Fitzgerald's expatriate years and the European stories

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**MLA Citation:**

**Thesis Statement:** "During the peak of his contemporary popularity, F. Scott Fitzgerald lived abroad - mostly in France - for five years and eight months, much of that time pursuing a frenzied social life that impeded his literary work" (118).

**Main Points:**
- "This craving for upper-class or aristocratic status manifests itself elsewhere in 'How to Live'" (120).
- "'The whole world has come here to forget or to rejoice,' Fitzgerald writes, 'to hide it's face or have its fling, to build white palaces out of the spoils of oppression or to write the books which sometimes batter those palaces down'" (121).
- "Among the thoughtless Americans who flaunt their wealth, bigotry, and insouciance" (138).
- "Fitzgerald denounces other Americans for their avoidance of "French life" while satirizing the Fitzgeralnds' own resistance to the foreign"(120).
- "Six months later, the memory of Zelda's amour patently inspired "Image on the Heart" (September 1935). Set entirely in France, the story limns the romantic dilemma of Tudy, a nineteen-year-old American widow whose year in Provence has been financed by Tom, a family friend who first pities her, then proposes marriage" (139).
- "This craving for upper class or aristocratic status manifests itself elsewhere in "How To Live". Fitzgerald condescends to the French, who-whether taxi-drivers or real estate agents - are stereotypically portrayed as conniving money hungry types"(120).
- "...Fitzgerald portrays a resourceful expatriate thriving in France because he knows things not in the guidebook - and because he invests his income in American bonds and his love in an American woman" (123-124).
- "...Fitzgerald appears increasingly mindful of the boorishness and blindness that accompanied inflated expatriate wealth" (125-126).

**Connection/Reflection:**
The idea of a yearning for elevated social class is a recurring theme in *The Great Gatsby*. Partying was a social norm of that time and everyone either went to forget their problems or celebrate that they didn't have any. Most of the people in Fitzgerald's books flaunt
their money and show off with it like he did in his life. The bigotry of Fitzgerald towards his own people (Americans) is like the old rich looking down upon the newly rich people in The Great Gatsby. A lot of Fitzgerald's stories revolve around a romantic conflict, usually involving marital problems. People valued social class and what class you were apart of determined how you were treated by peers. Nick has a successful life by investing into the bonds business and Gatsby is completely in love with who he wants to be his woman. A lot of the more wealthy people in The Great Gatsby like to flaunt their money by basically throwing it down the drain, sinking money into whatever they can to show off. All reasoning is valid, and all evidence is sufficient.