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# So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came To Be And Why It Endures



## Synopsis

"Maureen Corrigan has produced a minor miracle: a book about *The Great Gatsby* that stands up to *Gatsby* itself" --Michael Cunningham. It's a revered classic and a rite of passage in the reading lives of millions. But how well do we really know *The Great Gatsby*? As "Fresh Air" book critic Maureen Corrigan points out, many of us first read Fitzgerald's masterpiece when we were too young to comprehend its power. Offering a fresh perspective on *Gatsby*, *SO WE READ ON* takes readers into archives, high school classrooms, and onto the Long Island Sound to explore the novel's hidden depths, revealing its surprising debt to noir, its rocky path to recognition as a "classic," and its profound commentaries on race, class, and gender. With rigor, wit, and infectious enthusiasm, Corrigan inspires us to re-experience *Gatsby* and, along the way, spins a fascinating story of her own. Maureen Corrigan is the book critic for NPR's "Fresh Air," the Critic-in-Residence at Georgetown University, and winner of the Edgar Award for Criticism. She is the author of *Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading* (Random House, 2005).

## Book Information

Paperback: 368 pages

Publisher: Back Bay Books; Reprint edition (May 12, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316230065

ISBN-13: 978-0316230063

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (116 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

F. Scott Fitzgerald died at age 44, the victim of a turbulent life of alcohol, high living and emotional trauma. Unhappily, at his passing, he was not a revered star of the literary world. What would become his literary bequest to the world, his novel *THE GREAT GATSBY*, was barely an afterthought in literature. A few years before his death, Fitzgerald sadly discussed the book's languid literary status in a plaintive letter to his editor, Max Perkins: "I wish it was in print. It will

be odd a year or so from now when Scottie assures her friends I was an author and finds that no book is procurableâ.â Fitzgeraldâs funeral would be eerily similar to that of Jay Gatsby --- barely anyone attended. Today, 90 years after its publication, THE GREAT GATSBY is one of the most read books in the world. It is on the reading list of almost every high school literature class in America and is the one American novel that most educated Americans have read. SO WE READ ON asks why. And while author Maureen Corrigan cannot really answer that, she does offer readers wonderful insight into the life of its troubled author and some suggestions as to why readers seem to be âborne back ceaselesslyâ into its thrall. Corrigan is the book critic for NPRâs âFresh Airâ and a professor of literature at Georgetown University. She teaches THE GREAT GATSBY as a labor of love, even going so far as to travel with her students to New York City to experience âthe living text of the city.â She believes that Fitzgerald loved the Big Apple as he wrote the book. He had visited there while a student at Princeton and returned after military service. New York City of the â20s suited his life aspirations. Part of Corriganâs affinity for the classic work obviously stems from her love of New York.

A special thank you to Little Brown & Company and NetGalley for a complimentary reading copy in exchange for an honest review. (also purchased the audiobook). So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures, by Maureen Corrigan offers extraordinary insights and commentary, into the real meaning behind this timeless classic; the characters, the time, viewpoints and perspectives, symbolism, comparisons, and interesting tidbits of this talented author, Scott Fitzgerald; inspiring readers to re-read, to experience the life of the good and the bad of this exciting era and the "American Dream". As a huge fan of The Great Gatsby, having read it many times, during my younger years, and within the last few years, the movie, performances, reading the book again twice, and listened to the audiobook. Have also read Z, Zelda Fitzgerald and many other books surrounding this intriguing couple. Wow, So We Read On was outstanding! A thought provoking and compelling view with a fresh look and perspective into the symbolism between the life of Scott Fitzgerald and Gatsby character. I listened to the audiobook, read by the author; so right on, as her vast knowledge is reflective throughout the pages. I was so engrossed, as I am a big research nut and loved Corrigan's passion and extensive insights (what a super idea going back to the high school as everyone has a different take). The entire time I was listening to this captivating book, I was thinking "Wow, Corrigan could duplicate this book with all the classics out there!" It would be incredible, as I for one would buy anything she writes. So We Read On is a book you will want to buy (as ideal for reference, gifts, and would make a great book club choice, or for lectures,

discussions, groups, etc.

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