



## The Popular Girl

*F. Scott Fitzgerald*

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In the lead story of this collection, society girl Yanci Bowman is enchanted to meet Scott Kimberly, a very rich and very eligible young man. Yet no sooner have they met than her drunken father dies unexpectedly, leaving her impoverished. Too ashamed to admit to Scott her desperate state, she instead creates a fanciful world full of parties and holidays, friends and suitors, to convince him she is still the popular girl he first met. However, as her charade grows ever more fragile, she endangers their friendship and her very hope of salvation. Fitzgerald's beautifully drawn exploration of the interdependency of love and money captures in perfect detail the concerns that pervade so many of his stories.

## **The Popular Girl Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2006 by Hesperus Press

ISBN : 9781843914037

Author : F. Scott Fitzgerald

Format : Paperback 132 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Classics, Fiction, Literature, American

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## **From Reader Review The Popular Girl for online ebook**

### **Ally Atherton says**

Another classic and another name that is forever popping up in every 'how to write' book under the sun, so when I found this in my local library I knew I had to read it. Five short stories written from 1922 to 1932, originally published in the Saturday Evening Post. A newspaper, I presume, somewhere in the United States.

The first three stories in this collection are quaint and romantic and the perfect escapism for anybody that loves to get lost in a book. My personal favourite is probably the second, entitled 'Love in the Night'. The last two are perhaps slightly more dull but still worth the read. I like the way that these tiny glimpses of life in the twenties are so accessible and easy to read, considering they were written so long ago. There are no car chases or murderers in this one, just some good, simple honest story telling.

Enjoyed

Maybe I should read more from F.Scott Fitzgerald. This collection contains a small biography and a fascinating foreword by Helen Dunmore.

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### **Michelle-- Fawn & Fern Books says**

The Popular Girl is one of my favorite short stories by F. Scott Fitzgerald. It tells the story of Yanci, a beautiful Southern girl who realizes she is alone after her father dies. She decides to go after a man named Scott, who is well off and would do anything to have her. However, Yanci, a typical FSF female character, needs to make it hard on herself first. She decides to pretend she can afford living at the Ritz for a few weeks and lies about multiple engagements so she can impress Scott. In the end, everything works out in her favor.

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### **Gina says**

What a wonderfully written collection of short stories. I have only read one other by F. Scott Fitzgerald and that was The Great Gatsby about 10 years ago, which I enjoyed at the time but confess that I cannot remember much about it; having now read these short stories, I am keen to pick it up again. I enjoyed how Fitzgerald's stories developed so quickly, there were no heavy descriptive paragraphs, it was a simple case of: Girl meets Boy, a mutual attraction is formed, someone dies, it all works out, the end - albeit in much more eloquent language and despite the lack of detail, I was still able to visualise the characters and sympathise with them in their turn, which I think shows the sign of a good writer. From this collection, my favourite was definitely "The Popular Girl", you really feel for Yanci in her plight and can't help but hope for a happy ending - read it and find out what happens!!

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## **Steven says**

I began reading *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, but then I developed a bad cold and decided to take a small break from Joyce until clearness and sharpness returned to my head. Of course, I couldn't simply stop reading; and who else would I turn to, but Fitzgerald? This is one of the very last story collections of his that I hadn't yet read. It includes five pieces: *The Popular Girl*, *Love in the Night*, *The Swimmers*, *A New Leaf*, and *What a Handsome Pair!*. Bright and melancholic, beautiful and tragic, these are some of his better stories.

*She saw him the first day on board, and then her heart sank into her shoes as she realized at last how much she wanted him. No matter what his past was, no matter what he had done.*

*Which was not to say that she would ever let him know, but only that he moved her chemically more than anyone she had ever met, that all other men seemed pale beside him.* - *A New Leaf*

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## **Beth says**

Written by F Scott Fitzgerald, actually, not Helen Dunmore... Enjoyable collection of short stories in FSF's typically opulent style.

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## **Christen says**

This collection of five Short Stories focused on the possibility of defeat up till the last paragraph, you are unsure if the protagonist is going to fulfill their dream or fail miserably. Stories are a typical Fitzgerald standard of tight writing: every word counts and moves the story forward to its conclusion. Two short stories were written before The Great Gatsby and the other three afterwards, but you see underlying themes and plot devices that he perfected in TGG throughout all of the stories: Light, water and the American Dream.

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## **Tonielle says**

I can't get enough of these fantastic short stories!

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## **Megan says**

Good, enjoyed these story stories better than Fitzgerald's novels, probably because they were all entertaining and didn't go on. I enjoyed the fact that there was a twist at the end of each story.

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## **Mimi says**

i liked it

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## **Jenny says**

I really enjoyed the three stories I was able to read; however, in this edition (or at least in my copy of it), one set of pages was repeated, and one set was left out, which meant that the second half of the third story and the first half of the fourth story were missing. From what I read though, classic Fitzgerald.

Though the cover copy compares the main character in the title story to Daisy in Gatsby, Yanci Bowman is more inclined to take control of her situation. From the beginning, she is of necessity wily and crafty and clever, and no less so when she is rendered financially helpless. In a nice romantic ending, Scott steps in to save her.

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## **Andrew says**

Small collection of short stories/novellas by the master.

The title story is almost in a league with The Great Gatsby in its tale of the rise and fall of a society figure. The other stories don't quite reach the same intensity but are well worth a read.

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## **SA\_Aslam\_ says**

I wasn't sure whether to give this two or three stars so I've chosen 2.5 but I'd still recommend reading the collection of five short stories. I gave it 2.5 because it took me so long to read it and reminded me of tedious people I've met who must have read Fitzgerald and think they belong to the same 'set'. The stories are fine, and Fitzgerald's salient observations on society are unfortunately still similar to some situations today.

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## **Ben says**

Book Review – The Popular Girl by F.Scott Fitzgerald

Hespersus Press - £7.99 – ISBN 1-84391-403-4 – 136 Pages

‘The Popular Girl’ collects together 5 of F.Scott Fitzgerald’s lesser known short stories. Like his better known works ‘The Great Gatsby’, ‘Tender is the night’ and ‘The Last Tycoon’ these stories are rich in character, with an elegant structure, and look at love and money, and how both gaining and losing each of them can have an impact on people’s lives.

‘The Popular Girl’ looks at the façade built up by Yanci Bowman, bought low and impoverished by her Father’s untimely death, and her efforts to impress Scott Kimberly, the wealthy and handsome man she has

just met. She wants to prove to him that she is still ‘The Popular Girl’ he first met, making up friendships and parties that she can’t afford to go to.

‘Love in the night’ looks at the life of Val, and what it is like to half American and half Russian, and how this has effected his life, and falling in love, and how his parent’s marriage is not how he might have imagined it to be.

The remaining three stories ‘The Swimmers’ , ‘A New Leaf’ , and ‘What a Handsome Pair!’

This is a collection that is well worth looking out for, to find some lesser known work by one of America’s undisputed greatest 20th Century writers.

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