



## Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald

- ◉ Does his name sound familiar??
  - Second cousin of Francis Scott Key
- ◉ Born in 1896 in Minnesota
- ◉ Irish-Catholic upbringing
- ◉ Father = salesman for Procter & Gamble
- ◉ Moved to NY for father's job (Buffalo and Syracuse), then back to MN after father lost job in 1908

- ◉ Attended Princeton University
- ◉ Honed craft as a writer; wrote scripts for musicals, stories for *Nassau Literary Magazine*, and articles for humor magazine *The Princeton Tiger*
- ◉ Dropped out in 1917 (academic probation)
- ◉ Joined the US Army

- ◉ Married Zelda Sayre in 1920
  - Zelda = from high-class family
- ◉ One daughter, Frances Scott Fitzgerald
- ◉ Led extravagant lifestyle
- ◉ Wrote short stories/novels to support lifestyle
- ◉ "It was an age of miracles... It was an age of art, it was an age of excess, and it was an age of satire."

## Major Works

- ◉ *This Side of Paradise* - 1920
  - Roughly autobiographical story about himself and Zelda
- ◉ *The Beautiful and the Damned* – 1922
  - Helped cement his status as a chronicler of the extravagance of the decade
- ◉ *The Great Gatsby* – 1924
  - Written in France; considered Fitzgerald's finest work

## Final Years

- ◉ Progressed into alcoholism after *Gatsby* was completed
- ◉ Zelda suffered mental health issues and breakdowns
- ◉ Died in 1940; age 44
- ◉ Posthumously successful