EASY CLASSICS

THE GREAT GATSBY

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Illustrated by Roberta Bordone

THE
AMERICAN
CLASSICS
Children's Collection

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The American Classics Children's Collection: The Great Gatsby

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THE GREAT GATSBY

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Sweet Cherry

Nick Carraway
Narrator

Daisy Buchanan
Nick's cousin

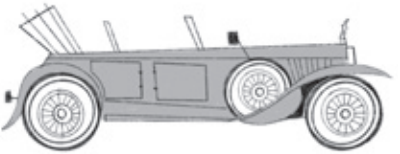
Tom Buchanan
Daisy's husband

Jordan Baker
Daisy's friend

Jay Gatsby
Nick's neighbour

Myrtle Wilson
Tom's secret girlfriend

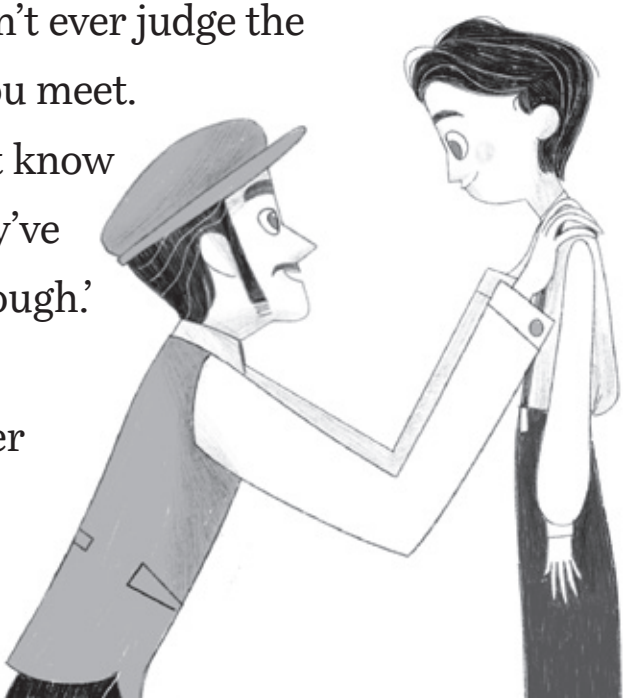
George Wilson
Myrtle's husband



CHAPTER ONE

Let me tell you a story about a man who felt so empty he spent millions trying to fill the void. Gatsby was his name.

My father used to say to me, 'Nick, don't ever judge the people you meet. You don't know what they've gone through.' I tried to remember



that as I grew up, but it was hard not to judge Gatsby when I first met him. I will admit to you: I judged him instantly. His flamboyance seemed shallow to me at first.

I fought in World War 1 and when it ended, I went back to live in my hometown in the Midwest of America.

WORLD WAR 1 - Also known as The Great War. A global war that started in Europe between 1914 and 1918. Over 30 countries fought in this war.

MIDWEST - A group of states in America that are geographically situated in the west of the country. The Midwest is famous for farming.

But after the danger of the war, I grew restless. It is quite a contrast to go from fighting for the good of your country to returning to the family hardware business.

Many friends of mine worked in investment bonds. This was a business where rich people placed their money into companies so they could make even more money. It was dull, but much more interesting

HARDWARE - Items that you would find in a DIY store, typically tools: screwdrivers, hammers, nails, paint, ladders etc.

INVESTMENT BOND - A lump of money placed in a bank or finance company to save for the future.

than hardware. So I decided to move east, to New York, where this kind of business was booming.

It would have made sense to move to the inner city of Manhattan, where the hustle and bustle of investment life was alive. But the city was unbearably hot in the summer, and I was used to the countryside and open spaces.

A friend I would be working with suggested we rent a place together in the suburban area of Long Island. I thought it was a great idea. We found

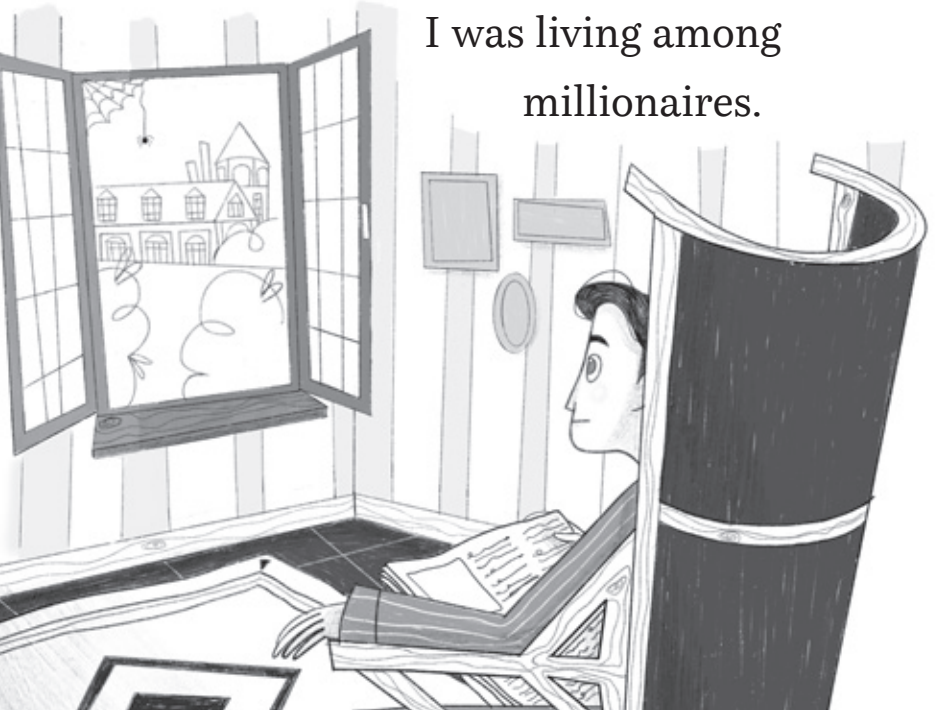
SUBURBAN - A spacious area of residential housing, geographically separate from inner cities.

a small bungalow that sat between two huge, luxurious mansions in a village called West Egg.

It was a fashionable community of millionaires, flash cars and fancy parties. A body of salt water separated two peninsulas of land that were joined at the south side. They were shaped like eggs, hence the name. Across the water from the tip of West Egg, lay the tip of East Egg.

Just before we moved in, my new housemate was sent to Washington

PENINSULA - An area of land that juts out into a body of water and is almost completely surrounded by the water.

by the company we worked for.
I settled into the small, shabby bungalow alone, dwarfed by the magnificent houses either side. One of my neighbours even had an outside marble swimming pool, and his own private beach. That was Gatsby's house.

For eighty dollars a month, I was living among millionaires.