

## **Description of Women Image in the Story “the Cut Glass Bowl” by F. Scott Fitzgerald**

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**Abstract:** F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of the outstanding authors of the XX century American Literature and his contribution is enormous in the development of “Jazz Age” or “Roaring Twenties” in American literature. F. Scott Fitzgerald’s works influenced significantly on the writers’ of American literature and continue to be researched today. The author chiefly described society’s traditions, way of life and cultural values in his short fiction. The story “The Cut Glass Bowl” portrays the dynamics of a troubled marriage, but it also provides insight into the portrayal of the woman character. In the paper Evylyn’s characterization is discussed and how the main character as a woman strives for material wealth, but understands that this does not bring happiness, and feels alone herself in her marriage and longs for emotional connection and freedom is analyzed.

**Keywords:** F. Scott Fitzgerald, author, character, “The Cut Glass Bowl”, literary work, internal, external, writer, story.

### **I. INTRODUCTION**

F. Scott Fitzgerald is one of the literary giants who significantly contributed to the development of American literature, particularly during “Jazz Age” or the “Roaring Twenties” in American literature which is considered to be popular periods in it. The author is widely regarded as one of the greatest American writers of the 20th century and is best known for his novel “The Great Gatsby”, which is encountered to be a classic of American literature.

F. Scott Fitzgerald’s oeuvre captured the mood of the period, portraying the apathy, decline, disappointment and disillusionment of the era. His works often illustrated themes of aspiration, familial relationship, social class, fortune and its impact on person’s life, love and love affairs, the American Dream. Through his vivid and poetic prose, F. Scott Fitzgerald described the lives of the upper part in the society, mostly the rich and their struggles to search meaning and contentment in a materialistic world.

### **II. LITERATURE REVIEW**

F. Scott Fitzgerald’s works had a significance influence on the writers’ of American literature and continue to be researched today. His portrayal of the period he lived and described; his findings about American society’s traditions, way of life and cultural values had a powerful impact on the readers then and still continuing to affect today’s readers. M.J. Bruccoli, S.Donaldson, J.R.Bryer, R.Prigozy, L.Wagner-Martin are the literary critics who extensively researched F. Scott Fitzgerald’s short fiction and they have provided an in-depth analysis of the author’s short stories. The author’s writing style and themes have impacted on the further

generations of writers as well, and his works are often regarded as cultural touchstones of the 1920s and American literature as a whole.

### III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

“The Cut Glass Bowl” is one of the most popular stories among the short stories written by F. Scott Fitzgerald and it was first published in 1920. The story mainly portrays the dynamics of a troubled marriage, but it also provides insight into the portrayal of the woman character. The main character of the story “The Cut Glass Bowl” is a woman whose name is Evelyln Piper. F. Scott Fitzgerald describes his woman image as a young, beautiful, and ambitious woman who comes from a modest background. Evelyln marries a wealthy man named Harold Piper, who is considerably older than her and belongs to a higher social class. As the story progresses the writer divides it into several parts. At the very beginning the author depicts Evelyln’s younger years where she is very pretty. *“It was well past its first glory on the day the curious Mrs. Roger Fairboalt came to see the beautiful Mrs. Harold Piper”* [3]. The word “beautiful” is used deliberately. The main character of the story is described as a pretty person and the author depicts her main character with *“lights in her young, dark eyes”* and *“pretty laughter”* on her face. The main character of the story Mrs. Piper’s mouth is closely related to a rose petal while forming words. *“Oh, that big bowl!” Mrs. Piper’s mouth forming the words was a vivid rose petal* [3]. In the story using flowers is mostly makes the reader understand that the image through this is to illustrate delicacy and tenderness of the person that is being depicted in the narration. In the description of the main character’s facial expression the rose symbolizes her beauty and “rose petal” shape mouth shows how pretty the woman is.

F. Scott Fitzgerald focuses on revealing not only portrayal on the woman image’s external side, but also internal world as well. Through description of Evelyln’s desires and aspirations the author illustrates how she strives for a glamorous lifestyle and is captivated by allure of fortune. Actually she marries not for love, but to strengthen her social status and financial security. As the events progress, Evelyln realizes that material properties do not bring happiness to anyone. F. Scott Fitzgerald portrays various stages of Mrs. Piper’s life and through his description he shows how his woman character changes both externally and internally. In the first part of the story the author makes the reader love his character by her charm and beauty. But in the second part F. Scott Fitzgerald portrays her thirties where *“her eyes were still as large and as dark and as sad, but the mystery had departed; their sadness was no longer eternal, only human, and she had developed a habit, when she was startled or annoyed, of twitching her brows together and blinking several times”* [3]. Mrs. Piper is no longer possesses a mouth like a rose petal while forming words and she is not as pretty as she used to be in her twenties. The author focuses mostly on the smile the woman had, and even hints that Evelyln herself enjoyed this smile that she mostly accentuated on it. Everything in her beauty is connected with mystery the woman can have, and through the years how the woman loses all these mysteries.

F. Scott Fitzgerald illustrates his main character’s tender feelings and her vulnerability. Furthermore, the author shows how Evelyln feels alone herself in her marriage and longs for emotional connection and freedom. During different stages of her life Evelyln becomes extensively aware of the emptiness of her life and the lack of fulfillment she experiences within her marriage. Even the title of the story “The cut glass bowl” is a metaphor for Evelyln's life. The bowl is a fragile and beautiful object that represents her desires and aspirations. However, when the bowl accidentally shatters, it symbolizes the destruction of her dreams and the realization that material possessions and social status cannot bring true happiness.

### IV. CONCLUSION

Overall, the portrayal of the woman character in “The Cut Glass Bowl” reflects F. Scott Fitzgerald’s exploration of the limitations and disillusionments faced by women in the early 20th century. Evelyln’s character embodies the struggles and conflicts of many women of that time, who were torn between societal expectations and their own desires for personal fulfillment and self-discovery.

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