

- Likes to be in control

Over the great bridge, with the sunlight through the girders making a constant flicker upon the moving cars, with the city rising up across the river in white heaps and sugar lumps all built with a wish out of non-olfactory money

- Fitzgerald is saying that the money that built the city was honest money, the city however had plenty of corruption and Nick has a rose-tinted view of the big city
- He has a romanticized idea of New York

In its first wild promise of all the mystery and beauty in the world

- He comes from a beautiful rural world
- Minnesota was established in 1849 and his granduncle came there in 1851
- Dredd Scott case was 1857
- Admitted to union 1858
- Ratified 13th amendment 1865

A limousine passed us, driven by a white chauffeur, in which sat three opulent negroes, two bucks and a girl. I laughed aloud as the yolks of their eyeballs rolled towards us in naughty rivalry.

- Racist stereotypes
- Assumptions
- Racist reference

Anything can happen now that we've slid over the bridge,' I thought; 'anything at all...'

- He does not believe the previous scene should happen

In a well-fanned Forty-second Street cellar, I met Gatsby for lunch.

- Why not just say speakeasy

A small, flat-nosed Jew raised his large head and regarded me with two fine growths of hair which luxuriated in either nostril. After a moment I discovered his tiny eyes in the darkness.

- Shylock and Fagan
- Stereotype with focus on his nose

Covered Gatsby with his expressive nose.

Moved us forward into the restaurant

Chapter 6

His parents were shiftless and unsuccessful farm people

- Is this Gatsby's opinion or Nick's?

The truth was that Jay Gatsby, of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself. He was a son of God—a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that—and he must be about His Father's business, the service of a vast, vulgar, and meretricious beauty.

- Again, is this Nick's interpretation? Think you are perfect makes you something of a narcissist
- Gatsby will not accept reality

So, he invented the sort of Jay Gatsby that a seventeen-year-old boy would be likely to invent, and he was faithful to that concept to the end.

- Is this what Nick would have wanted?

For a while these reveries provided an outlet for his imagination; they were a satisfactory hint of the unreality of reality, a promise that the rock of the world was founded securely on a fairy's wing.

- Nick's voice

The Barbary coast

- Is that Nick's addition as the Barbary coast is the red-light district historically

He told me all this very much later, but I've put it down here with the idea of exploding those first wild rumors about his antecedents, which weren't even faintly true.

I was in New York, trotting around with Jordan and trying to ingratiate myself with her senile aunt

- Why is he trying to ingratiate himself?
- Is this the behavior that people back home use to consider himself engaged?

As though they cared

- Nick disliking Tom and friends

She says she does want him

- The hostess
- Daisy
- Not understanding etiquette?

Not Gatsby

- Does Nick really believe this, is he lying?
- Tom sees things as they are

What would happen now in the dim, incalculable hours? Perhaps some unbelievable guest would arrive, a person infinitely rare and to be marveled at, some authentically radiant young girl who with one fresh glance at Gatsby, one moment of magical encounter, would blot out those five years of unwavering devotion.

- He is projecting how he thinks Daisy should feel
- Daisy has married and moved on, she does not have same obsession as Gatsby, Nick should know this
- Calling Daisy jealous
- He does not suggest that jealousy is unreasonable

'She didn't like it,' he insisted.

'Of course, she did.'

- Nick has already described Daisy as unhappy
- He knows he is lying but later speaks of his honesty

"I wouldn't use too much of her," I ventured. "You can't repeat the past."

- He senses that the magic is fading
- He recognizes that what Gatsby has done for Daisy is both too much and not enough.
She does not appreciate the effort it took, she doesn't understand the power of the gesture

Through all he said, even through his appalling sentimentality, I was reminded of something

But they made no sound and what I had almost remembered was uncommunicable forever.

- Nick wants to tell Gatsby that it's over and to face reality. Although he hints and declares the past cannot be repeated, he falls short of outright destroying Gatsby's hope

Chapter 8

You ought to go away

He wouldn't consider it. He couldn't possibly leave Daisy until he knew what she was going to do. He was clutching at some last hope and I couldn't bear to shake him free.

- Could still break him free but this requires self-sacrifice, the risk of being disliked or disbelieved

He wouldn't consider it. He couldn't possibly leave Daisy until he knew what she was going to do. He was clutching at some last hope and I couldn't bear to shake him free.

- Still an opportunity to relieve him, but still allowing him to have hope

I suppose so

- He knows Daisy will not call but will not tell him this

"They're a rotten crowd," I shouted across the lawn. "You're worth the whole damn bunch put together."

- Does he exclude himself from 'them'?

I've always been glad I said that. It was the only comment I ever gave him, because I disapproved of him from beginning to end.

- He still expresses disapproval