

Note the similarities between Dexter Green and F. Scott Fitzgerald!

Fitzgerald saw “Winter Dreams” as a “sort of rough draft of the Gatsby idea.” The two share the same theme—“the pursuit of romantic illusions at the bitter price of inevitable disillusionment.”

1. Setting in Minnesota
2. Both start out in Minnesota and come East in search of fame and fortune
3. Both enlisted in the army in WWI—**Dexter** enlisted right after both of his romances failed. He had just broken off his engagement to Irene to rekindle his affair with Judy. F. Scott joined after affair with Genevra King and flunking out of college.
4. Both have dreams of a romantic future that success will bring
5. Both go to a college in the East. Both start work in the East.
6. Both faced disillusionment of success (success wasn't as wonderful as it seemed)
7. Both are self-made men who are eager to rise beyond their station in life, and both find that personal fulfillment and their ideal women are ultimately elusive.
8. “Winter Dreams” has a distinct autobiographical bent, and the story traces Fitzgerald's experiences growing up in a middle-class family in the upper Midwest. Black Bear Lake, where the glitterati spend their summers in the story, is only a partial disguise of White Bear Lake, an exclusive resort area where Saint Paul's elite would summer. It was a place that Fitzgerald knew well.
9. It is also arguable that Dexter Green bears a resemblance to Fitzgerald himself, a restless and talented young man desperate to advance himself in a singular pursuit of success.
10. Minor similarity=Judy raised by a nanny like Scotty was.