

December 2014

Dear Editor/Producer,

When alive, F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda exuded a glamor and celebrity that today is primarily found around film and television stars. Even now, the couple remains prime fodder for the big screen and Fitzgerald's works of fiction are still popularly read and regarded as classics. But their lives weren't all parties in Paris; towards the end of Fitzgerald's career his literary reputation was suffering and he struggled to make ends meet as a father and husband, while simultaneously continuing to pursue his craft as a serious writer. In **WEST OF SUNSET** (Viking; On Sale: January 13, 2015; \$27.95; ISBN: 9780670785957), Stewart O'Nan imagines Fitzgerald's life in this period, showing us an exceptionally human Fitzgerald, hard at work in the darkly glamorous, noir Hollywood of the late 1930's.

O'Nan is a novelist of uncommon gifts, and is known for his ability to eke drama out of everyday life, as he did in such novels as *The Odds*, *Emily*, *Alone* and *Last Night at the Lobster*. In **WEST OF SUNSET**, he writes of the last three years of Fitzgerald's life, in Hollywood from 1937 to 1940, with elegant precision, clarity, and sympathy. Meticulously researched, **WEST OF SUNSET** portrays Fitzgerald churning out screenplays for the studios by day and working on his own writing, including his last, unfinished novel, *The Last Tycoon* whenever possible. In an interview, O'Nan can discuss:

- How the existing letters between Fitzgerald and Zelda, who was living in an asylum on the East Coast by this time, as well as those between Fitzgerald and his daughter Scottie, away at boarding school, inspired O'Nan to write about this often neglected period of Fitzgerald's life
- The research that went into his recreation of 1930's Hollywood, from the acutely realistic scenes of Fitzgerald eating in the MGM lunchroom with Dorothy Parker and Alan Campbell to his hanging out at the perpetual pool party at The Garden of Allah villa complex with Humphrey Bogart, Mayo Methot, Robert Benchley, and Talullah Bankhead, among others
- Why Fitzgerald's story remains relevant: from his struggles with alcoholism and artistic creation to the power of the Hollywood machine, the issues central to his life are still playing out today, albeit in a much more public way thanks to television and social media. How would Fitzgerald, who we see as intensely private despite his public persona, have dealt with this?
- Fitzgerald's romance with gossip columnist Sheila Graham, another self-made figure whose independence and clear-headed practicality contrasted sharply with Zelda's more dramatic and fragile persona

A sympathetic and deeply personal portrait of a flawed man, **WEST OF SUNSET** gives us a new and perhaps more dynamic view of the private Fitzgerald which contradicts the conventional view of him, and of Zelda, as well as his time in Hollywood at the end of his life.

STEWART O'NAN is the author of fourteen previous novels, including *The Odds*, *Emily*, *Alone* and *Last Night at the Lobster*, which was a national bestseller and finalist for the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize. He was born and raised in Pittsburgh where he lives with his family. He will be on book tour in January and February. Please see reverse for tour dates and cities.

Sincerely,

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Stewart O’Nan will be appearing in the following cities in January/February 2015:

New York, NY 7:00pm	Barnes & Noble UWS	January 13
Washington, D.C. 7:00pm	Politics & Prose	January 14
Philadelphia, PA 7:30pm	Philadelphia Free Library	January 15
Boston, MA 7:30pm	Harvard Bookstore	January 20
St. Paul, MN 7:00pm	Common Good Books	January 21
Tulsa, OK 7:00pm	Booksmart Tulsa	January 22
Danville, CA 7:00pm	Rakestraw Books	January 23
Sonoma, CA 2:00pm	Reader’s Books	January 24
Alameda, CA 7:00pm	Books, Inc	January 26
Brentwood, CA 6:30pm	Diesel Books	January 27
Pasadena, CA 7:00pm	Vroman’s Books	January 28
San Diego, CA 11:45am	The Santaluz Club	January 29
San Diego, CA 7:30pm	Warwick’s	January 29
Seattle, WA 1:00pm	The Pub @ Third Place Books	January 30
Seattle, WA 7:00pm	Elliott Bay Book Company	January 30
Bellingham, WA 4:00pm	Village Books	February 1
Beachwood, OH 7:00pm	Cuyahoga Public Library	February 3
Pittsburgh, PA 7:00pm	East End Book Exchange	February 7