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# The Great Gatsby

By Baz Luhrmann

A BLACK SCREEN.

The blackness is pierced by a single, pulsing green light...

We drift, as if by boat, across a dark bay toward the light.

Then, we hear a troubled voice.

NICK (V.O.)

In my younger and more vulnerableyears my father gave me someadvice: "always try to see the bestin people," he would say...

A gentle snow begins to fall, obscuring the light...

NICK (V.O.)

As a consequence, I'm inclined to

reserve all judgements.

The snow grows heavier.

NICK (V.O.)

But even I... have a limit.

#### DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SANITARIUM - WINTER - DAY

Continue drifting, through the snow, across an icy lake...

NICK (V.O.)

Back then all of us drank too much.

#### **DISCOVER:**

NICK (V.O.)

The more in tune with the times we were, the more we drank.

# CLOSE ON:

NICK (V.O.)

And none of us contributed anything new.

# DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANITARIUM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WINTER - DAY

#### **DISCOVER:**

oldfireplace, hand covering his face.
2.

# NICK:

When I came back from New York I was disgusted.

#### **REVEAL:**

NICK (CONT'D)

Disgusted... with everyone, andeverything... Only one man wasexempt from my disgust.

#### **REVEAL:**

# DOCTOR :

One man...? Mr. Carraway?

# NICK:

(whispers)

Gatsby...

#### DOCTOR :

Was he a friend of yours?

#### NICK:

He was... the single most hopefulperson I have ever met... And amever likely to meet again. Therewas something about him...

Nick wanders slowly towards the window, remembering.

NICK (CONT'D)

A sensitivity. He was like one ofthose machines that registerearthquakes ten thousand miles

away...

#### DOCTOR:

Where did you meet him?

Nick stops and stares out the window, haunted.

#### NICK:

At a party. In New York.

# DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

THROUGH THE CLOUDS: New skyscrapers pierce a clear blue sky.

NICK (V.O.)

3.

In the summer of 1922, the tempo of the city approached hysteria...

# ON WALL STREET:

NICL (V.O.)

Stocks hit record peaks. And WallStreet boomed, in a steady golden roar...

IMAGES OF DECADENT NEW YORK FADE IN, ILLUSTRATING NICK'S V.O.

Dancing girls, speakeasies, bootleg kings, fat cats countingfresh fortunes,

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and the stock market climbing up, up, up...!
NICK (V.O.)
The parties were bigger; the showswere broader; the buildings werehigher;
the morals were looser; andthe ban on alcohol had backfired...
making the liquor cheaper.
FADE IN:
NICK (V.O.)
Wall Street was luring the youngand ambitious.
PUSH TOWARD:
NICK (V.O.)
And I was one of them.
REVEAL:
DISSOLVE TO:
EXT. LONG ISLAND - WEST EGG - DAY
AERIAL:
NICK (V.O.)
I rented a house twenty miles from the city, on Long Island.
DISCOVER:
NICK (V.O.)
I lived at West Egg...
DISSOLVE TO:
4.
EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - DAY
Nick is moving in...
NICK (V.O.)
...in a forgotten grounds-keeper's
cottage squeezed among the mansionsof the newly rich.
INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - DAY
Nick is unpacking...
NICK (V.O.)
To get started, I bought a dozenvolumes on credit, banking andinvestments-
```

# CLOSE ON:

one up.
NICK (V.O.)
All new to me...
And turns on the radio.

#### RADIO VOICE:

The stock market hit another record high today!

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PROBITY TRUST BUILDING - NICK'S OFFICE - DAY
Countless identical grey-suited CLERKS, yell into telephones!
CLERK 1 (INTO PHONE)
It's like pickin' up money in the
street!
CLERK 2 (INTO PHONE)
I got a dandy tip on Burlington;
who's comin with me?!

#### **DISCOVER:**

NICK (INTO PHONE)

Yes sir, of course nothing is onehundred percent. Well, I wouldn't go investing every penny. But...

# DISSOLVE TO:

5.

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Nick, still unpacking, eyes a mountain of unpacked books...

NICK (V.O.)

At Yale, I'd dreamed of being a

writer.

He resists the temptation to swap bonds books for literature.

NICK (V.O.)

But I gave all that up.

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - PORCH - DAY

Nick emerges onto the porch, greeted by dazzling sunshine.

NICK (V.O.)

With the sun shining and the greatbursts of leaves on the trees, I planned to spend the summerstudying.

Nick sits and places his bonds book in front of him...

NICK (V.O.)

And I probably would have-

When woman's shriek startles him...

# NICK'S POV:

arefrolicking. A scantily girl clad waves and then disappearsinto the trees, drawing Nick's eye to his neighbor's house...
NICK (V.O.)

Were it not for the riotous

amusements that beckoned from

beyond the walls of that colossalcastle...

Through dense foliage Nick spies the mysterious spires and towers of the neighboring Gothic folly.

NICK (V.O.)

Owned by a gentleman I had not yetmet, named...

In a high tower window, a curtain flutters ominously...

#### DISSOLVE TO:

6.

INT. SANITARIUM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WINTER - DAY

#### CLOSE ON:

# NICK :

Gatsby.

The Doctor concludes:

#### DOCTOR:

So... He was your neighbor?

## NICK :

My neighbor? No, Gatsby was-- Well--

If I think about it... The historyof the summer really began thenight I drove over to my cousinDaisy's for dinner...

#### DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - LATE AFTERNOON

#### HIGH AND WIDE:

NICK (V.O.)

She lived across the bay...

SWOOP ACROSS THE BAY TOWARDS...

EXT. BUCHANAN MANSION - LATE AFTERNOON

An impressive Georgian mansion overlooks a quarter mile of lawn that cascades down to a private polo field.

NICK (V.O.)

In old money East Egg.

BRINNNGGG! BRINNNGGG! We hear a phone ringing off-screen.

#### FOLLOW:

NICK (V.O.)

Her husband was heir to one of

```
America's wealthiest families.
BRINNNGGG! BRINNNGGG!
Tom whacks the polo ball...
NICK (V.O.)
His name was Tom Buchanan.
7.
The ball nearly hits one of Tom's gardeners...
NICK (V.O.)
When we were at Yale together he'd
been a sporting star.
BRINNNGGG! BRINNNGGG!
Tom dismounts and bounds up the stairs to the porch...
But now his glory days were behindhim and he contented himself
with... other affairs.
Tom aggressively grabs the telephone from HENRI, the butler,
and turns; revealing an imposing, hard-mouthed man of thirty.
TOM (INTO PHONE)
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# PULL FOCUS:

Clunking down the receiver, Tom strides toward Nick andgrasps his hand with overbearing strength.

TOM (CONT'D)
Shakespeare! How's the great
American novel coming...?

#### NICK:

Oh, I'm selling bonds now Tom... with Walter Chase's outfit-

# TOM:

Never heard of em.

Tom slaps Nick with irritating heartiness!

TOM (CONT'D)

Hey! What say after dinner we gointo town?

I thought I told you not to call mehere...!

# NICK:

Can't-

#### TOM:

Catch up with the old wolf pack?

# NICK:

Big day on the new job tomorrow-8.

#### TOM:

Nonsense! We're going.

INT. BUCHANAN MANSION - HALL OF CHAMPIONS - LATE AFTERNOON

Tom leads Nick down a grand hall lined with the trophies thatchronicle

Tom's infinite sporting achievements.

# TOM:

First team, all-American!

Tom admires his own achievements.

TOM (CONT'D)

You see? Made me who I am today.

Tom pulls his favorite trophy from the cabinet-TOM

(CONT'D)

Here-- Forest Hills... I played the Prince of Wales. What a sissy!

Tom exchanges the trophy for a football.

TOM (CONT'D)

Life's something you dominate Nick.

He pelts Nick with the ball-TOM

(CONT'D)

If you're any good.

Nick fumbles as Tom charges him-TOM

(CONT'D)

Ha-ha-ha!

Tom tackles Nick, knocking him back, through a pair ofvaulting doors, and into...

INT. BUCHANAN MANSION - SALON - LATE AFTERNOON

A shimmering, sun-dazzled room in which enormous whitecurtains whip and snap in the breeze...

# CLOSE ON:

We hear the giggle of naughty children...

BOOM!!! As the French doors shut, and the curtains fall, a beautiful white hand rises from behind the couch, and with it, a low, thrilling voice...

9.

DAISY (O.S.)

Oh Nicky... Is that you my lovely?

Suddenly, 23 year old DAISY BUCHANAN, appears from over theback of the couch. Her bright eyes and passionate mouth areframed by a strawberry-blonde bob.

#### CLOSE ON:

NICK (V.O.)

Daisy Buchanan. The golden girl. Abreathless warmth flowed from her. A promise that there was no oneelse in the world she so wanted to see...

She whispers dramatically...

#### DAISY:

Do they miss me in Chicago?

# NICK :

Oh, yes. About a dozen people sendtheir love.

# DAISY:

(unimpressed)

How gorgeous.

#### NICK :

They're absolutely in mourning...
They're crying...

#### DAISY:

No-

#### NICK:

They're wailing...

#### DAISY:

No-

#### NICK :

They're screaming, they're shouting...

#### DAISY:

No-

# NICK :

"Daisy Buchanan, we can't livewithout you!" 10.

#### DAISY:

I'm p-paralyzed with happiness...!

Daisy takes Nick's hand and squeals with childish glee as shedrags him over

the sofa and onto his back on the floor.

He stares up... And, a mysterious, athletic girl glares back.

This is 22 year old, JORDAN BAKER.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Jordan Baker; a very famous golfer.

#### CLOSE ON:

NICK (V.O.)

She was the most frightening personI'd ever seen-Nick rights himself and extends his hand.

#### NICK:

I've seen your face on the cover of "Sporting Life". Nick Carraway... But Jordan merely yawns and stands (we get a good look).

NICK (V.O.)

But I enjoyed looking at her.

#### JORDAN:

I've been lying on that sofa for aslong as I can remember... Daisy turns to Nick with scandalous delight.

#### DAISY:

I know! This summer I'll sort of,

fling you and Jordan together...

As Tom prepares drinks at the bar, he glances skittishly at awhite telephone set ostentatiously upon a marble pedestal.

DAISY (CONT'D)

I'll push you into linen closets,

and out to sea in boats...

#### JORDAN:

I'm not listening to a word! Irritated, Tom turns to Nick.

#### TOM:

Nick, Daisy tells me you're over atWest Egg;

(MORE)

11.

TOM (CONT'D)

throwing your lot in with thosesocial-climbing, primitive NewMoney types...?

#### NICK:

Well, my little shack is cardboardbox at eighty a month.

#### DAISY:

Your life is adorable.

Jordan toys with a golf club, and speaks with bored contempt.

# JORDAN:

I know somebody in West Egg.

# NICK:

I don't know a single-Jordan turns dramatically.

#### JORDAN:

Oh, you must know Gatsby.

Daisy, a sharp intake of breath.

#### DAISY:

Gatsby?

## CLOSE ON:

DAISY (CONT'D)

What Gatsby...?

Before anyone can reply, Henri announces-HENRI

Madame, le diner est servi!

As Jordan WHACKS a golf ball into a makeshift cup - a trophyon the floor - waiters sweep open the doors and the curtainsflutter up again.

#### DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BUCHANAN MANSION - TERRACE - NIGHT

Daisy, Nick, Jordan and Tom sit at a long, sumptuously laidtable. Food, wine, laughter, smoking...

DISSOLVING ABSTRACTLY: Through fragments of conversation...
12.

#### DAISY:

Would you like to hear a familysecret? Its about the butler's nose...

# JORDAN:

Things went from bad to worse...

# DAISY:

Nicky... I heard a rumor, that youwere getting married to a girl out west...

#### NICK:

Its a libel, I'm too poor.

# JORDAN:

They have to be old so they diequickly...

#### NICK:

Can't we talk about something else?
Anything? Crops? You're making me
feel uncivilized DaisyThis draws a strangely violent interjection from Tom.

# TOM:

Civilization's going to pieces!

Have you read 'The Rise of theColored Empires' by this fellowGoddard?

#### NICK :

Why no...

Tom stands and begins to pace-

#### TOM:

Everyone ought to read it. The idea is that its up to us, the dominantrace, to watch out, or these other

races...

Tom straightens the bow-tie on his black servant-

TOM (CONT'D)

Will have control of things.

#### DAISY:

(wickedly)

Tom's been very profound lately. Hereads deep books with long words inthem 13.

#### TOM:

It's been proved. Its scientific.

# DAISY:

(subtly mocking Tom)

We've got to beat them down.

SUDDENLY, BRINNNGGG! The telephone. All freeze. Another ring.

BRINNNGGG!

# TOM:

Excuse me... I'll be right back.

He goes inside.

An embarrassed moment; suddenly Daisy throws her napkin down.

#### DAISY:

I'm sorry...

She follows Tom into the house.

Nick, at a loss, turns to Jordan.

#### NICK:

Well, this Mr. Gatsby you spoke of is my neighbor...

#### JORDAN:

Shhhh... Don't talk. I want to hear

what happens.

A subdued, impassioned murmur is audible in the room beyond.

#### NICK:

Is something happening?

#### JORDAN:

I thought everybody knew.

#### NICK :

I don't.

# JORDAN:

Tom's got some woman in New York.

#### NICK:

Got some woman?

#### TORDAN :

She might have the decency not totelephone at dinner-time... Don't you think?

14.

Almost before Nick has grasped her meaning, the doors bangopen and Tom and Daisy return to the table.

# DAISY:

(a tense gayety)

I just love seeing you at my tableNicky. You remind me of a rose, anabsolute rose... Doesn't he?

#### NICK:

I'm not even faintly like a rose-

#### TOM:

So... After dinner Nick wanted to go into town. Right Nick? To the Yale club.

#### DAISY:

Nicky, stay-

#### NICK:

I have to work early.

#### TOM:

Nonsense. Its only for a drink or two.

Daisy and Tom stare at Nick - both demanding his allegiance. SUDDENLY! The telephone rings again: BRINNNGGG! Again, allfreeze. BRINNNGGG!

# PUSH IN:

NICK (V.O.)

None of us could ignore that fifthguest's shrill metallic urgency...

#### DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BUCHANAN MANSION - BALUSTRADE - LATER

Servants clear. Jordan and Tom retire to the salon, as Nick

and Daisy stroll down toward the water, and Daisy confides:

# DAISY:

Oh Nicky...

# NICK:

What?

15.

#### DAISY:

Its just, well, you see, I thinkeverything's terrible anyhow. You know I've been everywhere and seen

everything and done everything, and I've had very bad time Nicky... I'm pretty cyncical about everything.

Daisy gazes melancholic across the bay; an awkward silence. Nick tries to change the subject-

#### NICK:

Your daughter; I suppose she talks, and... eats, and everything?

#### DAISY:

Pammy? Oh yes...

Daisy leans on a stone balustrade and gazes down toward thedock, where a green light glows in the velvet dusk.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Listen Nick, when she was born, Tom

was God knows where - with God

knows whom - and I asked the nurse

if it was a boy or a girl. She toldme it was a girl, and I wept.

'Allright,' I said, 'I'm glad it's agirl. And I hope she'll be a fool - that's the best thing a girl can bein this world, a beautiful little fool.'

She breaks off, and looks at Nick with that smile of hers...

DAISY (CONT'D)

All the bright precious things fadeso fast...

And as a sad, sweet underscore plays, WE PUSH out over thewater, and across the bay toward Gatsby's castle...

DAISY (CONT'D)

And they don't come back.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - DOCK - NIGHT

# WE DISCOVER:

silhouette is cut against the paler black of the night sky. In the distance behind him we see headlights. It is Nick, pulling up at his bungalow.

16.

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - NIGHT

Nick gets out of his car. He stops. Through the trees, he cansee The Man gazing intently across the bay.

NICK (V.O.)

When I arrived home I noticed that

a figure had emerged on myneighbor's dock.

Nick goes closer, and watches The Man...

NICK (V.O.)

And something told me it was... Mr.

Gatsby.

The Man reaches out-

NICK (V.O.)

He seemed to be... reaching toward something out there in the dark.

A green light on dock pulses in the distant darkness...

# DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANITARIUM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WINTER - NIGHT
Nick, troubled...

#### NICK:

The green light.

#### DOCTOR :

Green light?

Nick struggles with a painful memory...

# NICK :

I don't want to talk about this

Doctor.

Nick breaks off; and after a VERY LONG SILENCE, he admits:

NICK (CONT'D)

I can't talk about THIS.

# DOCTOR :

(delicately)

Then write about it.

17.

# NICK:

(skeptical)

Write?

#### DOCTOR :

Yes. Write.

# NICK:

Why would I do that?

#### DOCTOR:

After all, you said that writingbrought you solace, once upon atime.

# NICK :

Yeah, well. It didn't bring anyone else much solace... I wasn't any good.

The Doctor offers Nick a pen; but Nick does not accept.

#### DOCTOR:

No one need ever read it. You can always burn it.

#### NICK :

What would I write about?

#### DOCTOR :

Anything. Whatever you can't quite talk about; a memory; a thought; aplace... Write it down.

#### CLOSE ON:

#### NICK:

(to himself)

A place...

Slowly he takes the pen.

We hear the clatter of metal wheels on train tracks; AS THE

SCREEN FILLS WITH WORDS, we hear them as voice-over.

NICK (V.O.)

The Valley of Ashes was a grotesqueplace...

18.

EXT. THE VALLEY OF ASHES - DAY

#### HIGH AND WIDE:

smoldering ash; train tracks cut through its heartand the gleaming towers of the city shimmer in the distance.

NICK (V.O.)

New York's dumping ground, half waybetween West Egg and the city...

IMAGES illustrate the poverty and hopelessness of life here.

NICK (V.O.)

...Where the burnt out coal that

powered the booming, golden citywas discarded by men who moveddimly and already crumbling throughthe powdery air.

A train waits at a drawbridge spanning a small, foul creek.

#### **DISCOVER:**

awfulwasteland...

NICK (V.O.)

... This fantastic farm was ever-

watched by Dr. T. J. Eckleberg...

#### NICK'S POV:

T.J. Eckleberg."

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NICK (V.O.)
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... A forgotten oculist whose eyesbrooded over it all like the eyesof God.

INT. TRAIN - DAY

Tom, flushed with booze and heat, glances covertly around thehalted carriage. Nick sits opposite.

NICK (V.O.)

Tom had invited me to town, on the

pretense of a lunch at the YaleClub....

As the carriage moves, Tom suddenly pulls Nick to his feet.

NICK (V.O.)

But the day took an unexpected

turn...

Tom drags Nick from the moving train.

19.

#### TOM:

Come on--!

EXT. THE VALLEY OF ASHES - DAY

As the train pulls off, Nick, exasperates, chases Tom.

NICK (O.S.)

What are we doing?

# TOM:

Trust me!

# NICK :

Wait a second would you!?

#### TOM:

(calls back)

Dominate Nick! Dominate!

PAN DOWN TO DISCOVER: Tom and Nick outside a small garage.

# A sign reads:

INT. WILSON'S GARAGE - CONTINUOUS

As Tom and Nick enter the dim garage, WILSON, a nervous, spiritless man, appears from the back office.

# TOM:

Hello Wilson! How's business?

#### WILSON:

(unconvincing)

I can't complain. When are yougoing to sell me that car?

#### TOM:

I've got my man working on it.

# WILSON:

Works pretty slow, don't he?

#### TOM:

(coldly)

Maybe I'd better sell it somewhereelse?

#### WILSON:

I don't mean that, I just...

20.

Wilson's grovelling is terminated by the sound of chunky redheels corkscrewing down stairs from above. All turn to see:
MYRTLE WILSON. Buxom. Smoldering. Elementally sensual.

#### MYRTLE :

If its business you're talking, youshould be talking to me... (to her husband)

Get some chairs why don't you; sosomebody can sit down...

Myrtle smiles slowly and, walking through her husband as ifhe were a ghost,

shakes hands with Tom.

MYRTLE (CONT'D)

(without turning)

Hurry up!

# WILSON:

Oh, sure... Sure...

Wilson hurries out back.

# TOM:

Mrs. Wilson... Nick Carraway.

#### MYRTLE:

A pleasure...

# TOM:

Nick's a writer...

Myrtle is completely uninterested.

#### NICK:

(feeble)

I'm in bonds, actually...

#### TOM:

(intently to Myrtle)
Get on the next train.

#### MYRTLE:

(playing hard to get)
Now...? Are we gettin' that dog?

# TOM:

Whatever you want. And you can callup your sister... (glancing to Nick)
She'll like him...

#### NICK:

Oh no, that's alright, I'm busy...
21.

#### MYRTLE:

Catherine's said to be very goodlooking, by people who oughta know.

# NICK :

Really I can't...

# TOM:

(whispers to Nick)
Do you want to embarrass Myrtle...?
That's rude.

#### CUT TO:

INT. MYRTLE'S APARTMENT - DAY The muffled sounds of sex...

#### CLOSE ON:

saucer of milk.

Nick, horrified, perches on a couch in a small room stuffedwith tacky, pretentious objects; obviously bought by Tom.

Nick springs to his feet and yanks open the front door, onlyto be startled by a slender, louche girl in her twenties,

with a sticky bob of red hair. This is CATHERINE.

She sweeps into the room, pivots, and extends her hand.

# CATHERINE:

I'm Catherine; ain't we havin' a party?

#### NICK:

Oh, I'm... I'm not sure now's a

good time -- I was just going-

But Nick's exit is blocked.

MRS. MCKEE

Hello...!

MRS. MCKEE, a shrill woman in her 30s, enters with MR. MCKEE - a feminine man with a bit of shaving cream on his cheek.

MR. MCKEE

(extending his hand)

Chester McKee, pleasure to meet

you.

#### NICK:

Nick Carraway.

22.

MRS. MCKEE

Where're the kids?

Nick is still trying to leave, but Catherine corners him...

#### CATHERINE:

What's the matter? Don't ya like

me?

SUDDENLY! The bedroom door whooshes open and Myrtle appearswearing an astounding, red jersey sheath dress.

MRS. MCKEE

Myrtle Turtle...! Oh, that dress isadorable!

# MYRTLE:

(with impressive hauteur)

It's just a crazy old thing. I slipit on when I don't care what I look like!

Tom appears behind Myrtle, arrogantly buttoning his shirt.

# TOM:

Get some ice Myrtle, beforeeveryone goes to sleep.

Myrtle sweeps into the kitchen; Tom opens the liquor cabinet.

#### NICK:

(making for the door)

Tom, I really should be going...

#### TOM:

(grabbing Nick's arm)
Nonsense...

#### NICK :

Tom; I don't think-- Daisy's myTom pulls Nick back toward the party.

#### TOM:

Listen Nick, you like to watch; Iremember that from college. Andthat's OK, I make no judgment; but we've got a whole summer - do you want to sit on the sideline and watch, or do you want to play ball?

#### CATHERINE:

Yeah. Ain't we good enough for ya? 23.

Catherine winks, pushes Nick into his chair, and fearlesslylands herself in his lap.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Take off yer hat and stay awhile...

#### TOM:

Hey Nick! McKee's in the artistic game.

#### MCKEE:

Photography.

# TOM:

Nick's artistic.

#### NICK :

No...

# MCKEE:

Really?

# NICK:

Ah, no, well, I write a little...

Tom clunks the gramophone needle onto a record and Catherineraises her voice above the music.

#### CATHERINE:

Do you live on Long Island, too?

# NICK:

I live at West Egg.

#### CATHERINE:

Really? I was there at a partyabout a month ago. At a man namedGatsby's. Do you know him?

# NICK:

I live right next door to him...

#### CATHERINE:

He's a cousin of Kaiser Wilhelm's. You know, the evil German king...

# CUT TO:

#### TOM:

Hey McKee, take a picture of that!

# MYRTLE:

(girlish glee)
Oh, don't!
(MORE)

24.

MYRTLE (CONT'D)

I'm not one of those models...! But

you can if you want...

Catherine leans close and whispers in Nick's ear.

# CATHERINE:

Neither of them can stand who they're married to.

# NICK:

Doesn't she like Wilson either?

# MYRTLE:

(overhears)

... He's a greasy little scumbag!

Tom grins arrogantly and offers a drink to Catherine.

#### CATHERINE:

No thanks; I feel just as good onnothing at all...

With a suggestive glimpse of tongue, Catherine pops a pill...

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

Nerve pills, I get them from adoctor in Queens. You want one?

#### NICK:

My nerves are fine thanks...

Catherine smiles mischievously, puts a pill on her tongue and suddenly kisses Nick... He splutters, but Catherine tips the scotch to his mouth, washing the pill down.

NICK (V.O.)

I had been drunk just twice in mylife and the second time was that afternoon...

#### DISSOLVE TO:

in demand by all; Catherine dances a solo. Themusic is sexy, dirty, deafening. The images become wilder,

nauseatingly violent...

As Catherine undresses Nick...

NICK (V.O.)

That night, in the hidden flat that Tom kept for Myrtle, we were buoyedby a sort of chemical madness, awillingness of the heart that burst thunderously upon us all... And suddenly, I began to like New York.

25.

As the puppy sits on the table groaning faintly through thesmoke, Myrtle suddenly springs to her feet!

#### MYRTLE:

...I've got to get a massage, and awave, and a collar for the dog, andone of those cute little ash-trayswhere you touch a spring, and awreath with a black silk bow for

mother's grave!

Pivoting through the smoky air, Myrtle begins to strip...

MYRTLE (CONT'D)

My dear I'm giving you this dress!

Myrtle strips as Mrs. McKee greedily lunges for the dress.

MRS. MCKEE

Adorable! Adorable!

#### SUDDEN CUT:

observing the infinite life of the city... NICK (V.O.)

High over the city our yellowwindows must have contributed their

share of human secrets to the

casual watcher in the street...

INT. SANITARIUM - NICK'S ROOM - WINTER - NIGHT

Nick, now alone, pen in hand, writes furiously.

NICK (V.O.)

...and I was him too, looking upand wondering...

EXT. THE STREET BELOW MYRTLE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Nick, simultaneously in the street below, can see himselfupstairs looking out from Myrtle's window.

NICK (V.O.)

I was within and without; enchanted

and repelled by the inexhaustiblevariety of life...

#### POETIC VISUAL:

frame silhouettes of this inexhaustible humanity...

26.

INT. MYRTLE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

SUDDENLY WE HEAR Tom violently yelling!

#### TOM:

You've got no right to speak her

name!

Tom and Myrtle emerge from the bedroom half-dressed...

# MYRTLE :

Daisy! Daisy! I'll speak it

whenever I want! Daisy! Dai-SUDDENLY!

A short, sharp movement, Tom breaks Myrtle's nose!

#### CLOSE ON:

ROOM IN ABSTRACT SLOW MOTION!

# PULL OUT:

the countless many that play out in this vast city...

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANITARIUM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WINTER - DAY

Nick's been reading to the Doctor. He sits on the couch, manyhand-written pages on his lap. He admits...

#### NICK:

I have no clue how I got home.

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - PORCH - MORNING

Nick is still asleep. Harsh morning light.

#### CLOSE ON:

He realizes he's been sleeping on the porch in his underwear.

NICK (V.O.)

But I do know that I awoke with a

distinctly uneasy feeling...

His pants lie next to him, his shirt is on the railing, his jacket is in a tree, and his car is parked in the bushes...

A sudden feeling of disquiet makes Nick look up...

NICK (V.O.)

....that Gatsby was watching me.

27.

INT. SANITARIUM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - WINTER - DAY

The Doctor leans forward.

#### DOCTOR:

(slightly incredulous)

Watching you...?

#### NICK:

Yes. He was watching me. In fact, Iknow now that Gatsby was alwayswatching me...

#### DOCTOR:

And how do you know that?

#### NICK:

Because I got an invitation... Iwas the only one.

#### FADE IN IMAGE:

egg blue, stands on Nick's doorstep, holding a silver tray onwhich rests an invitation...

NICK(CONT'D)

No one, except me, every receivedan actual invitation to Gatsby's...

The words written on the invitation PUSH FORWARD: "Dear Mr.

Carraway, the honor would be entirely mine, if you would attend my little party..."

# DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - TWILIGHT

A line of limousines stretches from the lights of Manhattantowards Gatsby's gates.

NICK (V.O.)

You see, the rest of New York simply came, uninvited... As an open-topped Rolls Royce motors through Gatsby's gates, a roadster packed with rowdy revellers, swerves onto theverge and roars cheekily by... NICK (V.O.) The whole city packed intoautomobiles and all weekend, everyweekend, ended up at Gatsby's... 28. CRANE HIGH AND WIDE: Gatsby's magnificent castle. Illuminated fountains line a driveway packed with limousines; crowds ofglamorous people stream up the broad marble stairs. EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - PORTICO - TWILIGHT Dressed in white flannels, Nick offers his invitation to a doorman who shrugs. NICK (V.O.) And I mean everyone: from everywalk of life, from every corner ofNew York City, this kaleidoscopiccarnival spilled through Gatsby's door... A gaggle of gorgeous, but obviously low-class girls, carelessly sweep Nick through the portico and into... INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - HALL OF MASTERS - CONTINUOUS A bizarre mix of characters surge toward light at the end ofthis dark, vaulting, vomitorium-like passageway. BANG! Doorsburst open; the dazzling spectacle of the Grand Ballroom ...! INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - TWILIGHT Champagne fountains vault to the ceiling. At the base of thefountains waiters scoop finger-bowl sized glasses onto trays. Nick, almost unable to believe his eyes, takes in theimpossible variety of guests at Gatsby's... NICK (V.O) A caravansary of... IMAGES OF THE VARIOUS CHARACTERS illustrate his voice-over... NICK (V.O.) Billionaire play-boy publishers, and their blond nurses... Heiresses comparing inheritances on Gatsby's beach... My boss, Walter Chase, losing money at the roulettetables... Gossip columnists... Alongside gangsters and governorsexchanging telephone numbers... Silent film stars... Broadwaydirectors... Morality protectors... Casino collectors... (MORE) 29.

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NICK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
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Underage hecklers... And EwingKlipspringer, dubious descendent ofBeethoven! Overwhelmed, and out-of-place, Nick approaches the bar...

# NICK:

(to the bartender)

Do you know where I might find thehost, Mr. Gatsby?

He brandishes his invitation.

NICK (CONT'D)

I live just next door...

# BARTENDER:

Mr. Gatsby? I've never seen him

sir. Why, no one has...

The bartender automatically hands Nick a martini.

NICK (V.O.)

Alone, and a little embarrassed, I

decided to get ... roaring drunk.

He downs the martini in one gulp, steps over an even drunkerguest, who collapses at his feet, and makes his way out to:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - TERRACE - TWILIGHT

Nick gazes out over the impossibly decadent party...

#### NICK:

Wow.

As, unbeknownst to him, a mysterious, masked guest stalkstoward him from behind...

#### VOICE:

I thought I might see you here...

Startled, Nick turns to find... Jordan Baker.

# NICK:

Hello.

#### JORDAN:

I remembered you lived next door...

# NICK :

Its like... an amusement park.

30.

#### JORDAN:

Shall we?

Jordan seductively leads Nick down the terrace steps...

#### NICK:

Did you get an invitation?

#### JORDAN:

People aren't invited to Gatsby's.

# NICK :

Well I was... I seem to be the onlyone. Who is this Gatsby? A haughty East Egger, TEDDY, interjects...

#### TEDDY:

He was a German spy during the war.

#### JORDAN:

Teddy Barton. Nick Carraway.

#### NICK:

(to Teddy)

A German spy...?

Teddy's annoying East Egger friend, NELSON, chimes in...

#### NELSON:

No, no, no, no. He's the Kaiser's assassin.

And the third of the East Egger trio, LANGUID GIRL, adds...

# LANGUID GIRL :

I heard he killed a man once.

# **NELSON**:

Its true!

#### LANUID GIRL :

You look at him sometimes when he thinks no one's watching... I'll bet he killed a man.

# TEDDY:

Kills for fun! Free of charge.

## **NELSON**:

Well he's already richer than God.

Nick turns to Jordan; an alarmed whisper. 31.

#### NICK:

You don't believe he killed a man do you...?

#### JORDAN:

(wickedly)

Let's go find him, and you can askhim yourself...

As the dance-floor erupts, and world-famous dancer Gilda Greyis announced, Jordan leads Nick off...

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - EVENING

MUSIC FEVERISHLY BUILDS! As Nick and Jordan bound up awinding staircase, Jordan teases seductively...

#### JORDAN:

Oh, Mr. Gatsby...!

(to Nick)

Shall I lead you into his clutches?

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - EVENING

BANG! Nick and Jordan explode into a dark room. A stout,

middle-aged man wheels to them with unsettling intensity.

#### OWL EYES :

You won't find him...!

He plucks two finger-bowl sized cocktails from a row lined upon the table and hands them to Nick and Jordan.

OWL EYES (CONT'D)

This house and everything in it,

are all part of an elaboratedisguise. But Mr. Gatsby doesn't exist.

# JORDAN:

Phooey; I've met him!

#### OWL EYES :

Which one; the Prince, the Spy, theMurderer? I've been wandering his halls drunk for about a week now - but no matter where I look, I can't find anyone who knows anything real about Mr. Gatsby.

32.

#### JORDAN:

(blithely dismissive)
Well I don't care; he gives large
parties - and I like large parties,
they're so intimate; at smallparties there isn't any privacy.

#### NICK:

(slowly to Owl Eyes)
But if that's true; what's all this
for...?

# OWL EYES :

That, my dear fellow, is thequestion...

Owl Eyes looks to the window; and Nick and Jordan follow hisgaze to...

Gatsby's garden, where, as the band hits fever

pitch, and twilight becomes night... THE PARTY HAS BEGUN!!!!

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - POOL - NIGHT

As the music nears its final crescendo, the evening's many

fantastical characters dance uproariously around the pool!!!

On an elaborate flotilla in the center of it all Jordan and

Nick are kicking a wild Charleston. The number finally peaks!

# NICK :

I didn't expect all this...

# JORDAN:

(coy)

What did you expect?

#### NICK:

I don't know...

# JORDAN:

Disappointed?

#### NICK:

Not in the slightest...

Jordan and Nick look as if they might just kiss...

# TEDDY:

(to Nick)

Penny-less pantywaist!

Teddy leers between them and pulls Jordan away... 33.

TEDDY (CONT'D)

I'm stealing her away Carraway!

Over wild applause, the ORCHESTRA LEADER announces...

ORCHESTRA LEADER

Ladies and gentlemen, please makeyour way to the grand terrazzo; forthe premiere of Mr. VladimirTostoff's "A Jazz History of the

World", and accompanying fireworks!

Nick follow Jordan, but Teddy cuts him off-

#### TEDDY:

Look around you! Rich girls don't

marry poor boys-

On cue, a drinks tray floats into frame. There is a flurry ofmovement...

Teddy rudely snatches a couple of martinis...

Nick, disoriented and empty-handed, begins up the stairs, andas he does so, hears the voice of the man holding the tray...

#### MAN:

Your face is familiar. Weren't youin the Third Division during thewar?

#### NICK :

Yes; The Ninth Battalion.

#### CUT TO:

# MAN:

I was in the Seventh. I knew I'd seen you somewhere before... Havinga good time, old sport?

#### NICK:

(very tipsy)

The whole thing's incredible - I

live next door...

(brandishing his now

crumpled invitation)

He even sent me an invitation, but

I still haven't met Mr. Gatsby, noone's met him; they say he's third cousin to the Kaiser and second

cousin to the devil!

At the landing, half way up the steps, the man takes a drinkfrom a waiter's tray and hands it to Nick...

34.

# MAN:

I'm afraid I'm not a very goodhost, old sport... I'm Gatsby.

#### CLOSE ON:

#### NICK:

(muttering apologies)

Oh.. I'm very sorry-- I... I've had

so much to drink...

The delirious opening chords of Tostoff's "History" coincide with a gorgeous explosion of fireworks in the night sky!

# GATSBY:

(apologetically)

I thought you knew, old sport.

Gatsby smiles a dazzling smile; sound fades to a serene hum.

NICK (V.O.)

His smile was one of those rare

smiles that you may come acrossfour or five times in life. It seemed to understand you and

believe in you just as you wouldlike to be understood and believed in.

All at once the bubble bursts, a silver-haired, fifty-ish manin an immaculate tail-suit, (HERZOG) leans into Gatsby.

#### HERZOG:

Excuse me sir; Chicago on the wire.

Gatsby nods, but before he departs he smiles at Nick.

#### GATSBY:

I'm trying out my new hydroplane in the morning. Want to go with me, old sport?

Nick shakes himself from his reverie.

# NICK:

What time?

#### GATSBY:

Any time that suits you.

Gatsby turns, and catches for the first time, Jordan.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Lovely to see you Miss Baker.

35.

He kisses her lightly on the hand.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

(to Nick)

If you need anything, just ask forit, old sport. I will rejoin youlater... Excuse me.

As Nick watches Gatsby walk away, he whispers with amazement.

#### NICK :

I expected him to be...

#### JORDAN:

Old and fat?

#### NICK:

Well, yes; young men don't just drift coolly out of nowhere and buya palace on Long Island.

#### JORDAN:

He told me once he was an Oxford man. However, I don't believe it...

#### NICK:

Why not?

# JORDAN:

I don't know... I just don't believe he went there...

Jordan is interrupted by a voice.

#### HERZOG:

I beg your pardon...

She and Nick jump to find Herzog suddenly beside them.

HERZOG (CONT'D)

Miss Baker; Mr. Gatsby would liketo speak to you... Alone.

# JORDAN:

(surprised)

Me?

# HERZOG:

Yes, madame.

As Vladimir Tostoff's erotic, ominous chords build, Jordan crosses the now empty dance floor toward the silhouette of Gatsby in the library window...

36.

Nick, unsettled, watches her go...

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - MAPROOM - LATER

Alarmingly drunk girls sprawl at the feet of the grand piano.

Klipspringer plays, a weeping woman attempts to slur along,

and as a dejected Nick passes them toward the front stairs,

the library door opens, and Jordan emerges alone...

Seeing Nick, she rushes to him...

#### JORDAN:

Nick! Nick! I've just heard the most shocking thing; it all makes sense...

Teddy and the other East Eggers accost Jordan.

#### TEDDY :

Where have you been!? The car's waiting!

Jordan is dragged out the door... Nick, on tenterhooksfollows, as Jordan calls back...

#### JORDAN:

Simply amazing! It all makes sense.

It all makes sense...

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - NIGHT

The night has devolved into drunken mayhem as cars jam thedriveway and intoxicated guests search for their vehicles.

Nick chases Jordan down the marble stairs.

#### NICK:

What makes sense...?

# JORDAN:

Everything... But here I am

tantalizing you...

The East Eggers and Jordan pile into their limousine. Jordan, a mysterious smile as she leans out the window.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

And I swore I wouldn't tell. 37.

#### NICK:

But...

#### JORDAN:

Nick. I'm sorry, I swore I wouldn't tell.

The car takes off and Nick is left staring; mystified...

A voice startles him.

#### GATSBY:

Sorry to keep her from you, oldsport. Don't forget; we're going upin the hydroplane tomorrow morning.

Herzog appears behind Gatsby.

#### HERZOG:

Philadelphia on the phone, sir.

Gatsby nods, then smiles that intoxicating smile.

#### GATSBY:

Good night, old sport...

#### NICK:

Good night. Thank you.

Gatsby nods warmly, and turns inside.

As Nick walks away he is confronted by a bizarre scene: a big crowd gathers around a COUPÉ, resting on its side in a ditch. SUDDENLY! Owl Eyes pops from the wreck. He leers drunkenly...

#### OWL EYES :

Whazza matter!? We run outta gas!?

The beep of a horn catches Nick's attention. Jordan, leaningout of the window of her car as it sweeps away, calls to him.

#### JORDAN:

Come and see me... We'll have tea!

I'm in the phone-book!

Nick waves, smiles, and cuts across the lawn.

#### CLOSE ON:

yard from Gatsby's, he stops; a familiar feeling...

38.

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - TOWER - CONTINUOUS

High up in the window, the shadowy figure of Gatsby stands,

phone pressed to his ear, watching Nick. After a moment, heraises his hand in formal farewell.

NICK (V.O)

We rode in the hydroplane... And Iattended two more of his parties,

even made use of his beach. But I

soon realized that I knew

absolutely nothing about Gatsby atall, until...

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - MORNING

Nick is eating breakfast, studying bonds, when his glass of orange juice begins to rattle and shake.

Puzzled, Nick hurries to the window...

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - CONTINUOUS

Gatsby's yellow Duesenberg hurtles up Nick's drive and skids to a stop.

Nick emerges to his porch.

Gatsby leaps out!

## GATSBY:

Its pretty isn't it, old sport...?

Haven't you seen it before? Its alla custom job. Supercharged engine.

Get dressed... We're having lunch!

## SLAM CUT TO:

I/E. GATSBY'S CAR - LONG ISLAND COUNTRYSIDE - DAY
The Duesenberg whips and winds along a tree-lined road...
Gatsby, beyond nervous, drives with reckless intensity.

## GATSBY:

Ah... well... Ah... Look here, old sport... What's your opinion of me, anyhow?

#### NICK:

My... opinion?

## GATSBY:

Yes, yes, your opinion!

Gatsby yanks the wheel; Nick hangs on for dear life!

GATSBY (CONT'D)

I don't want you to get the wrongimpression from all those bizarreaccusations you must be hearing. Apack of lies I assure you. You've heard the stories...?

## NICK :

Well-

## GATSBY :

I'll tell you God's truth. God's truth about myself!

(raises right hand)

I am the son of some very wealthypeople from the Middle-West; sadly, all dead now... I was brought up inAmerica, but educated at Oxford; because all my ancestors have beeneducated there for many years. Yousee, it's a... a family tradition.

As Gatsby's speech continues at breakneck speed... Nick's V.O. fades up.

NICK (V.O.)

The way he spoke... No wonderpeople thought he was lying...

#### GATSBY:

After that I lived like a youngPrince in all the capitals ofEurope!

## NICK:

Europe?

Barrelling around a blind turn, Gatsby wrenches at the wheeland maniacally overtakes a truck laden with farmhands...

## GATSBY:

Yes, Europe! Paris; Venice; Rome; Vienna, Zurich, Helsinki... Collecting jewels, chiefly rubies, hunting big game, painting, alittle, things for myself mostly, and trying to forget something verysad that happened to me long ago... 40.

## PAN UP:

green countryside cedes to the lifeless Valley of Ashes.

## DISSOLVE TO:

I/E. GATSBY'S CAR/THE VALLEY OF ASHES - DAY Gatsby hasn't stopped for breath...

#### GATSBY:

Then came the war, old sport...

NICK (V.O.)

Just when I thought it couldn't be any more fantastical...

#### GATSBY:

It was a great relief and I triedvery hard to die, but I seemed tobear an enchanted life...

NICK (V.O.)
He became a war hero, singlehandedly

defeating the German army!

## CLOSE ON:

#### GATSBY:

In the Argonne Forest I took mymachine gun detachment so farforward... We were outnumbered five

to one. There was a half mile gapon either side of us where the infantry couldn't advance. We

stayed there two days and twonights, 130 men with only 16 Lewis guns...

Something catches Nick's eye...

#### NICK'S POV:

GATSBY (CONT'D)

...When the infantry came up atlast they found the insignia of 3German divisions among the piles ofthe dead.

SCREEECHHH!!! Gatsby slams to halt at the train crossing! 41.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

I was promoted to Major and everyAllied government gave me adecoration; even Montenegro! LittleMontenegro down on the AdriaticSea.

SLAM! A medal is suddenly in Nick's lap.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Here! That's the one from

Montenegro.

It looks authentic.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Turn it.

## NICK:

(reads)

Major Jay Gatsby. For ValorExtraordinary.

## GATSBY:

That's right.

SLAP! A photograph joins the medal.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Here's another thing that I always

carry. A souvenir of my Oxforddays; the man on my left is now the Earl of Doncaster.

#### CLOSE ON:

Oxford College. Gatsby stands with a cricket bat in hand.

NICK (V.O.)

What could I say...? The photographwas undoubtedly authentic. Could itall be true?

DING! The gate lifts. And as Gatsby peels out, towards NewYork, he continues...

GATSBY (O.S.)

But don't take my word for it. At

lunch, I'm going to introduce you

to one of New York's most

distinguished businessmen; myfriend, Mr. Meyer Wolfsheim, whowill confirm all I've told you, andvouch for my good character...

42.

I/E. GATSBY'S CAR - ASTORIA - DAY

Gatsby weaves between the pylons of the elevated highway.

### NICK:

I'm sure that's not necessary...

Gatsby wheels to Nick, smiling with charming intensity.

## **GATSBY:**

Oh but it is though...! You see, Ithought you ought to know somethingabout my life. I... I don't want

you to think I'm just some... some

nobody. You see, old sport, I'm

going to make a very big request ofyou today.

## NICK:

A big request?

## GATSBY:

Yes. Yes... Miss Baker will explaineverything when you take her to teathis afternoon.

## NICK:

(caught off guard)
Jordan...? What's she got to do
with it?

## **GATSBY:**

Oh, I assure you it's nothingunderhand. Miss Baker's an honest sportswoman; she'd never do anything that wasn't alright...

RRIIIRRRAA! A shrieking police siren! Before Gatsby cancontinue, a MOTORCYCLE COP pulls alongside.

## COP:

Pull over!!! Pull over to the curb!

## GATSBY:

(calmly)

All right, old sport! Alright.

Without slowing, Gatsby takes a card from his pocket...

# COP:

(embarrassed)

Right you are... Know you nexttime, Mr. Gatsby. Excuse me! 43.

The cop peels off; and the Duesenberg, carrying an absolutelymystified Nick, rockets towards the Queensboro Bridge!

## NICK:

One of your old Oxford pals?

## **GATSBY:**

Well... actually, I was able to dothe Commissioner a favor once; he sends a Christmas card every year.

(adds proudly)

I imagine he'll be at lunch too...

## NICK:

By the time we reached the bridge Iwas impossibly confused...

Nick turns to see: A Rolls Royce in which two stylish AFRICANAMERICAN MEN and a WOMAN haughtily quaff champagne. They are driven by a WHITE CHAUFFEUR. An orchestral melody surges...

NICK (V.O.)

I didn't know what to think... But

the city seen from the QueensboroBridge is always the city seen forthe first time, in its first wild

promise of all the mystery and thebeauty in the world. Anything canhappen now that we've slid overthis bridge, I thought; anything atall...

As the orchestra builds, Gatsby's car shoots into Manhattan,

through Times Square and beneath the famous advertisement of the man in the Arrow shirt. We follow, sweeping high overskyscrapers. The Duesenberg pulls up on the street below...

SUDDENLY THE CAMERA PLUMMETS with startling velocity...

NICK (V.O.)

Even Gatsby could happen...

BAAAAM! A fat beat kicks as we explode through a grate, into:

INT. THE ANGRY DIAMOND SPEAKEASY - DAY

The sweaty grind of music shakes the air. On stage a pianist,

THE PROFESSOR, bangs out a sizzling tune!

PULL THROUGH A DOUBLE-GLASS MIRROR INTO:

44.

INT. DICK DIVER'S CUTS BARBERSHOP - CONTINUOUS

## **DISCOVER:**

In the center of the room a tall, distinguished, grey-beardedman in an exquisitely cut suit, and with gold rings on everyfinger, is having a beard trim. This, is MEYER WOLFSHEIM.

#### WOLFSHEIM:

Ah my boy...!

They embrace.

### **GATSBY:**

Meyer, Meyer...

## WOLFSHEIM:

You smell so good.

## GATSBY:

Mr. Carraway; my friend, Mr.

Wolfsheim.

Gatsby guides Nick and Wolfsheim toward the back of the shop.

## WOLFSHEIM:

A wonderful pleasure, Mr. Carraway.

I know all about you.

## NICK :

Really?

### WOLD :

Of course! Mr. Gatsby is alwaystalking about you.

Gatsby raps a coded knock on a hidden door at the back of theshop. The door slides open, the rumble of music pours out...

## WOLFSHEIM:

(sinister)

Come, join us for a little lunch...

## INT. THE ANGRY DIAMOND SPEAKEASY - CONTINUOUS

Gatsby ushers Wolfsheim and Nick down narrow creaking stairs, through the crowd and into the smoke-filled speakeasy...

## ECU:

45.

## WOLFSHEIM:

(whispers to Gatsby)
Tell Walter Chase; "he shuts his
mouth or he doesn't get a penny..."

## GATSBY:

We'll talk about that later... The HEAD WAITER appears.

#### **HEAD WAITER:**

Highballs, Mr. Gatsby?

## GATSBY:

Yes, highballs it is. (points to Nick)

You take good care of my friendhere!

A portly man of obvious stature, surrounded by scantily cladflappers, yells from a corner booth.

## COMMISSIONER:

Hey Jay...! You're under arrest!!! Gatsby smiles and tips his hat.

## GATSBY:

You be careful now. You're turning into a real Jazz-Hound Commissioner.

(to Nick)

See, that's the Commissioner back

there.

Gatsby, the king here, greets patrons high and low...

He sees SENATOR GULICK at the craps table.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

You be careful at those tables now

Senator!

## SENATOR GULICK:

Of course! I'll put a bet on for

you Jay!

Waiters clear a front row table - best seat in the house - Gatsby helps Wolfsheim to his. Wolfsheim eyes the girls onthe stage. Gatsby flashes Nick a charming smile.

46.

## GATSBY:

Shall we order?

(to the waiter)

Lobster tails all round.

(to Nick)

They decorate it with truffleslices and fine herbs. Veryartistic. Wolfsheim glances to Gatsby, and then turns again to Nick...

## WOLFSHEIM:

So... How is the bond business Mr.

Carraway?

## NICK:

It's fine, thank you.

## WOLFSHEIM:

I understand you're looking for a business gonnegtion-

## GATSBY:

No, no. This isn't the man. This is the friend I told you about.

### WOLFSHEIM:

Oh! Beg your pardon, I had a wrong man.

Woldsheim pats Nick on the back, unsettling him further... Gatsby, a quick glance to his watch and Wolfsheim, jumps up.

#### GATSBY:

Now, if you'll excuse me. I have tomake THAT call.

(gesturing to Nick)

Meyer, do you mind?

Gatsby leaving Nick and Wolfsheim alone.

# WOLFSHEIM:

Gatsby! What a gentleman! From oneof the finest families in the

Midwest... Sadly all dead now. Letme tell you, when I made thepleasure of Mr. Gatsby's

acquaintance just after the war, Iknew I had discovered a man of fine breeding. A war hero! Such...

medals. And, an Oggsford man.

Oggsford College in England. Youknow Oggsford? 47.

## NICK:

I've heard of it...

## WOLFSHEIM:

Then you would know that a man likethat can be trusted. With a friend, with someone like you, he wouldnever so much as look at yourwife...

## NICK:

I'm not... married.

## WOLFSHEIM:

But you work on Wall Street, right?

## NICK:

(totally confused)

Yes...

Nick studies Wolfsheim, noticing an oddity about his outfit.

## WOLFSHEIM:

Looking at my tiepin?

## CLOSE ON:

WOLFSHEIM (CONT'D)

Finest specimen of human molars...

Before Nick can recover, Gatsby suddenly returns.

## GATSBY:

Gentlemen. Everything alright...?

## NICK:

Oh, yes... We were just talkingabout other people's wives...

## GATSBY:

(taking his seat)

Other people's wives? Ah... I see.

Gatsby looks to Wolfsheim.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Other people's wives... Meyer?

Wolfsheim nods, smiles, and checks out the dancing girls...

## WOLFSHEIM:

Well, my work here is done. I'll

leave you gentlemen to talk aboutyour sports and your women...

48.

Wolfsheim follows his favorite dancer off...

#### GATSBY:

You'll have to excuse him... In his old age, he's prone to "digress..."
He's a regular around here; a real denizen of Broadway...

#### NICK:

Who is he anyhow?

## GATSBY:

Meyer? He's a gambler.

Over Nick and Gatsby's shoulders is Wolfsheim, mingling withthe ladies; but occasionally glancing in their direction...

## NICK:

An actor?

## GATSBY:

Meyer? No. He's the man who fixed the 1919 World Series.

## NICK:

Fixed it?

## **GATSBY:**

Fixed it.

## NICK:

How did he manage that?

## GATSBY:

He just... saw the opportunity, Isuppose. He's a very smart man. (tries to change subject)

Now, old sport, about Miss Baker,

and that request we spoke of...

Before Gatsby can go on, Tom Buchanan looms over the table.

#### TOM:

Hey Nick! Nick! Where've you been!? Daisy's furious you haven't called up.

Nick and Gatsby stand.

## NICK :

This is Mr. Gatsby, Mr. Buchanan.

## CLOSE ON:

49.

#### GATSBY:

I'm so very, very... delighted to make your acquaintance.
Tom turns back to Nick.

### TOM:

I wouldn't have expected to find you in this temple of virtue.

## NICK:

I'm having lunch with Mr. Gats-Nick turns, but inexplicably, Gatsby is gone.

## PUSH TOWARD:

## CUT TO:

EXT. THE HOTEL SAYRE - ROOFTOP GARDEN - DUSK Jordan is perched at an elegant table, overlooking TimesSquare and the advertisement of the man in the beautifulArrow shirts.

#### **DISCOVER:**

## NICK :

I'm looking for Ms. Baker. Yes. Thefamous sporting star. The golfer... There... I've spotted her.

Nick comes to an abrupt halt in front of Jordan.

NICK (CONT'D)

What game are you and Gatsbyplaying at!?

An immaculate MAITRE'D offers Nick a chair.

## MAITRE'D

Will the gentleman be joining?

## NICK:

(frustrated)

One moment please-

## JORDAN:

Please, Nick, sit down. This is a polite restaurant.

As Nick's frustration and Jordan's embarrassment grow-50.

## NICK :

It's all very strange. He picks me up in his fancy yellow car... Andhe's going on and on about his life and the war and rubies and Oxford and... What is-

## JORDAN:

If you'll just have a seat--

## NICK :

What is this big request!?

## JORDAN:

Nick--! He just wants you to inviteDaisy to tea.

## NICK:

Tea?

(not what Nick expected)

Daisy...? And Gatsby...?

Nick sits...

NICK (CONT'D)

Why?

### JORDAN:

Well... I don't know quite where tostart. You see... I met Gatsby, five years ago, in Louisville...

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DAISY'S HOUSE - LOUISVILLE - DAY

# TIGHT ON:

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JORDAN (O.S.)
```

It was the day I got my new Englishgolf shoes.

#### WIDE:

"tut, tutting" in the breeze - are set along a beautiful, green stretch of park.

JORDAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

Daisy was by far the most populargirl with the Officers from CampTaylor... Across the road, 18 YEAR OLD DAISY is perched in the frontseat of her flashy white roadster, beaming, happy...

51.

JORDAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

One of them was in the car with

her.

Beside Daisy REVEAL: A handsome lieutenant: YOUNG JAY GATSBY.

JORDAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It was Gatsby. And the way he

looked at her...

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE HOTEL SAYRE - ROOFTOP GARDEN - DUSK

The silhouettes of Jordan and Nick, leaned close, are lit magnificently against the beaded lights of the city...

JORDAN (O.S.)

Is the way all girls want to be

looked at.

Their eyes meet; a conspiring flicker.

## NICK:

(blown away)

So what happened?

## JORDAN:

Well, I don't know...

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRENCH BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Gatsby leads his men on a heroic charge out of the trenches-JORDAN (O.S.)

Gatsby was sent off to war...

A MASSIVE EXPLOSION rocks the battlefield!

JORDAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

But when the war ended... For some

unknown reason, Gatsby couldn't

## DISSOLVE TO:

MONTAGE.

A NEWSPAPER FILLS THE SCREEN:

52.

"AMERICA'S WEALTHIEST BACHELOR TO WED: TOM BUCHANAN LURES

LOUISVILLE'S SWEETHEART."

JORDAN (O.S.)

A year later, Tom Buchanan of Chicago swept in and stole her away...

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SEELBACH HOTEL - DAISY'S GRAND SUITE - NIGHT
An exquisite string of pearls coils around Daisy's neck.
JORDAN (O.S.)

He gave her a string of pearlsworth \$350,000.

#### **REVEAL:**

## **DISSOLVE TO:**

INT. SEELBACH HOTEL. DAISY'S GRAND SUITE - MORNING JORDAN (O.S.)

But, the morning of the wedding,

Daisy received a letter...

On the bed, Daisy, hysterical, clutches a bottle in one handand a letter in the other.

## DAISY:

(screams)

Tell them Daisy's changed her mind!

## JORDAN:

Daisy! Please, everyone's waiting!
Daisy reaches for the pearls around her neck...

#### YOUNG DAISY :

Give them back!!

Suddenly! Daisy tears the pearls and hurls them; they explode into a hundred shimmering pieces against the hard wood floor!

## CUT TO:

## **REVEAL:**

DAISY'S MOTHER

What on earth is going on in here!?

53.

her mother's eyes land on the bottle, and then the letter...

## PUSH IN:

#### DAISY:

Leave me alone!

DAISY'S MOTHER

Jordan, run the bath! Now!

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SEELBACH HOTEL - BATHROOM - MORNING

In the bath, Daisy's grips the letter in her trembling hands.

NICK (O.S.)

What was in the letter?

A deep breath, a last look, and then, Daisy opens her hand...

The letter comes to pieces like snow.

JORDAN (O.S.)

I don't know. She wouldn't tell me.

But before the letter disappears completely we read one moreline: "The truth is..."

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. LOUISVILLE CHURCH - FRONT STEPS - LATE AFTERNOON

Daisy and Tom, newly married, pose for photos.

JORDAN (O.S.)

Anyways, that day, at five o'clock,

Daisy Faye married Tom Buchananwith more pomp and circumstancethan Louisville had ever seen...

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. TIMES SQUARE - NIGHT

Jordan and Nick stroll beneath the soaring electric signs.

#### JORDAN:

After the honeymoon, I saw them inSanta Barbara. It was touching, actually...

(MORE)

54.

JORDAN (CONT'D)

I'd never seen a girl so in love with her husband.

(muses cynically)

A week later, Tom crashed his car.

The girl with him was a chambermaid

at the Santa Barbara Hotel. It gotinto all the papers...

As Jordan and Nick approach the curb, waiting for a cab, Nickturns to Jordan; he's struck by a... sudden, puzzled thought.

# NICK :

It's a strange coincidence, isn't it? Gatsby's house being justacross the bay...

Jordan whirls round-

#### JORDAN:

It's no coincidence. He bought thathouse to be near her, he threw all those parties hoping she'd wander

in one night. He constantly askedabout Daisy... I was the first onewho knew her.

Nick takes this in; as if seeing Gatsby for the first time.

#### NICK:

All that for a girl he hasn't seen in five years...? And now he justwants me to have her for tea...? (to himself)
The modesty of it.

## JORDAN:

Kind of takes your breath away,
doesn't it?
A cab pulls up, and Nick opens the door...
INT. TAXI - CONTINUOUS
Jordan slides in...

## TAXI DRIVER:

Evening sweethearts! Where to?

## JORDAN:

Long Island, please. 55.

# NICK :

And you think I should? I mean, does Daisy want to see Gatsby?

## JORDAN:

(a stern whisper)
She's absolutely not to know. You
are just supposed to invite herover so he can "happen to drop by."

## CLOSE ON:

NICK (V.O.)

I remember feeling torn. Was itright to bring my cousin Daisy, amarried woman, together with a manI hardly knew?

As Nick wonders, the taxi floats across Times Square, underthe cool eyes of the man in the Arrow shirt...

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. DIRT TRACK TO NICK'S BUNGALOW - NIGHT Nick's taxi pulls past Gatsby's mansion, ablaze with light. NICK (V.O.)

When I returned home, Gatsby's was lit, from tower to cellar, as if for another wild party. But...

There wasn't a sound.

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - NIGHT

As Nick's taxi groans away, Gatsby appears striding through the illuminated trees toward Nick.

#### NICK:

Your place looks like the World's Fair... or Coney Island!

# GATSBY:

(terribly anxious)
Ah, does it? I've... I've just been
glancing into some rooms... Let's
go to Coney Island, old sport, wecan take my car-

## NICK:

It's too late tonight.

## GATSBY:

Or we can take a plunge in theswimming pool? I haven't made use of it all summer...

# NICK :

I must go to bed...

Gatsby looks crestfallen. Nick puts him out of his misery.

NICK (CONT'D)

Happy to do it. Jay -- I'm going tocall Daisy and invite her to tea.

#### GATSBY:

Oh, that's alright. I don't want to put you to any trouble...

## NICK:

What day would suit you?

#### **GATSBY:**

What day would suit you...? I don'twant to put you to any trouble...

## NICK :

Day after tomorrow alright?

## GATSBY:

Day after tomorrow? Well, I'd...

I'd want to get the grass cut.

They both look at the grass - there is a sharp line whereNick's ragged lawn ends and Gatsby's manicured one begins.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

There's another little thing... I

thought -- Look here, old sport --

You don't make much money, do you?

## NICK:

Not really.

## **GATSBY:**

If you'll pardon my... You see, I

carry on a little business on the side - a sort of sideline - youunderstand what I'm saying right?

You're selling bonds, aren't you,

old sport?

### NICK:

Trying to.

57.

# GATSBY:

Well, this might interest you... Ithappens to be a rather confidentialsort of thing... But you might pickup a nice bit of money.

## NICK:

I've got my hands full. Gatsby's face falls.

## GATSBY :

You wouldn't have to do anybusiness with Wolfsheim. I assure you.

## NICK:

No, no, no... Its a favor Jay. Justa favor.

Nick's sincerity disarms Gatsby; a tiny, embarrassed nod.

NICK (CONT'D)

Happy to do it.

#### **GATSBY:**

A favor?

### NICK:

Yes.

As if no one has ever done him a favor before in his life...

## GATSBY:

Ah, right, right... Goodnight.

## NICK:

Goodnight.

With this, Gatsby turns and strolls back toward his blazingcastle. Nick's gaze falls upon the unkempt lawn. He smiles.

## **DISSOLVE TO:**

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - FRONT LAWN - DAY

## TOP SHOT:

unkempt lawn into a fresh, broad, band of green.

## **REVEAL:**

amake-over, fresh paint, new flowers, trimmed hedges...

# DISSOLVE TO:

58.

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - FRONT LAWN - THE FOLLOWING DAY Heavy rain now falls.

Gatsby, dressed in white flannel suit, silver shirt, and goldtie, leads a dozen umbrella-holding servants across the lawn.

Herzog holds an umbrella over Gatsby; the other servantsshelter extravagant floral arrangements in crystal vases...

Nick watches the parade through his window, opening his doorjust as Gatsby arrives; the servants continue inside.

On the porch, Gatsby looks around distractedly.

#### GATSBY:

One of the papers said they thought the rain would stop about four. Ithink it was the Journal...

An awkward beat.

## NICK:

The grass looks fine.

## GATSBY:

Grass?

Gatsby looks at Nick without really comprehending, or seeing.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

What Grass?

## SUDDEN CUT TO:

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

## TIGHT ON:

## WIDER:

floralarrangements. Nick sits watching as Gatsby intensely paces. The silence stretches, and stretches... Finally...

## **GATSBY:**

Have you got everything you need?

## NICK:

Perhaps more flowers?

## GATSBY:

I think they did a fine job, don't you?
59.

# NICK :

Beautiful.

## GATSBY:

You think it's too much?

## NICK:

I think it's what you want.

## GATSBY:

I think so too... She'll be impressed, won't she old sport?

## NICK:

I am.

With this, Gatsby straightens his suit, sits, and hurriedlychecks his watch. Another long silence...

## PUSH IN ON:

#### GATSBY:

I can't wait all day. I'm leaving!

### NICK:

Don't be silly. It's just two minutes to four...
But Gatsby heads for the door...

## GATSBY:

Nobody's coming to tea. It's too late!

BEEEEEP! Gatsby glimpses Daisy's Rolls Royce arriving out front, and turns to Nick, flushed with fresh panic.

## NICK:

It's her.

PUSH IN ON GATSBY: Mind racing...

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - DAY

Daisy's chauffeur-driven Rolls pulls up in the muddy drive.

As Nick assists Daisy from the car...

# DAISY:

Is this absolutely where you live,

my dearest one?

She looks at him with a mysterious smile.

60.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Why did I have to come alone? Areyou in love with me?

#### NICK:

That's the secret of CarrawayCastle.

(playing along)

Tell your chauffeur to go far away.

#### DAISY:

Come back in an hour, Ferdie!

(grave murmur)

His name is Ferdie.

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - HALL - DAY

Daisy continues ahead into the living room.

Nick hangs back and listens hopefully to Daisy's reaction atdiscovering Gatsby. He smiles as he hears a delighted...

DAISY (O.S.)

Oh--! Oh, my goodness. I... I can'tbelieve it. You-- Did you ransack agreenhouse?

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

## DAISY:

(to herself)

He is in love with me...

Nick enters, but is shocked to discover that Gatsby is notthere. Daisy's merely been admiring the flower display...

## NICK :

That's funny.

# DAISY:

What's funny?

KNOCK. KNOCK. Someone is at the door.

## NICK:

One moment...

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - HALL - CONTINUOUS

Nick opens the door.

61.

Gatsby, pale as death and soaked, glares miserably at Nick.

# NICK:

What are you doing?

Without a word, Gatsby stalks past him, into...

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Daisy, her back to the door, is still marvelling at theflowers. Then she

turns. Sees Gatsby. A sharp intake ofbreath...

The reunited lovers stand, staring at each other for a long, surreal, moment of disbelief. Gatsby, eyes locked to Daisy's, is drowning in emotion. Daisy finally manages an artificial, choking murmur.

#### DAISY:

I'm certainly glad to see youagain.

Gatsby's face is flushed; the veins stand out on his neck ashis lips spasm in a hopeless attempt to speak.

Finally, he finds words...

#### GATSBY:

I'm... certainly glad to see you aswell.

Their hearts pound - the tension excruciating.

EEEEKKK! The scream of a boiling kettle OFF SCREEN breaks thetension-

#### CUT TO:

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Gatsby reclines uncomfortably against the mantelpiece. Hiselbow rests near the mantelpiece CLOCK. Daisy sits opposite;

frozen on the edge of a chair.

The rattle of the tea tray as Nick enters only contributes to the already unbearable tension. Gatsby manages to murmur.

## GATSBY:

We've met before...

SUDDENLY the CLOCK tilts at the pressure of Gatsby's elbow...

62.

And falls! And breaks!

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Ah... sorry...

He clumsily tries to repair the clock; but drops it again!

#### NICK:

(idiotically)

It's an old... clock.

## DAISY:

(desperate for small talk)

Lovely though. A lovely... clock.

Gatsby finally manages to set the clock back on the mantle.

Gatsby takes a seat.

A long silent beat.

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DAISY (CONT'D)
```

We haven't met for many years.

## GATSBY:

(an automatic reflex)

Five years next November.

The precision of Gatsby's answer is acutely embarrassing.

## NICK:

(abruptly)

Tea?

## **GATSBY:**

(dying)

Thank you old sport.

## DAISY:

(also mortified)

Darling thank you.

Nick pours; and they all sit stiffly, sipping their tea.

A long, terrible silence...

Suddenly Nick stands.

## NICK:

I just need to... pop into town.

# **GATSBY**:

(horrified)

Town...?

63.

## NICK :

The village; I'll be right back.

As Nick leaves, Gatsby follows.

# GATSBY:

I've got to speak to you...!

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - KITCHEN - CONTINUOUS

Wildly following Nick, Gatsby whispers miserably:

## GATSBY:

Oh, God! This is a mistake, a

terrible, terrible mistake...

## NICK :

You're just embarrassed, that'sall... Daisy's embarrassed too.

## GATSBY:

She's embarrassed?

## NICK:

Just as much as you are.

## **GATSBY:**

Don't talk so loud!

#### NICK:

You're acting like a little boy!

You're rude. Daisy's in there allalone and...

Gatsby raises his hand, looks at Nick reproachfully, andheads back into the living room.

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - CONTINUOUS

Nick runs for a TREE whose leaves shield against the rain.

NICK (V.O.)

Looking over my story so far, I'm

reminded that for the second time

that summer...

## WIDE:

NICK (V.O.)

I was guarding other people's

secrets.

64.

INT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - LIVING ROOM - DAY

LATER. Nick re-enters, bedraggled, rain-soaked.

NICK (V.O.)

Once again I was within...

He tries to get Gatsby and Daisy's attention, to no avail...

The lovers are completely and totally absorbed in each other.

NICK (V.O.)

And without...

Nick bangs pots in the sink - still nothing.

He clears his throat:

# NICK:

Its... stopped raining.

Daisy turns; a radiant smile. Every vestige of embarrassmentbetween Daisy and Gatsby is gone. Gatsby literally glows.

#### GATSBY:

Yes, it has...

(to Daisy)

Hasn't it?

He stands, walks to the window and looks out across the bay.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

What do you think of that, Daisy?

Come look.

Daisy joins Gatsby and they step out onto the porch together.

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - PORCH - CONTINUOUS

## DAISY:

Look. Its my house. Just thereacross the bay... Gatsby and Daisy's eyes meet.

### GATSBY:

I know. I have the same view from my place.

## DAISY:

Where's your place?
Gatsby turns back to Nick.
65.

## GATSBY:

Nick, I want you and Daisy both tosee my house. I'd like to show her around.

## NICK:

Are you sure you want me to come?

## GATSBY:

Absolutely, old sport. Absolutely.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - FRONT GATES - DAY

Servants swing open ivy-covered gates...

## **GATSBY:**

(proudly)

I had the gates brought in from acastle in Normandy.

## **REVEAL:**

# CLOSE ON:

#### DAISY:

Oh, Jay...!? Its so grand!

## GATSBY:

Do you like it?

#### DAISY:

I love it...! But how do you livehere all alone?

#### GATSBY:

I don't. I keep it always full of interesting, celebrated people...

As Daisy runs ahead, Gatsby murmurs to Nick.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

My house looks well doesn't it? Seehow the whole front catches the light like that?

Daisy yells back...

### DAUSY:

Come on you two! I want the royaltour!

## DISSOLVE TO:

66.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GARDENS - DAY

Gatsby has transformed into a good-natured show-off, hurryingNick and Daisy through a maze of fantastical gardens, pastmagnificent fountains and into his castle...

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - KITCHEN - DAY

Gatbsy shows off his brand new orange-juicer.

## **GATBSY:**

You must understand, I like all

things that are modern.

Daisy readies a cocktail shaker beneath the spout of thegiant silver orange juice machine.

## GATSBY:

If you press this button here, theoranges shoot through here, are crushed there... The juice of 200 oranges extracted in one hour...!

Gatsby presses, the machine groans and juice splashes out!

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S BEACH - DIVING PONTOON - LATE AFTERNOON

Daisy, Nick and Gatsby drunkenly drive golf balls out towardthe bay. Nick films on the world's first home-camcorder...

#### GATSBY:

Its a remarkable little camera--latest design.

While, nearby, a butler in a boat stands watch over aspinning gramophone and bottles of champagne...

## DAISY:

You do know, I'm a champion golfer, don't you? Here, I'll show you how its done.

CRACK! Daisy cuts a marvelous swing, snapping a club in two! She falls into Gatsby arms...
Nick films...

67.

### GATSBY:

She looks like she could be on the cover of Vogue, don't you think...?

## DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - EARLY EVENING Gatsby and Nick trail behind Daisy, crossing the ballroom. Daisy, champagne in hand, spots the soaring ballroom organ.

## DAISY:

Oh...! Its beautiful.

### **GATSBY:**

Its a custom Wurlitzer.

## DAISY:

Can anyone play it?

### GATSBY:

Klipspringer can.
(to his footmen)
Someone wake Ewing!
Daisy twirls round, overjoyed...

# DAISY:

Music! And we can dance all night!

#### GATSBY:

Ewing's a symphonic genius, he can play anything...!
Daisy runs up the stairs and calls down...

#### DAISY:

Then I demand a Charleston!

Gatsby gazes up after Daisy, and confides in Nick...

#### GATSBY:

(as if in a dream)
She makes it look so splendid,
don't you think old sport?

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE. GATSBY'S BEDROOM - EVENING Nick and Daisy follow Gatsby into the bedroom... 68.

Gatsby bounds ahead, starting up a spiral stair... He throwsopen a massive cabinet, revealing a prism of suits, dressing-gowns, watches and ties.

#### GATSBY:

I've got a man in England who buysme clothes...!

He playfully tosses Daisy a boater-hat...

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Something for the lady...

Then he begins yanking down shirts and tossing them over therail to Daisy...

## DAISY:

I've never seen anything like it!

## **GATSBY:**

He sends over a selection at the beginning of each season...

# DAISY:

Jay!

With ever-increasing enthusiasm!

## GATSBY:

These are silk! Linen! Indian

flannel! Egyptian cotton!
Daisy, intoxicated, leaps on the bed, arms outstretched...

## DAISY:

No, Jay... you'll ruin them! (to Nick)

Nicky! He's a madman!

More and more and more shirts float down...

The rumble of distant thunder.

## CLOSE ON:

down toward her. Slowly, quietly, her mirthtransforms to sobs... She hides her face in shirts...

Gatsby eases down the stairs and nestles beside Daisy, takingher tear-streaked face in his hands...

## GATSBY:

What is it?

## DAISY:

It's just... It makes me sad, because...

Daisy glances in Nick's direction...

## **GATSBY:**

Why?

## DAISY:

...because...

A suspended moment; Daisy is incapable of speaking her heart.

NICK (V.O.)

Five lost years struggled onDaisy's lips. But all she could manage was...

## DAISY:

It's just... Because I've never seen such beautiful shirts before.

## GATSBY:

If it wasn't for the mist we could see the green light...

## DAISY:

## GATSBY:

The one that burns all night at theend of your dock.

As Gatsby and Daisy stare out across the bay...

NICK (V.O.)

Possibly, it had occurred to Gatsbythat the colossal significance ofthat light had vanished forever.

Now, it was once again just a greenlight on a dock. His count ofenchanted objects had diminished by

one.

Nick, impelled to remind Daisy and Gatsby of his presence, emerges from the shadows and descends the spiral staircase. He holds a photo of an elderly man in yachting costume...

#### NICK:

Who's this? Your father? 70.

## GATSBY:

No, no.. That's Mr. Dan Cody, old sport... He's dead now. He used tobe my best friend years ago. Daisy joins Nick at the bottom of the steps. In the photowith Cody, also in yachting costume, is a young Gatsby...

## DAISY:

(teases)

You never told me you had apompadour... or a yacht. Gatsby hastily plucks a scrapbook from a row on his desk...

### **GATSBY:**

I want to show you something...

Look, here's a lot of clippings,
about you.

They admire a scrapbook together.

#### DAISY:

(touched)

You saved my letters...

## GATSBY:

This was my first photo of you.

As Daisy flips through and pulls out an old letter of hers, we hear her reading the letter in abstract VOICEOVER:

DAISY (V.O.)

We cant lose each other and let all

this glorious love end in nothing.

Come home, I'll be here waiting andhoping, for every long dream of youto come true... Come home Jay...

BBBRRRNNNGGG! The phone shrills.

#### GATSBY:

Excuse me.

Gatsby crosses the room, snatches up the receiver, and turnsaway... He lowers his voice.

GATSBY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

Well I can't talk now old sport...

As the timbre of Gatsby's voice darkens we PUSH CLOSER.

GATSBY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

I said a small town.

71.

#### ECU:

GATSBY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

He must know what a small town is.

BOOOOMMM! A storming wind bangs open the French windows!

As Nick moves to shut them, he glimpses Gatsby...

GATSBY (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

(frightening)

Well, he's no use to us if Detroit

is his idea of a small town...

Gatsby rings off abruptly, and catches Nick's eye - a tense

moment - which Gatsby banishes with that electrifying smile.

We hear the distant, jaunty sounds of a pipe organ...

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Ah, Klipspringer! He must be awake!

Shall we?

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - DUSK BECOMING NIGHT

Daisy, wearing a flowing robe and heels, dances a Charlestonwith Nick.

An elaborate picnic, complete with candelabras and a mountainof cushions, is laid out on the floor. There, Gatsby sits,

looking on, flush with joy.

Slowly though, Gatsby's expression turns introspective. As hewatches Daisy dance, memories flood back to him...

## **DISSOLVE TO:**

FLASHBACK.

AN ARRAY OF MEMORIES AND IMAGES DISSOLVE ONE INTO THE OTHER:

Gatsby and Daisy, five years ago, about to kiss; a handwritten letter; a gathering storm; the green light...

## DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - NIGHT Hundreds of candles flicker in patterns. As a slow, melancholic waltz plays, Gatsby and Daisy dance, enraptured...
72.

#### DAISY:

(whispers)

I wish I had done everything onearth with you. All my life. Gatsby holds her closer.

DAISY (CONT'D)

I wish that it could always be likethis...

### GATSBY:

It will be...

Across the room, Nick, exhausted and drunk and unnoticed, stands to leave. At the ballroom doors he turns back and glimpses Gatsby and Daisy, in a universe all their own... NICK (V.O.)

If only it had been enough for Gatbsy, just to hold Daisy... The towering doors close.

## DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - BEDROOM - NIGHT
Gatsby stands at his window, staring into the night.
NICK (V.O.)

But he had a grand vision for hislife, and Daisy's part in it.

## DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANITARIUM - NICK'S ROOM - END OF WINTER - DUSK
Nick is writing at his desk...
NICK (V.O.)

It wasn't until the end of that

summer, on the last night I sawGatsby, that he told me of the lifehe had dreamt for himself since he

was a boy...

INT. SANITARIUM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - END OF WINTER - DUSK Nick stops his reading, and, very slowly, admits... 73.

#### NICK:

You see doctor... Gatsby's real name was... James Gatz.

## DISSOLVE TO:

I/E. NORTH DAKOTA FARM HUT - DAY

## PUSH TOWARD:

NICK (V.O.)

His parents were dirt-poor farmersfrom North Dakota...

## **DISCOVER:**

tattered books, strange charts, and lists. He ispracticing his signature... NICK (V.O.)

But he never accepted them as hisparents at all.

Young Gatz turns from his writing, and looks through a holein the roof towards the infinite heavens...

NICK (V.O.)

In his own imagination, he was... aSon of God...

## CLOSE ON:

NICK (V.O.)

Destined for future glory...

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NORTH DAKOTA - PRAIRIE - NIGHT

The silhouette of TEENAGE GATZ, now 16 years old, disappearsinto the hills...

NICK (V.O.)

Chasing this destiny, a sixteenyear old Gatz ran far, far away.

## DISSOLVE TO:

74.

EXT. LAKE SUPERIOR - LATE AFTERNOON

## CLOSE ON:

dirty canvas pants, rowing with all his might.

NICK (V.O.)

One afternoon, off the coast of

Lake Superior, he spotted a yachtin peril...

Young Gatsby lets the row boat drift close to a magnificentyacht. Wind is whipping whitecaps on the bay.

## NICK:

He rowed out and rescued the vessel, and its captain, alcoholicmillionaire Dan Cody...

The bleary face of DAN CODY appears at the yacht's railing.

#### CODY:

Whadzamatta...?

Cody is very drunk. Young Gatsby calls urgently.

## YOUNG GATSBY :

Sir! The shoal here's real bad, this wind could drag you onto it... Cody waves a dismissive arm...

## CODY:

Whaderathinkyerdoin..., old sport? He collapses, dead drunk.

### PUSH IN:

NICK (V.O.)

This was his opportunity, and heseized it.

Springing into action, he clambers onto the yacht.

GATSBY (VOICE)

I decided right then and there tocall myself: Jay Gatsby.

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CODY'S YACHT - LATE AFTERNOON

Young Gatsby hoists the sail as the storm rages around him. 75.

NICK (V.O.)

He sailed the yacht out of danger - and into his future...

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CODY'S YACHT - DAY

A perfect sunny day. Young Gatsby and Cody are sailing. NICK (V.O.)

Gatsby showed skill and ambition,

and for five years they sailed theworld...

GATSBY (VOICE)

He was alright, old Dan, he taughtme everything...

## DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLOTHING STORE - DAY

Young Gatsby, now transformed, models a suit in the mirror.

NICK (V.O.)

How to dress, act, and speak like agentleman...

He looks squarely at himself, and repeats a mantra.

## YOUNG GATSBY :

Gatsby. Jay Gatsby. A pleasure tomeet you, sir. Gatsby. Jay Gatsby. Gatsby.

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. CODY'S YACHT - DAY

Young Gatsby stands at the bow, as the yacht cut across theclear blue ocean... He turns to Cody and calls...

## YOUNG GATSBY :

She looks well, doesn't she...!? Old sport.

#### HIGH AND WIDE:

76.

NICK (V.O.)

Gatsby hoped to inherit Cody's

fortune... But when Cody died,

Gatsby was cheated out of hisinheritance by Cody's family...

He'd been left with an ability to

play the gentleman, but he was onceagain dirt poor.

## SLAM CUT TO:

NEWSPAPER MONTAGE.

Piles and piles of New York City newspapers swirl rapidlyTOWARD CAMERA, and we read their headlines:

"GATBSY'S STAGGERING WEALTH -MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!"

NICK (V.O.)

By midsummer Gatsby was front page

news...

"GATSBY BUYING OUR CITY? INVESTMENT MONOPOLY FUELS CONCERNS"

"JAY CASHES IN! GATSBY STRIKES WALL STREET GOLD!"

"GATSBY INVESTS IN SKYSCRAPERS!"

"JAY PAYS FOR EVERYTHING: PARTIES, GALAS, PARKS, SCHOOLS!"

"WALL STREETS KING? MEET JAY GATSBY!"

A final newspaper COVERS FRAME:

"WHERE'S THE MONEY FROM!? MYSTERY MILLIONS SPARK WILD RUMORS"

We PUSH TOWARD the paper and DISSOLVE TOWARD:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - NIGHT

Another glittering party.

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NICK (V.O.)
```

Where did the money comes from?

### FADE IN:

NICK (V.O.)

That's what all of New York wanted to know. And it was the same question on Tom's mind when he accompanied Daisy to one of Gatsby's glittering parties... 77.

### **DISCOVER:**

terrace stairs.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - TERRACE/DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT

#### GATSBY:

We've got a great band here. Have alook around... Excuse me... He turns briefly to talk to Senator Gulick...

#### TOM:

(mutters to Daisy)

A lot of these newly rich peopleare just filthy bootleggers.

### DAISY:

Not Gatsby. He's a businessman.

# TOM:

(snorts)

Hah! A businessman...

### DAISY:

He owned a lot of drug stores.

Gatsby gracefully introduces Senator Gulick to the group...

# GATSBY:

May I introduce Senator Gulick? This is Mr. Carraway and Mrs.

Buchanan...

# DAISY:

Delighted...

### GATSBY:

And Mr. Buchanan...

(a moment's hesitation)
The polo player.

# TOM:

(objecting quickly)
Oh no. Not me.

# SENATOR GULICK:

(shaking hands, nods)
Always a pleasure to meet aBuchanan.
Gatsby bids the Senator farewell, while Tom glowers to Daisy:
78.

### TOM:

I'd rather not be the polo player.

### DAISY:

Oh Tom... You should be proud of your achievements. Gatsby interjects-

# GATSBY:

(to the group)
May I show you around?
He guides them down the stairs...
GATSBY (CONT'D)
You must see the faces of a lot of people you've heard of.

# DAISY:

Absolutely!

# TOM:

(scoffs)
We don't go around very much. I
don't think I recognize a single
person...

# GATSBY:

Perhaps you know that lady there?
Gatsby indicates a lovely, orchid of a woman: MARLENE MOON,
the silent film star.

# DAISY:

(taking Gatsby's arm)

Its Marlene Moon... I adore her pictures...

As Gatsby leads Daisy, we catch Tom repeating to Nick...

# TOM:

I'd really rather not be the polo player...

### DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GARDEN TABLE - NIGHT

Tom, Daisy, Nick and Gatsby sit an elaborately conceiveddinner table, watching the band...
79.

#### DAISY:

(to Nick)

These things excite me so...

Gatsby turns to Tom...

# GATSBY:

I believe we've met somewhere before, Mr. Buchanan. About a month ago.

### TOM:

That's right... And you were with Nick here. At the barbershop...

# GATSBY:

That's right. See... I know your wife.

# TOM:

Is that so?

# GATSBY:

Yes.

As the number subsides, and the crowd applauds, Herzogappears and addresses Gatsby with whispered intensity.

# HERZOG:

Mr. Gatsby sir. Mr. Slagle is

here...

Herzog indicates SLAGLE, a dark-suited man who stands on thedistant terrace

with three sinister-looking 'associates'. Gatsby, so besotted with Daisy that he cannot take his eyesoff her, whispers fiercely...

### GATSBY:

Not now.

Herzog silently recedes...

A romantic foxtrot strikes up - Trimalchio introduces...

# TRIMALCHIO:

And now...! Dice, Brass Knuckles and Guitars, with: The Foxtrot!
Gatsby turns to Tom, and gestures to Daisy...

# GATSBY:

Mr. Buchanan, would you mind, terribly? 80.

Tom does indeed look like he minds, but a group of scantilyclad girls who cavort gracelessly on the other side of thegarden momentarily catch his eye.

### TOM:

Of course not; I think I can keepmyself amused.

As Daisy takes Gatsby's arm, she tucks a slim gold pencil into Tom's breast pocket and murmurs...

# DAISY:

In case you need to take down anyaddresses...

As Tom fumes, Gatsby leads Daisy out onto the dance floor.

# PUSH CLOSE ON:

# DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - DANCE FLOOR - NIGHT
As Daisy and Gatsby dance, Daisy murmurs thrillingly.

### DAISY:

Is all this made entirely from yourown imagination?

# GATSBY:

No... You see you were there allalong, in every idea, in everydecision... Of course, if anything is not to your liking, we canchange it...

# DAISY:

It's perfect. From your perfect,
irresistible imagination...
EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - TERRACE - NIGHT
Tom and Nick watch Gatsby and Daisy dance. Tom looks around,
perplexed by a distant thought.

#### TOM:

I wonder where the devil he met

Daisy...?

He notices Marlene Moon seductively, secretly watching him...

81.

TOM (CONT'D)

(to Nick)

I'll find you...

He leaves Nick alone. And Nick watches as Gatsbysimultaneously leads Daisy from the dance floor...

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - MAGIC TREE - NIGHT

Daisy runs ahead, playfully hurrying past the low-hangingbranches of the massive tree. She disappears inside...

Gatsby follows, but upon entering the secluded, starlit world sees no sign of Daisy.

Then, from out of the shadows, the sparkle of jewels...

Gatsby turns, and Daisy's lips suddenly find his.

A long, still kiss...

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - BAR - NIGHT

Nick is keeping watch, gazing down to his yard and the tree.

When Tom suddenly appears...

### TOM:

Have you seen my wife...? Startled, Nick turns...

# NICK :

(lies)

Ah... no... Not for awhile.

### TOM:

That's funny. The Senator said he

saw her down here.

Tom follows Nick's gaze down toward the tree...

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - MAGIC TREE - NIGHT

Gatsby and Daisy continue their passionate kissing...

After a moment, Daisy whispers.

#### DAISY:

I... I wish we could just run away.

82.

Gatbsy is startled.

#### GATSBY:

Run away? Darling, no. Daisy, that... that wouldn't be... respectable. EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - BAR - NIGHT

Tom is still looking to the tree.

# TOM:

(quizzically)

You live near here Nick...?

Nick, an overwhelming sense of guilt, indicates vaguely inthe direction of the tree.

# NICK :

Just next door.

# TOM:

That so...?

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - MAGIC TREE - NIGHT

Gatsby continues...

# GATSBY:

We're going to live here, in this house, together. You and me...
Daisy... It's time for you to tell
Tom.
EXT. GATBSY CASTLE - BAR - NIGHT

# CLOSE ON:

will investigate further.

SUDDENLY! Their attention is drawn to a commotion on the terrace. Glasses smash, a woman screams, and through thecrowd, we see Slagle and associates causing a disturbance.

# TOM:

(pure disdain)

What a circus... Well, if you seeher, I'll be looking for her. You tell her.

83.

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - MAGIC TREE - NIGHT
The hidden lovers speak in intense, hushed tones.

### DAISY:

Remember how much fun we used to have? Why can't we just have fun like that again?
Gatsby, frustrated, is about to speak...
But Nick suddenly appears out of the shadows...
Gatsby and Daisy break off, startled...
DAISY (CONT'D)
Oh hello Nicky; we're having a row.

#### NICK:

What about?
Daisy glides toward him...

### DAISY:

About things... About the future... (trying to be funny)
The future of the Colored Empires.

### NICK:

Well, its Tom. He's wanderingaround the party looking for you. Daisy flashes Gatsby an over-the-shoulder glance; when, suddenly, Herzog appears and murmurs...

# HERZOG:

Sir; it's Mr. Slagle; he's quite... emotional.

A tiny, ruffled, moment; then Gatsby elegantly guides Daisytoward Nick.

# **GATSBY:**

Excuse me. Nick, would you mind?
As Gatsby follows Herzog back toward the castle....

# CLOSE ON:

# DISSOLVE TO:

84.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - DANCE FLOOR - LATER

Nick and Daisy return to a party that has become grotesque;

drunken girls haphazardly bang drums...

NICK (V.O.)

Gatsby disappeared to deal with adispute of some sort. Daisywaited...

### CLOSE ON:

### NICK :

But Gatsby was unable to return.

As Daisy and Nick cross the tattered, streamer-littered dancefloor CRANE HIGH AND FADE INTO: the library window...

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS

Gatsby sits, solemn in an armchair; with quiet unease writtenin shadows across his face.

### **REVEAL:**

and the window; Herzog standing watch...
We catch only a fragment of the conversation.

### WOLFSHEIM:

When these hot headed types appear,
I rely on you... But you were notavailable.. A scene was made...
What's going on with you Jay?

# DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - FRONT GATE - NIGHT

# HIGH SHOT:

CRANE DOWN TO DISCOVER: Daisy's face through the limo window; her forlorn eyes search for Gatsby behind castle walls...

### TOM:

Where were you?

# DAISY:

With Nicky. Mr. Gatsby was showingus the grounds. 85.

#### TOM:

Well, he certainly must have strained himself to get that menagerie together...

# DAISY'S POV:

TOM (O.C.) (CONT'D)

I'd like to know who he is and what he does. And I think I'll make a

point of finding out.

As the limo passes through the gates and disappears, Slagleand associates are violently ejected by Gatsby's "guards."

# CLOSE ON:

"Ad Finem Fidelis" ("Faithful to the End").

### DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - POOL - NIGHT

It is late. Agitated and intense, Gatsby paces by the pool, staring out to the green light pulsing across the bay...

Nick descends the stairs, drunk.

# NICK :

Well there you are...! Daisy justleft... But she asked me to tell you. She had a wonderful time...

Gatsby is not amused.

### GATSBY:

She didn't like it.

### NICK:

Of course she did.

#### GATSBY:

No, she didn't like it. She did not have a good time. I feel so faraway from her now. It's hard to make her understand.

### NICK:

You mean about the party?

# GATSBY:

The party!? I couldn't care less about the parties! You see... (shocking intensity)
(MORE)
86.
GATSBY (CONT'D)

GATSBY (CONT'D)

She has to tell Tom that she never loved him.

### NICK:

What...?

#### GATSBY:

Yes. Then we can go back toLouisville, to her parents' house - her parents are lovely people old

sport - we'll be married there...

You see, Daisy and I are going to and start over, just as if it werefive years ago.

# NICK:

I wouldn't ask too much of her...

### GATSBY:

Ask too much?

### NICK:

No.

Gatsby grows suddenly, strangely emotional. He turns his backto Nick to compose himself.

#### GATSBY:

I beg your pardon old sport. Itsjust.. Its so sad because its sohard to make her understand, and-

### NICK:

Jay... You can't repeat the past. Gatsby wheels around...

# GATSBY:

Can't repeat the past?

# NICK :

No.

# **GATSBY:**

Why of course you can. Of courseyou can. You'll see. I am going to fix things just the way there werebefore. Everything's been so... so confused since then...

Gatsby looks out to the green light.

87.

NICK (V.O.)

He talked a lot about the past...

As if he wanted to recover

something...

#### **GATSBY:**

If I could just get back to the start... If I could just get backto the start I could find it again.

NICK (V.O.)

Some vision of himself that he had

put into loving Daisy...

IN THE CLOUDS, AMONG THE STARS, THE IMAGE OF DAISY'S HOUSE IN LOUISVILLE APPEARS, as if frozen in time...

# DISSOLVE TO:

I/E. DAISY'S HOUSE - LOUISVILLE - NIGHT

#### PUSH TOWARD:

American war effort, and beyond into a parlour; prettySouthern girls and fresh-faced soldiers, dancing, clapping...

NICK (V.O.)

Five years ago Gatsby found himselfat Daisy's house by colossal accident.

Amidst the many revellers, DISCOVER: Daisy, hurrying throughthe crowd. GATSBY (BY THE POOL)

I went to her house first with some

of the other officers from CampTaylor... I'd never been in such a beautiful house before...

Daisy rushes up the steps, and looks back...

At the bottom of the steps, smiling up, is: THE OBJECT OF HERAFFECTION, Young Gatsby in officer's uniform.

NICK (V.O.)

But his uniform his the truth. That

he was a penniless young man withouly that grand vision of himself.

Daisy's Mother stops her on the steps.

88.

# DAISY MOM :

Daisy, don't scamper.

(whispers)

There's so many dashing youngofficers here, and from such illustrious family's...

# CLOSE ON:

GATSBY (BY THE POOL)

I always knew that I could climb...

But I could only climb if I climbedalone.

Against his better judgement he follows Daisy up...

INT. DAISY'S HOUSE - CONSERVATORY/ATRIUM - NIGHT

Checking to make sure no one has seen, Daisy slips quietlythrough a set of doors, into the conservatory... Gatsby isnot far behind... A secret rendezvous.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - POOL - NIGHT

#### **GATSBY:**

I knew that, that when I kissed this girl, I would... be foreverwed to her...

INT. DAISY'S HOUSE - CONSERVATORY/ATRIUM - NIGHT

Daisy throws herself in to Gatsby's arms...

About to kiss, Gatsby is struck by a sudden instinctive thought...

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - POOL - NIGHT

Gatsby remembers...

# GATSBY:

So I stopped. And I waited... Iwaited...

INT. DAISY'S HOUSE - CONSERVATORY/ATRIUM - NIGHT

Gatsby's eyes drift up...

89.

GATSBY (BY THE POOL)

I waited for a moment longer.

He looks out the dark, crystal windows, beyond the trees...

to a staircase of moonlight, climbing up, up, up...

NICK (V.O.)

He knew that if he kissed this girlhis mind would never again be freeto romp like... the mind of God...

That falling in love would changehis destiny... forever.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - POOL - NIGHT

### **GATSBY:**

And then I just let myself go.

INT. DAISY'S HOUSE - CONSERVATORY/ATRIUM - NIGHT

With sudden resolve Gatsby kisses Daisy...

In ravenous embrace, they fall onto the long sofa lounge.

NICK (V.O.)

She blossomed for him like a

flower...

# ECU:

NICK (V.O.)

And the incarnation was complete.

### DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - POOL - NIGHT

The other layers of IMAGERY IN THE CLOUDS MELT AWAY, leavingNick and Gatsby standing by the pool.

### GATSBY:

I knew it was a great mistake for aman like me to fall in love. A great mistake. I'm only 32... I might still be a great man if Icould only forget that I once lostDaisy. But my life, old sport, mylife has got to be like this... He draws a slanting line from the lawn to the stars. 90. GATSBY (CONT'D) It's got to keep going up. Gatsby looks to the green light. GATSBY (CONT'D) She has to go to Tom and tell himshe never loved him... I need to give her more time. I just need togive her more time... He turns to Nick, reassuring both of them. GATSBY (CONT'D) Don't worry old sport, don't worry. I can protect her here. Good night old sport... Gatsby heads for his castle, and turns and calls... GATSBY (CONT'D) You're wrong about the past, old sport...!

# Gatsby's POV:

GATSBY (CONT'D)
You're wrong.

### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANITARIUM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - EARLY SPRING - MORNING The first day of spring; out the window, birds chirp.

Nick is writing and reading aloud...

NICK (READS)

There had been music from my

neighbor's all summer. In his blue

gardens, men and girls came and

went like moths among the

whisperings and the laughter and

the stars...

He struggles for a more poetic phrasing...

NICK (CONT'D)

Laughter... No... No... Among the

whisperings and the champagne and the stars... (MORE) 91. NICK (CONT'D) (that's the one)

But after Tom and Daisy visit...

# DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - FRONT GATES - LATE AFTERNOON Gatsby's castle cuts a grave silhouette against a stormy sky. NICK (V.O.) There were no more parties...

His lights flicker and go out.

NICK (V.O.)

Gatsby's lights went out one by

At the gates flashbulbs flash! Hordes of press have gathered.

NICK (V.O.)

Daisy visited discreetly. But...

As the gates creak open, Daisy's limo slides up the drive...

FADE IN NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: "PARTY PALACE GOES DARK!"

NICK (V.O.)

The very same fame that had oncebeen a source of satisfaction to Jay Gatsby, became... a threat.

As the reporters crowd the limo, shouting questions...

# DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - BEFROOM - NIGHT Locked away deep in the castle, Gatsby and Daisy make love. FADE IN NEWSPAPER HEADLINES: "WHO IS THE MYSTERY WOMAN?"

# DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - WHARF - DUSK

At the end of the wharf, Gatsby and Daisy look out across thebay, watching as the sun slides into the horizon, and thegreen light pulses...

# CLOSE ON:

92.

# DAISY:

I don't want to go home. Gatsby hold her tighter.

### GATSBY:

Then don't.

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - BALLROOM - LATE AFTERNOON
Long shafts of light cut through the high, empty windows...

#### WIDE SHOT:

tray in hand. The room is lined with thuggish, dark-suited men.

We hear a phone conversation between Nick and Gatsby...

GATSBY (O.S.)

I've been meaning to call you up.

I'm sorry, I've been... so busy.

NICK (O.S.)

Is everything alright?

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - MAPROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

An unshaven Gatsby in trousers and a black silk robe sits ina large arm-chair, under a vast wall of magnificentpaintings. He hunches over the phone...

### **GATSBY:**

Yes... Daisy and I are very much inlove.

NICK (O.S.)

I hear you fired all your servants?

# **GATSBY:**

Daisy comes over sometimes in theafternoons and I wanted some peoplewho wouldn't gossip... until we

decided what we're going to do...

You see these two towns are prettyclose together. And it gets in thepapers... You understand?

(clarifies)

They're some people Wolfsheimwanted to do something for.

93.

Herzog stands in the shadows; and the old European womanpours coffee and then recedes...

GATSBY (CONT'D)

What's the difference as long as

they can cook and make beds...?

INT. PROBITY TRUST - NICK'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

Nick holds the phone close to his ear, trying to hear Gatsbyabove the din around him; his work is piled high...

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - MAPROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

Gatsby whispers into the phone...

### GATSBY:

(excited)

Nick... Daisy's ready. Shes ready.

But there's just one thing. She's

requested that you and Miss Bakerbe there, at lunch tomorrow, at her

house... Will you come, old sport?

(an admission)

Daisy needs you. I... We need you.

Will you come old sport?

INT. PROBITY TRUST - NICK'S OFFICE - LATE AFTERNOON

### PUSH IN ON:

# DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BUCHANAN MANSION - DAY

#### WIDE SHOT:

### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUCHANAN MANSION - DINING ROOM - DAY

### CLOSE ON:

# TOM:

You know, I read somewhere that the

sun's getting hotter every year...

Blue cigar smoke wafts over the clearing of plates...

94.

TOM (CONT'D)

Or wait a minute; it's the

opposite...

Tom stands and strolls to the open French window...

TOM (CONT'D)

The sun is getting colder every

year...

Daisy grips a wine glass in her trembling hand; her eyes areterrified, perspiration forms on her upper lip. She glancesto Gatsby, who stares resolutely from across the table.

#### CLOSE ON:

The tension is excruciating.

Out the window Tom catches sight of a sailboat across thebay.

```
TOM (CONT'D)

How I'd like to be out on that bay today.
```

### CLOSE ON:

outline of his castle.

### GATSBY:

I'm right across from you.
(points)
Right there.

### TOM:

(unimpressed)

So you are.

Gatsby slowly stands and walks behind Daisy.

### GATSBY:

Every night I can see that light at the end of your dock, blinking.

# TOM:

What light?
Gatsby gently moves his hand over Daisy's...

#### GATSBY:

You see, Mr. Buchanan, I wanted to be close-- Daisy and I-With sudden intensity Daisy stands! 95.

### DAISY:

(on the verge of tears)
It's so hot...
Agitated, she sweeps toward the sideboard.
DAISY (CONT'D)
Everything's so confused.
She plucks a cigarette from a carved box, and fumbles withthe paperweight-sized lighter.
DAISY (CONT'D)
What'll we do with ourselves this afternoon...? And the day afterthat...
(she snaps it again)
...and for the next thirty years?
(turns suddenly)

Let's all go to town! Who wants to go to town?

Her nervous hands drop the lighter, which crashes to themahogany floor. All but Tom recoil in shock.

#### TOM:

Town!? Women... They get thesenotions...

Gatsby walks to Daisy... As Tom puffs, Gatsby retrieves thelighter in one hand, and with his other gently guides Daisy'strembling hand... In that moment, their eyes tenderly meet...

# **GATSBY:**

(whispers)
Daisy...

#### DAISY:

(as if they are alone)

You look so cool. You always lookso cool, like the advertisement of the man... in Times Square...

### CLOSE ON:

DAISY (CONT'D)

The man in the cool, beautiful,

shirts.

CAMERA FLOATS TOWARD TOM... He violently snuffs his cigar.

NICK (V.O.)

She had told Gatsby that she lovedhim - and Tom had seen...

96.

SUDDENLY Tom explodes!

### TOM:

Let's go to town! I'm perfectly willing...! That's a marvelous idea! Henri! Have the car broughtaround immediately!

# DAISY:

Just like that? Can't anyone at least have a cigarette?

# TOM:

We've smoked all through lunch.

### DAISY:

Oh, let's have fun. It's too hot to

fuss.

### TOM:

It was your great idea Daisy. Whydon't we!? We'll all go to town! Daisy doesn't budge.

#### DAISY:

I've changed my mind...
(teases)
You brute.

# TOM:

(a dangerous intensity)
You've got me all excited, and now
you don't want to go? We'll get a
great big room at the Plaza, a coldbucket of ice, and some whiskey...
It will be fun.

### DAISY:

Fine. Have it your own way, Tom...

Come on, Jordan.

As she and Jordan rush past Tom, down the hall, Tom turnscalmly to Gatsby.

### TOM:

Will you join us, Mr. Gatsby?
Then turns and calls to Henri...
97.
TOM (CONT'D)

Henri! Get some whiskey! Twobottles, wrapped in a towel.

### CUT TO:

EXT. BUCHANAN MANSION - DAY

# CLOSE ON:

standuncomfortably on the drive, waiting for Tom and the women. BANG! Tom storms out wrapping a quart bottle in a towel. Daisy and Jordan follow.

# TOM:

Mr. Gatsby! Would you be goodenough to take my coupé? And I'll drive everyone else in your circus wagon.

# **GATSBY:**

I don't think there's much gas, old sport.

Gatsby looks to Daisy, a burning stare.

### TOM:

(looks at the gauge)

Plenty of gas. And if we run out,

then we'll stop at a drug store.

I hear you can buy anything at adrug store nowadays...

(savagely eyes Gatsby)

Isn't that right, Mr. Gatsby?

A moment of sharp tension; Daisy wrenches from Tom's arm.

# DAISY:

You take Nick and Jordan, Tom!

She slips quickly into the coupé...

DAISY (CONT'D)

We'll meet you at the Plaza! I'll

be the man on the corner smokingtwo cigarettes...

Gatsby's and Tom's eyes flash; a harsh, competitive glance.

Tom lunges into the Duesenberg, slams the gears and lurchesaway, leaving Gatsby, Daisy, and the coupé in the dust.

98.

I/E. GATSBY'S CAR - LONG ISLAND COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Tom throttles forward, watching Jordan and Nick...

# TOM:

You think I'm pretty dumb, don'tyou? But I have a-- an almostsecond sight, sometimes, that tellsme what to do. And I've made a small investigation of this fellow.

# JORDAN:

(condescending)

And you found he was an Oxford man?

# TOM:

Oxford, New Mexico! He wears a pinksuit for Christ's sake! With that, Tom shifts gears and the Duesenberg rockets on!

# DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE VALLEY OF ASHES - DAY

# HIGH AND WIDE:

JORDAN (O.C.)

(mocking)

We're almost out of gas Tom...

EXT. THE VALLEY OF ASHES - WILSON'S GARAGE - DAY

SCRREEECH! Tom slams the breaks and the Duesenberg slides toa stop at Wilson's...

Wilson doesn't budge. He's staring with sickly eyes at the giant billboard of Dr. T. J. Eckleberg.

### TOM:

Wilson! Wilson! What are youwaiting for!? Let's have some gas...

(gets out)

Do I have to do it myself?

# WILSON:

I'm sick. I'm all run down. I need money bad... My wife and I want togo West. 99.

# TOM:

Your wife does...?

Tom glances up to the window above the garage. Myrtle's face, badly bruised, stares back. Tom clocks this, and hesitates... NICK (V.O.)

Tom was feeling the hot whips ofpanic. His mistress and wife, anhour ago so secure, were bothslipping from his control...

# WILSON:

I just got wised-up to somethingfunny the last two days. She'sgoin' whether she wants to or not.

Tom isn't listening... He sees the coupe approaching at highspeed, threatening to leave him in the dust!

# TOM:

What do I owe you!?

### WILSON:

Dollar twenty.

The blue coupé flashes by. Tom glances back to Myrtle... Andthen jumps into the Duesenberg.

# TOM:

You can have the car! I'll send it around tomorrow!

He throws coins into the dirt for Wilson to collect. Then he floors the gas and peels out after the coupé!

I/E. GATSBY'S CAR/TOM'S COUPÉ - DAY

VRRROOMM! The cars roar neck-and-neck, veering, swerving andskidding PERILOUSLY close.

As Tom and Gatsby shoot dangerous glances at one another, Daisy waves carefree back to Tom....

# PAN UP:

theglimmering, golden city...

# SLAM CUT TO:

100.

INT. PLAZA HOTEL. SUITE - DAY

CRACK! CRACK! CRACK! Shards of ice spilt off from a hunk as abell-boy makes ice-cubes...

### TOM:

That's enough...

The room is large and stifling hot, it has been filled withhuge ice buckets in an attempt to cool it. Gatsby, Tom, Nick,

Daisy and Jordan are bathed in a thin sheen of perspiration.

### DAISY:

Open another window.

# NICK:

There aren't any more.

### DAISY:

Then telephone for an axe...

# TOM:

Forget about the heat. You make itworse by crabbing about it.

# GATSBY:

Why not let her alone, old sport?

# TOM:

That's a great expression of yours, isn't it?

### GATSBY:

What is?

Tom turns to Gatsby...

# TOM:

'Old sport'. Where'd you pick itup?

### DAISY:

Now see here, Tom; if you're goingto make personal remarks I won'tstay here one minute.

Gatsby's foot beats a restless tattoo; Tom eyes him suddenly.

# TOM:

Mr. Gatsby, I understand you're anOxford man.

# **GATSBY:**

No, not exactly.

101.

### TOM:

Oh yes, I understand you went toOxford.

### GATSBY:

Yes - I went there.

Tom's laugh is incredulous and insulting.

#### TOM:

Sure; the man in the pink suit wentto Oxford!

# DAISY:

Tom...!

Gatsby stands.

# GATSBY:

(slow, intense)

I told you I went there.

# TOM:

I heard you, but I'd like to knowwhen.

# GATSBY:

You'd like to know when....? It was

in nineteen-nineteen, I only stayedfive months. That's why I can'texactly call myself an Oxford man.

Tom glances around to see if the others mirror his disbelief.

But they are all looking at Gatsby.

### GATSBY (CONT'D)

You see, it was an opportunity they gave to some of the officers who actually fought in the war.

Nick can't help but smile.

NICK (V.O.)

I wanted to get up and slap Gatsbyon the back.

#### DAISY:

I'll make you a drink Tom, then youwon't seem so stupid to yourself... But Tom's not done yet.

102.

### TOM:

Wait a minute, I want to ask Mr. Gatsby one more question.

### GATSBY:

Go on. Please Mr. Buchanan, go on.

### TOM:

What kind of a row are you tryingto cause in my house anyhow? They are out in the open at last and Gatsby is content.

### DAISY:

He isn't causing a row; you'recausing a row. Please have a littleself-control!

# TOM:

Self-control! I suppose the latestthing is to sit back and let Mr. Nobody from Nowhere make love toyour wife? Well, if that's the ideayou can count me out... See,

nowadays people begin by sneeringat family life and familyinstitutions and next you knowthey'll throw everything overboardand we'll have intermarriage

between black and white!

#### JORDAN:

We're all white here, Tom.

# GATSBY :

Your wife doesn't love you. She'snever loved you. She loves me!

### TOM:

You must be crazy.

### GATSBY:

No, old sport. See, she never lovedyou... She only married you because I was poor and she was tired ofwaiting. It was a terrible, terrible mistake, but in her heart she never loved anyone but me!

### JORDAN:

We should go...

### GATSBY:

Daisy and I have nothing to hide...
103.

# DAISY:

Jay let's go, please...!

### TOM:

Sit down Daisy!

# GATSBY:

(reassuring)

Yes, Daisy, please sit down.

Tom's voice gropes unsuccessfully for the paternal note.

### TOM:

What's been going on? I want to hear all about it.

### GATSBY:

I just told you what's been going on; its been going on for five years...!
Tom turns to Daisy sharply.

# TOM:

You've been seeing him for five years?

# GATSBY:

Not seeing. No, we couldn't; but both of us loved each other all that time, old sport, and you didn't know. I used to laugh

sometimes, to think that you didn't know...

#### TOM:

Oh - that's all; you're crazy! I can't speak about what happened five years ago, because I didn't know Daisy then - but I'll be damned if I see how you got within a mile of her unless you brought the groceries to the back door. But all the rest of that's a god-damned lie. Daisy loved me when she married me and she loves me now. Tom starts to make himself a drink...

### GATSBY:

No...

104.

### TOM:

She does, though... And what'smore, I love Daisy too. Once in awhile I go off on a spree, but Ialways come back, and in my heart Ilove her all the time...

# DAISY:

You're revolting...

Daisy's voice drops an octave lower, filling the room with thrilling scorn...

DAISY (CONT'D)

Do you know why we left Chicago...?

I'm surprised they didn't treat youto the story of that little spree. Gatsby walks over and stands beside Daisy.

# GATSBY:

That's all over now. Just tell him

the truth, that you never lovedhim; and all this... all this painwill be wiped out forever.

Daisy looks at Gatsby blindly.

# DAISY:

Why, how could I love him, possibly?

### GATSBY:

You never loved him.

Daisy hesitates; too late, she realizes what she is doing.

# DAISY:

I never loved him.

# GATSBY:

That's right...

### TOM:

Not at Kapiolani?

# DAISY:

No.

### TOM:

(a husky tenderness)

Not that day I carried you downfrom the Punch Bowl to keep yourshoes dry...? Daisy? Never?

105.

# DAISY:

Please don't.

# TOM:

Daisy...

Her voice is cold, but the anger is gone.

# DAISY:

There, Jay.

She trembles as she looks to Gatsby...

DAISY (CONT'D)

You want too much! I love you now;

isn't that enough? I can't helpwhat's past.

(begins to sob)

I did love him once; but I loved

you too.

# GATSBY :

(shocked, uncomprehending)

You loved me too?

# TOM:

(savage)

Even that's a lie. She didn't know

you were alive. There are thingsbetween Daisy and me that you'llnever know, things that neither ofus can ever forget.

The words seem to bite physically into Gatsby.

### GATSBY:

I want to speak to Daisy alone.

She's all excited now...

#### DAISY:

Even alone I can't say I neverloved Tom. It wouldn't be true.

# TOM:

Of course it wouldn't.

Daisy turns to her husband.

### DAISY:

As if it mattered to you.

106.

#### TOM:

Of course it matters. I'm going totake better care of you from now on.

# GATSBY:

You're not taking care of her anymore! Daisy's leaving you.

### TOM:

Nonsense.

# DAISY:

(with visible effort)

I am, though.

### TOM:

She's not leaving me; and certainlynot for a common swindler!

Tom's words suddenly lean down over Gatsby.

TOM (CONT'D)

Mr. Gatsby, who exactly are youanyhow? You see, I have made asmall

investigation into youraffairs... You're one of MeyerWolfsheim's bunch.

Tom turns to the others and speaks rapidly.

TOM (CONT'D)

See, he and this Wolfsheim boughtup a lot of 'drug stores' and

soldbootlegged alcohol over the counter!

# GATSBY:

What about it, old sport?

### TOM:

Don't call me 'old sport!' Thisdrug store business is just smallchange compared to the bonds stuntyou and Wolfsheim have got going on now.

### GATSBY:

Well your friend Walter Chase isn'ttoo proud to come in on it. 107.

# TOM:

I've been giving that some thought.

How does a reputable banker likeWalter Chase find himself up to hiseyeballs in debt to a little kikelike Wolfsheim?

### GATSBY:

It's called 'greed,' old sport.

# TOM:

That's right; you've got half of Wall Street out there swilling yourfree booze at that fun park everyweekend...

(to Nick)

I'm surprised he hasn't tried to

drag you in...

Nick looks away sharply. Tom registers this.

TOM (CONT'D)

My God, he has...

# GATSBY:

He's got nothing to do with-

### TOM:

With your little racket...

(to Daisy)

Daisy... Can't you see who this guyis? With his house and his parties and his fancy clothes; he's just a

front for Wolfsheim, a gangster, toget his claws into respectable folklike Walter...!

### GATSBY:

```
(a vicious sneer)
The only respectable thing aboutyou, old sport, is your money,
that's it, and now I've just as
much as you; so that means we're
equal!!
Tom smiles with smug, condescending scorn.
```

### TOM:

```
Oh no, no, we're different; I am,
(gesturing at Nick andJordan)
They are...
(now at Daisy)
She is;
(MORE)
108.
TOM (CONT'D)
we're all different from you - we
were born different, it's in our
blood, and nothing you do, or say,
or steal or dream up, can ever
change that... And a girl likeDaisy will never...!
Gatsby explodes with terrifying rage.
```

#### GATSBY:

```
SHUT UP! SHUT UP! SHUTTT UP!!!!

Shock jolts the room. We float toward Gatsby. His rage-filledeyes stare into the void, as, with all his willpower, herestrains himself from ripping Tom apart...

NICK (V.O)

Gatsby looked, in that moment... asif he had "killed a man."

Tom snorts a dismissive laugh.
```

# TOM:

That's right Mr. Gatsby, show us those fine Oxford manners...

Gatsby recovers and turns to Diasy, who is trembling in thecorner, on the verge of tears.

# DAISY:

My sincerest apologies. I... I seemto have lost my temper. Struggling for self control, Gatsby turns toward her as ifTom suddenly no longer exists.

### GATSBY:

Daisy darling... None of this hasany consequence. Don't listen to him Daisy.

Daisy blanches; Gatsby, now desperate, babbles incoherently.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

We're going back to Louisville to

be married. Then we're going to

live together in our house; it's-

There is a feeling of excruciating unease in the room.

### CLOSE ON:

109.

NICK (V.O.)

He began talking excitedly, denying everything... But with every word Daisy was drawing further and further into herself, until only the dead dream fought on...

#### DAISY:

Please Tom; I can't stand this anymore!

Daisy is staring, terrified, courage gone; she looks to Tom.

#### TOM:

You two start on home...

(to Gatsby)

In Mr. Gatsby's car.

Daisy is alarmed now.

TOM (CONT'D)

Go on. He won't annoy you. I think

he realizes that his little

flirtation... is over.

Daisy, hysterical, runs from the room; Gatsby pursues her.

# GATSBY:

Daisy...!

Daisy and Gatsby are gone. A terrible silence fills the room. Tom begins wrapping the unopened whiskey bottle in the towel.

# TOM:

Want any of this? Jordan? Nick? Nick?

# NICK :

What?

#### TOM:

Want any?

### NICK:

No... I just remembered - today's my birthday. I'm thirty.

Tom mutters as he pours himself a drink...

### TOM:

Happy birthday...

Nick is staring out the window, lost in thought...
110.

NICK (V.O.)

Thirty - the promise of a decade ofloneliness...

### NICK'S POV:

NICK (V.O.)

The formidable stroke of thirtydied away, as Gatsby and Daisydrove on through the coolingtwilight, towards death...

### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. WILSON'S BEDROOM - TWILIGHT
MYRTLE FLIES PAST CAMERA as Wilson drags her across the room!

# WILSON:

God knows everything you've beendoing!

Grabbing his wife's hair he presses her face to the window.

WILSON (CONT'D)

You might fool me but you can'tfool God!

OVER WILSON'S SHOULDER, we see with shock, that he is lookingat the eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleberg.

WILSON (CONT'D)

God sees everything!

Below the Eckleberg sign a train thunders through the levelcrossing.

The final carriage clears to reveal Gatsby's yellow car waiting on the other side of the crossing.

# CLOSE ON:

### MYRTLE :

(thinking its Tom)

He's here...

WHACK! Myrtle gives a sudden backhand to Wilson's face as shetwists from his grasp!

# CUT TO:

111.

EXT. WILSON'S GARAGE - TWILIGHT

Standing outside his restaurant, the owner, MICHAELIS seesMyrtle rush out of the garage shouting hysterically.

#### MYRTLE:

Stop, Tom, please, stop!
I/E. GATSBY'S CAR - CONTINUOUS
SUDDENLY! Myrtle appears in the headlights of Gatsby's car...

#### ECU:

as Gatsby's hand on the wheel tries to veer away...!

#### **GATSBY:**

No...!

BUT the car STRIKES Myrtle!

SLOW MOTION, TERRIBLE, NIGHTMARISH, EXPRESSIONISTIC IMAGES: Glass shattering, blood splattering, Daisy screaming, Myrtle's body flying through the air, her pearls showering the night like a thousand new stars...

THUMP. Her torn open body hits the ground.

# CLOSE ON:

Eckleberg, watching everything...

DISSOLVE THROUGH THE WHITES OF THE EYES TO:
INT. TOM'S COUPÉ - NIGHT

# CLOSE ON:

As the coupé nears, Nick, Tom and Jordan see the commotion.

# TOM:

Wreck...! Good. Wilson will have a little business at last... Let's take a look..

# JORDAN:

Must we?

# TOM:

Just a look.

112.

INT. WILSON'S GARAGE - NIGHT

The dim garage is lit only by a swinging yellow globe.

Wilson stands on the raised threshold of his office, swaying and wailing a high, horrible call.

### WILSON:

O, my Ga-od! O, my Ga-od!

A crush of gawking spectators speak in hushed tones.

# CUT TO:

# CLOSE ON:

MYRTLE'S BODY, wrapped in a blanket, lies on a work table. Tom bends over it, shocked, motionless.

### CUT TO:

A POLICEMAN stands next to Tom taking down names.

# POLICEMAN:

(to Tom)
Sir. Sir, I'm gonna have to ask you
to step away-

### TOM:

Get off me...!
(regains his composure)
I'm fine. I'm fine.

### POLICEMAN:

You knew her?

# TOM:

(a long pause)
No... Not really...

# POLICEMAN:

Well then I have to ask you to stepback.

# TOM:

What happened...?

# POLICEMAN:

She ran out 'inna road. Son-of-a-

bitch didn't even stopus car.

A well-dressed African American man steps near.

113.

WELL-DRESSED MAN

I saw it! It was a yellow car; bigyellow car.

### CUT TO:

# PUSH IN:

The Greek restaurant owner MICHAELIS pipes up.

#### MICHAELIS:

Yeah, a big yellow duezy; custom job.

Some of this conversation has reached Wilson; suddenlysighting Tom, he moves toward him with a cry...

#### WILSON:

You don't have to tell me what kind of car it was! I know what kind of car it was!

Tom, realizing the danger, moves quickly and seizes Wilson.

#### TOM:

(a soothing gruffness)

Pull yourself together...

Wilson, distraught, almost collapses, but Tom holds himupright and pushes him into:

INT. WILSON'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Tom sets Wilson down and whispers intensely.

# TOM:

Listen, I just got here from NewYork. I was bringing you the coupé. That yellow car wasn't mine, do youhear? I haven't seen it all afternoon.

The policeman follows and turns suspiciously to Tom.

# POLICEMAN:

What color's your car?

### TOM:

Blue, a coupé; we've come straightfrom New York.

### MICHAELIS:

Yeah, they just stopped...

114.

The policeman accepts, suspicious still...

# POLICEMAN:

Alright... Blue.

In the relative calm of the office, Wilson's clouded, desperate eyes look up at Tom.

#### WILSON:

Who owns the yella' car...?

# TOM:

(a tiny pause)

Fella named Gatsby; he's a crook,

George. Gives those parties thepapers are always talking about...

### WILSON:

Maybe he was the one foolin' with Myrtle; maybe that's why he killed her...?

### TOM:

Yeah. Maybe. Guy like that, whoknows... Wilson starts sobbing again.

# WILSON:

Oh, Ga-od! Oh, my Ga-od! He rests his head on Tom's shoulder... Tom consoles Wilson and then whispers...

# TOM:

Gatsby. Something outta be doneabout a fella like that. He'll pay... Oh, he'll pay...

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. TOM'S COUPÉ - NIGHT

# CLOSE ON:

#### TOM:

The goddamn coward didn't even stophis car...

Jordan and Nick sit silently beside Tom; he turns to them,

triumphantly accusing...

115.

TOM (CONT'D)

You gonna defend him now, huh?

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BUCHANAN MANSION - NIGHT

The coupe drifts slowly up the drive.

EXT. BUCHANAN MANSION - NIGHT

As they walk up the stone staircase, Tom disposes of thesituation in a few brisk phrases.

#### TOM:

I'll telephone for a taxi, Nick.

Come in and have some supper whileyou wait...

Tom opens the door.

## NICK:

No thanks. I'll wait outside.

Tom stares at Nick, absorbing his disdain.

## TOM:

What is the matter with you?

Tom snorts and goes in; Jordan puts her hand on Nick's arm.

# JORDAN:

Won't you come in, Nick?

## NICK:

No... thanks.

# JORDAN:

It's only half past nine...

#### NICK:

No. I think I've had enough... Of everyone.

# CLOSE ON:

But Nick stares decisively back; after a moment he turns sharply and walks off. Dejected, Jordan sweeps inside... 116.

EXT. BUCHANAN MANSION - NIGHT

As Nick's feet crunch upon the white gravel of the drive, heis startled by

a voice from the shadows...

# **GATSBY:**

Hello old sport...

Cautiously, Nick approaches the hedge. The closer he gets themore certain he becomes: Gatsby is hiding, just below Daisy'swindow. His pace quickens.

## NICK:

What are you doing!?

#### GATSBY:

Just sitting here...

# NICK :

Yes, I can see that.

#### GATSBY:

Did you see any trouble out on theroad?

# NICK:

Trouble!? That woman you ran downis dead Jay!

# GATSBY:

I thought so ... I told Daisy Ithoughts so-

# NICK :

Daisy? Do you hear yourself-

# GATSBY:

Its better that the shock should come all at once-

#### NICK:

What's wrong with you!? How could you!?

## GATSBY:

Please... Keep your voice down, old sport.

## NICK:

Tom was right! You're nothing but agoddamn coward! 117.

#### GATSBY:

(threatening)

Keep your voice down... There. Was.

No. Point. In. Stopping.

## NICK:

NO POINT!?

# GATSBY:

It, it killed her instantly. I-

## NICK:

Yes, I was there. I saw! It rippedher open!
Panicked, Gatsby grabs Nick, trying to explain...

#### GATSBY:

I understand-- It was... my fault.

This woman just rushed out, as ifshe wanted to speak to us... It allhappened so quickly. She-- I...

tried-- to turn the wheel.

## NICK:

She?

SUDDENLY! The CREAK of a door opening. A shaft of light... Henri emerges.

AN INTERMINABLE moment. Gatsby and Nick hold their breaths. Finally, Henri goes back in.

# CLOSE ON:

NICK (CONT'D)

It was Daisy?

Finally, and very slowly, Gatsby admits.

# GATSBY:

You see, after we left New York, she was very nervous. She thoughtdriving would steady her. But thiswoman, she just rushed out at us.

# CUT TO:

that it was Daisy behind the wheel...

GATSBY (CONT'D)

It all happened so quickly. Itwasn't her fault...

(MORE)

118.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

It was my fault. I should havetaken the wheel...

(intense)

No one must know. Promise me. No

one. Promise me.

# NICK:

Jay-- You shouldn't be here. You should get out of here.

Gatsby gazes back to the house...

## GATSBY:

No. No. No. I'm going to wait. I'll

wait all night if necessary. Yousee, Daisy's locked herself in her room, and she's going to turn her

light off and on again if he tries to bother her about that unpleasantness this afternoon. Ifhe tries ANY brutality whatsoever-

#### NICK:

Tom won't touch her. He's not even thinking about her...

## **GATSBY:**

Oh, I don't trust him, old sport. Idon't trust him. Nick considers the light at the end of the terrace.

# NICK:

Alright. Alright... You wait here.

I'll see if there's any commotion.

## GATSBY:

Would you do that for me? Thankyou. Thank you, old sport.

EXT. BUCHANAN MANSION - TERRACE - NIGHT

Nick skirts the terrace...

Rounding the corner, Nick, unseen in the shadows, can see Tomand Daisy sitting at one end of the vast dining table, aplate of cold chicken and two bottles of ale between them.

As Tom speaks intently and earnestly at Daisy, his hand fallsgently upon hers and she nods tiredly in agreement...

#### TOM:

Its going to be all right...

119

Then, very slowly, Daisy lays her head on Tom's shoulder.

### CLOSE ON:

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. NICK'S BUNGALOW - PORCH - NIGHT

## **DISCOVER:**

The sound of a car coming up Gatsby's drive...

INT. GATSBY'S GARAGE - NIGHT

## CLOSE ON:

Nick appears, coming across the yard.

# NICK :

Jay? Everything alright...? Exhausted, Gatsby turns...

#### GATSBY:

Oh, hello, old sport. Yes, yes, everything's just fine... About four o'clock she came to the window; she stood there... Then, well, she turned out the light... So...

(beckons to the car)

Give me a hand will you old sport?

## CLOSE ON:

NICK (V.O.)
I should have told him what I had just seen. But all I could manage was...

# NICK:

Jay... You oughtta go away.

He helps Gatsby cover the car.

NICK (CONT'D)

Tonight. They'll trace your car.

# GATSBY:

(as if Nick is crazy)
Go away? I can't leave now. Not
tonight.
120.

#### NICK:

Do you understand that a woman hasbeen killed--? Nick follows him from the garage toward the house.

## **GATSBY:**

Daisy's going to call in the morning. Then we'll make plans, to go away together.

## NICK:

But Jay she-

Sensing Nick's tone, Gatsby cuts him off and banishes all doubt with intense certainty.

#### GATSBY:

She just needs time to think... (he continues, calm)
She'll call. In the morning. She just needs time to think.

## NICK:

Jay-

#### GATSBY:

She just needs to think. She's going to call in the morning.

Gatsby smiles that smile of endless possibility...

He turns to go in but stops.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Wait up with me? The suns almost up...

NICK (V.O.)

That was the night he finally toldme the truth. All of it.

## DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - MAPROOM - NIGHT
Gatsby's voice echoes through the empty halls of his vast,
lonely mansion as he confesses...

## GATSBY:

You know, I thought for awhile Ihad a lot of things... But thetruth is... I'm empty.

(MORE)

121.

GATSBY (CONT'D)

I suppose that's why I make things

up about myself... But I've wanted

to tell you the whole story for along time... You see. I grew up,

terribly, terribly poor, old sport.

My folks were, well--

As Gatbsy continues, Nick's V.O. FADES UP:

NICK (V.O.)

He revealed his humble beginnings,

his transformative voyage with DanCody, the war, Oxford, and how he'djoined Wolfsheim in the business...

## DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - WHARF - PRE-DAWN

In the silvery pre-dawn, Nick and Gatsby trail slowly towardthe end of the dock.

NICK (V.O.)

It was also that night that Ibecame aware of Gatsby's... extraordinary gift for hope.

#### GATSBY:

...I can't describe to you howsurprised I was to find out that Iloved her, old sport. And that sheloved me too.

NICK (V.O.)

A gift that I have never found inany other person...

## **GATSBY:**

I never realized just howextraordinary a nice girl could be.

NICK (V.O.

And which it is not likely I shallever find again.

# GATSBY :

I thought out my life with Daisy init, trying to figure out how we could marry and struggle along onso many dollars a month...

Finally, Nick is able to ask:

122.

# NICK:

What was in the letter?

Gatsby reaches the end of the wharf and looks to the greenlight across the bay...

# GATSBY:

The truth, the reason why after thewar, I hadn't been able to return-In the clouds overhead, the IMAGE OF DAISY, in the bathtub with the DISSOLVING LETTER... And now, we can see what Gatsbywrote in that fateful, last letter: "Daisy, the truth is...

I'm penniless."

GATSBY (O.C.) (CONT'D)

I asked her to wait until I'd made

something of myself. But -- She wasyoung, there was so much pressure.

The IMAGE of Daisy fades...

GATSBY (CONT'D)

You see, I felt married to her...

That was all.

NICK (V.O.)

It had all been for her. The house the parties, everything.

#### CUT TO:

INT. WILSON'S GARAGE - DAY

#### CLOSE ON:

It is Wilson.

# FLOAT:

WE SEE the staring eyes of Doctor T. J. Eckleberg.

# WILSON:

God sees everything.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - TERRACE - MORNING Nick and Gatsby are finishing breakfast.

## HERZOG:

Mr. Gatsby sir, excuse me, Chicagocalling sir. 123.

## GATSBY:

Now now. Keep it open. For apersonal call...

# HERZOG:

A personal call? Of course.

The GARDENER comes to the foot of the steps.

## GARDENER:

I'm going to drain the pool today, Mr. Gatsby.

#### GATSBY:

Not today. It's so beautiful.

(to Nick)

You know, old sport, I've neverused that pool all summer?

Gatsby enthusiastically heads down the stairs...

GATSBY (CONT'D)

Let's go for a swim. I'll have the

phone transferred to the pool...

As Gatsby heads toward the pool, Nick checks his watch...

## NICK:

Jay, I've got to go. I have to work.

#### GATSBY:

I understand... Well, I'll walk you

out.

Gatsby leads Nick toward the side gate. At the gate...

# NICK:

I'll call you up.

#### GATSBY:

Do, old sport, please do.

(a thought)

I suppose Daisy'll call too.

## NICK:

I suppose so... Well... Goodbye.

Nick lingers... Then they shake hands and he starts away.

Just before he reaches the hedge he turns back and calls:

124.

NICK (CONT'D)

They're a rotten crowd! You'reworth the whole damn bunch puttogether! First Gatsby nods politely, and then his face breaks intothat radiant and understanding smile.

NICK (V.O.)

I was always glad I said that... Itwas the only compliment I ever paidhim.

# DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PROBITY TRUST BUILDING - NICK'S OFFICE - DAY

# CLOSE ON:

NICK (V.O.)

That morning, Wall Street boomed,

its usual golden roar... But Iwasn't worth a decent stroke of work. I waited for Gatsby to callwith news...

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - POOL - DAY

Gatsby heads for the pool, ready to swim...

NICK (V.O.)

While he waited for Daisy...

SPLASH! Gatsby dives gracefully into the pool.

We see Gatsby from below, body gliding through clear water.

INT. BUCHANAN MANSION - DAISY'S BEDROOM - DAY

#### CLOSE ON:

## **REVEAL:**

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GROUNDS - DAY

A gun dangles from a hand.

Wilson's scarecrow shadow ripples across the lawn.

125.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - POOL - CONTINUOUS

Gatsby's head breaks the smooth, green surface of the water.

SUDDENLY! BRRRING!!! The phone rings...

Gatsby smiles and gazes across toward the green light, toward Daisy.

# PULL FOCUS:

THE CRACK OF A GUNSHOT!

## CLOSE ON:

His lips form a final, breathless...

# **GATSBY:**

Daisy...

Then his face hardens as he slowly falls backwards... SPLASH! Placing his gun in his mouth Wilson pulls the trigger.

#### BANNNGG!

INT. PROBITY TRUST BUILDING - NICK'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

A SILENT IMAGE of Nick screaming into the phone.

INT. BUCHANAN MANSION - DAISY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Daisy's hand rests on the phone... She never called.

#### DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - POOL - DAY

Gatsby's body descends through a cloud of blood...

```
NICK (V.O.)
After all these years, I rememberthe rest of that day, and that night and
the next day as anendless drill...
Looking up from the bottom of the pool we see a crowd ofstaring faces and
the pop of flashbulbs through water...
NICK (V.O.)
... of police and photographers andtabloid reporters.
(MORE)
126.
NICK (V.O.) (CONT'D)
The headlines were a nightmare...
They pinned everything on Gatsby.
THROUGH THE WATER HEADLINES FADE IN:
"BOOTLEGGER KILLS MISTRESS!"
NICK (V.O.)
The affair with Myrtle...
"HIT AND RUN"
NICK (V.O.)
The hit and run...
"GATSBY GUILTY OF MURDER!"
NICK (V.O.)
Everything.
INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - DAY
ECU:
NICK (V.O.)
And there was nothing I could sayexcept the one unutterable factthat none
of it was true...
PULL TO REVEAL:
coffin and crowded by a crush of policemen,
photographers and reporters...
INT. BUCHANAN MANSION - PORTICO - DAY
TOP SHOT:
down the stairs, and out the front door...
BRRIIING!!! A phone rings OFF-SCREEN.
At the bottom of the stairs, DISCOVER: Daisy and Pammy.
DAISY:
(explains to Pammy)
Daddy's taking care of his two
```

BRRIIING!!!

favorite girls...

#### PAMMY:

But where are we going? 127.

## DAISY:

Just for a little trip. Just you, me, and daddy...

BRRIIING!!!

Tom appears beside Daisy.

# TOM:

(tenderly)

We should go.

BRRIIING!!! Finally, at the top of the stairs, Henri answers.

#### **HENRI:**

Buchanan residence.

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

# **DISCOVER:**

Gatsby coffin is directly below...

## NICK:

May I speak to Mrs. Buchanan? It's Mr. Carraway, her cousin...
HENRI (O.S.)
Madame is not available.

## NICK:

Well, when you see her, will youtell her, the funeral's tomorrow? INT. BUCHANAN MANSION - PORTICO - CONTINUOUS Henri looks down to Tom, who shoots a "we're not here" look.

## **HENRI:**

I'm sorry, but... They have gone
away.
NICK (O.S.)
Gone away...? Do you know whenthey'll be back.

## **HENRI:**

No.

128.

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS

NICK: Please, I know she would want to be there. If you could just get amessage to her-HENRI (O.S.) I have no further information monsieur. Au revoir. INT. BUCHANAN MANSION - PORTICO - CONTINUOUS CLICK. Henri abruptly hangs up. NICK (O.S.) Hello...? Hello!? The Buchanan family exits... INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - CONTINUOUS As Nick slowly, bitterly hangs up the telephone... NICK (V.O.) They were careless people, Tom andDaisy. They smashed up things andpeople and then retreated back into their money and their vastcarelessness... He looks to the throng of press swarming like vultures aroundGatsby's casket. Seized by fury, he snaps and screams as he advances down the stairs! NICK: GET OUT! ALL OF YOU OUT! GET OUT...!!! DISSOLVE TO: INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - GRAND BALLROOM - NIGHT Time has passed. Nick sits on the steps slouched against therail. He looks down to Gatsby's still face, sad, alone... NICK (V.O.) I rang, I wrote, I implored... THE CAMERA PUSHES SLOWLY DOWN TOWARD GATSBY: 129. NICK (V.O.) But not a single one of thesparkling hundreds who had enjoyedhis hospitality all summer, attended the funeral... ECU: NICK (V.O.) And from Daisy, not even a flower. Distraught and exhausted, Nick's eyes slowly close... NICK (V.O.)

I was all he had; the only one whocared...

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANITARIUM - DOCTOR'S OFFICE - SUMMER - MORNING

Nick is sound as leep on the couch, his typewriter and dozensof type-filled pages in front of him. Clearly, he has been writing all night...

The Doctor enters. He looks tenderly to Nick, and picks up aloose page from the floor...

DISSOLVE THROUGH THE PAGE TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

Its winter now.

The city is blanketed by an unforgiving, cold grey sky...

NICK (V.O.)

After Gatsby's death, New York washaunted for me...

#### **DISCOVER:**

wandering unshaven through a Fifth Avenue crowd...

NICK (V.O.)

That city... My once golden...

shimmering mirage, now made mesick.

# DISSOLVE TO:

130.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - FRONT GATES - EVENING

# DRIFT TOWARD:

NICK (V.O.)

On my last night in New York... Ireturned to that huge, incoherenthouse once more.

#### DISSOLVE TO:

INT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - NIGHT

Very drunk, Nick trails over broken relics of lost grandeur,

through rooms that have been stripped...

NICK (V.O.)

Wolfsheim's 'associates' had

cleaned the place out...

# ALL AROUND NICK:

glittering parties, haunting snatches of music, laughter and conversation, imagery - mixing and FADING IN ANDOUT...

#### JORDAN:

He threw all those parties hopingshe would wander in one night...

#### NICK:

Its like an amusement park...

#### DAISY:

But how do you live her all alone?

## **GATSBY:**

She makes it look so splendid, don't you think, old sport?

#### DAISY:

Music! And then we can dance all night...

## **GATSBY:**

Will you come old sport? We... need you.

#### DAISY:

I wish it could always be likethis... 131.

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - TERRACE - NIGHT

# **GATSBY:**

It will be...

# DISSOLVE TO:

Nick wanders out as a light rain beings to fall.

NICK (V.O.)

I remembered how we had all come to

Gatsby's, and guessed at his

corruption... While he had stoodbefore us concealing anincorruptible dream...

## A FINAL MEMORY:

floor... Daisy leans in and whispers happily to Gatsby...

## DAISY:

Its perfect... From your perfect, irresistible imagination.

#### DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. GATSBY'S CASTLE - WHARF - NIGHT
Nick stumbles along the dock; the rain falling steadily now.

NICK (V.O.) The moon rose higher... And as Istood there, brooding on the old, unknown world, I thought of Gatsby's wonder when he firstpicked out the green light at theend of Daisy's dock. Nick looks to the end of the dock, where he first saw Gatsbythat warm summer night... NICK (V.O.) He had come such a long way... And suddenly, shimmering ghostly through the rain, Gatsby's silhouette can be seen once more, gazing out across the bay. NICK (V.O.) And his dream must have seemed so close that he could hardly fail tograsp it. Gatsby turns back towards Nick, and smiles... 132. NICK (V.O.) He did not know that it was alreadybehind him... Nick smiles back. NICK (V.O.) Gatsby believed in the green light, the orgastic future that year byyear, recedes before us... PUSH PAST GATSBY: Out over the water, toward the green lighteternally pulsing at the end of Daisy's dock... NICK (V.O.) It eluded us then, but that's no matter - tomorrow we will run faster... Gatsby reaches out-NICK (V.O.) Stretch out our arms farther... And one fine morning... As we PUSH PAST Gatbsy's outstretched hand, THE OPENING IMAGERETURNS: The green light pulsing in the abstract dark... Nick's final words appear as TYPE ON THE SCREEN.

NICK (V.O.)

So we beat on, boats against thecurrent, borne back ceaselessly, into the past.

# DISSOLVE TO:

INT. SANTITARIUM - NICK'S ROOM - SUMMER - DAY

Nick pulls a final page from his typewriter, sets the page ontop of his completed manuscript and we clearly see the title:

"GATSBY."

Nick considers this and then handwrites:

# "THE GREAT..."

DISSOLVE THROUGH THE FINAL TITLE - "THE GREAT GATSBY" - TO: The green light. It pulses one last time... Then, fades toBLACK. THE END.