

overwhelming. Before he dies, Don Julián slaps Ernesto's face and threatens to kill him in a duel. After his death, Severo claims his brother's house and orders Teodora banished from the premises. When she faints, Ernesto denounces Severo and all gossiping society as no better than an evil panderer determined to bring two innocent people to ruin with vague innuendoes and vicious rumors. The title of the play is derived from Galeoto, the go-between for Lancelot and Guinevere, as referred to in Dante's story of Paolo and Francesca.

Don Julián (hew-lee-AHN), a wealthy businessman who befriends Ernesto. He is then led by slander to suspect an affair between Ernesto and Teodora.

Teodora (teh-oh-DOHR-ah), Julián's young and faithful wife, wrongly suspected by society of being in love with Ernesto. Severo bars her from her dying husband's room and later tries to put her out of the house. When she faints, Ernesto lifts her up and tells Severo that he will take her away.

Severo (seh-VEH-roh), Julián's brother. He voices the rumors of Madrid. He is forced by Ernesto to apologize on his knees to Teodora.

Mercedes (mehr-THAY-dehs), Severo's gossiping wife, who passes on the rumors of scandal to Teodora.

Pepito (peh-PEE-toh), the son of Severo and Mercedes. He carries the news of Julián's duel.

The Viscount Nebreda (neh-breh-dah), who is challenged to a duel by Ernesto for slandering Teodora. Julián, taking up the challenge, is fatally wounded by Nebreda, who, in turn, is killed by Ernesto.

The Great Gatsby

Author: F. Scott Fitzgerald

First published: 1925; critical edition, 1991

Genre: Novel

Locale: New York City and Long Island

Plot: Social realism

Time: The 1920's

Nick Carraway, the narrator. A young Midwesterner who was dissatisfied with his life at home, he was attracted to New York and now sells bonds there. He is the most honest character of the novel and because of this trait fails to become deeply fascinated by his rich friends on Long Island. He helps Daisy and Jay Gatsby to renew a love they had known before Daisy's marriage, and he is probably the only person in the novel to have any genuine affection for Gatsby.

Jay Gatsby, a fabulously rich racketeer whose connections outside of the law are only guessed at. He is the son of poor parents from the Middle West. He has changed his name from James Gatz and becomes obsessed with a need for making more and more money. Much of his time is spent in trying to impress, and become accepted by, other rich people. He gives lavish parties for people he knows nothing about and most of whom he never meets. He is genuinely in love with Daisy Buchanan and becomes a sympathetic character when he assumes the blame for her hit-and-run accident. At his death, he has been deserted by everyone except his father and Nick.

Daisy Buchanan, Nick's second cousin. Unhappy in her marriage because of Tom Buchanan's deliberate unfaithfulness, she has the character of a "poor little rich girl." She renews an old love for Jay Gatsby and considers leaving her husband, but she is finally reconciled to him. She kills Tom's mistress in a hit-and-run accident after a quarrel in which she defends both men as Tom accuses Gatsby of trying to steal her from him; but she allows Gatsby to take the blame for the accident and suffers no remorse when he is murdered by the woman's husband.

Tom Buchanan, Daisy's husband. The son of rich Midwestern parents, he reached the heights of his career as a college football player. Completely without taste, culture, or sensitivity, he carries on a rather sordid affair with Myrtle Wilson. He pretends to help George Wilson, her husband, but allows him to think that Gatsby was not only her murderer but also her lover.

Myrtle Wilson, Tom Buchanan's mistress. She is a fat, unpleasant woman who is so highly appreciative of the fact that her lover is a rich man that she will suffer almost any degradation for him. While she is with Tom, her pretense that she is rich and highly sophisticated becomes ludicrous.

George Wilson, Myrtle's husband, a rather pathetic figure. He runs an auto repair shop and believes Tom Buchanan is really interested in helping him. Aware that his wife has a lover, he never suspects who he really is. His faith in Tom makes him believe what Buchanan says, which, in turn, causes him to murder Gatsby and then commit suicide.

Jordan Baker, a friend of the Buchanans, a golfer. Daisy introduces Jordan to Nick and tries to throw them together, but when Nick realizes that she is a cheat who refuses to assume the elementary responsibility of the individual, he loses all interest in her.

Meyer Wolfshiem, a gambler and underworld associate of Gatsby.

Catherine, Myrtle Wilson's sister, who is obviously proud of Myrtle's rich connection and unconcerned with the immorality involved.

Mr. and Mrs. McKee, a photographer and his wife who try to use Nick and Tom to get a start among the rich people of Long Island.

Mr. Gatz, Jay Gatsby's father who, being unaware of the facts of Jay's life, thought his son had been a great man.

The Great God Brown

Author: Eugene O'Neill

First published: 1926, in *The Great God Brown*, *The*

Fountain, *The Moon of the Caribbees*, and *Other Plays*

Genre: Play

Locale: The East Coast of the United States

Plot: Expressionism

Time: The 1920's

Dion Anthony, a talented but failed artist and architect. Dion's dilemma is that of the creative and sensitive artist in the crass, materialistic world. In his youth, he starts on the course of ruination through drink and gambling. His dissipation is reflected in the mask this character sometimes carries and sometimes wears throughout this expressionistic play. In the opening scene, his mask shows the defiance and rebelliousness of a "sensual young Pan" and hides the more spiritual, poetic qualities of Dion's face. Seven years later, his mask has hardened into an image of a bitter, mocking Mephistopheles, and his face has become more aged and strained but also more ascetic. At this point, Dion's wife, Margaret, obtains a position for Dion as an architect with Billy Brown, a childhood friend. Although Dion produces successful designs, his disgust over selling out to materialism, to the Great God Brown, helps to complete the ravages on his face and mask. He dies seven years later, his face that of a martyr but his mask completely diabolic in its picture of cruelty and evil.

William A. (Billy) Brown, a successful architect, a good-looking, well-dressed, prosperous businessman. He has always loved Margaret and employs Dion at her request. Brown, however, takes credit for Dion's ingenuity and designs, a betrayal that contributes to Dion's decline. Dion dies in Brown's home, and when Margaret arrives, Brown conceals the body and garbs himself in Dion's clothes and mask. For the next three months, he deceives both Margaret and office draftsmen by wearing his own Billy Brown mask of the smiling, successful executive at work and by wearing Dion's mask at the Anthony home. His own face, however, now shows the strain of living with the demon in Dion's mask, and

he comes to realize that he has failed in stealing the mask to acquire the creative spirit of Dion.

Margaret Anthony, Dion's wife. Young and pretty when she marries, she grows increasingly worried over Dion's dissipation. At home, she reveals her face to her husband, but when she goes to Billy's office to ask him to hire Dion, she covers her anxiety with the mask of her character: that of the innocent, hopeful matron. Margaret is thereby able to pretend that things are better at home than they really are.

—Glenn Hopp

The Great Meadow

Author: Elizabeth Madox Roberts

First published: 1930

Genre: Novel

Locale: Western Virginia and Kentucky

Plot: Historical

Time: 1775-1783

Diony Hall Jarvis, a pioneer wife and a lover of books and learning who is by nature introspective and is often philosophical and poetic in her thoughts. She frequently muses over her own identity and the part she is playing in the settling of a new land. She sees herself and the others creating order out of disorder. Combining the idealist and the practical woman, she trains herself carefully for her mission by learning the homely arts that will be needed to establish enduring order. When, after Berk's return, she is faced with the problem of choosing between her two husbands, she is loyal to the one to whom she first gave herself.

Berk Jarvis, her husband, a strong, adventurous, restless fighting man experienced in enduring the many hardships of pioneer life and the dangers of Indian warfare. Intent on avenging his mother's murder and bringing back her hair, he leaves his wife and child in order to achieve his goal. He represents the early pioneers who opened the wilderness for white American occupancy and who fought the Indians and the British who tried to drive them out.

Evan Muir, married to Diony after Berk's supposed death. Patient, industrious, and capable, he is a symbol of the men who followed the wilderness trail blazers and conquerors. Such men as Evan were needed to establish the settlements and homesteads on a permanent basis.

Thomas Hall, Diony's father, a wilderness surveyor who accepted land as pay for surveying a great tract for a Maryland company. A cultured man, he has encouraged Diony's studies in the arts and philosophy. Though disappointed in Diony's choice of Berk, he permits their marriage.

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