**The Great Gatsby Chapter 1 Summary**

* We meet our narrator, Nick Carraway.
* The first thing he does is pass along some of his father's advice: "Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had.”
* We learn that our narrator tries to be non-judgmental. As a result, people tell him their life stories.
* We find out that he is "a Carraway," which apparently means that he's got wealth and class. And he went to [Yale](http://www.yale.edu/).
* Nick introduces us to the setting: New York City and the twin villages of West Egg and East Egg in Long Island.
* Please note that West Egg, where Carraway lives, is not as respectable as East Egg because West Egg is inhabited by people who haven’t always been wealthy.
* On this "less fashionable" West Egg, Nick Carraway lives next to a huge mansion inhabited by a mysterious Mr. Gatsby. More on him later.
* Nick Carraway has come to the East Coast to learn the bond business. Not, like, posting bail, but trading stocks and bonds. In other words, he's a stockbroker/ financial type.
* Nick heads over to East Egg to have dinner with Daisy, his second cousin once removed, and her husband, Tom Buchanan, an old college acquaintance.
* The Buchanans have tons of money, but as Nick quickly learns, they are morally bankrupt.
* We see that Tom is a large and "aggressive" former football player who is controlling and opinionated.
* We then meet two women dressed in white – Daisy, of course, and her friend, Jordan Baker.
* Daisy and Tom have a daughter, who is about two years old (yet never appears in the chapter).
* During dinner, Tom leaves to answer a phone call. When Daisy follows a few minutes later to confront him, Jordan reveals that Tom is having an affair. They return to the table as if nothing happened.
* Later alone, Daisy tells Nick about when her daughter was born: Tom wasn't there, and she wished that her daughter would be a "beautiful little fool"—i.e., too dumb to know any better.
* It turns out that Jordan is a professional golfer who is staying with them temporarily.
* Daisy then jokes about Jordan and Nick getting together.
* When Nick finally gets home to West Egg, he notices that his neighbor, Mr. Gatsby, is looking out across the water at a lone green light before stretching his arm out towards it oh-so-symbolically.

**The Great Gatsby Chapter 2 Summary**

* Nick describes the land that lies in between the Eggs and New York as a "valley of ashes", which sounds really unpleasant.
* On an old billboard in the Valley of Ashes is an advertisement for an eye doctor, Dr. T.J. Eckleburg,
* No doubt these eyes will be symbolic in the story…
* The whole reason we hear about this place is that Nick is traveling to the city with Tom, who insists on stopping to show Nick his mistress.
* His mistress, Myrtle Wilson, is the wife of an auto mechanic named George B. Wilson.
* Tom acts like a jerk towards the husband (who wants to buy a car from Tom) and then gives Myrtle the order to come with him to the city.
* George is unaware of her true intentions when she leaves; he thinks Myrtle just goes to the city to visit her sister.
* On the way to the city, Myrtle wants a puppy, so Tom buys her a puppy.
* This whole situation feels so wrong and awkward that Nick tries to jump ship. But the happy couple doesn't let him.
* In the city, they head to Tom’s apartment and meet up with others, including a Mr. and Mrs. McKee and Myrtle's sister, Catherine.
* They drink a lot of Tom's whiskey, and Nick gets drunk for the second time in his life.
* When Nick reveals that he lives in West Egg, one of the drunken revelers goes on and on about the fabulous parties that this guy Gatsby throws.
* Myrtle's sister tells Nick that Myrtle and Tom both hate their spouses. Apparently Tom has told Myrtle some lies about Daisy being Catholic to string her along without having to divorce Daisy.
* Tom tells Myrtle to stop saying Daisy's name. Myrtle, of course, says "Daisy, Daisy, Dai-“... and then Tom breaks her nose.
* Nick recalls being too drunk to remember much of the rest of the night or how he got to Pennsylvania Station.