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ALL THE SAD YOUNG MEN

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD

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All the Sad Young Men by F. Scott Fitzgerald.

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“I got up,” said Gretchen in an awed voice, “and I found that I’d lost a whole day. I had an engagement to go riding with George Tompkins----”

“What?” exclaimed the doctor in surprise. Then he laughed.

“George Tompkins won’t go riding with any one for many days to come.”

“Has he gone away?” asked Gretchen curiously.

“He’s going West.”

“Why?” demanded Roger. “Is he running away with somebody’s wife?”

“No,” said Doctor Gregory. “He’s had a nervous breakdown.”

“What?” they exclaimed in unison.

“He just collapsed like an opera-hat in his cold shower.”

“But he was always talking about his--his balanced life,” gasped Gretchen. “He had it on his mind.”

“I know,” said the doctor. “He’s been babbling about it all morning. I think it’s driven him a little mad. He worked pretty hard at it, you know.”

“At what?” demanded Roger in bewilderment.

“At keeping his life balanced.” He turned to Gretchen. “Now all I’ll prescribe for this lady here is a good rest. If she’ll just stay around the house for a few days and take forty winks of sleep she’ll be as fit as ever. She’s been under some strain.”

“Doctor,” exclaimed Roger hoarsely, “don’t you think I’d better have a rest or something? I’ve been working pretty hard lately.”

“You!” Doctor Gregory laughed, slapped him violently on the back. “My boy, I never saw you looking better in your life.”

Roger turned away quickly to conceal his smile--winked forty times, or almost forty times, at the autographed picture of Mr. George Tompkins, which hung slightly askew on the bedroom wall.

THE END

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