

# The Role of Place in Fitzgerald's *Tender Is the Night*

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## To cite this article:

Jamal Assadi, Marwa Abbass. The Role of Place in Fitzgerald's *Tender Is the Night*. *English Language, Literature & Culture*.

Vol. 6, No. 3, 2021, pp. 50-59. doi: 10.11648/j.ellc.20210603.12

Received: July 2, 2021; Accepted: July 10, 2021; Published: July 16, 2021

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**Abstract:** Place is thought to have a variety of functions. The most well-known function is that of serving as a background for the event in order to provide the reader with more details and engage him more in the context. The place obtains more importance when it discloses the characters' features, growth and complexity. This function gives the reader the chance to more deeply comprehend the plot of the story, the characters' relationships or conflict. And more central, the place can exceed the previous functions and play a more crucial role, when it performs roles usually given to the antagonist or the protagonist. This study explores Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* and discusses the significance of the place clarifying how it influences the plot and the characters. Needless to assert, the choice of place to be examined in this research rises from the recurrent concurrences of places in the novel and their parallel to those in Fitzgerald's reality. Another essential end for selecting the places on which the novel centers is that very few critics have investigated the aforesaid correlation between event and place. This gap makes it imperative to start mining deep in the origin of this association. In addition, this paper compares between the various places depicted in the novel and the key events in each of them. It also looks into the similarity between them and the places in Fitzgerald's real life. In giving place a domineering factor in the novel, Fitzgerald perhaps tries to maintain that place is a subjugating authority analogous to fate. Therefore, Fitzgerald takes the art of fiction and readership to newfangled unfamiliar ground. Here perhaps lies Fitzgerald's chief impact.

**Keywords:** Function of Place, Fitzgerald, *Tender Is the Night*, Modern American Fiction

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## 1. Introduction

In the world of literature, *place* is usually combined with time and events to establish the social context of a literary work [8]. Sten Moslund also states that the place is perceived as one of the primary elements of the story that shapes, at least partially, actions, thoughts and decisions of the characters [12]. It means that the place in a literary work plays a notable role in outlining the events or the contexts that take place in it. Similarly, it functions as a means that puts the reader where the writer intends him or her to be mentally, thus giving the reader some insight into the terrain, the people, and the customs of a community [8].

Generally speaking, place is believed to have three functions. It acts as a background, where the selection of details serves to engage the reader more in the atmosphere of it. It is also seen as a means of revealing the characters' characteristics, development and depth, thus giving the

reader the opportunity to understand the plot of the story with the help of the character's relationship or conflict with the place. And more important, the place can transcend the previous functions and play an active role, one that is usually performed by the antagonist or the protagonist [13, 3].

This study examines the functions of place in F. Scott Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* (1934) with a special focus on the function of a place as a protagonist. The novels and short stories of F. Scott Fitzgerald, the well-celebrated American writer, were influenced by his lifestyle which underwent a drastic change everytime he moved to a new place. A review of Fitzgerald's life indicates that he moved around a lot. From St. Paul in America he moved to Europe. In Europe he stayed in Rome, Paris, the French Riviera, Switzerland and eventually he returned to America, where he wrote the famous novel *Tender is the Night* from 1926 to 1934 [10]. The writing process of the novel took Fitzgerald eight years as it was continuously interrupted by synchronous events in his life, which took place in different places of the world. For instance,

his wife's illness, his father's death, and his financial difficulties were events that had dual effects; they inspired him to compose the events of novel but also stretched the period it took him to publish the final version of it and consequently increased the places where the events took place. Financially, the book did not cover Fitzgerald's daily expenses or save his deteriorating financial situation [14].

*Tender is the Night* features the life of Dick Diver and his wife, Nicole, through different locations and shows the transformations that Dick experiences from one location to another and how the nature of these locations influences his personality and decisions. For example, Switzerland is the place where Dick works as a psychiatrist and is dedicated to his profession without being subjected to any serious distractions such as wealth or love relationships. In the French Riviera, however, he neglects his work and passion to cure people and shifts towards negative norms like drinking a lot of alcohol, spending the whole day on the beach or arguing with his wife and mostly cheating on Nicole with a young actress. The novel begins in the French Riviera, where Dick and Nicole Warren live. Then, the novel tracks Dick and Nicole to Paris, where Nicole's breakdowns are exposed to the reader. At this point in the novel, Fitzgerald flashes back to the circumstances that have led to the current condition of Dick and Nicole's marriage. The flashback starts in Yale, where Dick gets his medical degree and proceeds to Zurichsee. There, he works in a psychiatric clinic and meets 16-year-old Nicole. The next station in Dick's life is the army where he is enlisted as a soldier before he returns to Switzerland. Then he marries Nicole and buys a house in the French Riviera and moves into it.

Switzerland, a critical place in Dick's life, gets back on the map when Dick decides to invest in a clinic. Unfortunately, his career deteriorates there, and he is obliged to leave for America. Paris is the next location in the novel where he and Rosemary meet again. He goes back to Switzerland and is asked to leave the business. The last place is the French Riviera, where the novel initially starts and Dick's marriage is ended.

When Dick Diver, the protagonist of the novel, moves from Switzerland to the French Riviera, the nature of the place changes Dick's actions and way of thinking. Likewise, in Switzerland, he is presented as a successful psychiatrist whereas in the French Riviera he becomes a party person who drinks too much and has romantic affairs with younger ladies [5].

This paper investigates Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* and examines the importance of the place explaining how it affects the plot and the characters. The choice of place to be examined in this research is strongly related to the repeated coincidences in the choice of places in the novel and their similarity to those in Fitzgerald's real life [19]. Another important reason for choosing the places which the novel focuses on is that very little literature explores the above-mentioned relationship, which makes it necessary to start digging deep in the creation of this relationship. A comparison between the different places of the novel and the

main events in each of them, and the places in Fitzgerald's real life will also be considered. In so doing, Fitzgerald makes the place a leading character, perhaps a victorious power equivalent to destiny. Indeed, Fitzgerald makes the art of fiction and readership enter new fields. Here perhaps lies Fitzgerald's main influence.

A literary work is a reflection of its writer's life [9]. Indeed, Fitzgerald's *Tender is the Night* is a faithful reflection of the novelist's real life. Claridge highlights a number of spots in Fitzgerald's novel to demonstrate that the events and characters of the novel are influenced by his personal life. For example, Claridge discusses that "in April 1930 Zelda suffered a nervous breakdown and Fitzgerald took her to a psychiatric clinic in Montreux, Switzerland" [5]. This major event in Fitzgerald's life is clearly reflected and presented in the novel in all ways; Dick Diver, a psychiatric, treats Nicole Warren, a patient who often gets breakdowns, and the clinic where he works is in Switzerland.

The French Riviera is the location where Dick is first presented to the reader through the eyes of Rosemary Hoyt, the eighteen-year-old American actress who is brought by her mother to South France [5]. At the French Riviera, Dick is rendered as the conductor of the aristocratic society's rituals and observances. His way of talking and acting and the choice of words indicate the strong influence that the French Riviera has on him: "I want to give a really bad party. I mean it. I want to give a party where there's a brawl and seductions and people going home with their feelings hurt and women passed out in the cabinet de toilette" [6]. Looking into the relationships between external conduct including verbal expressions and internal feelings, Jamal Assadi examines Dick's notion of the nature of this relationship. According to Dick, Assadi says, characters should be transparent; "the words faithfully correspond with the feelings, the outward expression with the inward consciousness, the signifier with the signified" [1]. Assadi adds that that words that Dick utters represent his real feelings and thoughts which proves the real impact of the place on him. "What Dick also tries to indicate is that people do mean what they say and feel and do take responsibility for their utterances and behaviors [1]. In his fascinating book, *The French Riviera in the 1920's*, Xavier Girard points out that the place was the shrine of artists and writers during the 1920's and early 1930's because of its natural shores and the fancy views which only rich people were capable of visiting [7]. Among these writers was no other than Scott Fitzgerald, who spent a long time there with his wife Zelda and was inspired by its nature and high social and economic importance [5]. The influence of the life that Fitzgerald lived in the French Riviera is reflected in Dick's behaviors during the party time. Describing the influence of Dick's voice on listeners, Rosemary says: "His voice, with some faint Irish melody running through it, wooed the world, yet she felt the layer of hardness in him, of self-control and of self-discipline..." (17). Definitely, the French Riviera, whose natural views and social life style fascinated Fitzgerald so much that it forms Dick's behaviors and relationships with his wife Nicole and with other people like

the Murphys, the Norths and Rosemary.

## 2. Dick Diver in Switzerland

Switzerland, a very important place in *Tender is the Night*, is presented in the beginning of the second part and in the third part of the novel after Dick experiences the life in the French Riviera. This place provides Dick with a rich environment replete with great education and astounding professionalism. It is also devoid of any distractions that may cause Dick to deviate from his path towards success. Fitzgerald described it as the ideal place for an ambitious young man who works hard to prove himself professionally. He said,

*In the spring of 1917, when Doctor Richard Diver first arrived in Zurich, he was twenty-six years old, a fine age for a man, indeed the very acme of bachelorhood. (121)*

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*Switzerland was an island, washed on one side by the waves of thunder around Gorizia and on another by the cataracts along the Somme and the Aisne. (121)*

Evidently, the two quotes above emphasize the function of the place in shaping Dick's approach towards his life in it and how he should behave. The first quote relates to the age of Dick when he first arrives in Switzerland and describes it as "a fine age"(122). In other words, the bachelor Dick arrives in Switzerland determined to attain his target regardless of any disruptions related to mundane pleasures like girls, money or drinking that often hinder one's progress in professional development.

The second quote portrays Switzerland geographically. It's noticed that the account of Switzerland doesn't include forms of luxuries such as fancy houses or luxurious hotels; it only gives information about the nature of the place.

The two quotes, therefore, correspond to each other very strongly. The protagonist's psychological life characterized by determination, success, hopes and great expectations are echoed in the beauty and the serenity of the place described.

In Switzerland Dick starts academic studies before he meets Nicole and later marries her. It is the place where Dick Diver sets off upon his long stay in Europe. Dick's life in Switzerland shows a different personality from the one we know in the Riviera. He is hard working, determined and nice. Besides, Dick is notably not wealthy as he repeats in different scenes in Switzerland the word "economizing" (128) which highlights Dicks' average standard and perception of life where extra money is not the most important factor.

He is presented as a professional doctor who treats his patients as an integral part of his attempt to study the human behavior. This type of life continues until he meets Nicole, who suffers from a mental problem because of her abusive father. This moment in the novel is very crucial since it is considered the beginning of the change in the function of the place and its impact on Dick's behaviors. Until now, Switzerland delineates Dick's personality by directing him to the patients and to a world empty of romantic relationships or

bad habits. In fact, Dick is presented as a professional doctor who treats his patients equally and seems to work on a paper in psychology:

*Meanwhile he had projected a new work: An Attempt at a Uniform and Pragmatic Classification of the Neuroses and Psychoses, Based on an Examination of Fifteen Hundred Pre-Krapælin and Post-Krapælin Cases as they would be Diagnosed in the Terminology of the Different Contemporary Schools—and another sonorous paragraph—Together with a Chronology of Such Subdivisions of Opinion as Have Arisen Independently. (156)*

After meeting Nicole, Dick becomes a huge help for her and they fall in love with each other and decide to get married. When Dick is asked by Nicole's sister about the reasons that make him want to marry Nicole, he honestly answers:

*I'm more practical than you think—It's only for clothes and things I'll need it.... Why, that's more than—can the estate really afford to give me all that? I know I'll never manage to spend it. Do you have that much? Why do you have more? (170)*

Although it seems that Dick acts in a selfish manner, both Dick and Nicole benefit from this marriage; he gets money and fame while she gets the cure for her disease and the medical support that she needs to get better.

Clearly, here Switzerland functions as a protagonist which means that it positively affects Dick's behaviors, way of thinking and perceptions.

In the reappearance of Switzerland, i. e. after Dick's living in the French Riviera, the function of the place is totally different for two reasons. First, Dick perceives Switzerland as a place where he can invest money in order to revive his career; Dick's new perception shows the tremendous change in his life's priorities. The second reason is that Dick uses Switzerland as a place where he is known as a professional and respected doctor and he may take advantage of his good name to start a new business.

As mentioned above, Dick and Nicole go back to Switzerland to invest in a clinic. However, things take an undesirable course. Dick is accused of perfidy by a former patient.

Dick read the letter again. Though it was couched in clear and concise English he recognized it as the letter of a maniac. Upon a single occasion he had let the girl, a flirtatious little brunette, ride into Zurich with him, at her request, and in the evening had brought her back to the clinic. In an idle, almost indulgent way, he kissed her. Later, she tried to carry the affair further, but he was not interested and subsequently, probably consequently, the girl had come to dislike him, and had taken her mother away. (114)

When Nicole knows about this, she runs their car off the road. Meanwhile, Dick learns his father has passed away and heads to America for the funeral. After returning to Switzerland, he meets Rosemary in a hotel and the two consummate the aborted romance they began several years earlier. It's clear that Dick is losing it when he gets beaten up

and imprisoned, and gets rescued by Nicole's sister, Baby Warren. As Dick continues to drink, he jeopardizes his position at the clinic and is asked to leave.

It is noticed that Switzerland changes from being an influential factor to being only a background for the scenes of Dick's actions. In fact, Switzerland doesn't have the same value to Dick as before. However, after his father's death and the accusations of the teenage patient, Dick looks around and catches a moment of self-reflection on how his life has changed through the past ten years. Feelings of sorrow and regret overwhelm him as the following quotation illustrates:

But Dick had come away for his soul's sake, and he began thinking about that. He had lost himself—he could not tell the hour when, or the day or the week, the month or the year. Once he had cut through things, solving the most complicated equations as the simplest problems of his simplest patients. Between the time he found Nicole flowering under a stone on the Zurichsee and the moment of his meeting with Rosemary the spear had been blunted. (110)

The situation described in the above quotation shows that Dick is aware of the big losses in his life and he even wonders when all that started, forgetting or, more precisely, ignoring the different world that he has indulged in. The good side in this quotation is that Switzerland returns to be an element that influences the protagonist in an affirmative manner because it makes Dick think about himself and remember the importance of Switzerland in his life and how far he is from it now.

Another quotation that presents the importance of Switzerland as a background to Dick's actions rather than a positive trigger is the following:

*For the evening they were sliding down the hill into the village, on those little sleds which serve the same purpose as gondolas do in Venice. Their destination was a hotel with an old-fashioned Swiss tap-room, wooden and resounding, a room of clocks, kegs, steins, and antlers. Many parties at long tables blurred into one great party and ate fondue—a peculiarly indigestible form of Welsh rarebit, mitigated by hot spiced wine. (148)*

Dick's depiction of Switzerland here is totally different from the previous section. This extract comes from the perspective of a wealthy person whose entire interest is getting a comfortable staying at a good hotel, so he examines what he sees in a critical eye. This means that Switzerland as a place that prompts his professionalism and morality no longer exists. Rather, he is still under the spell of the French Riviera and behaves as Dick the rich man from it.

The setting in Switzerland depicted in *Tender is the Night* is reminiscent of Fitzgerald's real experiences when he found himself obliged to hospitalize Zelda to the rear of her serious mental breakdown. Zelda broke down in April 1931 and had to stay in the clinic for the rest of the year in Switzerland. According to Robert Sklar, as soon as "Zelda Fitzgerald suffered her mental breakdown, she was moved to a clinic in Switzerland. When her case was diagnosed as schizophrenia, she was admitted to a sanatorium at Prangins, near Geneva [15].

Her hospitalization, as Sklar points out, was efficiently made use of by Fitzgerald, who kept close touch with Zelda's doctors in order to get from them as much medical terms related to her disease and treatment as he could to equip his novel with solid ground on which the plot is firmly dependent. Sklar says,

*During the fifteen months his wife remained at Prangins. Fitzgerald lived mainly in Lausanne, where he occasionally met people who were studying with Zurich school of psychiatrist. In Lausanne, sometimes in 1931, Fitzgerald obtained a copy of Jung's Psychological Types. He also came to own Jung's Psychology of the Unconscious [15].*

In addition, owing to the long period he had stayed there with his wife Zelda, it was only natural that Fitzgerald invested this place with which he was fully acquainted. Moreover, it is very likely that Fitzgerald wanted to reflect his feelings about Switzerland and express his gratitude for a country and people that diagnosed Zelda's illness and treated her.

Clearly, even when Switzerland does not cue Fitzgerald's success, he constantly referred to it as the place where good things happened like praising the professional doctors or its beautiful scenery. His attitude may be perceived as the bright side of the novel compared to the French Riviera which has a different and slightly darker effect on Dick.

### 3. Dick Diver in the French Riviera

The French Riviera's effect on Dick is exhibited during two separate periods of time: at the beginning of the novel in Book 1 and after coming back from Paris in Book 3. It is obvious that Dick's personality in the first book is different in three aspects from the third book. These aspects are obviously highlighted in his actions and sayings. These three aspects are related to Dick's actions and appearance, his relationships with surrounding people and his mastery of his life. The analysis of the influence of the French Riviera on Dick is illustrated through examining his conduct and attitudes before and after being in Paris and Switzerland.

As already mentioned earlier in the study, *Tender is the Night* starts in the French Riviera. There, the Divers live their luxurious life which evolve around parties, shopping and, for Dick, drowning in a far-way world from his original one. It's important to assert that the French Riviera is first introduced from the eyes of Rosemary, a young actress who happens to be on vacation with her mother. Obviously, Rosemary is fascinated by the atmosphere and the people of this place. She says:

*On the pleasant shore of the French Riviera, about half-way between Marseilles and the Italian border, stands a large, proud, rose coloured hotel.... The hotel and its bright tan prayer rug of a beach were one. In the early morning the distant image of Cannes, the pink and cream of old fortifications, the purple Alps that bounded Italy, were cast across the water and lay quavering in the ripples and rings sent up by sea-plants through the clear shallows. (3)*

Rosemary describes every detail of it indicating her enthusiasm about it and how much she adores this kind of place. It can be inferred from her description that she dreams to be a member of its society and try its people's style of life. As a young actress, she needs to be known in the high society to proceed in her career by gaining friendships, acknowledgement and connections within it.

Although Rosemary's point of view is subjective and amplified by her immaturity and superficiality, the elaborated description of the French Riviera makes it clear that it has a great impact on the plot and characters of the novel especially on the novel's protagonist: Dick Diver.

After moving with Nicole from Switzerland to the French Riviera, Dick seems to change his perspective of life due to the nature of the place and the society that conquers it. Speaking about the society in the French Riviera to which Nicole and her family belong, Dick is made to face his new reality and get rid of his old dreams about becoming a successful psychiatrist. He adopts the life style of rich people because of Nicole's wealth. One aspect of his new life is inviting people to fancy parties in their house in the Riviera:

*I want to give a really bad party. I mean it. I want to give a party where there's a brawl and seductions and people going home with their feelings hurt and women passed out in the cabinet de toilette. You wait and see. (11)*

In this quote, Dick presents the new passion in his life – making people feel envious of his life and wealth. It is important to remark that some of the invited guests to the party are rich neighbors such as Mary and her husband Abe. Some of them, however, are not affiliated with the aristocratic class. The reference is to Rosemary and her mother who go to the French Riviera seeking the fancy name it has. In addition, the quote shows the change in Dick's way of thinking about his tendencies and transformation from being a successful psychiatrist to a wealthy man whose goal is to make people look up to him because of his wealth.

When Dick talks to Abe North and Nicole, he states:

*"So many smart men go to pieces nowadays."  
"And when haven't they?" Dick asked. "Smart men play close to the line because they have to – some of them can't stand it, so they quit."(53-54)*

This short dialogue is extracted from a longer one between Abe and Dick at the party. This specific dialogue is very important as it shows the influence of the place people live in on their ambitions. Dick expresses his recognition of how success and ambition can be unattainable in a place which is characterized by wealth and life full of parties and shopping. Furthermore, the expression "... because they have to" shows the extent of Dick's dissatisfaction. He seems to complain about the unavailability of options in his life and the uncontrolled life that he runs with Nicole. The choice of the adjective "smart" by Abe seems to be ironical since he knows that Dick comes from a different place in which he is perceived as "smart" and now being "smart" doesn't really count and is incomparable with being wealthy.

Dick's choice of words in expressing his feelings towards the Riviera is interesting. When Rosemary knows that he is

some kind of a doctor, Dick says: "There's no mystery. I didn't disgrace myself at the height of my career, and hide away on the Riviera. I'm just not practising. You can't tell, I'll probably practise again someday" (6).

Although Dick says that the Riviera doesn't affect him and that he doesn't hide in it, it is clear that the words he uses, such as "disgrace" and "hide away," are strongly expressive and reveal his true feelings towards the Riviera. Considering Dick's past in psychiatry and professional successes, he does feel that he is different and that the Riviera happens to be the place that separates him from going back to his beloved career. Furthermore, Dick makes it sound pretty distant in this moment that he will "probably practice again someday." By this, he declares that living in the Riviera makes him suspicious about getting back to his career and ambitions. This may be caused by the lack of control over his life in the meantime:

*After returning from Switzerland and while they are in a visit to the Minghettis, Dick gets drunk and behaves very rudely. He talks in a racist way to Mary North's second husband, and, in consequence, Nicole accuses Dick of being a different man, less polite. She says, Dick, this isn't faintly like you, and he carelessly responds, I'm not much like myself anymore."(115)*

From his response, it is obvious that he is aware of the irreversible change he witnesses in his conduct and life. Worse, though he doesn't seem to care, at the bottom of his heart he is devastated and wants to recover his lost past.

At this point, Dick loses hope in getting better or returning to be the one he has wanted to be. Worse, drinking alcohol seems to him as a good way to escape from a reality that is forced on him by Nicole's wealth. He cannot evade his love for money and experiencing the luxurious life that he used to see around back in America and couldn't afford.

Like Dick, Fitzgerald became an alcohol addict at a very young age and as a result of alcoholism, Fitzgerald developed many negative physical and emotional malfunctions such as sleep disorder, anxiety and depression [18].

This resemblance between Dick and Fitzgerald strengthens the above-said claims regarding the damaging weight of the French Riviera on both Dick and Fitzgerald. Needless to assert, the life in the French Riviera had a strong impact on Fitzgerald's lifestyle. As a matter of fact, *Tender is the Night* reveals Fitzgerald's failed ambitions. Dick possesses several of the qualities that Fitzgerald could only dream of achieving, including high social standing, academic accomplishment, and athletic glory, which had drawn Fitzgerald to Hemingway in Paris. While introducing the youthful Dick in Book 2, Fitzgerald indicates that Dick had "done the flying rings at New Haven" and "now swam in the winter Danube" (124). When Dick attempts to convince Nicole's sister, Baby, of his merit, he cites his status as an Oxford Rhodes Scholar, his degree from Yale, and his high ancestry, emphasizing that he is a "direct descendant of Mad Anthony Wayne" (Book 2, X). Evidently, in infusing qualities that mirror his own dreams in Dick, Fitzgerald attempts to repress the grief of his crushed ambitions [19].

Whether the French Riviera plays a crucial role in Dick's deterioration may be arguable but undoubtedly the deleterious changes that typified his life there couldn't have happened in places other than the Riviera. Therefore, one can certainly claim that the French Riviera does help reveal the terrible changes that took place in his life. Put differently, it is impossible for the readers to examine Dick's decline during his stay at the Riviera without making a solid association between the two factors. Furthermore, the assumption that the French Riviera is turned into an antagonist with which Dick has a bitter conflict is enormously thinkable.

Reviewing how he is driven by Nicole's money to the wealthy society in the French Riviera, Dick is engulfed with a sort of regret and longings to his old life: "The manner remains intact for some time after the morale cracks" (132). Yet he tries to assure himself that the core of his good manners is safe and sound. However, after the rumor of his demise becomes scandalous, Dick cannot but admit its reality. This exactly discerned in his response to Rosemary's concern about the rumors. He acknowledges he has cracked and it happened "a long way back" (363).

Dick's downfall in the wake of his stay in the French Riviera is not confined to his career and moral standards. Rather, it has struck his artistic talents which Dick has always boasted of. When Dick wants to play the piano, he unexpectedly fails: "When Dick could no longer play what he wanted to play on the piano, it was an indication that life was being refined down to a point" (124). His failure is also seen when he does not come up to scratch to demonstrate his assured swimming skills at the beach in presence of his friends.

Clearly, Dick has become a prisoner of his own life. He feels trapped by Nicole's illness and by the Warren's money. During one scene in which Dick reviews his marriage to Nicole and watches her as she sleeps, Dick cannot hide his bitterness, cynicism and scorn at his condition. He feels stifled and is pushed by an engulfing impulse to set himself free from her hold but to no avail. He feels owned by her as he still considers himself as her psychiatrist:

*Many times he had tried unsuccessfully to let go his hand on her. They had many fine times together, fine talks between the loves of the white nights, but always when he turned away from her into himself he left her holding Nothing in her hands and staring at it, calling it many names, but knowing it was only the hope that he would come back soon. (180)*

In an endeavor to escape this trap, he dreams about Rosemary and tries to work again. This moment represents another deep transformation for Dick, one which spurs him to want to change again.

What deepens his feeling of pain, however, is Nicole's indifference and unresponsiveness to his misery and absence of any effort to try to mend their destroyed relationship. Describing her behavior, Dick says, "She was laughing hilariously, unashamed, unafraid, unconcerned. No one coming on the scene would have imagined that she had caused it; she laughed as after some mild escape of

childhood" (155). This scene refers to the time when Dick and Nicole retreat to the old life full of traveling and shopping upon arriving at the French Riviera again. Lanier, who, according to Dick is a copy of her mom's personality, acts so childishly and naughtily that Dick is made to behave strictly with her and her brother Topsy. His attitude towards his children hints at the rebirth of the fatherly responsibility in him. In spite of the general feeling of uncontrolled life, Dick still tries to gain some control through his ability to determine the way his children are raised. Dick believes his children are the bright side of his life despite all the adverse deviations in his life.

The French Riviera changes radically from a place that cues his behavior into a place that serves as a background where the selection of details combines to engage more in the atmosphere. In the first book, the French Riviera plays a very important role in Dick's life. In the first book, Dick appears as the glamorous man who is desired by all women: "Dick Diver came and brought with him a fine glowing surface on which the three women sprang like monkeys with cries of relief" (216). This is an excellent description of Dick's charismatic effect on people, especially women, at the height of his glory. Rosemary, Nicole, and Mary are all dependent on him to make everything all right, to lighten the mood at the train station on the day of Abe's departure, and to show them how to act. Dick is aware of his points of attraction and enjoys benefitting from them. Dick is seen flirting with Rosemary and he urges her to confess her admiration towards him: "Look, I'm in an extraordinary condition about you. When a child can disturb a middle-aged gent—things get difficult." In response, Rosemary does not hesitate to express her excessive admiration of Dick. She says, "You're not middle-aged, Dick—you're the youngest person in the world." (102)

It is very thinkable that Dick loves the affection that he receives from women around him because it emerges from the lack of true love in his life; his relationship with his wife Nicole is more like a kind of commitment from a psychiatrist towards his patient.

Later on in the novel, precisely in book 3, the French Riviera only plays the role of background that serves the novel's plot. Here, Dick loses his charismatic personality because of the rumors spread about him. Like Fitzgerald himself, Dick becomes an undesirable guest. "He's not received anywhere anymore," one woman said (69). In this quote, Dick is described as a less accepted and respected man. In fact, Dick seems to lose all appearance of respectability while Nicole has gained a favorable appearance.

Another proof that the French Riviera plays as background for the service of the scene is when Dick gives a racist comment after mistaking Minghetti's sister for a maid:

*"That's too bad – I'm very sorry. But you see our children mustn't be bathed in his water. That's out of the question – I'm sure your mistress would be furious if she had known you had done a thing like that"(53)*

The place here is considered as backdrop because the

character of Dick is already formed and has been previously shaped as a wealthy and sometimes arrogant who is capable of giving racist comments to different appearances. So, the place here doesn't affect the actions as much as it plays a background to the scene.

Going back to Fitzgerald's biography in the French Riviera and its resemblance to the place track of Dick's inhabitation in it, it is found that by 1924, a combination of factors would drive the Fitzgeralds to return to Europe. The Fitzgeralds' hardships were well described by T. Xu. He wrote,

*Facing mounting debts, the Fitzgeralds capitalized on the favorable franc-dollar exchange rate and moved to St. Raphaël, located on the French Riviera 15. The Fitzgeralds, who left for Europe with only \$7,000, were attracted by the new tourist third class fares offered by North Atlantic steamship companies. Relocating to France also allowed the Fitzgeralds to escape the height of Prohibition in the United States and get closer to the exciting literary and artistic scene emerging in Paris. [19]*

Similarly, Robert H. Bell claims that the French Riviera is the place where the married couple, i. e. f Dick and Nicole Diver, are created. In 1925, Fitzgerald was twenty-eight years old and married to Zelda. That summer of "1000 parties and no work," as described by [19] on the French Riviera, Fitzgerald and Zelda became close friends with Gerald and Sara Murphy, ten years older, whose life together seemed a thing of beauty. The art of living was for the Murphys their special project and particular gift. "For me," Gerald would say, "only the invented part of life is satisfying, the unrealistic part ... the *invented* part, for me, is what has meaning" (312).

The lives of the Fitzgeralds and the Murphys are entwined for many years, and their history shapes Fitzgerald's autobiographical art, as his notes for his work in progress indicate. *Tender is the Night* demonstrates the combination of life and art and the contingency of Fitzgerald's imagination. In fact, the book is vastly undervalued when it finally appears in 1934, and it never achieves the critical stature its author expected [2].

#### 4.. Dick Diver in Paris

The role of Paris in the novel is very central. In fact, Paris plays two different roles that outline Dick's personality damaged by his harsh times at French Riviera. There, Dick undergoes rough times during which he has to cope with bitter feelings of self-denial, his wrecked marriage, Nicole's psychological collapses and Nicole's tyrant control over him. Paris is the place which helps Dick to clear his marriage with Nicole as seen in a number of situations. And it is the place where Dick can show up his sights and opinions about other people, politics and money.

In Paris, Dick feels that he is on a vacation literally and metaphorically. He doesn't work, and spends most of his time in parties and restaurants, meeting new friends and drinking more seriously. In addition, Dick has an overwhelming feeling that he is also free from his commitment to his wife

Nicole. This explains the rapid development of his romantic affair with Rosemary, the pretty just eighteen-year-old actress. Interestingly, this new bond of love can be perceived from two points of view: Initially, Dick plays the role of a father figure to the very young actress exhibiting thus his masculinity at a time when this sense witnesses grave threat. This role, however, is not chosen by Dick. Rather he is cast in this role by Rosemary, who sees in Dick aspects of her father as shown in the following quote:

*"What is it you are giving up?" demanded Rosemary, facing Dick earnestly in the taxi.*

*"Nothing of importance."*

*"Are you a scientist?"*

*"I'm a doctor of medicine."*

*"Oh-h!" she smiled delightedly. "My father was a doctor too. Then why don't you – "*  
*she stopped.*

*"There is no mystery. I didn't disgrace myself at the height of my career, and hide away on the Riviera. I'm just not practicing. You can't tell, I'll probably practice again some day." (54)*

Oddly enough, though Rosemary maintains that Dick is comparable to her father in this conversation which takes place in the taxi, she tries to tempt Dick. In so doing, Rosemary not only heightens the incest motif in the novel but also hints at the guilty role of the so called vulnerable factor. In other words, Rosemary and probably Nicole have initiated the forbidden ties. Anyway, Dick accepts to play the offered role explaining to her that he is a doctor who happens to take a break from his career at the moment and one day he will probably practice it again. Rosemary emphasizes the resemblance between Dick and her father and denotes that her father has the same profession as Dick. The word "delightedly" shows that she is happy about this resemblance. This fatherly love is also shown when Dick tells her that he loves Nicole; she tells him that he can love two people like her loving her mother and him: "But you can love more than just one person, can't you? Like I love mother and I love you – more. I love you more now" (56). Obviously, Rosemary pretends she regards her love to her mother as parallel to her suggested love to Dick although she knows these two types of love are poles away from each other. The same claim can be said about Dick, who no longer feels comfortable when Rosemary's mother is mentioned: "For the first time the mention of her mother annoyed rather than amused Dick. He wanted to sweep away her mother, remove the whole affair from the nursery footing upon which Rosemary persistently established it" (73). Dick's annoyance rises from the fact that he does not want to start a relationship that has incest connotations. Nor does he want to fall under the grip of another tyrant woman again. Still, Dick feels his affair with Rosemary might give him the opportunity to practice his freedom as a strong man away from the control of a woman as is the case with Nicole. Therefore, Dick falls for Rosemary quickly and accepts the suggestion that he can love both Nicole and Rosemary separately. But Dick makes sure that Nicole doesn't know about the affair not because he loves her sincerely but because he is aware that he is not ready to give

up her fortune now. He even admits that to Rosemary: "Unfortunately, I do. But Nicole mustn't know – she mustn't suspect even faintly. Nicole and I have got to go on together. In a way that's more important than just wanting to go on" (64).

The affair with Rosemary indicates Dick's attempt to take control over his emotions again in a place far away from the French Riviera, which becomes a place that Dick doesn't feel he belongs to. In other words, to Dick the French Riviera is an unfriendly place which reminds him of his failure and worse offers no chances for resurrection. As a result, the nature of Paris as a city of tourism where Nicole is busy shopping, provides Dick with the whole time to be free again.

Another effect of Paris on Dick results from the nature of this city in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. According to Sunardi Sunardi [16], in the twenties Paris was famous as the center of cultural and art activities; it was the gathering place for famous artists. Then, many artists from America and Europe headed to it to be inspired by other artists and of course its fascinating culture. Accordingly, Dick's way of thinking switches from money and being drowned by meaningless parties and a life that lacks productivity to attending meaningful and expressive conversations, parties led by artists and accompanying people from different cultures. Paris' effect on the way Dick speaks and behaves is obvious and is clearly sensed on different occasions. For example, when discussing Abe North's drinking problem, Dick throws a deep sight about it thus giving signs he can recover his old intelligent character. He says, "And when haven't they?" Dick asked. "Smart men play close to the line because they have to – some of them can't stand it, so they quit" (85). Undoubtedly, Dick's insight rises from his attitude of trying to understand the condition of vulnerable people instead of showering them with accusations.

The change is also felt in the kind of parties Dick grows to throw:

*The party that night moved with the speed of a slapstick comedy. They were twelve, they were sixteen, they were quarters in separate motors bound on a quick odyssey over Paris.... Rosemary appreciated how different it was from any party in Hollywood, no matter how splendid in scale. There was, among the diversions, the car of the Shah of Persia. Where Dick had commandeered this vehicle, what bribery was employed, these were facts of irrelevance. (66)*

The effect of Paris on the affair between Dick and Rosemary is explicitly exhibited by the novelist in describing an intimate moment between the two lovers:

*When he had tottered out, Dick and Rosemary embraced fleetingly. There was a dust of Paris over both of them through which they scented each other: the rubber guard on Dick's fountain pen, the faintest odour of warmth from Rosemary's neck and shoulders. For another half-minute Dick clung to the situation; Rosemary was first to return to reality. (93)*

The changes that typify Dick's behavior and attitudes in Paris might not be drastic. Yet, it is very clear that he manages to show positive signs that colored his past. In his

love affair with Rosemary, Dick can simultaneously offer a strong character capable of conducting a love affair with the actress while keeping his marriage with Nicole intact. More important, in the scene when Dick finds Nicole on the bathroom's floor after her breakdown, he is very quick to take care of his wife and support her. In so doing, Dick again exhibits moral attitudes that are deeply rooted in his character and sends signs to Rosemary implying that Nicole, his wife, is the most important woman in his life and that she is somehow insignificant. Rosemary does understand the message and retreats immediately without negotiations:

*Rosemary, back in the salon, heard the bathroom door bang, and stood trembling: now she knew what Violet McKisco had seen in the bathroom at Villa Diana. She answered the ringing phone and almost cried with relief when she found it was Collis Clay, who had traced her to the Divers' apartment. (96)*

The Influence of Paris is strongly manifested in Dick's moral attitudes and way of thinking. Now when the pressure is alleviated, Dick shows his passion and gentleness to others in cycles wider than his family members and close friends. While seeing Abe and Mary, who decide to go back to America, to the train station, a shooting incident suddenly happens and Dick rushes to help out. After arguing with Nicole whether to go for it or not, he says: "At least I'll see they don't do anything outrageous to her.... When Nicole takes things into her hands," he said with affectionate irony "there is nothing more to be done" (72). On another occasion, he does not hesitate to give his agreement to help Abe, who wonders whether Dick can help him or not:

*"If I go to a hotel and get all steamed and curry-combed, and sleep awhile, and fight off these Senegalese – could I come and spend the evening by the fireside?"*

*Dick nodded at him, less in agreement than in mockery and said: "You have a high opinion of your current capacities." (92)*

He also offers Rosemary a helping hand. When Rosemary returns to her room, she is horrified to find a dead body on her bed. Right away, she thinks of Dick as the potential helper rather than the police. Dick quickly satisfies her request and removes the body from the room without hesitation:

*The body, as Dick lifted it, was light and ill-nourished. He held it so that further haemorrhages from the wound would flow into the man's clothes. Laying it beside the bed he stripped off the coverlet and top blanket and then opening the door an inch, listened – there was a clank of dishes down the hall.... (94)*

The switch in Dick's way of thinking specially his faithfulness to Nicole is obvious. In Paris, as already indicated, Dick is somehow distanced from Nicole and, as a result, he has time to re-evaluate his relationship with her and with other women. In fact, it's clear that there are moments when he tends to ignore Nicole's feelings. For example, one morning, Nicole suspects the existence of an affair between Dick and Rosemary. Dick senses it, but he decides to ignore it and he tries to justify his actions to himself:

*He saw a flash of unhappiness on her mouth, so brief that only he would have noticed, and he could pretend not to have seen. What did Nicole think? .... Dick had not spent a night apart from her since their marriage. On the other hand, there was a pleasingness about him that simply had to be used. (75)*

While reviewing his past, Dick thinks about it with a glimpse of regret. He knows that he was treated with respect and he felt dignified because of his work and professionalism. Now rich as he is, he does not feel proud of himself and thinks he is treated like an animal. This occurs after going to the bank to withdraw money but is faced with a predicament. The predicament is never clearly spelled out:

*Dignified in his fine clothes, with their fine accessories, he was yet swayed and driven as an animal. Dignity could come only with an overthrowing of his past, of the effort of the last six years. (78)*

This shows Dick in a position of recalling his past engulfed by intense longings to it. Furthermore, he compares his current situation with himself in the past and comes up with the conclusion that he misses his past and all the achievements he had back then. This also illustrates that being away from the French Riviera, where he is first introduced to the world of aristocratic society, allows him to see his authentic past more plainly. Entering this world occurs or rather is caused by the place. In the French Riviera he had to abandon his career, which provides him with self-identity. In comparison, staying in Paris gives him the chance to look at himself and life from the outside. This allows him to examine his life objectively, see his failures, evaluate it and find ways how he can recover his bright past, remedy it and face the future.

Again Fitzgerald's biography in Paris finds reflection in his novel. In 1924, Fitzgerald and Zelda decided to move to France with the expectation that life in Europe is cheaper than that in America. After consulting his friends, Fitzgerald and Zelda traveled to Europe hoping to recover the beautiful past and redeem themselves with the amount of money they obtained.

*After his winter's burst of money-making, Fitzgerald found himself some 7000\$ ahead. He and Zelda decided that they could not live reasonably at Great Neck but could do so in Europe, where everyone told them that, it was very cheap. We are going to the Old world to find a new rhythm for our lives,"Fitzgerald wrote, With true conviction that we had left our old selves behind forever..."[11].*

Obviously, the Divers' stay in Paris echoes the Fitzgeralds' lives. It seems that Fitzgerald merely creates the setting and the events of *Tender is the Night* in Paris based on his own real experiences while staying there with Zelda. The choice of Paris as one of the places of the novel is to illustrate a historical record from the Americans who prefer this place as a great destination for their emigration in the Twenties [16].

Xu also discusses the Fitzgeralds' living in Paris maintaining that despite the inspiring energy of the American community in Paris, Fitzgerald referred to his holiday in 1925, his longest, as the "summer of a thousand parties and

no work" [19]. The description is dangerous and undermines the notion that his life in Paris is different from that at the Riviera. The truth is that there is a wide difference although the description makes them parallel. The French Riviera is associated with the beach, idle conduct, and betrayals while Paris is intertwined with parties where interesting people meet and exchange talk, ideas and wisdoms. Thus, Xu notes that during Fitzgerald's stay in Paris, he met Hemingway, the famous novelist, who introduced him to several fancy places that later on Fitzgerald mentions in the novel, such as the Dingo Bar, literary cafes including Le Dôme, La Rotonde, La Closserie des Lilas, and La Coupole [19]. Interestingly, Fitzgerald contributed to Hemingway's literary advancement and Hemingway tried to bridge the rift developing between Fitzgerald and Zelda. These occurrences also find echo in the novel manifested by the famous people Dick meets and his inclination to regain his career.

Another parallel element one finds in the lives of Fitzgerald and Dick is their love affairs outside the marriage framework. Dick's affair with Rosemary is reminiscent of Fitzgerald's fascination with a young actress called Lois Moran, whom he met in 1927 [5]. That was when Fitzgerald had just moved with Zelda to Hollywood upon the request of United Artists in order to write a flapper comedy [4]. The young actress who was always seen in the company of her mother, became a temporary inspiration for the author when he created Rosemary Hoyt, one of the dominant characters in *Tender is the Night* to meticulously copy her [17].

## 5. Conclusion

*Tender is the Night* presents the element of the place as one of the most influential and the event-switching factors in the novel. As it is seen in the study, Switzerland, the French Riviera and Paris have played important roles in outlining the character of Dick Diver, the protagonist of the novel, and shaping the events that take place in them. Each place, however, has a diverse part. Switzerland, for instance, plays the role of the "good guy" in the life of Dick as it provides him with the tools to become a successful psychiatrist and a loved and respected man. In other words, it helps him achieve the dream he has always had about himself. On the other hand, the French Riviera, where Dick conducts a life of luxury, extravagance and lavishness owing to the aid of his wife, Nicole, makes a major contribution to the distraction of Dick from chasing his dream to be a successful and professional psychiatrist. Worse, it leads him to drink alcohol, attend extravagant parties and in short lead a life devoid of real moral or social substance. It is chiefly characterized by a way of life in which work is of no value. In Paris, Dick's third major stage of life, he is shown endorsing contrasting modes of behavior. Sometimes he is conquered by the Riviera's system of conduct. So, we see him pushed by his tendency to cheat on his wife Nicole, perform shameful deeds and even drink. Put differently Paris becomes an extension to the French Riviera. It presents the outcomes of the process of self-destruction that he has started back in

the Riviera. He harvests what he has planted in Riviera. Still, within this deleterious aspects of Dick, one can discern signs of his old commendable character, seen in his quick responses to help family members, friends and strangers. Furthermore, one can see his lament for his past and a desire to moments when he can remedy his present condition and start a new future full of achievements and good conduct.

However, as the last place highlighted in the novel indicates, the prospects of Dick to succeed or comes close to success are not encouraging. The last events of the novel are portrayed in the last three paragraphs. Dick is spotted in New York, where he originally comes from. From letters that Dick sends to Nicole, it appears that the life of Dick is way far from success and dignity. He is reported to be moving from town to town in an attempt to save his career as a doctor but very often he runs into failure. In each town he tries to make a new start for himself yet to no avail. His miserable condition makes it difficult for him to send anything to his children and becomes aware he may never see them again. In other words, he is fully cognizant of the tragic downfall he undergoes.

In making an association between place and events in *Tender is the Night*, Fitzgerald contributes a lot to the art of fiction and the field of criticism. For him, place is not merely a platform where the actions of the characters take place or a background that decorates the events. Rather, it is one of the most crucial and the event-swopping dynamics in the novel. At times it helps alleviate the pain of the protagonist but most of the time it hinders the progress of a thriving character so terribly that it places him in a path leading to irreparable harm. In so doing, Fitzgerald turns the place into a dominant character, perhaps a conquering power parallel to fate. Thus, Fitzgerald takes the art of fiction and readership to new not frequented arena. Here perhaps lies his major contribution.

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