



The Ice Palace

F. Scott Fitzgerald

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The Ice Palace Details

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From Reader Review The Ice Palace for online ebook

Ryan Lindberg says

Fitzgerald's "The Ice Palace," shares dark romantic tropes and its theme is much like Poe's, "The Narrative of Arthur Gordon Pym of Nantucket;" both stories see their main characters leave the comfort of their home to dip and rise from the unconscious and consciousness. The unconscious is a state of instinct, usually involving nature and darkness. If one dips too deep into the unconscious, they are often considered uncivilized savages, which can be dangerous. The conscious is enlightenment, materialism, and in "The Ice Palace" is shown through upper social class. The northerners are in the consciousness. They look down at southerners as uneducated. The north is materialistic and values their class. They have books that appear to never have been open but are used to show their sophistication, unlike the battered books Sally remembers in her southern library. The northerners act unnaturally confining themselves to socially acceptable rules of etiquette with a narrow viewpoint, holding wealth and class as valuable.

Clarence Bucaro says

Nice short story! Beautiful snowy images

Nika Vardiashvili says

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Isadora says

Fitzgerald is surprisingly good when his main character is a woman, it takes him farther away from his own head, I suppose. Though his prose is always perfect as far as I'm concerned, his tendency to write the same story over and over can get tiresome, and thankfully this was not the case here. The Ice Palace is a story about a southern girl, warm and vivacious, who thinks she has to get away from it all and go North. The winter and the cold personalities she finds there lead her to question that. Extra points for being surprisingly feminist.

Kim Dennis says

Part of me wanted to give this two stars, but I liked it better than a book that I recently rated 2 stars, so I had to go up. This is part of a Christmas collection I'm listening to. I was worried about what I would get from F.

Scott Fitzgerald when it came to a Christmas type story. This one was just a winter story, but it wasn't the feel-good type of stories I have been enjoying in the collection. In the end, I mostly just wondered what his point was with the story. The ending was just a little too abrupt for me. I definitely preferred The Great Gatsby.

Viji (Bookish endeavors) says

Better than the previous read.. The story is about a girl who feels that she'll be stuck if she continues to live in the south and moves on to the north with a boy she thinks she is in love with.. Only when she reaches north does she realize the false pretense of the people there.. She feels that the women there is nothing but 'glorified domestics.' She finds herself in the midst of a men-oriented society. Being born and brought up in the wild and green south, she is unable to cope with this, and feels that all she's doing here is acting her part.. Stuck in the ice palace, which might be the symbol of the ice-cold nature of the people there, for sometime she realizes this is no place for her to be. At the end of the story, she's seen with the old boyfriend in the south.

The yearning of mind to be in a better place than where it is is portrayed beautifully in this story.. And the difference between the frankness of the south and pretentious nature of the north couldn't have made more obvious.. We might enjoy taking out breath and the way breath escapes our nose more after reading this story.. I loved the part describing her wonder at the white breath escaping from her nose.. A simple and enjoyable reading..

Jessica says

1. I'm on page four and I love it already. The prose is beautiful so far! I am somewhat familiar with Fitz quotes and I just found "I want to live where things happen on a big scale" - the find definitely made me smile.

This may be a little premature to say, but I feel I connect with Sally so much; with her ambition, her melancholy about leaving her loved ones behind, her hunger for something more than small town life, even if the summer days are half as beautiful as Fitz describes them. I hope good things come to her. I hope she achieves and learns. But I feel for some reason Fitz won't be so kind....

2. Ahem... Sally Carroll *

I can see where this is headed. It's one of my own fears. Having dreams and aspirations so ardently that sooner than later turn to mediocrity. That's the trouble the having great expectations of things. As a matter of fact, I think this story serves as a foundation for what gatsby eventually argued. I still hope that she will be happy.

3. Whhhhhhhaaat. Well, I guess one could say she turned out happy. Not the ending I envisioned. I was being very idealistic, but the ending was beautiful. This whole story was beautiful. It's a wonderful telling of 'great expectations' and finding that one what might initially view as intellectual or societal progress is at it's worst an abandonment of self.

Bonnie says

I cried my eyes out because I can relate to Sally-Carol all too well... like S-C, I was hyphenated, Bonnie-Jean, like S-C, I loathe being cold (it snowed today in Alberta Canada, Sept 12th)! Like Sally-Carol, I left my sleepy town to pursue adventure in an Ibsenesque city... I also shudder at the idea of snow on my grave and I also love the heat, good manners, Southern Charm and interesting personalities....

Hiba Arrame says

The story was beautifully written, the theme isn't common as well, it's about this young lady who thought she could easily change her home, and get used to another one, but she found out she was wrong, with all the differences, between her the Southern young lady, and her fiancé the Northern young man.

Diane S ? says

3.5 Im reading a non fiction book called The Gatsby Affair, and felt compelled to read a short story by Fitzgerald. I have many books of shorts in my house, and after locating this one, I chose the story The Ice Palace. It is so darn hot here again, the title called to me. In another book coincidence this story almost perfectly with where is was in the non fiction book. This story without doubt is partly the story of Zelda and Scott.

In the story, the flirtatious Sally Carol, is being wooed by many of her Southern boyfriends. Much to their dismay, she is engaged and in love with a Northerner. She loves to swim, dance, always in motion. On her trip to the North, she dislikes the cold, doesn't quite fit in with these more somber people and after a terrifying experience visiting the ice palace.....Well you will have to read the story yourself..

The story does a great job pointing out the differences between the South and North. The prose is simple but effective. I enjoyed this little sample of book coincidence.

Tricia says

For me, plot line is secondary with Fitzgerald because I just get lost in his words. His prose is beautiful. It's that simple.

Brian says

3.5 - I like Fitzgerald's style. I wondered if the people who wrote the screenplay Sweet Home Alabama were inspired by this short story. The story reflects the tension that remained between North and South U.S. many years after the war. A Southern girl falls for a Northerner, and tells the guys in town they're great but not what she's looking for. My favorite part showed tension building up between the two as the guy made mean comments about Southerners and made her mad. I liked seeing her mad because she seemed so pacifistic,

and, in all honesty, kind of dumb. I'm not sure that she was more laid back and mellow than dumb, but it was evident these two were different. He is business minded and quick witted and she wanted to go build a snowman. I liked her more than him, however. She struggles deeply with her love of the South and is forced to a decision in an ice palace. The end made me laugh. For me, it was a happy ending. I love when people stop running from themselves and instead embrace who they really are. The populous may want you to be a certain way, but you won't be happy until you embrace you and who/ what you are rather than letting the world fit you in its mold.

Lindsay says

Great descriptive writing - beautiful and concise. The heroine is juvenile and unlikable.

Gina Johnson says

I think I'm just not a fan of Fitzgerald. I thought I was going to like this one (and it was way better than The Great Gatsby imho) but then... *shrug* I'm just not a fan.

Shasta Cornett says

Being from the South and moving closer to the North I can totally understand the whole idea behind this book. I can also see that she was wanting to do what was expected of her and when she did she was unhappy. If she would have just done what her heart wanted she wouldn't have had to pretend to be anyone but herself.
