

The Great Gatsby: Helpful Quotes

Chapter 1:

“...just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had”

“I'm inclined to reserve all judgements”

“No, Gatsby turned out all right in the end; it is what preyed on Gatsby, what foul dust floated in the wake of his dreams that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men”

“and I hope she'll be a fool – that's the best thing a girl can be in this world – a beautiful little fool”

“I glanced seaward - and distinguished nothing except a green light, minute and far away, that might have been the end of a dock. When I looked once more for Gatsby, he had vanished,”

Chapter 2:

“ This is a valley of ashes”

“I was within and without, simultaneously enchanted and repelled by the inexhaustible variety of life.”

“But above the grey land and the spasms of bleak dust which drift endlessly over it, you perceive, after a moment the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg. The eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg are blue and gigantic”

“a white ashen dust veiled his dark suit... as it veiled everything”

“Making a short deft movement, Tom Buchanan broke her nose with his open hand.”

Chapter 3:

“ In his blue gardens men and girls came and went like moths”

“they came and went without having met Gatsby at all, came for the party”

“there were whispers about him from people who had found little that it was necessary to whisper about in this world”

“For a moment he looked at me as if he failed to understand. “ I'm Gatsby, “he said suddenly.”; “ it was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it, that you come across maybe four or five times in life.”

“Jordan baker instinctively avoided shrewd, clever men”

“It made no difference to me. Dishonesty in a woman is a thing you never blame deeply”

“A sudden emptiness seemed to flow now from the windows and the great doors, endowing with complete isolation the figure of the host.”

“ Everyone suspects himself of at least one of the cardinal virtues, and this is mine: I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known.”

Chapter 4:

“anything can happen now that we’ve slid over this bridge,” I thought, “anything at all... even Gatsby could happen, without any particular wonder.”

“ It never occurred to me that one man could start to play with the faith of fifty million – with the single-mindedness of a burglar blowing a safe.”

“Her wan, scornful mouth smiled, and so I drew her up again closer, this time to my face.”

Chapter 5:

“the rain cooled about half-past three to a damp mist,”

“ Gatsby, pale as death, with his hands plunged like weights into his coat pockets was standing in a puddle of water glaring tragically into my eyes”

“He took out a pile of shirts...Daisy bent her head into the shirts and began to cry stormily. “They’re such beautiful shirts...It makes me sad because I’ve never seen such - such beautiful shirts before”

“ There must have been moments even that afternoon when Daisy tumbled short of his dreams-not through her own fault, but because of the colossal vitality of his illusion”

“no amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man can store up in his ghostly heart.”

“Gatsby didn’t know me now at all. I looked once more at them and they looked back at me, remotely possessed by intense life.”

“Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one.”

Chapter 6:

“The truth was that Jay Gatsby of West Egg, Long Island sprang from his own Platonic conception of himself...he invented just the sort of Jay Gatsby that a seventeen-year-old boy would be likely to invent, and to this conception he was faithful to the end.”

“He wanted nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say: “I never loved you!”

“after she was free, they were both to go back to Louisville and be married from her house – just as if it were five years ago.”

“Can’t repeat the past?” he cried incredulously. “Why, of course you can!”

“His heart beat faster as Daisy’s white face came up to his own....At his lips’ touch she blossomed for him, like a flower and the incarnation was complete.”

Chapter 7:

“Afterward he kept looking at the child with surprise. I don’t think he had ever really believed in her existence before.”

“What’ll we do with ourselves this afternoon?” cried Daisy, “and the day after that, and the next thirty years?”

“I had one of those renewals of complete faith in him”

“Your wife doesn’t love you,” said Gatsby. “She’s never loved you. She loves me.”

“Daisy loved me when she married me and she loves me now.”

“Just tell him the truth – that you never loved him- and it’s all wiped out forever.”

“Even alone I can’t say I never loved Tom...It wouldn’t be true.” “He looked - and this is said in all contempt for the babbled slander of the garden – as if he’d killed a man”

“he spoke as if Daisy’s reaction was the only thing that mattered”

Chapter 8:

“They’re a rotten crowd,” I shouted across the lawn, “You’re worth the whole damn bunch put together”

“The holocaust was complete”

Chapter 9:

“I found myself on Gatsby’s side – and alone”

“I began to have a feeling of defiance, of scornful solidarity between Gatsby and me against them all.”

“I could only remember without resentment that Daisy hadn’t sent a message or a flower.”

“After Gatsby’s death, the East was haunted for me.”

“It was all very careless and confused, They were careless people, Tom and Daisy - they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money”

“I thought of Gatsby’s wonder when he first picked out the green light at the end of Daisy’s dock. He had come a long way to the blue lawn and his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it. He did not know that it was already behind him.”

“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 further ... and one fine morning –

So we beat on, boats against the current borne back ceaselessly into the past.”