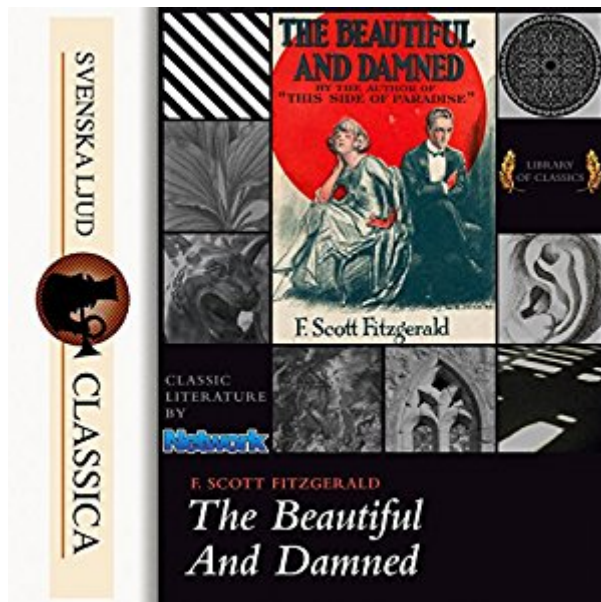


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The Beautiful And Damned



Synopsis

"The Beautiful and Damned", first published by Scribner's in 1922, is F. Scott Fitzgerald's second novel. The novel provides a portrait of the Eastern elite during the Jazz Age, exploring New York City's Society. As with his other novels, Fitzgerald's characters are complex, especially in their marriage and intimacy, much like how he treats intimacy in "Tender Is the Night". The book is believed to be largely based on Fitzgerald's relationship and marriage with Zelda Fitzgerald. It tells the story of Anthony Patch (a 1920s socialite and presumptive heir to a tycoon's fortune), his relationship with his wife Gloria, his service in the army, and alcoholism.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was one hell of an experience. When I started reading the book, well 50 pages down and I was EXHAUSTED! The book is overwhelming in every measure. It makes you feel varied emotions some too strong to even comprehend. By the time you're about 110 pages down, the book begins to make absolutely no sense and you begin to wonder whether the book has ever seen an editor. Following that the book has several ramblings, a real daily soap talking about two people who are completely screwed up in their heads. And then - tada - finally after 194 pages of you pushing yourself to read ahead - comes THE END which surprisingly makes you forget every bit of that pain that you went through trying to get past the last 80 pages of the book. Everything just suddenly makes sense and there goes Fitzgerald's brilliance! After reading The Great Gatsby, I was craving to read more of Fitzgerald's work. His language, writing style- almost everything - floored me. I was

quite in awe for a week after I read the book still trying to fathom how this man managed to weave words in such an unordinary fashion. But this book is what reveals the true Fitzgerald. While he is definitely verbose, he understands the insides of a human being. Emotions which we ourselves don't understand in spite of going through them. He manages to actually make you empathise with both the characters in different ways. Though I will still hold that this book needed a lot and lot of editing, I'm actually glad I had the patience and somehow managed to get through till the end. Because the one sentence that closes the book really sums up the petty things one lives for and speaks of the real nature of humanity. Probably my interpretation of this book goes on a complete tangent to what the book really is about but this was an experience I ought to share. I've never taken this long to finish a book because I usually leave a book midway if I don't like it. But this book made me stay and that in itself I consider an absolute power that the book possesses.

A look into the rich of the early 1900s New York. Anthony Patch is waiting for his grandfather to pass to inherit his millions. At the start of the book he is living on \$7500 a month, has finished college, has traveled but came home because his grandfather is sick. The big issue with Anthony is he refuses to work. He is "too good" for anything. Then he meets the beautiful Gloria Gilbert who has had many relationships but never settles down. Anthony and her meet then he plays hard to get and ends up with the girl. This novel goes through their marriage and the lawsuit to inherit grandfather's money after he lost his inheritance to Edward Who was caring for his grandfather. Basically it comes down to Anthony and Gloria being both spoiled and used to money that they are so immature in life that they start to lose everything. Their marriage is a game to both and eventually they get "bored" and start partying and drinking on long binges. Grandfather Patch walked in on one party and they lose the inheritance when he dies because Edward the caregiver would not let the weak willed Anthony see his grandfather again. Basically the entire book is Anthony and Gloria thinking they are so much better than everyone but really Anthony is manic depressive and Gloria loses her independence by staying with Anthony. Both have ideas of working but Anthony passes up on chances for Gloria and Gloria passes up chances for Anthony. Then we read about the parties, drinking and they drag each other down and down the entire book. Eventually after rock bottom they do inherit the money and Anthony thinks he was right to never work and that's the end. Why a three star Book? It's a classic and does an excellent job of portraying the spoiled rich. It was just depressing to read but real life can be like that. How many people honestly have the perfect marriage, the money and the fairytale life. Most people get bored but find an interest that is not self destructive. Most people have hard times in their marriages but find ways to

fix it. This is a story of how two people can be really bad for each other.

Beautifully written tale of wealth, selfishness, addiction, and falling from society. Anthony Patch had no ambition to work for a living because he just knew he was going to inherit his grandfather's estate. Gloria Patch lived on her beauty. Nothing mattered to these two except having drunken parties and spending money they didn't have. Because they knew Grandfather Patch would leave everything to Anthony. When Grandfather Patch doesn't leave them anything they didn't stop spending. Eventually they had no money. Anthony became an alcoholic; Gloria's beauty faded. This is the story of a wealthy young man who had everything except ambition. He didn't want to work for his living. He wanted to play. He and his beautiful, spoiled, flirtatious wife lived life as if drinking and partying with friends was all that mattered. When the drinking took over Anthony's life and the money ran out the friends disappeared. The love of money is the root of evil.

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