Kayleigh Hand

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Being the Common Woman

Woman roles have changed a lot in the last century. Today woman can be single and still be able to support oneself but in the twenties woman didn’t have that same luxury as woman today do. The common women in the nineteen twenties would need a man to support her to get her life started. In the Great Gatsby by Fitzgerald, Daisy says, “All right. I’m glad it a girl. And I hope she’ll be a fool- that the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool” (Fitzgerald 17). It shows how women are looked at by others and how most women feel at that time period. As seen from a gender critical lens, F. Scott Fitzgerald portrays the main female character Daisy as a disparaging light by objectifying her with her relationships with men, representing her as an uncaring mother and illustrates materialistic idea that woman like Daisy have.

Throughout the book Daisy is shown over time as a woman treats her men like jewelry. When Daisy gets a tour of the Gatsby’s house, she cries and says, “They’re such beautiful shirts.” (Fitzgerald 92). It shows that she doubts herself in picking the right person who would be suitable for her life styles. When she had relations with Gatsby, he was poor and could not support her. They had the love happening but no money only means that Daisy couldn’t be a beautiful little fool. In Daisy’s world, she shouldn’t have to work even a little. Earlier in the book daisy says to Tom, “I know you didn’t mean to but you did do it” (Fitzgerald 12) this whole scene shows her being dizzy and not care about tom for his love but just for his money and looks. Daisy treats the men in her life like objects and not true human beings.

Daisy isn’t the common mother in any way shape or form. Torres the end of the book Daisy says, “Come to your own mother that loves you” (Fitzgerald117). She says this to her daughter but yet the reader has never seen her in till this point of the book. Daisy isn’t the common mother because most mothers would be with their children all the time. Besides this point of the book, Daisy has only talked about her daughter once before. “You ought to see the baby… haven’t you seen her?” (Fitzgerald 17). After Daisy mentions her for a short period, the child is shortly forgotten and isn’t brought up again in till page 117. It shows how Daisy has no clue how to be a true mother. A nurse takes care of Daisy’s daughter for her. Daisy doesn’t even know where her child is most if the time. Most women would want to take part of their child’s life. This supports the thought of daisy being an uncaring mother to her child.

Fitzgerald proposes that women like Daisy have materialistic ways of life and ideas. When describing Daisy’s thought on the world Fitzgerald writes, “She wanted her life shaped now, immediately- and the decision must be made by some force- of love, of money, of unquestionable practicality.” (Fitzgerald 151). This shows Daisy in a disparaging light by making her be this person that has no heart, but just thinking of men as jewelry, the higher the price, the better it is. Women can’t start their lives without being married to a man. When talking about Daisy, Gatsby tells tom the Daisy’s “voice is full of money” (Fitzgerald 120). To everyone around her, she has nothing behind her thoughts but her getting everything in life and not having to work a day in her life. She has nothing to worry about but what her outfits look like.

Throughout this whole book, Fitzgerald has been classifying Daisy as this girl who has everything done for her. No matter what girl Fitzgerald is writing about, it’s under the same category as Daisy. Fitzgerald has the wrong view of the common women of the twentieth century and today’s standard women. Most women would take care of their children, no matter what social class they are in or even if they had a job, women are always there for their children. Most women don’t marry the men for the money or for the looks now days. Women look for the love and the personalities. Fitzgerald makes women seem like they have no hearts or souls which isn’t right at all. When it comes to writing about women, Fitzgerald isn’t the one to do it.

Work Cited

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby* New York: Scribner, 1925