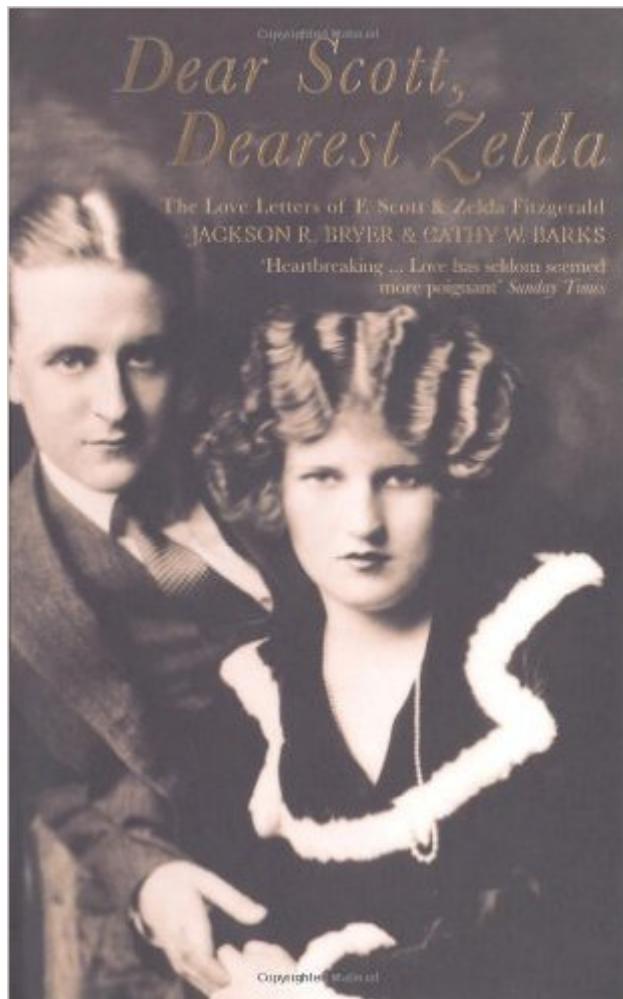


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# Dear Scott, Dearest Zelda: The Love Letters Of F.Scott And Zelda Fitzgerald



## **Synopsis**

Through his alcoholism and her mental illness, his career highs (and lows) and her institutional confinement, Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald's devotion to each other endured for more than twenty-two years. Now, for the first time, the story of the love of these two glamorous and hugely talented writers can be given in their own letters. Introduced by an extensive narrative of the Fitzgeralds' marriage, the 333 letters - three-quarters of them previously unpublished or out of print - have been edited by the noted Fitzgerald scholars, Jackson R. Bryer and Cathy W. Barks. They are illustrated throughout with a generous selection of familiar and unpublished photographs.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Once I opened this book of F. Scott and Zelda's love letters, I was glued to it, and didn't put it down until I had read the entire book 6 hours later. This is an engrossing collection of passionate letters between two of America's most famous Jazz Age babies, full of innocence, spurned hope, desperate longing, and a never-ending belief that one day, somehow, they would end up together again. Even knowing the Fitzgeralds' history as well as I do, I was drawn in by their steamy letters, and half-believed that everything was going to turn out alright in the end for them. Maybe it did. This is a fantastic, epic collection of letters (more by Zelda than Scott), photos (I loved seeing the presents that Scott gave to Zelda), drawings, and copies of the original letters. F. Scott had such beautiful handwriting. Anyways, for anyone with even a slight interest in the Fitzgeralds, or in love letters, this is a book well worth its price, one that I thought about for days after I finished it off.

What I love about a well-written autobiography is that it takes someone larger-than-life and turns them into a real, accessible person, that you feel like you get to know. Obviously, this is no autobiography, not really, but it causes the same effect. These were real people, who laughed and cried, who reached incredible heights, only to fall from them. But they are real, and they are beautiful. Anyone who has ever been in love will recognize their own heart in these pages, their own story. Genuine empathy and sympathy spills forth, as these two put feelings into words like no one else possibly could. Of course, this is not merely a bound stack of letters, but is lovingly narrated by scholars Bryer and Barks, whose work puts the lives of the pair in order, and the letters into context. Their notes are thorough, yet concise, and the book would not be the same without their efforts. I highly recommend this for fans of the Fitzgeralds or their work, and indeed to anyone who has ever loved.

I'm a huge fan of both Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald and don't consider myself in either "camp." I empathize with both equally. I've read several biographies of Scott and Zelda, but these letters truly shed new light on their life together and their tragic love story. Zelda's humanity especially comes through as she tries to sort through what's happened to her and how she and Scott might get back to where they once were. I thought of Gatsby and his obsession with the past over and over again as I read these letters. Even though neither of them was content in their life together, both missed it enough to realize that they had lost something great that--we know--they would never get back.

I'm fascinated by Fitzgerald and was truly looking forward to reading this book, what I thought would be an exchange between F. Scott and Zelda, as its title indicates. But, the book is almost entirely Zelda's writing. Zelda didn't keep many of Scott's letters, so they aren't here, and apparently his letters to other people are found in other books - not that they "belong" here, necessarily, but I would have liked to hear from Scott himself. For example, Zelda in the hospital: letters from Zelda to Scott are here. Scott clearly is doing things during these periods - including writing letters to hospital staff \*about\* Zelda's treatment (these letters, I believe, are in Brucoli's book, F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Life In Letters*). Much of Scott's thoughts, therefore, are left to the imagination. He's in California at times; he's drinking; he's with their child. Since this book is about their relationship as told through letters--i.e., their own words and thoughts--I wanted his too. So, I found it rather one-sided and its title misleading. Had I known I wasn't going to read a relationship in letters I may have had a different response. It's absolutely interesting to read Zelda's thoughts and we certainly understand

much of their situation through reading this book. So, for what it is, it's interesting. But, for what it purports to be, it's lacking.

Bought this for my husband as part of a 20th anniversary gift. Tongue in cheek of course because, I mean, they loved each other, but they \*were\* hot messes lol. Fun and informative reading for a fan of either Scott and/or Zelda.

Scott and Zelda's story in their own words. These letters are powerful, riveting, poignant, tragic and yet, finally, uplifting. In Zelda's own words, "Happily foreverafter, the best we could."

This is a vivid, moving portrait of a marriage told in the couple's own words to one another. While biographer and commentators on the Fitzgeralds and their period have provided their own interpretations of the most famous exemplars of the Jazz Age, Breyer and Barks have chosen to let the protagonists speak for themselves and to each other. The result is a look at two human beings struggling to find their identities, define their relationship, and establish their place in the world relative to one another. That they only partially succeeded but never stopped trying is what makes this collection of their letters compelling reading. Highly recommended for anyone who wants to know what the world looked like to those living in, and often trapped in, its confines.

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