

## Penguin Book 2326

## The Crack-Up with other Pieces and Stories

In Scott Fitzgerald, as in every writer of genius, there was something of the seer. He gave a name to an age – the Jazz Age – lived through that age, and saw it burn itself out. As a New York Times editorial stated after his death: 'He was better than he knew, for in fact and in the literary sense he invented a "generation" . . . he might have interpreted them and even guided them, as in their middle years they saw a different and nobler freedom threatened with destruction.'

F. Scott Fitzgerald was born in St Paul, Minnesota, and even as a schoolboy in St Paul he was writing, and later at Princeton. In 1917 he left Princeton for the army – but didn't get to France – and wrote in his spare moments. Then came, in 1920, This Side of Paradise – the first of his novels – followed by two volumes of short stories, and, at last, The Great Gatsby which alone would assure Scott Fitzgerald's place among the writers of major stature. He died in 1941.

He wrote three other novels: The Beautiful and Damned, Tender is the Night, and The Last Tycoon (his last, and unfinished work) and four volumes of short stories.

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