

The Great Gatsby

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CHAPTER ANALYSIS

FOR AS AND A LEVEL

The Great Gatsby - Chapter 7

Summary: Gatsby stops hosting parties and replaces his servants to stop any gossip from being leaked about him and Daisy.

Nick, Gatsby and Jordan go to lunch at the Buchanans.

Tom finds out that G and D are in love.

They all go to New York

Tom stops for petrol and finds out that Wilson know Myrtle is having an affair and plans to leave to go West.

In NYC, Tom confronts Gatsby and accuses him of being a bootlegger.

Gatsby tells Tom that Daisy never loved him, but she did and decides to stay with Tom.

Daisy and Tom arrive home, Daisy kills Myrtle. Tom finds out it was Gatsby's car involved.

Gatsby tells Nick it was Daisy driving but he will take the blame.

Gatsby and Trimalchio

Nick declares Gatsby's 'career as Trimalchio was over' when Gatsby ends his parties. Fitzgerald gives Gatsby the new literary identity as the Trimalchio of the American Dream. In Petronius' Satyricon, he was a former slave who built his own fortune and gained a degree of power. He's famous for lavish parties and his story ends with his guests acting out his funeral for his own entertainment. So Nick's mention could be foreshadowing Gatsby's funeral.

The petals fall of Daisy

In contrast to Gatsby's careful, secretive behaviour Daisy appears reckless.

At lunch Daisy openly flirts with Gatsby, she even kisses him in front of Nick and Jordan. She acts like she is in control ordering Tom to 'make us a cold drink'. She inadvertently reveals to Tom that she loves Gatsby, 'you always look so cool'. It could be seen that Daisy is trying to force confrontation between Tom and Gatsby.

Her actions have startled Tom, he asked Nick and Jordan whether they saw the flirting and without saying what he thought he clearly knows Daisy has been unfaithful. He claims he has seen a 'second sight' that tells him 'what to do'. Here, his reactions are impulsive and instinct driven.

The Tom and Wilson Juxtaposition

On the way to NYC, Tom is forced to stop for petrol at Wilsons garage. Fitzgerald uses the meeting to juxtapose both men who's wives are having an affair. After being told the plans from Wilson for him and Myrtle to move west Tom has the sudden realisation that the women in his life had 'some sort of life apart from him' and this makes Tom feel 'hot whips of panic'. Whereas Wilson's discovery of the affair has made him physically sick. Wilson internalises his grief whilst Tom expresses it, he steps 'on the accelerator' Tom's speed symbolises his anger and the gathering pace of the novel as it heads to it's climax. However, both seem to treat their wives as possessions. Wilson locks her in the room saying 'she's going there whether she likes it or not'. This also symbolises she has no control over her destiny.

Tom vs Gatsby

Tom addresses Gatsby as 'Mr Gatsby' the formality used suggests Tom doesn't want to be friendly. He then goes on to call him 'Mr Nobody from Nowhere' to emphasise how unimportant he thinks Gatsby is. Tom can't bare that Daisy is attracted to Gatsby with him being of 'new money' and lacking an upper class breeding. Tom sees this as a threat to his marriage but also it goes back to his belief of 'sneering at the family' being the first step to 'intermarriage of black and white which is symbolic of the breakdown in order. Both treat her as a possession and disrespect her feelings. Tom claims that 'she gets foolish ideas in her head and she doesn't know what she's doing' while Gatsby dismisses her opinion because she's getting all 'excited'. Fitzgerald stresses the importance of time in the confrontation. Gatsby wants to rewrite the past and insists that she never loved Tom. However, Tom evokes history between them to re-ignite her feelings for him.