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## APPENDICES

### A. Synopsis *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

In Chapter 1, on a September morning in 1860, Roger Button rushed to the hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, eager to greet his newborn son. Outside the hospital, he encountered Doctor Keene. The doctor was anxious and cold, filling Roger with unease.

Roger rushed into the hospital, and all of the nurses treated him with similar unkindness. Finally, a nurse directed him towards the nursery, where he saw his son for the first time. The child, however, was not a child at all, but a 70-year-old man. The baby then spoke to Roger, telling him to get him some more appropriate clothes. The nurse urged him to get the child out of the hospital as soon as possible, as they were already in danger of losing their reputation.

In Chapter 2, Roger visited a store in search of clothing for his son. Nothing seemed appropriate. Finally he found a suit, and purchased it. When Roger saw his son in the suit, he felt even more depressed. Before leaving the hospital, he cut his son's beard. The child asked what Roger would name him.

In Chapter 3, Roger named his son Benjamin. He kept Benjamin in the nursery, though Benjamin had no interest in childish games or toys. Benjamin frequently snuck downstairs for Roger's cigars, or for the encyclopedia to read.

Over the years, Benjamin strived to play the part of the child. When he turned 12, he realized he looked a little bit younger. Roger agreed to let him wear longer

pants, if Benjamin agreed to keep dyeing his gray hair and playing with children his age.

In Chapter 4, when Benjamin turned 18, he looked 50. Roger sent him to Connecticut, where he took and passed the entrance examinations for Yale College. Though he was accepted, when the registrar saw his aged appearance, he accused Benjamin of being an unstable fraud, and demanded he leave the campus.

In Chapter 5, Benjamin began working for his father's company. He and Roger also became friends. One night while at a party, Benjamin met and fell in love with Hildegarde. Suddenly Benjamin felt his life was starting.

In Chapter 6, Benjamin and Hildegarde announced their engagement. Despite the stories about Benjamin's birth, Hildegarde was undeterred. However, she also refused to listen to the truth.

In Chapter 7, Benjamin and Hildegarde's marriage was happy for 15 years. However, when Benjamin began noticing Hildegarde's age, he felt less attracted to her. Unsure what to do, he joined the army and became a hero.

In Chapter 8, when Benjamin returned from the war, he was shocked by Hildegarde's aged appearance. Meanwhile, he looked younger than ever. He tried discussing their situation with her, but Hildegarde blamed him, and refused to listen. To distract himself from his marital troubles, Benjamin began partying.

In Chapter 9, Roscoe inherited the family business, and Benjamin enrolled at Harvard University. For his first two years he excelled at school, and was a star on the football team. In his last two years, however, he grew scrawny. His work felt

harder, too. After graduation, he moved in with Roscoe. Hildegard had moved to Italy, and he had nowhere else to go. Roscoe was ashamed of Benjamin, and treated him cruelly.

In Chapter 10, Benjamin received a summons from the army. Delighted, he snuck off to South Carolina without telling Roscoe. Two days later, Roscoe collected him from the army camp, and brought him back to Baltimore.

In Chapter 11, Benjamin grew younger and younger. He continued living with Roscoe. He soon became an infant, and a nanny assumed his care. With each passing day, Benjamin felt more freed from his haunting memories and dreams.

Source: [The Curious Case of Benjamin Button Summary & Study Guide](#)  
([bookrags.com](#))

## **B. Synopsis Babylon Revisited**

Part I opens in the middle of a conversation between Charlie Wales and Alix, a bartender at the Ritz. Charlie asks Alix to pass along his brother-in-law's address to Duncan Schaeffer. The narrator says that Paris and the Ritz bar feel deserted. Charlie says he has been sober for a year and a half and that he is now a businessman living in Prague. He and Alix gossip about old acquaintances. Charlie says he's in town to see his daughter.

Charlie gets in a taxi. The Left Bank looks provincial to him, and he wonders whether he's ruined the city for himself. The narrator tells us that Charlie is a handsome thirty-five-year-old. Charlie goes to his brother-in-law's house, where

his daughter, Honoria, jumps into his arms. Marion Peters, his sister-in-law, greets him without warmth, although his brother-in-law, Lincoln Peters, is friendlier. In a calculated remark, Charlie boasts about how good his finances are these days. Lincoln looks restless, so Charlie changes the subject. Marion says she's glad there aren't many Americans left in Paris, and it's clear that she doesn't like Charlie.

After eating dinner with the Peters family, Charlie goes to see a famous dancer named Josephine Baker, then to Montmartre, where he passes nightclubs that he recognizes. He sees a few scared tourists go into one club. He thinks about the meaning of dissipation and remembers the vast sums of money he threw away. After ignoring a woman's advances, he goes home.

Part II begins the following morning. Charlie takes Honoria to lunch. He suggests going to a toy store and then to a vaudeville show. Honoria doesn't want to go to the toy store because she's worried they're no longer rich. Charlie playfully introduces himself to her as if they are strangers. He pretends that her doll is her child, and she goes along with the joke. She says she prefers Lincoln to Marion and asks why she can't live with Charlie.

Leaving the restaurant, they run into Duncan Schaeffer and Lorraine Quarrles, two of Charlie's friends from the old days. Lorraine says she and her husband are poor now and that she is alone in Paris. They ask Charlie to join them for dinner, but he brushes them off and refuses to tell them where he's staying. They see each

other again at the vaudeville, and he has a drink with them. In the cab on the way home, Honoria says she wants to live with him, which thrills Charlie. She blows him a kiss when she is safely inside the house.

In Part III, Charlie meets with Marion and Lincoln. He says that he wants Honoria to live with him and that he has changed. He says he drinks one drink per day on purpose so that he doesn't obsess about it ever again. Marion doesn't understand this, but Lincoln claims that he understands Charlie. Charlie settles in for a long fight, reminding himself that his objective isn't to justify his behavior but to win Honoria back. Marion says that Charlie hasn't existed for her since he locked Helen, her sister and Charlie's wife, out of their apartment. Charlie says Marion can trust him. As it becomes increasingly clear that Marion simply doesn't like Charlie, he begins to worry that she will turn Honoria against him. He stresses that he will be able to give Honoria a good life and then realizes that Marion and Lincoln don't want to hear about how much wealthier he is than they are. He craves a drink.

The narrator says that Marion understands Charlie's wish to be with his daughter but needs to see him as the villain. She implies that Charlie was responsible for Helen's death. Lincoln objects. Charlie says that heart trouble killed Helen, and Marion sarcastically agrees with him. Suddenly giving up the fight, she leaves the room. Lincoln tells Charlie that he can take Honoria. Back in his hotel room, Charlie thinks of the way he and Helen destroyed their love for no good reason. He remembers the night they fought and she kissed another man; he

got home before her and locked her out. There was a snowstorm later, and Helen wandered around in the cold. The incident marked the “beginning of the end.” Charlie falls asleep and dreams of Helen, who says that she wants him and Honoria to be together.

Part IV begins the next morning. Charlie interviews two potential governesses and then eats lunch with Lincoln. He says Marion resents the fact that Charlie and Helen were spending a fortune while she and Lincoln were just scraping along. In his hotel room, Charlie gets a pneumatique (a letter delivered by pneumatic tube) from Lorraine, who reminisces about their drunken pranks and asks to see him at the Ritz bar. The adventures that Lorraine looks back on with fondness strike Charlie as nightmarish.

Charlie goes to Marion and Lincoln’s house in the afternoon. Honoria has been told of the decision and is delighted. The room feels safe and warm. The doorbell rings—it is Lorraine and Duncan, who are drunk. Slurring their words, they ask Charlie to dinner. He refuses twice and they leave angry. Furious, Marion leaves the room. The children eat dinner, and Lincoln goes to check on Marion. When he comes back, he tells Charlie that the plans have changed.

In Part V, Charlie goes to the Ritz bar. He sees Paul, a bartender he knew in the old days. He thinks of the fights that he and Helen had, the people out of their minds on alcohol and drugs, and the way he locked Helen out in the snow. He calls Lincoln, who says that for six months, they have to drop the question of

Honorita living with Charlie. Charlie goes back to the bar. He realizes that the only thing he can do for Honorita is buy her things, which he knows is inadequate. He plans to come back and try again.

Source: [Babylon Revisited: Full Plot Summary | SparkNotes](#)

### **C. Synopsis Bernice Bobs Her Hair**

The story opens in a ballroom in a club on a Saturday night. It is summertime and the crowd consists of middle-aged women and those referred to as “dangerous youth.” The narrator points out the people in the crowd to the readers. He calls the attendees “a medley of faces and voices” and then singles out Warren McIntyre. Warren looks down upon the others around him, feeling superior because he had attended college in the East. He still, however, has affection for the local girls, in particular Marjorie Harvey. Marjorie is said to have a “bewildering tongue” and is remembered for once having done five cartwheels at a party. She has told Warren that she is not in love with him and that she did not give him a second thought while they were apart, during that time having relationships with other men.

Marjorie convinces Warren to dance with her cousin Bernice who is nervous and seems lacking in social graces. Bernice knows she is not like Marjorie who possesses feminine qualities. When back home, Mrs. Harvey tells Marjorie that there are things that are more important than being popular, but to no avail. Bernice overhears Marjorie telling her mother that Bernice has Indian blood and that is what retards her social development. Bernice threatens to leave, and Marjorie tells her that she is a weak coward. Once the heat of the moment

subsides, Marjorie tells Bernice she will teach her how to fit in when in social situations. She begins by telling her to pay attention to the less popular men, or “sad birds,” as she calls them in order to get more desirable people to notice her. Bernice is not concerned with being popular like her cousin. Bernice mentions “common kindness” at which point Marjorie recognizes the quote from *Little Women* and chastises Bernice for quoting a book about what she considers “inane females”.

A week later at a dinner dance, Bernice announces that she might get her hair bobbed. This is an exciting proposition and gets the attention of the crowd, including the much-desired G. Reece Stoddard. Bernice dances with many men that evening, among them Warren McIntyre, about whom she is still thinking when she retires for the night. The evening is successful in raising Bernice’s confidence along with her new-found popularity. When Warren and Bernice begin spending time together, Marjorie pretends that she does not care. She calls Bernice’s bluff about planning to cut her hair, which makes Bernice realize that she has to actually go through with it. When she does so, it does not have the desired results. The hairstyle does not look attractive on her. Her confidence plummets, and the crowd, including Warren, no longer pays any attention to her.

Marjorie knows that the next party she and Bernice are scheduled to attend will be the source of further humiliation and discomfort for her cousin. Marjorie spends the evening preparing her own long hair for the party. Bernice can no longer control herself. While Marjorie is sleeping, Bernice packs to leave the house but before exiting, cuts off Marjorie’s braids, takes them with her, and

deposits them on the front porch of Warren's home. Remembering Marjorie's cutting remark about her Indian lineage, Bernice says, "Scalp the selfish thing!"

Although her final act in the story is one of revenge, Bernice is a more nuanced character than that implies. She may be unable to navigate the social scene with the grace of the other young men and women, but she has a sensitivity and a vulnerability that they lack. She has a willingness to get to know Marjorie and shows gratitude when Marjorie gives her advice. Marjorie has no inclination to accept anything from Bernice. Bernice has an individuality that brings her strength.

Source: <https://www.supersummary.com/bernice-bobs-her-hair/summary/>

#### **D. Biography of F. Scott Fitzgerald**

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald was born on September 24, 1896, and named after his ancestor Francis Scott Key, the writer of "The Star-Spangled Banner." Fitzgerald was raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. Though an intelligent child, he did poorly in school and was sent to a New Jersey boarding school in 1911. Despite being a mediocre student there, he managed to enroll at Princeton in 1913. Academic troubles and apathy plagued him throughout his time at college, and he never graduated, instead enlisting in the army in 1917, as World War I neared its end.

Fitzgerald became a second lieutenant, and was stationed at Camp Sheridan, in Montgomery, Alabama. There he met and fell in love with a wild seventeen-year-old beauty named Zelda Sayre. Zelda finally agreed to marry him, but her

overpowering desire for wealth, fun, and leisure led her to delay their wedding until he could prove a success. With the publication of *This Side of Paradise* in 1920, Fitzgerald became a literary sensation, earning enough money and fame to convince Zelda to marry him.

Many of these events from Fitzgerald's early life appear in his most famous novel, *The Great Gatsby*, published in 1925. Like Fitzgerald, Nick Carraway is a thoughtful young man from Minnesota, educated at an Ivy League school (in Nick's case, Yale), who moves to New York after the war. Fitzgerald also shares some characteristics with *The Great Gatsby's* titular character, Jay Gatsby, a sensitive young man who idolizes wealth and luxury and who falls in love with a beautiful young woman while stationed at a military camp in the South.

Fitzgerald was the most famous chronicler of 1920s America, an era that he dubbed "the Jazz Age." *The Great Gatsby* is one of the greatest literary documents of this period, in which the American economy soared, bringing unprecedented levels of prosperity to the nation.

After *The Great Gatsby* brought him literary celebrity, Fitzgerald fell into a wild, reckless lifestyle of parties and decadence, while desperately trying to please Zelda by writing to earn money. As the giddiness of the Roaring Twenties dissolved into the bleakness of the Great Depression, however, Zelda suffered a nervous breakdown and Fitzgerald battled alcoholism, which hampered his writing. He published *Tender Is the Night* in 1934, and sold short stories to *The Saturday Evening Post* to support his lavish lifestyle. In 1937, he left for

Hollywood to write screenplays, and in 1940, while working on his novel *The Love of the Last Tycoon*, died of a heart attack at the age of forty-four.

Source: F. Scott Fitzgerald Biography, Works, and Quotes | SparkNotes