

Gatsby quotes

The whole pack, for printing.

- **Whenever you feel like criticizing anyone, just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had.**

Nick's father · [Chapter 1](#) · [class](#) · [honesty](#)

Nick's father tells him not to judge. Nick repeats it. He still judges.

- **an extraordinary gift for hope**

Nick · [Chapter 1](#) · [the American dream](#) · [love](#)

This is what Nick cannot drop about Gatsby. Hope, not the parties.

- **that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool**

Daisy · [Chapter 1](#) · [class](#) · [love](#)

Daisy hopes her daughter is a fool. She thinks that is the safest thing a girl can be.

- **a single green light, minute and far away, that might have been the end of a dock**

Nick · [Chapter 1](#) · [the American dream](#) · [the past](#) · [love](#)

Nick sees Gatsby reaching for a light across the water. It is Daisy's dock. Gatsby does not say her name yet.

- **the valley of ashes**

Nick · [Chapter 2](#) · [class](#) · [death](#)

The dump between West Egg and the city. The people who serve the rich live in the dust.

- **the eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleburg**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 2](#) · [honesty](#) · [death](#)

A faded billboard. A dead oculist. Wilson later talks to it like God.

- **I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 3](#) · [honesty](#)

Nick says this about himself. Watch whether it stays true.

- **He wanted nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say: "I never loved you."**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 6](#) · [love](#) · [the past](#)

Gatsby does not want Daisy now. He wants the last four years erased.

- **Jay Gatsby of West Egg, Long Island, sprang from his Platonic conception of himself**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 6](#) · [the American dream](#) · [the past](#)

James Gatz invented Jay Gatsby. He invented a man and then tried to become him.

- **Can't repeat the past? Why of course you can!**

[Gatsby](#) · [Chapter 6](#) · [the past](#) · [the American dream](#)

Nick says you cannot. Gatsby thinks you can. The book is about that fight.

- **Her voice is full of money**

[Gatsby](#) · [Chapter 7](#) · [money](#) · [love](#) · [class](#)

Nick could not name what was in Daisy's voice. Gatsby could. Money.

- **I did love him once—but I loved you too**

[Daisy](#) · [Chapter 7](#) · [love](#) · [honesty](#)

Gatsby needs her to say she never loved Tom. She cannot say it cleanly.

- **The "death car" as the newspapers called it, didn't stop**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 7](#) · [death](#) · [class](#)

Daisy is driving. Myrtle runs into the road. The car does not stop.

- **They're a rotten crowd. You're worth the whole damn bunch put together.**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 8](#) · [honesty](#) · [class](#)

The only compliment Nick ever gives Gatsby. He says it across the lawn. Gatsby dies anyway.

- **They were careless people, Tom and Daisy—they smashed up things and creatures and then retreated back into their money**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 9](#) · [class](#) · [money](#) · [death](#)

They break Myrtle. They break Gatsby. They leave. Money is the door they close behind them.

- **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**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 9](#) · [the American dream](#) · [the past](#)

The lawn is Daisy's. The dream is already behind him. He does not know.

- **Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgiastic future that year by year recedes before us**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 9](#) · [the American dream](#) · [the past](#)

The light was a dock lamp. Gatsby made it a future. The future keeps moving away.

- **So we beat on, boats against the current, borne back ceaselessly into the past**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 9](#) · [the past](#) · [the American dream](#)

The last line. We row forward. The water takes us back.

- **You can't repeat the past.**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 6](#) · [the past](#)

Nick says the ordinary thing. Gatsby does not believe ordinary things.

- **You always have a green light that burns all night at the end of your dock**

[Gatsby](#) · [Chapter 5](#) · [love](#) · [the American dream](#)

He tells Daisy he has been watching her light. She puts her arm through his. He is still looking at the light.

Every quote

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[Nick's father](#) · [Chapter 1](#) · [class](#) · [honesty](#)

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[Nick](#) · [Chapter 1](#) · [the American dream](#) · [love](#)

This is what Nick cannot drop about Gatsby. Hope, not the parties.

there was something gorgeous about him

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 1](#) · [the American dream](#)

Nick scorns what Gatsby stands for. He still cannot look away.

- **that's the best thing a girl can be in this world, a beautiful little fool**

[Daisy](#) · [Chapter 1](#) · [class](#) · [love](#)

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- **I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 3](#) · [honesty](#)

Nick says this about himself. Watch whether it stays true.

I hate careless people. That's why I like you.

[Jordan](#) · [Chapter 3](#) · [honesty](#) · [class](#)

Jordan likes Nick because she thinks he is careful. She is not.

Want to go with me, old sport?

[Gatsby](#) · [Chapter 3](#) · [class](#)

Gatsby's favourite tag. It is how he tries to sound like he always had money.

- **He wanted nothing less of Daisy than that she should go to Tom and say: "I never loved you."**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 6](#) · [love](#) · [the past](#)

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[Nick](#) · [Chapter 9](#) · [class](#) · [money](#) · [death](#)

They break Myrtle. They break Gatsby. They leave. Money is the door they close behind them.

Let us learn to show our friendship for a man when he is alive and not after he is dead

[Wolfsheim](#) · [Chapter 9](#) · [honesty](#) · [death](#)

Gatsby's gangster friend will not come to the funeral. He says this like wisdom.

- **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**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 9](#) · [the American dream](#) · [the past](#)

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[Nick](#) · [Chapter 9](#) · [the past](#) · [the American dream](#)

The last line. We row forward. The water takes us back.

the white palaces of fashionable East Egg glittered along the water

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 1](#) · [class](#) · [East and West](#) · [money](#)

East Egg is old money. West Egg is new. Nick lives in West Egg, next to Gatsby. Daisy lives across the bay.

- **You can't repeat the past.**

[Nick](#) · [Chapter 6](#) · [the past](#)

Nick says the ordinary thing. Gatsby does not believe ordinary things.

I never loved you

[Gatsby \(what he wants Daisy to say\)](#) · [Chapter 7](#) · [love](#) · [the past](#)

Four years, wiped with one sentence. Daisy will not give him that sentence.

- You always have a green light that burns all night at the end of your dock

[Gatsby](#) · [Chapter 5](#) · [love](#) · [the American dream](#)

He tells Daisy he has been watching her light. She puts her arm through his.

He is still looking at the light.

He just used to stand there like a statue and say, "Don't let that deal go through."

[Gatsby](#), [about Wolfsheim](#) · [Chapter 4](#) · [class](#) · [honesty](#)

Gatsby says Wolfsheim fixed the 1919 World Series. This is the company Gatsby keeps.
