

The Great Gatsby

Style of writing is stream of consciousness
Lucrative business – dobičkonosen posel

Nick Carraway comes from Midwest of America – a place full of moral values. Nick comes to NY to gain money and to get away from his relationship with a woman he was engaged to. More fashionable is East Egg (Buchanans live there). Less fashionable is West Egg (Nick & Gatsby live there). The book is about racism, moral values, prohibition of alcohol. Buchanans are the established rich, the Old Money, their wealth is inherited. Gatsby is the New Money.

CHAPTER 1

When Nick meets Daisy it's a dreamlike vision.

1917: Daisy & Gatsby meet

1919: Daisy marries Tom

Gatsby meets Wolfsheim

1920: prohibition starts (until 1931), Pammy is born

1922: Nick meets Jordan

Nick goes to Gatsby's party

Gatsby meets Daisy after 5 years

Gatsby is killed by Wilson

1924: Nick recalls the events of 1922

1925 GG (great Gatsby) is published

Nick admires G (= Gatsby) in a way. Nick is a very objective narrator.

Daisy & Tom:

- Live in a glamorous mansion / it's all glamorous on the outside
- Neither of them is happy in the marriage
- Tom is a racist; reading "the rise of the colour empire" depresses him. (fear of the "blacks" taking over)
- Tom exercises his physical dominance, he is a brute, muscular, has a cruel body, hurts Daisy

→ their wealth is contrasted with the emotionally empty lives of the Buchanans.

(characters : house)

- Tom hits Myrtle, hurts Daisy's finger
- Even Nick is impressed

These are the times of indulging – enjoying completely (in prohibition)

Self-indulgence in the 1920's

Nick: They' re all a rotten crowd" at the end

Jordan: cheating, involved in an affair
Jordan, Daisy, Tom all cheat but call Gatsby a criminal.

Split: G has some ideals but is a criminal

Page 71: G stretches out his hands, longing for the green light → representing Daisy

CHAPTER 2

Location: the Valley of ashes _ grey, dull, desolate, grim → these adjectives convey the atmosphere. The people are depressed, because they're disappointed, they have no ambitions (the Wilsons live there)

- Nick & Tom go to NY, stop at the Wilson's garage.
- Tom calls Myrtle Wilson " my girl"

Myrtle is stout, fleshy, has intense vitality. She radiates, that's what probably attracted Tom. She doesn't sit with them in the train – maybe she has some dignity. The accident with the dogs: Myrtle wants to establish a family. Having a dog in NY is an idea of real life. Tom buys the dog to her.

Their apartment in NY is small. Myrtle becomes snobbish, loses vitality , shows off with her dress. Her *personality undergoes a change*.
Catherine, Myrtle's sister talks to Nick about Tom ? Myrtle's future. Nick gets drunk *for the first time in his life*.

The eyes of Dr. T.J. Eckleburg in the ad are dull as the people. The early settlers had ideas in America, now they're materialistic, want material prosperity -**the American Dream**

Is hope of a better life – Gatsby made it. Wilson has lost hope, like the people of the valley. The doctor also – he put up the advertisement ad & lost hope. Wilson was anaemic, spiritual, Myrtle walks through him as if he were a ghost.

Tangible : fragile
Myrtle : Daisy

Myrtle is a woman with perceptible vitality (another expression to tell she was fat)
Tom TAKES Nick to NY, doesn't ask. Nick doesn't want to go to the apartment but Myrtle convinces him, saying her sister will be there ("kao" beautiful)

Catherine tells:

- she attended one of G's parties
- that Daisy is supposed to be catholic, doesn't believe in divorce -lie
- what Tom and Myrtle plan
- passes on the gossips

People seem to confide in Nick (gatsby, catherine, Daisy, Jordan)

Mc Kees: he is a photographer

She is a horrific & handsome woman

Behaviour: Myrtle tries to imitate the snobbish, arrogant manners of the upper class, at the party she treats servants as... she boasts with her new dress- "old thing"
And then Tom breaks her nose!

Tom is being sarcastic at the party towards the Mc Kees , Myrtle, Wilson

Nick says:" I was within (involved in the event) and without (distantly observing the scene) " He is enchanted and repelled : likes & dislikes

CHAPTER 3

Location: GG's place, overcrowded with people like moths – vešče- attracted by light. GG's parties are **gaudy, lavish**, extravagant. Introductions are forgotten on the spot; it's only important to be seen, to enjoy the pleasures of the moment. The gardens are glowing.

The list that Nick makes is important because we see that people were from different classes, of different origins, nationalities.

Nick was one of the rare people who were invited. He feels like a fish out of water.

Jordan likes large parties, she considers them to be more intimate. Jordan hates careless people, that's why she likes Nick

Gossips about GG; he's a German spy, once killed a man.

Why does GG not drink alcohol? He was hoping that Daisy might walk in someday and see him in great light.

When Chicago is on the phone → might be an illegal business

The owl-eyed man in the library is impressed by the real books, NEVER opened.

As Nick leaves the party he sees a bizarre scene- an accident due to the detached wheel. Car is a status symbol, a symbol of wealth. Owl- eyes is in the car.

Gatsby standing on the stairs is an isolate figure of the host.

" I am one of the few honest people I ever met" → Nick contrasts himself from the majority.

Jordan is incurably dishonest. She says: it takes two for an accident"

There's a lot of promiscuity at the parties – razvrat

CHAPTER 4

People couldn't cope cars → their life.

Nick meets Mr Wolfshiem.

Jordan is telling Nick the story about GG and Daisy.

Daisy's voice is fluctuating up & down.

Nick is involved in bond business – neki z delnicami.

CHAPTER 5

Day 1:

Nick doesn't accept GG's business proposal, because he didn't want to be bribed →

Nick has morals!

If he accepted, he could have become really rich. The morality of Nick is revealed. GG's nervousness is piling up.

Day 2:

Nick invites Daisy over. GG gets Nick's grass cut, makes a perfect setting for their reunion.

Prior to Daisy's arrival, GG is pale, nervous, anxious, dressed in white, silver. Daisy has a plain voice!!! only now

GATSBY at the reunion:

Anxiety, nervousness → embarrassment → despair → blissful happiness .

Daisy's embarrassment reassures GG, Nick talks to him.

Daisy has failed to fulfil GG's expectations (green light,..p. 77,78). Gatsby's illusion has gone beyond her.

Daisy is infatuated by his wealth but then she began to realize that GG was New Money. The New-Money people at the party were too vulgar for her.

CHAPTER 6

Young James Gatz is ambitious, he meets Dan Cody at the age of 17. He went to a Lutheran College, where he was a janitor to pay for the education.

Gets was impressed by material possessions. He inherited Cody's money, but a woman prevented him getting it.

GG throws another party to impress her. BUT Daisy detested, disliked the partygoers. Why? She was exposed to the vulgarity, showing feelings and that's not how she was raised. Daisy found the party offensive & vulgar.

Daisy is sarcastic → offers Tom her golden pencil so he could take down girl's addresses. Daisy is aware of the mistresses.

p. 89 : " she used to understand"

Nick : "You can't repeat the past" and GG was shocked. He could buy anything with money, he succeeded from a clam-digger to a New-Money member. All he wanted was that Daisy told Tom: "I never loved you"

Nick was appalled by GG's sentimentality.

CHAPTER 7

Great heat

The incident in the train, people anticipate sth.

Gatsby cancelled all the parties ,because:

-to please Daisy (p.91: disapproval in daisy's eyes)

- there was no need for parties since he had Daisy

The parties were there only because of Daisy.

GG's house became a secluded hideaway for GG and Daisy.

GG dismisses all the servants and replaces them with new ones, to make a favour to Mr Wolfshiem.

The affair lasts for a couple of weeks.

East Egg: lunch at Buchanans' house. Daisy & Jordan again lay on a couch, GG stands on a crimson (red as blood) carpet. Tom's on the phone, Daisy is cynical .

Daisy kisses GG .prior to that he sends Tom away.

Daisy praises Pammy and Nick – only their surface.

As GG watches Pammy he realises that maybe Tom & Daisy loved each other. Daisy sees no future in contrast to GG. (p. 95)

As Daisy praises GG's physical appearance Tom stops her.

Tom dislikes the affair because 1) she doesn't hide it

2) GG is a bootlegger.

Climax of Daisy's voice (full of money, p. 97) - golden girl.

Tom says GG has a circus wagon – noticeable car.

Oppressive heat

Tom made an investigation – GG is not an Oxford man.

Tom and Wilson both find out about the affairs. It was a parallel discovery.

Tom: angry, impatient

Wilson: gets sick, has a green face, he looks guilty, he locked Myrtle in her room.

To keep vigil = to watch out

Daisy proposes to hire 5 bathrooms, they hire a suit at the Plaza Hotel.

Ironic : the wedding march

Daisy would make another window because of the heat. She can afford it.

She likes the attention of both men, doesn't want to decide.

Biloxi is an intruder at their wedding, like GG now.

GG admits he is not really an Oxford man & Nick respects him for admitting that.

Nick admires GG for the capacity, ability to thrive for one single goal. Because he believes in true love, where Nick failed.

The more GG is explaining, the more Daisy gets drifted away.

Tom suddenly forgets about adulterous relationship. HE acts like wounded lover.

GG admits going on a spree from time to time (has girls) and Daisy calls him repulsive.

Valley of Ashes:

Myrtle rushes out and gets hit by the car. Tom cried.

Nick despises GG for leaving the scene. (p.116 I had enough of all of them).

Nick: GG is a crook who ran away." Now, he is not inclined to GG.

He checks on Daisy & Tom, Tom might hurt her but Tom and Daisy are conspiring.

"Gatsby was watching over nothing." Tom wasn't going to hurt Daisy, she wouldn't rush out to GG... Daisy and Tom are meant to stay together because they're alike.

The new servants didn't take care of GG's house. Nick is anticipating sth terrible, tells GG to go away.

Why did GG love Daisy?

At first it was attraction, a challenge for him (many men loved her). Nice girl = rich girl. After they have sex, he falls in love.

GG had taken her under false pretences = made her believe he was of the same strata.

The incident with shirts is revealed (p. 122). He liked her shirts.

Daisy personified all the things he wanted

Wilson went to Tom who told him about GG. Wilson had found a dog leash- realised Myrtle's having an affair, they fight, he tells her God sees everything (he's religious)

GG realises he lived to long for a single dream. (p. 132)

Nick sides with GG when he speaks of the rotten crowd, however he disapproves his illegal activities& business from the beginning to the end. GG gets killed by Wilson.

CHAPTER 9

Nick was responsible fro the funeral. He'd do it for anyone.

Daisy and Tom go somewhere after the accident.

GG's diary shows his determination, his ambitions.

The BOOK

Is about one man's obsession with one single dream.

Nick's split perception of GG:

- 1) he disapproves of his illegal business
- 2) he admires GG for his ability to pursue his dream for so long. GG stands out from the crowd.

Nick has strong moral values:

- he is from Midwest
- didn't want a relationship with Jordan before he settled things (ex- girl)
- didn't take the job (bribe for the favour)
- took care of the funeral
- was GG's friend

Nick's ambitions: moves to pursue his career, has ambition to remain honest

Daisy is a bored individual without any ambition, lacking any sense of purpose. Her idea is to live for the moment and enjoy a hedonistic lifestyle.

GG pursues his dream- a middle-class dream of wealth.

Daisy used GG as a tool to get even with Tom.

Nick's relationship with GG ; friendship, both are loyal.

MORALITY

People from Midwest have strong moral values. Nick realises he couldn't live that kind of life – corrupt people. There is moral growth in Nick, he despises people he previously admired.

Moral blindness : owl-eyes is unable to see But the people don't want to see.

For people GG was great because of the material possessions. But to Nick: because of his great & intense ability for such a dream.

Who is guilty of GG's death? Tom

Daisy- flower_ innocent on the outside, but she is a golden girl.

THEMATISATION

America the dream:

- 1 GG's effort to become a self-made man
- 2 search for a perfect happiness
- 3 GG's aspirations for social & economic promotion (the diary)
- 4 How the vision has changed from the early settlers to the partygoers.
- 5 the critic of the term The American Dream.

Who is dead? Everyone who had a dream → Wilson, Myrtle, GG

Book can be a historic narration : a book about a specific period of the American History → it's a documentary of the Jazz Age

It is a conflict between ILLUSION & REALITY.

Fitzgerald is criticising the price they' re willing to pay for the Dream.

It is a satire of vanity and shallowness of the American way of life after second WW. It is one man's obsession with his own personal history and attempt to restore the past. All his energy is aimed at winning of an ideal → a love story, one man's obsessive desire for the woman he has lost and of its tragic consequences. The book GG depicts a hedonistic society, existing in a state of moral chaos. It's about the conflict between the traditional values and the new world.

The Great Gatsby questions :

- **HONESTY, FAIRNESS,**
- LOYALTY
- FRIENDSHIP
- MARRIED – UNMARRIED LIFE- FAMILY LIFE
- TRUST (NICK)

Nick disapproved of GG's illegal business, yet he turned out all right in the end

MONEY

For the Buchanans it is a way of demonstrating their social superiority. They may mess up and ruin other's life.

For the people at GG's party it serves little purpose if it is not spent on a display of status and on entertainment.

For GG it is an instrument to achieve his goal. It is ironic that he is unable to see the contradiction between his ideal love and the corrupted sources of his wealth he uses to revive his love

For Nick : at first he is attracted to it but as he moves back home, he rediscovers that money is not everything, (his moral values). For Wilson it is the means by which they could escape the grim reality.