

Gatsby-Notes & Quotes Chapter 7

HEADED TO LUNCH AT BUCHANANS

- **New servants:** “I wanted somebody who wouldn’t gossip...They’re some people Wolfsheim wanted to do something for. They’re all brothers and sisters. They used to run a small hotel.”
- **Heat wave:** “broiling...certainly the warmest of the summer;” “simmering;” “woman next to me perspired;” “Some weather!...Hot!...Hot!...Hot!...Is it hot enough for you? Is it hot? Is it...?”
- As Tom gets drinks Daisy “got up and went over to Gatsby and pulled his face down, kissing him on the mouth.”
- “[Gatsby and Daisy’s] eyes met, and they stared together at each other, alone in space...She had told him that she loved him, and Tom Buchanan saw.”

HEADED TO NEW YORK

- “Her voice is full of money”
- Tom, Nick, and Jordan take Gatsby’s car; Gatsby and Daisy take Tom’s car. **Why does Tom insist on driving Gatsby’s car?**
- **Wilson:** “Been sick all day.” “My wife and I want to go West...And now she’s going whether she wants to or not. I’m going to get her away...I just got wised up to something funny the last two days...That’s why I want to get way.”
- “The giant eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg kept their vigil, but I perceived, after a moment, that the other eyes were regarding us less than twenty feet away.” Myrtle peering down, eyes wide with jealous terror, thinking Jordan is Tom’s wife...in Gatsby’s car.
- “Tom was feeling the hot whips of panic. His wife and his mistress, until an hour ago secure and inviolate, were slipping precipitately from his control.”

PLAZA HOTEL

- **Wedding bells (Mendelssohn’s Wedding March) during tense discussion**
 - The past is in question, Tom/Daisy’s wedding
 - This is all about who Daisy’s choosing
 - Irony because this is a breakup boiling and a wedding is downstairs
- “I love you now--isn’t that enough? I can’t help what’s past...I did love him once--but I loved you too.”
- Gatsby’s illegal activity comes out in the open--Daisy “staring terrified between Gatsby and her husband...[Gatsby began] denying everything, defending his name against accusations that had not been made. But with every word she was drawing further and further into herself, so he gave that up, and only the dead

dream fought on as the afternoon slipped away, trying to touch what was no longer tangible, struggling unhappily undespairingly, toward that lost voice across the room."

- **Nick's birthday:** "I just remembered that today's my birthday. I was **thirty**. Before me stretched the portentous, menacing road of a new decade...So we drove on toward death through the cooling twilight."

RETURN TRIP / BUCHANAN MANSION

- **Myrtle Wilson:** Locked up; "Throw me down and beat me, you dirty little coward!" runs out and gets run over; "her thick dark blood mingled with the dust"
 - "they saw "that her left breast was swinging loose like a flap and there was no need to listen for the heart beneath."
- It was Gatsby's car: Tom giving "low husky sobs, tears overflowing down his face: "The God damned coward! He didn't even stop his car." **Honest grief?**
- "I'd be damned if I'd go in; I'd had enough of all of them for one day"
- Gatsby creeping in the bushes, making sure Daisy is okay; Daisy was driving the car--"but of course I'll say I was...this woman rushed out at us...it seemed to me that she wanted to speak to us, **thought we were somebody she knew.**"
- **Nick peeks in:** Daisy and Tom were sitting opposite each other at the kitchen table...he was talking intently across the table at her, and in his earnestness his hand had fallen upon and covered her own. Once in awhile she looked up at him and nodded in agreement. They weren't happy...and yet they weren't unhappy either...anybody would have said that they were conspiring together."
- "So I walked away and left him standing there in the moonlight--watching over nothing."

Some analysis...

Gatsby's decision to take the blame for Daisy demonstrates the deep love he still feels for her and illustrates the basic nobility that defines his character. Disregarding her seeming lack of concern for him, Gatsby sacrifices himself for Daisy. The image of a pitiable Gatsby keeping watch outside her house while she and Tom sit comfortably within is an image that both allows the reader to look past Gatsby's criminality and functions as a moving metaphor for the love Gatsby feels toward Daisy. Nick's parting from Gatsby at the end of this chapter parallels his first sighting of Gatsby at the end of Chapter 1. In both cases, Gatsby stands alone in the moonlight pining for Daisy. In the earlier instance, he stretches his arms out toward the green light across the water, optimistic about the future. In this instance, he has made it past the green light, onto the lawn of Daisy's house, but his dream is gone forever.