

The Great Gatsby. Chapter Five Key Points

Here, I have summarized key points from each page of the [pdf copy](#) of the novel.

- **Pages 87-89:** Nick returns home
 - After his afternoon and evening with Jordan from the last chapter, Nick returns to his house. Every light is on in Gatsby's house next door even though it is 2 in the morning (I wonder why? Perhaps so Daisy sees it?).
 - Gatsby asks Nick to go to Coney Island with him or take a swim but Nick declines because it is so late
 - Nick tells Gatsby that Jordan filled him in and that he plans to invite Daisy to his house for tea afternoons from now.
 - Gatsby, knowing that Nick doesn't make a ton of money, presents him with a business offer: "I carry on a little business on the side, a sort of sideline, you understand...It wouldn't take up much of your time and you might pick up a nice bit of money. It happens to be a rather confidential sort of thing."
 - Nick, sensing this opportunity must be something illegal, quickly declines Gatsby's offer.
 - The next morning, Nick calls up Daisy to invite her to tea and asks her not to bring Tom.
- **Page 90:** Nick prepares for tea
 - Gatsby sends one of his employees over to mow Nick's lawn and has a wide variety of flowers delivered.
 - Gatsby comes over around 3 and appears quite nervous. Nick describes him: "He was pale and there were dark signs of sleeplessness beneath his eyes."
 - When Nick talks about his "Finn", he is talking about his housekeeper who is from Finland.
- **Pages 91-92:** Daisy's arrival
 - Gatsby is clearly nervous and tells Nick he is going home because no one is coming. Nick tells him he's silly and that it's only two minutes until 4, which is when Daisy is due to arrive.
 - Daisy arrives and as Nick helps her out of the car, she asks him, "Are you in love with me...Or why did I have to come alone?"
 - Nick leaves Daisy inside and is surprised to find the living room empty. Gatsby was in there just a moment ago. Moments later, they hear knocking on the front door and Nick opens it up to find gas be standing there. Nick describes him as, "pale as death, with his hands

plunged like weights in his coat pockets, was standing in a puddle of water glaring tragically into my eyes." (Gatsby must have left so he could make a grand entrance once Daisy was inside)

- Upon seeing him, Daisy says to Gatsby, "I certainly am awfully glad to see you again."
- Even though he is clearly very nervous, Gatsby is trying to play it cool. He is standing with "his hands still in his pockets, [is] reclining against the mantelpiece in a strained counterfeit of perfect ease, even of boredom."
- **Page 93:** Everyone is feeling a little bit awkward
 - Gatsby almost knocks Nick's clock off of the mantle and Nick says his face is bright red from blushing.
 - For Daisy's sake, Nick is pretending like he does not know their back story. Daisy tells him that they have not seen each other for many years, to which Gatsby replies, "Five years next November." This shows how Gatsby must have been counting the days since he last saw Daisy.
 - Nick's maid brings in the tea and cakes, but the awkwardness is still there. Nick finds an excuse to get up and leave the room for a moment.
- **Page 94:** Gatsby and Nick talk
 - Gatsby catches Nick before he walks away and the two of them talk in the kitchen. Gatsby tells Nick, "This is a terrible mistake." Nick reassures him and tells him that he and Daisy are just embarrassed, that's all.
 - Nick tells Gatsby to get back in there with Daisy and Nick steps outside for half an hour to give them some time alone.
- **Pages 95-97:** Nick returns
 - Nick decides that it is time to rejoin Gatsby and Daisy so he goes back into the house. He enters loudly and hopes that they hear him coming but it appears they do not. Nick enters and sees them, "looking at each other as if some question had been asked or was in the air, and every vestige of embarrassment was gone. Daisy's face was smeared with tears and when I came in she jumped up and began wiping at it with her handkerchief before a mirror. But there was a change in Gatsby that was simply confounding. He literally glowed; without a word or a gesture of exultation a new well-being radiated from him and filled the little room."
 - It has stopped raining and everyone's awkwardness has faded, so Gatsby invites Nick and Daisy over for a tour of his house.

- While waiting for Daisy to fix her makeup, Gatsby and Nick talk about Gatsby's house. Gatsby tells him that it took him just three years to earn the money to buy it. Nick questions this because Gatsby told him he inherited his money, but then Gatsby tells him that he did but he lost most of it in the Panic before the war. Then, Nick asks Gatsby what type of business he is involved with, to which Gatsby replies, "That's my affair." (Here is another hint that Gatsby must be involved in some sort of illegal or shady business)
 - Gatsby quickly corrects himself and tells Nick, "I was in the drug business and then I was in the oil business. But I'm not in either one now."
- As they approach Gatsby's house, Daisy expresses her awe and admiration for his home.
- Page 98: Gatsby gives Nick and Daisy a tour
 - upstairs, they enter Gatsby's chambers and have a drink. Nick describes Gatsby's actions, remarking that he "revalued everything in his house according to the measure of response it drew from her well-loved eyes."
 - this is an important moment and it means that Gatsby was watching Daisy to see which of his possessions got the greatest reaction from her. To him, these were his most valuable possessions now.
 - Notes that Gatsby's mood has changed again, "He had passed visibly through two states and was entering upon a third. After his embarrassment and his unreasoning joy he was consumed with wonder at her presence."
- Page 99: Daisy cries over shirts
 - Gatsby rips all of his shirts out of the closet and throws them in a big pile on the bed to show them off.
 - As he does this, Daisy begins sobbing and says, "They're such beautiful shirts...It makes me sad because I've never seen such—such beautiful shirts before."
 - it is important to consider why Daisy might be crying here, it definitely isn't just about the shirts.
 - The tour continues on outside and Gatsby tells Daisy, "If it wasn't for the mist we could see your home across the bay...You always have a green light that burns all night at the end of your dock."
 - This is an important moment because the green light is one of the most important symbols in this whole book.
- Page 100: The green light loses its significance

- Nick narrates, “Daisy put her arm through his abruptly but he seemed absorbed in what he had just said. Possibly it had occurred to him that the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever. Compared to the great distance that had separated him from Daisy it had seemed very near to her, almost touching her. It had seemed as close as a star to the moon. Now it was again a green light on a dock. His count of enchanted objects had diminished by one.”
 - For Gatsby, the green light had always represented being close to Daisy. Seeing her just across the bay seems pretty close after not seeing her for years and years and at times having whole oceans between them. But now, he is standing right next to her and touching her so the green light has lost its meaning because he's been actually close to her now.
 - Nick wanders around the room and sees a picture of an old man in a boating outfit. He asks Gatsby who it is and Gatsby tells him that it's Dan Cody.
 - Nick thinks the sounds familiar and Gatsby says that Dan Cody used to be his best friend but he's now dead.
 - Nick and Daisy also see an old photo of an eighteen-year-old Gatsby also in a boating outfit. And Gatsby shows Daisy all the newspaper clippings about her that he has saved over the years.
 - Gatsby is interrupted by what sounds like another business call but he angrily says that he cannot talk right now.
- **Pages 101-102:** Klipspringer plays piano for them
 - Not sure what to do next, Gatsby suggests that one of his house guests named Klipspringer play the piano for them.
 - **Page 103:** Time for Nick to leave
 - As Nick says goodbye to Gatsby, he notices, “ that the expression of bewilderment had come back into Gatsby's face, as though a faint doubt had occurred to him as to the quality of his present happiness.”
 - Nick theorizes that the reason for this must be that “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. It had gone beyond her, beyond everything. He had thrown himself into it with a creative passion, adding to it all the time, decking it out with every bright feather that drifted his way. No amount of fire or freshness can challenge what a man will store up in his ghostly heart.”

- This means that Gatsby had spent the last five years building up this illusion and dream of Daisy and making her out to be better than she ever could really be in reality. So, upon meeting her again in person, at times she must have failed to be as great as he imagined because it would have been impossible to live up to all that.
- Nick returns home and leaves Gatsby and Daisy alone in Gatsby's house.