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# Great



## Synopsis

In this contemporary retelling of *The Great Gatsby*, by comedian Sara Benincasa, a teenage girl becomes entangled in the romance and drama of a Hamptons social circle and is implicated in a scandal that shakes the summer community. When Naomi Rye arrives in the Hamptons to spend the summer with her socialite mother, she fully expects to be miserable mingling with the sons and daughters of her mother's mega-rich friends. Yet Naomi finds herself unexpectedly drawn to her mysterious and beautiful next-door neighbor, Jacinta, a Hamptons "It" girl who throws wild, lavish parties that are the talk of the town. But Jacinta is hiding something big, and events unfold with tragic consequences.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Great by Sara Benincasa is a reimagining of *The Great Gatsby* set in the modern day Hamptons. Great introduces teenage Naomi Rye who arrives in the Hamptons to spend the summer with her celebrity chef mother. She becomes transfixed by her mysterious neighbor Jacinta, who seems to

be the Hampton's IT girl. When she is not dishing in her blog about the Hampton glitterati, Jacinata is planning lavish parties that are the talk of the town. Naomi, who expected the summer to be a bore, finds herself with a hot boyfriend and a new best friend who is the most glamorous teen in the Hamptons. But Jacinta, like Jay Gatsby, is hiding secrets and scandal is on the horizon. Changing the gender of the classic main character is not often done in YA classic connections, but it works well in Great. The basic structure of the story remains the same with the outside narrator telling the tale. Inviting a comparison with the original should make for lively discussion.

excellent work by one of my favorite young adult authors. she does a terrific job of turning the Great Gatsby into something fresh, new and exciting for young adult readers.

A great take on a updated version on the classic Great Gatsby. Not much has changed in the way people treat people/view themselves (sadly) and others. I do however think it will give the younger generation a greater appreciation on the human social condition. Sara Benincasa did a great job taking the essence of old characters and give them new life 90 years later.

LOVE. The essence of the story line may have had connections to Gatsby (a personal favorite of mine) but the lense, language, and perspective are so unique and special to this story. I couldn't put it down and have actually read it twice to pick up on what I missed. Smartly written and clever as hell.

Even though I'm not a YA reader, I really enjoyed this adaptation from the Fitzgerald classic. Benincasa manages to craft a story that is both loyal to Gatsby and also stands well on its own two legs in a way that I imagine modern readers, especially YA readers, will still relate to.

It has been decades since I read 'The Great Gatsby' so a contemporary retelling works fine for me. YA is not a genre I read often (and after the Slate hit piece, I feel almost dirty reading YA). I did feel insulted when I went to B&N and asked for a copy, and the staff member asked if I was buying it for my daughter or niece...? She looked at me incredulously when I said it was for myself. So I bought my copy from . Brick and mortar stores wonder why they are losing to ...The sign for me that I am reading a good book is the \*pacing\*. If I want to keep reading, and not put it down to take breaks...I know it's holding my interest at a high level. This book fit that bill nicely. I don't want to call it a 'beach read', as to me that implies a 'lesser than' status. This is a good retelling of the original, with

some nice twists in terms of protagonist and POV. Some were unhappy with the 'lesbian angle' and how those characters were fleshed out. If the book was longer, I suppose the characters could've been fleshed out more fully. I think for how tight the book was (in terms of page count) it struck a good balance. Still others had problems with the 'product placements' and 'culture references'. Have you watched television lately? Shows regularly advertise products in show, and now they write their scripts based around product placement. It's jarring when you're watching a show, they get into a car and start talking about the car's features (cough Top Chef cough). I've seen police procedurals do it..I can't imagine writing for television and being told to write stilted dialogue to describe a product. I felt the product placement in Great...while not always subtle, was far less annoying than other things I have read/watched. Culture references...it's 2014. There will be culture references. That doesn't bother me at all. Really, how is that different than reading an older book that is talking about a time different than what we are living in now? If I don't understand a reference, I'll google it. I'm thinking (and with the backlash against product placement, who knows if this is a good idea) that if there had been a 'companion' website that was set up (the fictional site that was mentioned in the book)...that would've been an awesome tie-in and a way to get more eyeballs/clicks. I will say I was surprised (in a good way) that the author did not insert herself into the book as a \*pop-culture\* reference. Maybe that would have been to meta...As someone who does \*not\* have a literature degree, I loved this book and highly recommend it. I have turned it over to my wife for her to read. I eagerly await Sara Benincasa's next book, the YA 'Believers', coming out in 2015 (now in 1st person format!) If I can get over my embarrassment of reading YA books (thanks Slate!)

Reading Great put me right back into high school. Feeling left out and alone while being surrounded by people. What a lovely, jarring story.

Good effort, and true to the original. I love the diversity of characters. However I did not find the writing to be stellar, and sometimes it seemed a bit sophomoric or naive, even for YA.

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