

# The Great Gatsby. Chapter Four Key Points

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

- Pages 66-68: All of Gatsby's guests
  - Nick goes on a long list mentioning all the different types of people who were at Gatsby's parties that summer.
  - Nick says that many people return to Gatsby's on Sunday morning, and through two girls talking, we learned two more rumors about Gatsby: "He's a bootlegger" and "One time he killed a man who had found out that he was nephew to von Hindenburg and second cousin to the devil."
    - Remember, this story is set during Prohibition, when alcohol was illegal. A bootlegger was someone who illegally manufactured and sold alcohol.
- Page 69: Gatsby and Nick go to lunch
  - One morning in July, Gatsby pulls up to Nick's house and tells him that they're having lunch together in the city.
  - Nick describes Gatsby, "He was never quite still; there was always a tapping foot somewhere or the impatient opening and closing of a hand."
  - Nick admires Gatsby's car and describes it as, "a rich cream color, bright with nickel, swollen here and there in its monstrous length with triumphant hatboxes and supper-boxes and tool-boxes, and terraced with a labyrinth of windshields that mirrored a dozen suns."
  - Nick's initial excitement and interest in Gatsby has worn off a bit, because he says that they talked quite a few times in the last month and it seemed like Gatsby didn't have much to say.
- Pages 70-72: Gatsby tells Nick his background
  - On the drive into town, Gatsby starts acting strangely. Nick describes it, "Gatsby began leaving his elegant sentences unfinished and slapping himself indecisively on the knee of his caramel-colored suit."
  - Gatsby asks Nick what he thinks of him and Nick doesn't really know how to respond. Then Gatsby tells him, "I don't want you to get a wrong idea of me from all these stories you hear."
  - Gatsby tells Nick that he is the son of wealthy midwesterners (San Francisco...not that we really consider that the midwest today), and is American but was educated in England at Oxford. He says that his family all died and he came into a lot of money. After that, he lived

and adventured all over Europe because he was “trying to forget something very sad that had happened to me long ago.” Then, when the war started, Gatsby fought for the Allied powers and became a decorated war hero. Gatsby even shows Nick a medal that he was awarded from the war. The medal reads, “Major Jay Gatsby... For Valour Extraordinary”

- Remember, that a few chapters ago, Jordan told Nick that she didn't believe that Gatsby was educated at Oxford. Nick feels the same way because “He hurried the phrase ‘educated at Oxford,’ or swallowed it or choked on it as though it had bothered him before.”
  - Not believing Gatsby about this one small little thing has Nick starting to doubt him all together.
  - However, when Gatsby shows Nick a photo of young Gatsby and some other boys at Oxford, Nick starts to believe all of Gatsby's story since there seems to be proof.
- Page 73: Gatsby needs something from Nick
  - Gatsby tells Nick that he's going to ask a big favor of him and that it has something to do with “the sad thing that happened to [him].”
    - Gatsby tells Nick that Jordan Baker is going to talk to Nick about whatever this favor is that afternoon when the two of them have tea.
- Page 74: Entering the city
  - As they are entering the city, a motorcycle cop pulls over Gatsby, but Gatsby waves the police commissioner's Christmas card at the officer and he apologizes and lets them go. Gatsby tells Nick that he was able to do the commissioner a favor oh, so now he is in his good graces.
- Pages 75-76: Nick meets Mr. Wolfshiem
  - Gatsby and Nick and Tara restaurants and Nick is introduced to Gatsby's friend Mr. Wolfshiem.
    - Mr. Wolfshiem tells Gatsby he likes the restaurant across the street better and then he remembers the time that he and Gatsby's friend was shot dead outside that restaurant. It seems as though it were a mob-related crime. we get the impression that he might be involved in some type of illegal or dangerous activity.
    - Mr. Wolfshiem tells Nick that he hears he's looking for a business connection. Gatsby tells him know that's another

friend and we'll talk about that another time. Again, seems like some sort of shady business going on between them.

- **Page 77:** Gatsby and Nick talk
  - Gatsby asks Nick if he upset him in some way with our conversation earlier. Nick explains that he doesn't know why Gatsby won't just ask him for the favor, why does it have to go through Jordan Baker.
  - Meanwhile, Mr. Wolfshiem is looking around the room at everyone, almost as if he's making sure that no one has come here to shoot him like his friend was shot next door.
  
- **Pages 78-79:** Nick and Mr. Wolfshiem talk
  - Nick and Mr. Wolfshiem get to talking and he tells Nick that Gatsby is an Oxford man. Nick asks him how long he has known Gatsby and he says for several years since the war. Then, Mr. Wolfshiem tells Nick that his cufflinks are made from human molars...very strange.
  - Mr. Wolfshiem tells Gatsby and Nick that he has overstayed his welcome and will be leaving.
  - Nick asks Gatsby what Mr. Wolfshiem does and Gatsby tells Nick that he's a gambler, and in fact, he was the one that fixed the 1919 World Series.
  - As they are getting ready to leave, Nick sees Tom Buchanan across the room and he and Gatsby go over to say hello.
  
- **Pages 80-86:** Gatsby meets Tom, then Tea with Jordan
  - Tom furiously greets Nick and asks him why he hasn't visited, telling him Daisy has been upset. Then Nick introduces Tom and Gatsby. Gatsby has a strange look of embarrassment on his face while meeting Tom and quickly steps away.
  - Then, the skin changes to Nick having tea with Jordan Baker later that afternoon. Jordan is telling Nick about growing up in Louisville alongside Daisy. The story she is telling took place in 1917.
    - She tells Nick that Daisy was the prettiest girl in town and that many young officers from the nearby military base were always trying to take her out on dates.
    - One day, Jordan was passing Daisy's house and noticed her sitting outside with a lieutenant that she had never seen with Daisy before. This man was a young Jay Gatsby.
      - Jordan says that years later when she met him again in New York she didn't even realize that Gatsby was the same man.
    - Jordan says not as the year past, her and Daisy saw less of each other and rumors swirled about Daisy. One rumor was

that Daisy packed her bags one night to go to New York to say goodbye to some soldier (this must be Gatsby!) but her family stopped her. After this, Daisy stopped going out with the soldiers and a little while later became engaged to a man from New Orleans, this was Tom Buchanan. Daisy soon married Tom in the biggest wedding that Louisville had ever seen.

- Jordan was a bridesmaid and an hour before the bridal dinner, She Came upon Daisy drunk in her room crying. Daisy told her to give Tom's gift of pearls back and to tell everyone that Daisy had changed her mind. As Jordan and Daisy's mother were trying to help Daisy pull herself together they noticed she was crying over some letter (perhaps a letter from Gatsby??). In the end, Daisy pulled herself together and married Tom the next day with no further problems.
- Jordan says that she saw Daisy and Tom a few months after their wedding and there was a complete turnaround, Daisy seemed head over heels in love with time. But just a week later, Jordan came across Tom in an automobile accident with another woman, one of the maids from the hotel but he and Daisy were staying at. This incident made the papers, so everyone knew.
- The following year, Daisy had their daughter and they spent the next year in France with Tom. Eventually they moved back to the States and settled down in Chicago, where Daisy became very popular. Jordan explains that Daisy maintained a really great reputation because she never drank, so she was always able to keep her wits about her.
- Then, six weeks earlier in the present summer, Daisy heard Gatsby's name for the first time in years when Nick and Jordan were talking about him. First night when they went over and met everyone at the Buchanan house.
  - Later that night, Daisy asks Jordan which Gatsby she was talking about and Jordan described him. At this point Daisy and Jordan realized that the man from Daisy's past and this Gatsby of today are the same man.
- Jordan tells Nick that Gatsby bought his Mansion so that it would be directly across the bay from Daisy and Tom's house.
- Finally, Jordan gets to the favor that Gatsby is asking of Nick. Gatsby wants Nick to invite Daisy to his house one afternoon and to invite Gatsby there as well.
  - Nick is caught off guard, he was expecting Gatsby to ask a much larger favor of him. He can't believe that Gatsby

waited five years and bought that huge mansion and threw all those parties just to lead up to this one moment.

- Nick asks why Gatsby didn't just ask him himself, and Jordan explained that Gatsby thought he might be offended and that he wanted Jordan to tell him all of this backstory.
- Nick wonders why Jordan couldn't have arranged a meeting, but she explains that Gatsby needed it to be at Nick's house because he wanted Daisy to see his mansion.
- Jordan says that Gatsby thought Daisy might just wander into his house for a party one day but that didn't seem to happen. So he started asking people if they knew Daisy and Jordan was the first one who said that she did. This was the conversation they had a few chapters back when they spoke privately in the library and Jordan told Nick that Gatsby had told her some secret. Then, Jordan told Gatsby how Nick lives right next door and that is how Nick became part of their plan.
- Jordan tells Nick that Daisy is not allowed to know about this beforehand, Gatsby wants it to be a surprise.