

## The Great Gatsby Summary

The Great Gatsby is set in the Roaring Twenties on Long Island, New York. It centers on Jay Gatsby's passionate quest to reunite with his long-lost love, Daisy Buchanan.

**Nick Carraway:** The story is narrated by Nick Carraway, a young bondsman from the Midwest who rents a home in West Egg, Long Island. His cousin, Daisy Buchanan, lives in East Egg, a more upscale neighborhood, with her husband, Tom.

**Tom's Affair:** Early in the story, Nick learns that Tom has a mistress, Myrtle Wilson, who lives in the "valley of ashes," an industrial area between Long Island and New York City.

**Jay Gatsby:** Nick's neighbor in West Egg is the mysterious Jay Gatsby, known for hosting extravagant parties. Gatsby is wealthy and well-known but no one seems to know how he made his money or much about his past.

**Gatsby's Love for Daisy:** Gatsby and Nick become friends, and Gatsby confides in him about his love for Daisy. They had a romantic relationship during World War I, but she married Tom while Gatsby was away. Gatsby's life goal since has been to reunite with Daisy. His lavish lifestyle and parties are all attempts to attract her attention.

**Reunion:** Through Nick, Gatsby is able to meet Daisy again. They rekindle their relationship and begin an affair.

**The Showdown:** Eventually, Tom finds out about Daisy and Gatsby's relationship. During a tense confrontation in New York City, Gatsby insists that Daisy declare she never loved Tom. Daisy can't do it, revealing the complexities of her feelings for both men.

**The Tragic Climax:** On the way home from the city, Daisy, driving Gatsby's car, accidentally hits and kills Myrtle Wilson, Tom's mistress. Myrtle's husband, George, believes Gatsby to be the driver and, seeking revenge, shoots and kills Gatsby in his swimming pool, then turns the gun on himself.

**Conclusion:** The novel ends with Nick reflecting on Gatsby's unattainable dream of recapturing the past with Daisy. Gatsby's funeral is sparsely attended, contrasting with the large crowds at his parties. Disillusioned with the East Coast and its hollow values, Nick returns to the Midwest.