



# EXAM QUESTIONS FROM FAMOUS AUTHORS

*Charles J. Ten Brink*

## F. SCOTT FITZGERALD ON ADMIRALTY

**D**aisy is piloting Nick's dinghy. When she abandons the helm to open a bottle of Veuve Cliquot '98, she is borne back ceaselessly not into the past, but into the *S.S. Shiraz*, an Australian oil tanker recently converted into a bulk wine carrier. West Egg is inundated with cheap wine and dead fish, ruining the summer season and leaving the local emporia with an enormous unpurchased stock of white shoes. The storeowners sue Daisy.

- A. The storeowners will prevail under the ancient French riparian doctrine of *in vino veritas*.
- B. Daisy will prevail because she will convince the jury that Gatsby was piloting the dinghy.
- C. Who cares? Only poor people drink Shiraz.

## JANE AUSTEN ON FAMILY LAW

**M**r. Bennet, finding that his lady has amused him long enough, seeks legal relief in divorce. Mrs. Bennet, whose poor nerves have at last gotten the better of her, chooses not to contest the divorce, but countersues demanding that he take custody of Lydia and Kitty, their youngest daughters.

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Mr. Bennet files a petition to have Lydia committed as a chronic flirt. Lydia contests the petition and asks the court to declare her an emancipated minor. The cases are joined by a special literary license, and Lady Catherine de Burgh intervenes because she just cannot resist a good family scandal and the opportunity to scold them all into harmony and plenty.

- A. Mr. Bennet will be forced to keep Lydia in the manner to which she has become accustomed until he can prevail upon one of the most worthless young men in England to marry her.
- B. Lady Catherine and the judge will engage in such a lengthy battle of self-righteousness that the case will eventually be joined with *Jarndyce v. Jarndyce* and mooted upon the deaths of all the parties in interest.
- C. The court will declare Lydia to be a very silly girl indeed, emancipate her, and sentence her to the title role in *Moll Flanders*.

## H.P. LOVECRAFT ON ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Randolph Carter decides to reopen the family copper mine in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Though warned by the shaman of the local tribe that the mine is now inhabited by an eldritch horror on sabbatical from the mountains of madness, he proceeds with further digging, unleashing the Goat-with-a-Thousand-Young, Hastur, and Cthulhu's irritating younger brother from the Jersey Shore, CthYOLO. The mine is now belching fuliginous slime whose emanations are causing the locals to develop the Innsmouth look and mutter darkly about acquiring a taste for "meat that you can't raise nor buy." The EPA issues an order to close the mine, and Carter appeals.

- A. The judge will determine that the EPA lacks jurisdiction over point-source emissions from the spectral plane of the Elder Gods, and abstention is invoked.
- B. The locals will successfully intervene to stop the closing of the mine because the offspring of the Goat-with-a-Thousand-Young have revitalized the area's dormant chevre industry.
- C. You fool, Warren is dead! *Ph'nglui Mglw'nafh CthYOLO R'lyeh wgah'nagl fhtagn!*

