaucoup mieux. Brad Pitt donne une interprétation d'un personnage plus complexe et attachant. Son histoire d'amour avec une femme qui vieillit alors que lui-même rajeunit est émouvante. La nouvelle de Fitzgerald passe à côté de cela et reste superficielle. L'auteur ne donne aucune piste de réflexion au lecteur.

Deuxième nouvelle: La lie du bonheur. Grande histoire d'amour et de dévouement d'une femme pour son mari. Alors que son époux est victime d'un ACV qui le laisse paralysé, sourd et aveugle pendant une dizaine d'années, elle continue de vivre avec lui, de le soigner et de s'occuper de tout. Jeune, elle passait pour superficielle et enfantine, on se rend compte qu'au contraire elle est intensément profonde et compatissante. Le regard qu'elle porte sur les autres est différent et bon. La nouvelle se termine sur une note d'espoir. Elle a trente-six ans, maintenant veuve, et l'ami toujours fidèle vient encore la visiter...

3/5

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### **Nicola says**

It was an enjoyable short story and I found myself thoroughly interested in the characters and their issues. I wish this had been a longer book as it was a very good read.

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### **Sarwat says**

This story kept me in its throes and made me cry. It made me feel the unfairness of everyday life in all its plaintive notes. It's not like Fitzgerald's usual stories and its characters were not Fitzgerald's usual characters. There were no dancing flappers with wine-colored lips and voices full of money; no sad, noble, hard-drinking rich boys who believed in the green light. This story was about ordinary people, living ordinary lives, suffering the anguish of the sheer ordinariness of everything; laughing, crying and dying in their own little worlds, pursuing their own happiness, leaving no footprints behind and not bothering to either. And it was beautiful. It was real and wistful, like a lily crushed to release a fragrance like no other. The title itself is such a sheer genius in his part. 'Lees', after consulting a dictionary, I found meant, 'dregs' or 'sediments' and after completing the book I was amazed at how perfect the title is. The story really is about true happiness held for a brief space of time, before being snatched away by life and its cruel sense of humour, leaving only its dregs behind.

I think this is the story where Fitzgerald's emotional side and, perhaps, admiration for love and nurture in their truest forms are shown.

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### **Shelley Morrow says**

It was an interesting read with a good message.

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### **Rebecca Timberlake says**

This was a different kind of sad than I expect from Fitzgerald. Still, there's something hopeful in it, I found. maybe hopeful isn't the right word, but I don't have the right word at the moment, so it's what I'll use.

This didn't end how one would think, but the ending isn't wrong. It feels more honest than how I thought it would end, and I like that he went for the least happy ending.

I've got a lot of jumbled thoughts on this short story, and maybe I'll re-read it down the road and update this review to make more sense.

Here's what I can say without any confusion- read this.

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### **Manon says**

Très court mais très réussi!

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### **Diana Popova says**

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### **Mallika Soni says**

"To these two ,life had come quickly and gone, leaving not bitterness, but pity, not disillusion, but only pain. There was already enough moonlight when they shook hands for each to see the gathered kindness in the other's eyes"

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### **Mela says**

*To these two life had come quickly and gone, leaving not bitterness, but pity; not disillusion, but only pain. There was already enough moonlight when they shook hands for each to see the gathered kindness in the other's eyes.*

**Yes, the story was rather sad but in this powerful way that makes you feel, that makes you remember that life is beautiful in its complexity/diversity and on the other hand in its simplicity/similarity.**

You can find it on LibriVox and Wikisource.

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### **Elektra says**

"Τα απομειν?ρια της ευτυχ?ας" : ?να ευκολοδι?βαστο αφ?γημα που, ομως, κατ?φερε να με αιχμαλωτ?σει για ?ρες μετ? την ολοκλ?ρωση της αν?γνωσης του.

Τι απ?γινε η Ρωξανη, αυτ? η ?μορφη γυνά?κα απ? την οπο?α η ζω? στ?ρησε τη χαρ? τ?σο νωρις; Προσπ?θησα να σκεφτ? αν παντρε?τηκε τον φ?λο του αντρα της, αν μετ?τρεψε το σπ?τι της σε ξεν?να...Μ?πως εκε? αν?μεσα στους ενοικιαστ?ς γν?ρισε π?λι τον Ερωτα και απ?κτησε ?σως και ?να παιδ?; ? ?μεινε τελικ? μ?νη, σε ?να σπ?τι γεμ?το αναμν?σεις με το π?πλο της αυτοθυσιας της να καλ?πτει τα π?ντα, ως το τ?λος.

?να υπ?ροχο μικρ? αφ?γημα, που με μετ?φερε στην Αμερικ? κ?που πριν τον Β Παγκ?σμιο Π?λεμο,

ζω απ? το Σικάγο. ?νας συγγραφέας και μ?α ?μορφη επιτυχημ?νη θεατρ?να. Ο ?ρωτας και η τραγωδ?α που σημαδε?ει τη ζω? και διαλ?ει τα π?ντα. Αλλ? και η βαθι? καλοσ?νη, η συντροφικ?τητα, η εκπλ?ρωση του Χρ?ου.

Επ?σης: <https://www.instagram.com/p/BETpSp1Lbek/>  
(απ? το προφ?λ μου με το φιλολογικ? μου ψευδ?νυμο, Ηλ?κτρα Αλεξ?κη).

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### **Laura Verret says**

<http://www.classicreader.com/book/3774/>

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### **Catherine Mustread says**

According to The Canary Express this short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, first published in 1922, is one of the best examples of Fitzgerald's often focus on the sense of disaster, or in this case the "sediment" of disaster after the happiness is ended when the husband in this happy marriage is stricken with a disease rendering him relatively lifeless and ending the happy marriage, despite his wife's continued devotion.

Perhaps this is too close to home for me to truly appreciate, but it is a memorable story, especially contrasted with the unhappy marriage of their friends which ends in divorce. One of the more powerful stories by Fitzgerald I have read recently.

I listened to this on a podcast through loyalbooks.com. Being in the public domain it can also be read online at readbooksonline.net.

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