

## The Melancholy Misfit of Gotham

Chaos. Love. Death. These words illustrate and epitomize the plot for the ingenious story by F. Scott Fitzgerald in his novel, *The Great Gatsby*. In the beginning, society is pleasant between the rich, and the normal people in this book, until chaos starts brewing between everyone and a mysterious stranger and bootlegger. He is infatuated with a beautiful, rich socialite and tries on many occasions to impress her. His desperation causes trouble and confusion for everyone, culminating in Gatsby meeting his unfortunate end. The author proves how events in life sometimes do not go as you plan. Because of how uncertain life is and how people act, selfishly or indifferently. The evidence for this is through the awkwardness of Daisy and Gatsby's first meeting in five years. As well as her choice to run back to Tom, from emotional trauma even after Gatsby openly states his feelings for her over five years, thereafter his surprising ending.

After Gatsby dies, and before Nick departs East Egg, he concludes the book and reminisces about the events that lead up to Gatsby's death. Nick states, "No – Gatsby turned out all right at 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" (2). This recollection by Nick foreshadows many of the events in the book leading up to Gatsby's homicide by Wilson. Nick proves that no matter how hard Gatsby tries, throughout this book, he could not truly have Daisy and then he dies. As Nick finishes this book

he proves that while Gatsby is a decent person, his efforts to claim Daisy are in vain and Gatsby fails to realize his dream of having Daisy.

Tom goes from being proud, haughty, and fixated with being right, to frustrated and angry toward other people, and to being childish and sad at the end of the story. Initially, Tom is proud, and arrogant, being a rich, successful jock in college and claims he is right about ludicrous things, like other races trying to harm whites. Then when Gatsby starts to move in on Daisy, at his parties and other occasions, Tom starts getting angry and frustrated at Gatsby. Such as when he and Daisy visit one of Gatsby's parties, and Gatsby nicknames him, "the polo player". Tom gets angry and suspicious towards Gatsby. Also Tom is devastated when his girlfriend Myrtle dies and he thinks it is Gatsby who kills her. Finally, Tom acts childish towards Nick by saying he led Wilson to Gatsby, but still blames Gatsby. Despite Myrtle's tragic and accidental death at the end of the book, Tom still remains the same haughty, reckless person he was to begin with, even with his relationships with Daisy and Myrtle, although they do not work out.

From the time Nick moves to West Egg out of boredom, the tragic events of Gatsby's death change Nick's attitude toward East Egg. Because it haunts him and he decides to move to another location. In the beginning Nick does not mind moving to West Egg, but the chaos and death that results from events occurring in East Egg cause him to want to move somewhere else. "After Gatsby's death the East was haunted for me like that, distorted beyond my eyes' power of correction. So when the blue smoke brittle leaves was in the air and the wind blew the wet laundry stiff on the line I decided to come back home" (176). However Nick delays leaving to give Gatsby a decent funeral, and to close the book between him and Jordan, "There

was one thing to be done before I left, an awkward unpleasant thing that perhaps had better have been left alone. But I wanted to leave in order and not just trust that obliging and indifferent sea to sweep my refuse away. I saw Jordan Baker and talked over and around what had happened to us together, and what had happened afterward to me" (176-177). As a result Nick comes to regard the East as too cruel and haunting to stay anymore because of Gatsby's death and ends his relationship with Jordan. So basically it does not work out with Nick moving to East Egg or his relationship with Jordan. Because he cannot have a long distance relationship with Jordan and he just has no interest in her anymore.

Fitzgerald uses the green flashing light of Daisy's dock, across the harbor seen by Gatsby motivating him to pursue Daisy. Only to die at Wilson's hands as a symbol of personification on how things do not work out for Gatsby no matter how hard he tries. Fitzgerald also uses the billboard in the "valley of the ashes" as all-seeing eyes that see all the misfortune in the valley, "the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg are blue and gigantic-their retinas are one yard high. They look out of no face, but instead, from a pair of enormous yellow spectacles which pass over a non-existent nose" (23). Like an embodiment of the dream Gatsby wants with Daisy, the green light is an ironic symbol of the dream and how he loses it, "I thought of Gatsby's wonder when he first picked out the green light at the end 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 this blue lawn, and his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail to grasp it" (180). Fitzgerald, lastly, uses Nick's 1<sup>st</sup> person point of view of the whole story, to foreshadow. Along with telling about the misfortune and everything that does not work out for Gatsby, "When I came back from the East last autumn I felt that I wanted the world to be in uniform and at a sort of moral attention

forever; I wanted no more riotous excursions with privileged glimpses into the human heart.

Only Gatsby, the man who gives his name to this book, was exempt from my reaction-Gatsby, everything for which I have unaffected scorn" (2). The giant billboard eyes see much misfortune and suffering, like the chaos of Wilson and Myrtle's marriage. And the green light is an ironic symbol of how much Gatsby tries to pursue Daisy. However Gatsby's efforts ultimately do not work out for him.

Sometimes things happen in life that you cannot control and there is nothing you can do about it, when things happen in lives that do not go as desired, one should just move on with life, and find an alternate path to achieve one's goal. Gatsby learns this the hard way when he should just should leave town since things do not work out for him in his love triangle with Tom and Daisy. Because Gatsby does not give up his obsession with Daisy, he ends up being killed.