

MARRIAGE AND  
RELATIONSHIPS IN THE  
1920S

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❖ Marriage in the 1920s was different from the 1850s. Instead of rushing into marriage with somebody you rarely knew, you had the chance to date or have a courtship with them. Dating was new for many people but they enjoyed the fact of getting to know somebody without having to do a serious commitment.



❖ New laws were made that made it easier for women to divorce their husbands. By 1928, the number of marriages annulled had risen to 166 out of every 1000. Women had more freedom. Ella Fitzgerald explained it well when she said, "The parties were bigger, the pace was faster, the shows were broader, the buildings were higher, the morals were looser, and the liquor was cheaper."

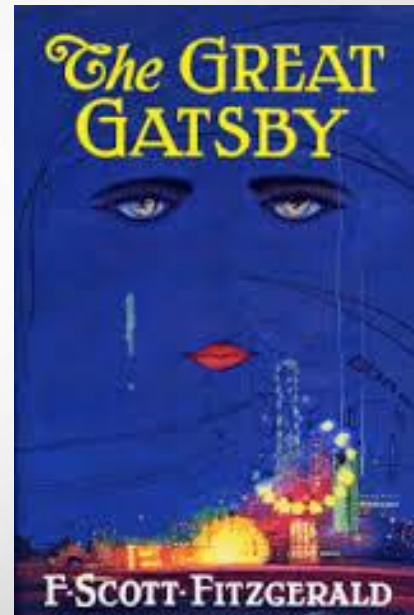




❖ Marriages changed during this time period. Middle-class people still believed marriage was an equal partnership. Housework and raising children were still believed to be a women's job. In the 1920's casual dating became accepted. A double standard, a set of principles granting greater sexual freedom to men than women, required women to observe stricter standards of behavior than men.

# HOW IT RELATES TO *THE GREAT GATSBY*

- ❖ The loose morals and more freedom are visible many times in the book. Women are dancing and going to parties, and marrying who they choose to marry. Also, sometimes they aren't faithful (Myrtle, for example).
- ❖ The double standard is present in the book as well, most notable in Daisy and Tom's marriage: he cheats and she doesn't, and she is still expected to care for the house and to be a host.



# SOURCES

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