

F. SCOTT'S SHORT STORIES

The Camel's Back was first published in the April 24th, 1920 edition of *The Saturday Evening Post* and then in *Six Tales of the Jazz Age* (a companion volume of stories for his second novel: *The Beautiful and the Damned*.)

In Fitzgerald's twenty years as a professional writer, he wrote 178 short stories. Most of these were for sale to commercial magazines in the '20s and '30s.

In his life, the sale of stories to magazines earned him approximately \$250,000. This was more than half the amount he earned in his career from all sources including for his novels, royalties, and scriptwriting for Hollywood.

CHANGES TO THE STORY

The vast majority of our script for *The Camel's Back* contain the unaltered words of Fitzgerald. One change that occurred, was the creation of the character Father O'Sullivan. In the original story, it is an African-American waiter at the party (who also happens to be a "sho-nuff" minister) named Jumbo who unwittingly marries Perry and Betty. We deemed Fitzgerald's early 20th Century characterization of Jumbo as inappropriate for modern audiences, who have thankfully become more racially sensitive.

Another change, was the dispensing with of Fitzgerald's thin charade of setting the story in Toledo. We moved it back to St. Paul.

The song "Shine On, Harvest Moon" does not appear in the original. There the drunken trio sing a verse of complete nonsense. "Shine On, Harvest Moon" became a hit in 1908 and would likely have still been freshly in the collective conscious of 1919 St. Paul.

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HILL HOUSE (LETTER)

Louis Hill was the son of railroad tycoon and empire builder James J. Hill. Louis lived with his family in "Maryhill", the mansion-home James built for Louis, adjacent to James' own mansion-palace on Summit Avenue. Louis wrote the following regarding "The Camel's Back" to his daughter Maudie (who was away at boarding school):

"...under a separate cover I am sending to you a story by Scott Fitzgerald, the St. Paul boy who wrote the book [This Side of Paradise] which has taken so well. This is the story of Eddie Saunders and the camel at our Christmas party at the house. Perry Parkhurst is Eddie Saunders and evidently the Mrs. Nolak is Mrs. Gleason and the 'Tate' house is our house. The 'Club' is the University Club."

Though Fitzgerald was not present at this particular party in 1919, he would have been familiar with the Hill's Christmas parties, having escorted Marie Hersey to one in 1915.

BETTY MEDILL & THE FLAPPERS

The term "flapper" refers to a "new breed" of young women who emerged in the 1920s. They wore short skirts, bobbed their hair, and flaunted their disdain for what was then considered "decent" behavior. The flappers were seen as brash in their time for wearing excessive makeup, drinking hard liquor, treating sex in a more casual manner, smoking cigarettes, driving automobiles, and otherwise flouting conventional social and sexual norms. Some accused Fitzgerald and his stories of inspiring many young women into becoming flappers.

Axel's

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