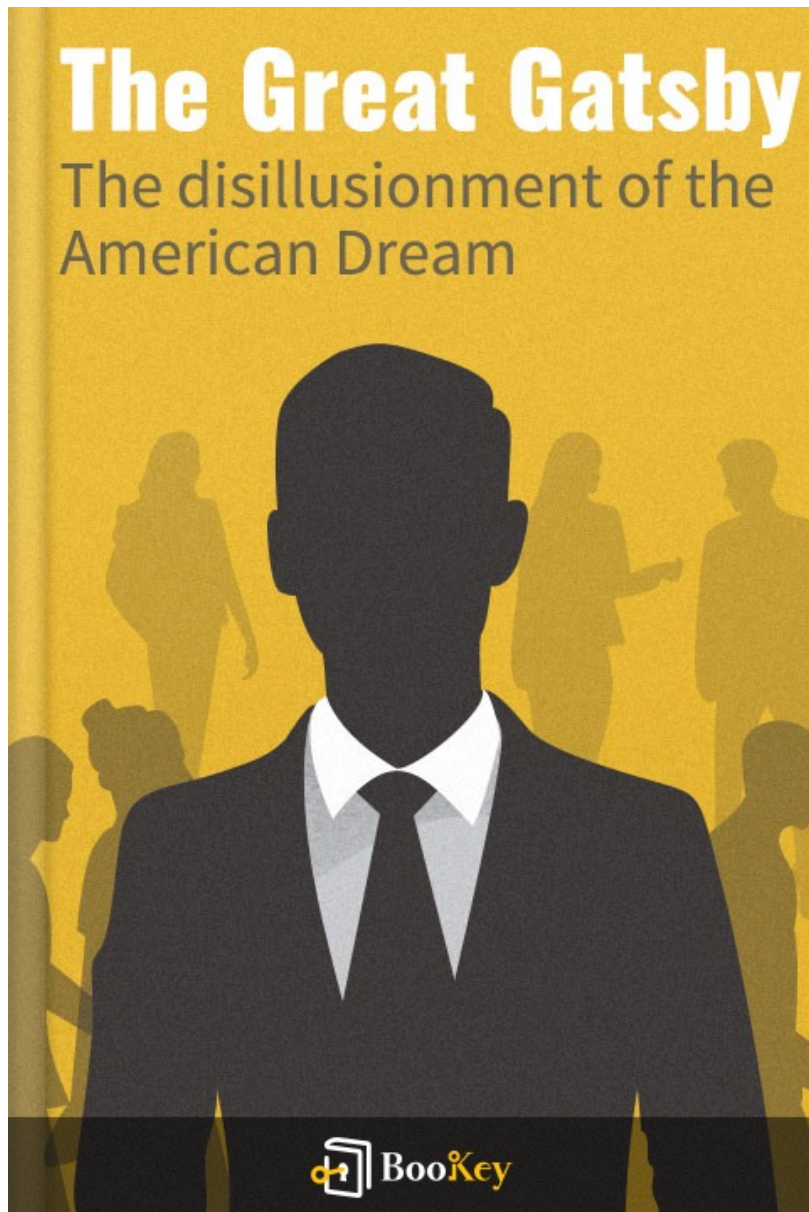


The Great Gatsby PDF

F. Scott Fitzgerald



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About the book

Summary of the Story

Title: The Great Gatsby

Main Characters:

- Nick Carraway: A humble worker drawn into a world of wealth.
- Jay Gatsby: A lavish millionaire with a mysterious past.
- Daisy Buchanan: Nick's cousin and Gatsby's former love interest, now married to another man.

Plot Overview:

The narrative begins with Nick unintentionally crossing paths with the extravagant life of Jay Gatsby, a millionaire enveloped in luxury. Nick learns that Gatsby has never truly moved on from his past love, Daisy, who is now wed to another man. Consumed by his feelings for Daisy, Gatsby lavishly spends money in a bid to impress her and revive their once-passionate romance, which unfolds amid deceit and immorality, hidden behind his glamorous lifestyle. However, as Nick watches them, it becomes evident that their relationship cannot simply return to its former state. The crescendo of the tale spirals into tragedy, culminating in a fateful accident where someone is fatally struck by Gatsby's car, and Gatsby himself is discovered lifeless in his opulent swimming pool, marking a heartbreaking

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conclusion to their doomed love affair.

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About the author

Profile of Francis Scott Fitzgerald

Overview

Francis Scott Fitzgerald stands as a towering figure in twentieth-century literature, renowned for his exploration of themes surrounding the Lost Generation. His writing vividly captures the spirit of the "Jazz Age," a term he popularized, establishing himself as the era's unofficial poet laureate.

Key Works

Fitzgerald's literary portfolio is impressive, featuring more than a hundred novels and short stories. Noteworthy titles include:

- *This Side of Paradise*
- *The Beautiful and the Damned*
- *Tender Is the Night*

The Great Gatsby

His most celebrated novel, *The Great Gatsby*, remains a cornerstone of American literature. It has garnered significant acclaim, consistently appearing in the "Top 100" lists of esteemed publications such as The Guardian, the BBC, and Time magazine. This further solidifies Fitzgerald's iconic status within the realm of modern American writing.

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Who should read this book **The Great Gatsby**

The Great Gatsby is a must-read for anyone interested in exploring the complexities of the American Dream, social stratification, and the excesses of the Jazz Age. High school and college students studying American literature or history will find it particularly relevant as it offers rich themes and symbols to analyze. Additionally, readers who enjoy character-driven narratives and powerful prose will appreciate Fitzgerald's evocative writing style. Those curious about the profound impact of wealth and love on human relationships will also connect with the timeless struggles depicted in the novel, making it a compelling read for anyone who seeks to understand the intricacies of aspiration and disillusionment in a bygone era.

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Key insights of The Great Gatsby in table format

Title	The Great Gatsby
Author	F. Scott Fitzgerald
Published	1925
Genre	Tragedy, Fiction, Social Commentary
Setting	Long Island and New York City during the Summer of 1922
Main Characters	Jay Gatsby, Nick Carraway, Daisy Buchanan, Tom Buchanan, Jordan Baker, Myrtle Wilson
Plot Summary	The story is narrated by Nick Carraway, who moves to West Egg, Long Island and becomes entangled in the lives of his neighbor, Jay Gatsby, a wealthy and mysterious man known for his extravagant parties. Gatsby is in love with Daisy Buchanan, Nick's cousin, who is married to the wealthy and brutish Tom Buchanan. The plot unfolds as Gatsby's attempts to rekindle his romance with Daisy lead to tragedy and disillusionment, revealing the moral decay hidden beneath the surface of the American Dream.
Themes	The American Dream, Class Struggle, Love and Relationships, Disillusionment, The Past vs. Present
Symbols	The Green Light (Gatsby's hopes and dreams), The Valley of Ashes (moral and social decay), The Eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg (the eyes of God or judgment)

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Title	The Great Gatsby
Literary Devices	Symbolism, Foreshadowing, Irony, Imagery, Stream of Consciousness

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The Great Gatsby Summary Chapter List

1. Chapter 1: Introducing the Narrator and the World of East and West Egg
2. Chapter 2: The Valley of ashes and Its Desolate Representation of Society
3. Chapter 3: Gatsby's Lavish Parties and the Mystery Surrounding His Wealth
4. Chapter 4: The Truth About Gatsby and His Past Unfolds
5. Chapter 5: The Reunion: Gatsby and Daisy's Long-Awaited Meeting
6. Chapter 6: The Downfall of the American Dream Through Gatsby's Tragedy
7. Chapter 7: The Aftermath: Love, Loss, and the Fractured Illusions of the 1920s

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1. Chapter 1: Introducing the Narrator and the World of East and West Egg

In the opening chapter of "The Great Gatsby," the story is narrated by Nick Carraway, who sets the stage for the world of the 1920s, specifically highlighting the contrasting locales of East Egg and West Egg. As a recent Yale graduate and a World War I veteran, Nick relocates to West Egg, a less fashionable area compared to East Egg, which is home to the old money elite.

Nick describes his modest residence, a small house adjacent to the extravagant mansion of Jay Gatsby, the enigmatic character whose shadow looms over the narrative. In contrast, the opulence of East Egg is embodied by Tom and Daisy Buchanan, Nick's cousin and her husband, who live in a grand mansion that reflects their inherited wealth and status.

The chapter introduces crucial aspects of Nick's personality—his reflective nature, a sense of morality, and a desire to reserve judgment, which he insists is a vital quality that he possesses. He is struck by the superficiality of the social scene around him as he navigates interactions in these elite circles, where wealth defines value, and appearances mask deeper issues.

During a visit to the Buchanans' home, Nick observes Daisy's air of nervousness and Tom's brutish demeanor, along with the presence of Jordan

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Baker, an aloof and cynical professional golfer. Their conversations reveal underlying tensions—Tom's affair, Daisy's unhappiness, and the complex dynamics of their relationships fraught with deception.

Amid the lush, vibrant backdrop of the Jazz Age, Nick feels both captivated and disillusioned. The intricacies of their lives, filled with wealth yet lacking in genuine care and connection, lay the foundation for the deeper mysteries and conflicts that will unfold around Gatsby. The chapter poignantly ends with a haunting glimpse of Gatsby himself, standing alone on the shore, reaching out toward a distant green light—an image rich with promise and yearning that encapsulates the central themes of aspiration and the unattainable American Dream.

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2. Chapter 2: The Valley of ashes and Its Desolate Representation of Society

The Valley of Ashes serves as a critical symbol in F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby," illustrating the stark contrast between the opulence of East Egg and the decay of American society during the 1920s. Situated between the flourishing neighborhoods of West Egg and New York City, this desolate wasteland is characterized by gray, ashy piles that represent the moral and social decay resulting from the uninhibited pursuit of wealth. The ashes are remnants of industry, symbolizing the forgotten working class who labor tirelessly and yet find themselves trapped in a hollow existence.

In this dismal landscape, we are introduced to the character of George Wilson, a mechanic who embodies the struggles of the American Dream. Wilson's garage, located in the Valley of Ashes, is not merely a place of business but a reflection of desperation and despair. The bleak environment accentuates Wilson's hopelessness and his futile quest for betterment, highlighting the stark disparities in wealth and opportunity that pervade this era.

The eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg, a giant billboard advertising an oculist, loom over the Valley, further emphasizing the theme of moral decay. The eyes, worn and obscured, represent a godlike observer witnessing the corruption and disillusionment of society. They serve as a haunting reminder of the

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characters' moral failures and the emptiness of their pursuits. As the novel progresses, the significance of Eckleburg's eyes deepens, symbolizing the lost spiritual values of a society fixated on wealth and pleasure.

The Valley also highlights the lives of other characters who traverse this forsaken land, most notably Tom Buchanan and his mistress, Myrtle Wilson. Their affair, set against the backdrop of this bleak environment, underscores the transient nature of their desires. Myrtle's desire to escape her lower-class life leads her to Tom, yet their relationship is mired in the same superficiality and emptiness dictated by the society around them. In contrast to the glimmering sophistication of characters like Gatsby, Myrtle's tragic aspirations reveal the darker side of the American Dream, where success is often but a facade.

As the narrative unfolds, the Valley of Ashes remains a haunting symbol of the consequences of rampant materialism and moral decay. It serves as a constant reminder of the struggles faced by those who exist on the fringes of a society obsessed with wealth and status. Fitzgerald powerfully uses this desolate landscape to critique the American Dream, revealing a world where the pursuit of wealth often leads to a wasteland of broken dreams and lost souls.

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3. Chapter 3: Gatsby's Lavish Parties and the Mystery Surrounding His Wealth

In this chapter, the extravagant lifestyle and enigmatic persona of Jay Gatsby are introduced through a vivid depiction of his lavish parties. Gatsby's mansion in West Egg becomes the setting for opulent gatherings that draw the elite and the curious from all corners of New York. These events are characterized by their excess, featuring abundant food, flowing champagne, and vibrant jazz music performed by skilled musicians. The atmosphere is electric, as guests revel in the festivities, yet many remain unaware of who Gatsby is or the source of his wealth.

Nick Carraway, the story's narrator, receives an invitation to one of these soirées, despite the fact that most attendees found themselves arriving without an invite. Observing from a distance, Nick experiences the peculiar blend of glamour and disarray that these parties encapsulate. The beautiful people dance and socialize, yet there is a sense of superficiality and disconnection that permeates the gatherings. Nick soon meets Gatsby himself, a man who represents the elusive American Dream, embodying both the allure and the underlying emptiness of wealth during the Roaring Twenties.

Throughout the chapter, Gatsby remains a mysterious figure, seldom engaging fully with his guests. His origins and the means by which he

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acquired his fortune are subjects of rampant speculation among the partygoers, fueling rumors that depict him as everything from a war hero to a bootlegger. This air of mystery adds a layer of intrigue to Gatsby's character, highlighting his isolation amidst the crowd enjoying his hospitality. Nick learns that although Gatsby's parties attract an array of socialites, they do not yield the companionship or emotional connections he seeks. In fact, despite hosting these extravagant events, Gatsby seems remarkably lonely, a theme that hints at the hollowness behind his ostentation.

The chapter examines the stark contrasts between the lavishness of Gatsby's lifestyle and the moral decay of the society surrounding him. The glamour of East Egg and West Egg is juxtaposed with the emptiness of the relationships among the characters, revealing a society obsessed with wealth yet devoid of genuine human connection. Nick's observations serve to highlight the dichotomy between the seemingly perfect façade and the troubled reality underneath.

As the chapter concludes, Gatsby's parties symbolize the transient nature of the American Dream, suggesting that despite the riches and glamour, true happiness and fulfillment remain elusive. The chapter serves as a pivotal glimpse into a world where opulence does not equate to satisfaction, encapsulating the contradictory essence of the Jazz Age through the lens of

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one man's unquenchable desire for acceptance and love.

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4. Chapter 4: The Truth About Gatsby and His Past Unfolds

In Chapter 4 of "The Great Gatsby," the mysterious persona of Jay Gatsby is further explored as Nick Carraway, the narrator, attempts to untangle the convoluted truths surrounding his enigmatic neighbor. The chapter begins with a brief overview of Gatsby's lavish parties and the eclectic mix of socialites and attendees who fill his mansion, painting a backdrop for understanding Gatsby's character and aspirations.

Nick sets the stage by detailing a sunny day in New York City when Gatsby invites him to lunch. As they travel in Gatsby's luxurious yellow car, Nick begins to feel the weight of Gatsby's unapproachable aura mingled with an underlying vulnerability. During their ride, Gatsby shares snippets of his past, claiming to be the son of wealthy parents from the Midwest who are now deceased, and reveals that he is an Oxford man. However, these claims are met with skepticism by Nick, who senses a duality in Gatsby's persona, complicating the narrative of wealth and privilege that Gatsby presents.

The lunch takes place at a speakeasy, where Gatsby introduces Nick to Meyer Wolfsheim, a character deeply entrenched in the underworld of organized crime. Wolfsheim is rumored to have been involved in fixing the 1919 World Series, a detail that raises further questions about the sources of Gatsby's wealth. The association with Wolfsheim highlights the corruption

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lurking beneath the facade of the American Dream, hinting that Gatsby's lavish lifestyle may be built on less-than-reputable foundations.

After the lunch, Nick continues to probe deeper into Gatsby's life, but it is during a chance encounter with Jordan Baker that more pieces of Gatsby's enigmatic past come to light. Jordan recounts a pivotal moment from five years earlier, sharing that Gatsby was originally James Gatz, a poor young man from North Dakota. Gatz had reinvented himself as Jay Gatsby, driven by an insatiable desire to elevate his social standing and life circumstances.

Moreover, it's revealed that Gatsby had fallen deeply in love with Daisy Buchanan, a woman from a wealthy background. Their romance was vibrant yet short-lived, interrupted by Gatsby's enlistment in World War I. When he returned, Daisy had married Tom Buchanan, solidifying the barriers that wealth and class can create.

Through these revelations, the chapter illustrates Gatsby's relentless pursuit of the American Dream and his fixation on reliving an idealized version of his past with Daisy. He attends extravagant parties and amasses wealth, driven by the singular hope of rekindling his romance with her. Yet, despite all his efforts, Gatsby's mysterious origins and his current associations suggest that the very dream he chases may come with shadows and compromises that are inescapable.

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Chapter 4 ultimately serves as a crucial turning point in the narrative, providing depth to Gatsby's character as someone who is not merely a wealthy socialite but a man shaped by ambition, love, and the stark realities of the American social structure. The truth about Gatsby's past unfolds, revealing the intense desires and societal constraints that fuel his relentless quest for acceptance and love in a world marked by glaring disparities.

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5. Chapter 5: The Reunion: Gatsby and Daisy's Long-Awaited Meeting

As the day of the reunion approached, Jay Gatsby was an embodiment of nervous anticipation. He meticulously prepared his mansion for the momentous occasion when he would finally see Daisy Buchanan again after five years. Gatsby, who had lived a life of opulence and indulgence, found himself ensnared in a mix of excitement and trepidation about facing the woman he had loved so fervently.

Nick Carraway, Gatsby's neighbor and confidant, played an essential role in facilitating this meeting. On a rainy afternoon, Gatsby urged Nick to invite Daisy over for tea, under the pretense that it would be a casual visit. Nick sensed the weight of this reunion and agreed, albeit aware of the romantic tension that lingered between Gatsby and Daisy, who had once been deeply in love before Gatsby's military service and Daisy's marriage to Tom Buchanan.

The day of the tea arrived, and Gatsby, overcome with anxiety, prepared his home for Daisy's visit. He arranged the flowers and checked every detail of the extravagant décor to ensure everything was perfect. However, as the moment approached, Gatsby's confidence waned, and he nearly fled his own home. When Daisy arrived, she found Gatsby at the door, his demeanor a curious mix of charm and awkwardness, highlighting the vulnerabilities

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hidden beneath his polished surface.

At first, the atmosphere was tense, filled with uncomfortable pauses and hesitations. Gatsby and Daisy struggled to navigate the space between them, reminiscent of their past, yet defined by the years of separation and changes in their lives. Gatsby's lavish parties, once symbols of his wealth and status, now felt empty compared to what he truly desired: a genuine connection with Daisy.

As they sat together in Gatsby's grand living room, Daisy's initial amazement at Gatsby's wealth gave way to deeper emotions. Gatsby attempted to impress her by showcasing his possessions: the fine shirts, the extravagant decor, and the luxurious lifestyle he had cultivated meticulously in her absence. Each item was a token of his wealth aimed at rekindling her affections and rekindling the spark that had once been so vibrant between them.

When Gatsby unveiled his mansion to Daisy, he hoped that the grandeur of his success would ultimately win her back. Yet, contrary to his expectations, Daisy was moved to tears, overwhelmed not just by the splendor but by the realization of what had been lost over time—a love that had once held such promise but had been tainted by the realities of their separate lives.

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In this poignant moment, a powerful understanding dawned on both characters. Gatsby's pursuit of the American Dream and the ideal of Daisy as a symbol of that dream had been a journey filled with longing and disillusionment. The meeting encapsulated the stark contrast between dreams and realities, love and materialism.

As the rain began to taper off, the drenching sky reflected the emotional turmoil both Gatsby and Daisy experienced. Their reunion was not merely a return to love, but a confrontation with the shadows of their past, filled with lost time, unfulfilled aspirations, and a struggling sense of identity. While hope flickered in the air, so did the chaos that would follow in the wake of meticulously crafted illusions.

The reunion marked a pivotal turning point in the narrative, illustrating that while dreams may bring heart-pounding excitement, they can also lead to painful confrontations with the life that has unfolded in their absence—setting the stage for the heart-wrenching journey that lies ahead in their lives.

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6. Chapter 6: The Downfall of the American Dream Through Gatsby's Tragedy

In Chapter 6 of "The Great Gatsby," F. Scott Fitzgerald delves deeper into the tragic decline of the American Dream as epitomized by the character of Jay Gatsby. The chapter begins with a narrative that reveals Gatsby's true background—his origins as James Gatz, a poor farmer's son from North Dakota, who reinvented himself in pursuit of wealth and social status. This transformation is grounded in his desperate need to escape the limitations of his humble beginnings and to achieve a version of the American Dream that promises happiness through success and affluence.

As the narrative unfolds, Gatsby's relentless pursuit of wealth is presented not only as a means to an end but as an intrinsic part of his identity. With an attempt to solidify his place in the upper echelons of society, Gatsby neglects to understand the deeper flaws behind the American Dream. His extravagant parties, while intended to bring people together and establish his status, only serve to highlight the emptiness of his life and the superficial nature of the relationships he's built.

The chapter takes a pivotal turn when Tom Buchanan, Daisy's husband, becomes increasingly suspicious of Gatsby and his intentions towards Daisy. Tom represents the old money class—entitled and dismissive of those who have recently acquired riches. His looming presence becomes a symbol of

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the barriers that prevent Gatsby from fully integrating into the elite society he longs to be part of. Tom's disdain for Gatsby illustrates the harsh reality that wealth alone cannot bridge the gap between social classes, revealing the inherent flaws in Gatsby's pursuit of the American Dream.

A significant moment occurs during a heated confrontation at the Plaza Hotel, where the tension culminates between Gatsby and Tom. Here, Gatsby's idealism comes crashing down as he desperately seeks to reclaim Daisy's affections and prove that she never loved Tom. However, the encounter underscores the futility of Gatsby's dreams. Daisy's inability to decisively choose Gatsby over Tom reveals not only the conflict that exists within her but also the delusion that Gatsby has clung to. His tragic flaw lies in his unwavering belief that he can manufacture happiness by repeating the past, which leads to his ultimate undoing.

Fitzgerald poignantly portrays the decline of the American Dream through the tragic events and choices made by Gatsby. The chapter illustrates how Gatsby's wealth, amassed through dubious means, ultimately fails to earn him the love and respect he craves. His pursuit of a dream rooted in illusion and nostalgia culminates in tragedy, highlighting the emptiness of material success devoid of genuine human connection.

As the chapter concludes, it becomes evident that Gatsby's downfall is

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intricately tied to the broader disillusionment of the 1920s, as the era becomes increasingly marked by moral decay beneath its sparkling surface of wealth and privilege. The narrative invites readers to reflect on the disillusionment of the American Dream, serving as a cautionary tale about the consequences of chasing illusions at the expense of reality.

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7. Chapter 7: The Aftermath: Love, Loss, and the Fractured Illusions of the 1920s

In the aftermath of the tense confrontation at the Plaza Hotel, the façade that surrounded Jay Gatsby's lavish lifestyle begins to crumble, revealing the hollow core of his dreams. The intense emotional exchanges during that ill-fated day—where love, jealousy, and betrayal intersected—mark the zenith of Gatsby's pursuit for a past ideal wrapped in the romance of Daisy Buchanan. Nick Carraway, our narrator, becomes increasingly disillusioned with the glittering world he once admired, as the true cost of Gatsby's ambition becomes starkly evident.

Following the confrontation, Gatsby's hopes oscillate between fragile optimism and palpable despair. His love for Daisy, which had once seemed so promising, transforms into a source of torment as she retreats to the comfort of her husband, Tom Buchanan. Tom, ever the embodiment of privilege and entitlement, reasserts his control over Daisy, using manipulation and emotional brutality to strip away Gatsby's dreams. This dynamic highlights the stark inequalities of their social world, where money and power overshadow genuine affection.

As the summer unfolds, the tragic event of Myrtle Wilson's death serves as the catalyst for the unraveling of Gatsby's carefully constructed world. Gatsby, in his desperation, offers to take the blame for the accident that

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Daisy accidentally caused, highlighting his unwavering devotion to her. Yet, this self-sacrificial love is juxtaposed against the heartlessness of the Buchanans, who escape the consequences of their actions, showcasing the moral decay that lies beneath the opulence of the era. Gatsby's romantic idealism, once inspiring, now seems futile against the harsh realities of social stratification and the consequences of reckless living.

In the wake of the chaos, Nick tries to make sense of the events, grappling with the disillusionment of the American Dream. The vibrant parties at Gatsby's mansion, once filled with laughter and nostalgia, become vacant shells devoid of joy. The guests, who had once reveled in the splendor of his wealth, dissipate with the revelation of tragedy, illustrating the transient nature of such relationships. Nick recognizes that for Gatsby, the relentless pursuit of wealth and status has ultimately led to isolation—a poignant commentary on the emptiness that often accompanies the relentless chase for success.

The climax of emotional turmoil culminates in Gatsby's tragic end, as he waits for a call from Daisy that never comes. His death symbolizes the death of a dream, a harsh reflection of a society that prioritizes superficiality over substance. Nick's reflections on Gatsby's life and legacy evoke a deep sense of melancholy; Gatsby, with all his ambition and charisma, becomes a tragic figure—proof that the American Dream is often a mirage, prompting Nick to

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question the very foundation of hopes that aim for a golden future.

Ultimately, Chapter 7 encapsulates a poignant exploration of love, loss, and the fractured illusions of the 1920s. The opulent lifestyles of East Egg and West Egg provide a glorious backdrop that only serves to reveal the stark reality of human failures. In a society chasing wealth and status, the chapter culminates in an elegy for Gatsby—a man who believed in the possibility of a dream that was destined to remain forever out of reach.

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5 Key Quotes of The Great Gatsby

1. In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. 'Whenever you feel like criticizing any one,' he told me, 'just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had.'
2. Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year by year recedes before us. It eluded us then, but that's no matter—tomorrow we will run faster, stretch out our arms farther... And one fine morning—
3. I hope she'll be a fool—that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool.
4. So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past.
5. They're a rotten crowd... You're worth the whole damn bunch put together.

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