

F. SCOTT FITZGERALD



The Great Gatsby

Der große Gatsby

2

*easy*Original

Lesemethode von Ilya Frank

ENGLISCH

F. Scott Fitzgerald

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*Aus dem Englischen übersetzt von
Ulrike Wittmann*

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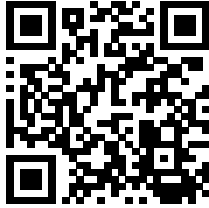
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Chapter 5

When I came home to West Egg that night (als ich in dieser Nacht nach Hause nach West Egg kam) I was afraid for a moment (hatte ich für einen Augenblick Angst) that my house was on fire (dass mein Haus in Flammen stand). Two o'clock and the whole corner of the peninsula was blazing with light (zwei Uhr und die ganze Ecke der Halbinsel leuchtete vor Licht; *peninsula* [pə'nɪn(t)sjələ]) which fell unreal on the shrubbery (das unecht auf das Strauchwerk fiel) and made thin elongating glints upon the roadside wires (und ließ die Leitungen am Straßenrand dünn und langgestreckt glitzern; *elongating* [i:lɒŋgetɪŋ]; *wire* — *Draht, Kabel, Leitung*). Turning a corner I saw (um eine Ecke kommend sah ich) that it was Gatsby's house (dass es Gatsbys Haus war), lit from tower to cellar (erleuchtet von Turm bis Keller; *to light* — *anzünden, beleuchten*; *cellar* [selə]).

1

When I came home to West Egg that night I was afraid for a moment that my house was on fire. Two o'clock and the whole corner of the peninsula was blazing with light which fell unreal on the shrubbery and made thin elongating glints upon the roadside wires. Turning a corner I saw that it was Gatsby's house, lit from tower to cellar.

At first I thought it was another party (zuerst dachte ich, dass es eine weitere Party war), a wild rout that had resolved itself into "hide-and-go-seek" or "sardines-in-the-box" (ein wildes Versteckspiel, das sich in "Verstecken" oder "Sardinen in der Schachtel" verwandelt hatte; **rout** — *Schlappe; Mob; Versteckspiel*; **to resolve** [rɪ'zɒlv] — *auflösen; zerlegen; verwandeln*; **to be packed like sardines** [sɑ:'di:n] — *wie Sardinen eingepfercht sein*) with all the house thrown open to the game (mit dem ganzen Haus für das Spiel geöffnet; **to throw open** — *aufwerfen; öffnen*). But there wasn't a sound (aber da war kein Geräusch). Only wind in the trees (nur der Wind in den Bäumen) which blew the wires and made the lights go off and on again (der die Leitungen blies und die Lichter aus- und wieder angehen ließ; **to go off** — *erlöschen, losgehen, ausgehen*; **to go on** — *andauern, angehen*) as if the house had winked into the darkness (als ob das Haus in die Dunkelheit gezwinkert hätte). As my taxi groaned away (während mein Taxi davonächzte; **to groan** — *seufzen, stöhnen, ächzen*) I saw Gatsby walking toward me across his lawn (sah ich Gatsby über seinen Rasen auf mich zugehen).

2

At first I thought it was another party, a wild rout that had resolved itself into "hide-and-go-seek" or "sardines-in-the-box" with all the house thrown open to the game. But there wasn't a sound. Only wind in the trees which blew the wires and made the lights go off and on again as if the house had winked into

the darkness. As my taxi groaned away I saw Gatsby walking toward me across his lawn.

"Your place looks like the world's fair (Ihr Haus sieht aus wie die Weltausstellung; *fair* — *Messe, Jahrmarkt*)," I said (sagte ich).

"Does it (tut es)?" He turned his eyes toward it absently (er wandte seine Augen abwesend darauf; *absent* [ˌæbs(ə)nt] — *abwesend*). "I have been glancing into some of the rooms (ich habe in einige der Räume gesehen). Let's go to Coney Island, old sport (lassen Sie uns nach Coney Island fahren, alter Freund). In my car (in meinem Auto)."

"It's too late (es ist zu spät)."

"Well, suppose we take a plunge in the swimming pool (nun, angenommen wir machen einen Sprung in den Swimmingpool; *suppose* [sə'pəuz])? I haven't made use of it all summer (ich habe ihn den ganzen Sommer nicht genutzt)."

"I've got to go to bed (ich muss ins Bett gehen)."

"All right (in Ordnung)."

3

"Your place looks like the world's fair," I said.

"Does it?" He turned his eyes toward it absently. "I have been glancing into some of the rooms. Let's go to Coney Island, old sport. In my car."

"It's too late."

"Well, suppose we take a plunge in the swimming pool? I haven't made use of it all summer."

"I've got to go to bed."

"All right."

He waited, looking at me with suppressed eagerness (er wartete, mich mit unterdrücktem Eifer ansehend; *to suppress* [sə'pres] — *abschaffen, aufheben, unterdrücken; suppressed* — *verdrängt, unterdrückt*).

"I talked with Miss Baker (ich habe mit Miss Baker gesprochen)," I said after a moment (sagte ich nach einem Augenblick). "I'm going to call up Daisy tomorrow (ich werde Daisy morgen anrufen) and invite her over here to tea (und sie hier herüber zum Tee einladen)."

"Oh, that's all right (oh, das ist in Ordnung)," he said carelessly (sagte er unbekümmert; *carelessly* ['keələsli]). "I don't want to put you to any trouble (ich will Ihnen keine Umstände machen)."

"What day would suit you (welcher Tag würde Ihnen passen)?"

"What day would suit YOU (welcher Tag würde IHNEN passen)?" he corrected me quickly (korrigierte er mich rasch; *correct* [kə'rekt]). "I don't want to put you to any trouble, you see (ich will Ihnen keine Umstände machen, sehen Sie)."

4

He waited, looking at me with suppressed eagerness.

"I talked with Miss Baker," I said after a moment. "I'm going

to call up Daisy tomorrow and invite her over here to tea."

"Oh, that's all right," he said carelessly. "I don't want to put you to any trouble."

"What day would suit you?"

"What day would suit YOU?" he corrected me quickly. "I don't want to put you to any trouble, you see."

"How about the day after tomorrow (was ist mit übermorgen)?"
He considered for a moment (er überlegte für einen Augenblick;
consider [kən'sɪdə]). **Then, with reluctance (dann mit Zurückhaltung;**
reluctance [rɪ'lʌkt(ə)n(t)s] — *Abneigung, Widerwille, Zurückhaltung;*
reluctant — *abgeneigt, widerwillig, zurückhaltend*):

"I want to get the grass cut (ich möchte das Gras schneiden lassen;
grass [grɑ:s])," **he said (sagte er).**

We both looked at the grass (wir betrachteten beide das Gras) —
there was a sharp line (es gab eine scharfe Linie) where my ragged
lawn ended (wo mein ungepflegter Rasen endete) and the darker,
well-kept expanse of his began (und die dunklere, gutgepflegte Weite
seines begann; expanse [ɪk'spæn(t)s]). **I suspected that he meant my**
grass (ich vermutete, dass er mein Gras meinte; to suspect [sə'spekt] —
ahnen, argwöhnen, vermuten; meant [ment]; *to mean* [mi:n]).

"There's another little thing (da ist noch eine kleine Sache),"
he said uncertainly, and hesitated (sagte er unsicher, und zögerte;
uncertain — *verunsichert, unsicher; to hesitate* [ˌhezɪteɪt] — *zagen,*
zögern).

"How about the day after tomorrow?" He considered for a moment. Then, with reluctance:

"I want to get the grass cut," he said.

We both looked at the grass — there was a sharp line where my ragged lawn ended and the darker, well-kept expanse of his began. I suspected that he meant my grass.

"There's another little thing," he said uncertainly, and hesitated.

"Would you rather put it off for a few days (würden Sie es lieber für ein paar Tage aufschieben; *rather* [ˈrɑːðə])?" I asked (fragte ich).

"Oh, it isn't about that (oh, es ist nicht deswegen). At least (zumindest) —" He fumbled with a series of beginnings (er tastete mit einer Reihe von Anfängen herum; *to fumble* — *herumtasten, fummeln*). "Why, I thought (nun, ich dachte) — why, look here, old sport (nun, sehen Sie her, alter Freund), you don't make much money, do you (Sie verdienen nicht viel Geld, nicht wahr)?"

"Not very much (nicht sehr viel)."

This seemed to reassure him (dies schien ihn zu beruhigen; *to reassure* [ˈriːəʃuə] — *beschwichtigen, beruhigen*) and he continued more confidently (und er fuhr selbstbewusster fort; *confidently* [ˌkɒnfɪd(ə)ntli]).

"Would you rather put it off for a few days?" I asked.

"Oh, it isn't about that. At least — " He fumbled with a series of beginnings. "Why, I thought — why, look here, old sport, you don't make much money, do you?"

"Not very much."

This seemed to reassure him and he continued more confidently.

"I thought you didn't (ich dachte, dass Sie das nicht täten), **if you'll pardon my** (wenn Sie mein ... entschuldigen; *pardon* [ˌpɑːd(ə)n]) — **you see, I carry on a little business on the side, a sort of sideline, you understand** (sehen Sie, ich betreibe ein kleines Geschäft nebenbei, eine Art Nebenerwerb, Sie verstehen; **to carry on** — weiterführen, betreiben; **sideline** [ˌsaɪdlaɪn] — Nebenbeschäftigung, Nebenerwerb). **And I thought that if you don't make very much** (und ich dachte, dass wenn Sie nicht sehr viel verdienen) — **You're selling bonds, aren't you, old sport** (Sie verkaufen Anleihen, nicht wahr, alter Freund)?"

"Trying to (ich versuche es)."

"Well, **this would interest you** (nun, dies würde Sie interessieren). **It wouldn't take up much of your time** (es würde nicht viel von Ihrer Zeit beanspruchen) **and you might pick up a nice bit of money** (und Sie könnten ein schönes bisschen Geld abbekommen; **to pick up** — weitermachen, sich erholen, abbekommen). **It happens to be a rather confidential sort of thing** (es handelt sich um eine ziemlich

vertrauliche Art von Sache; **to happen** — *erfolgen, geschehen; confidential* [ˌkɒnfɪ'den(t)ʃ(ə)l]."

7

"I thought you didn't, if you'll pardon my — you see, I carry on a little business on the side, a sort of sideline, you understand. And I thought that if you don't make very much — You're selling bonds, aren't you, old sport?"

"Trying to."

"Well, this would interest you. It wouldn't take up much of your time and you might pick up a nice bit of money. It happens to be a rather confidential sort of thing."

I realize now that under different circumstances (*ich verstehe jetzt, dass unter anderen Umständen; to realize* ['rɪəlaɪz] — *aufgehen, begreifen, verstehen; circumstance* ['sɜ:kəmstæn(t)s]) **that conversation might have been one of the crises of my life** (*hätte diese Unterhaltung ein Wendepunkt in meinem Leben sein können; conversation* [ˌkɒnvə'seɪʃ(ə)n]; *crisis* ['kraɪsɪs] /pl. *crises* ['kraɪsi:z]/ — *Notstand, Krise; Wendepunkt*). **But, because the offer was obviously and tactlessly for a service to be rendered** (*aber, weil das Angebot offensichtlich und taktlos auf eine zu erbringende Dienstleistung gerichtet war; obviously* ['ɒbvɪəʃli]), **I had no choice except to cut him off there** (*hatte ich keine Wahl außer ihn da abzuschneiden; except* [ɪk'sept]; **to cut off** — *abnehmen, abschalten, abschneiden*).

"I've got my hands full (ich habe meine Hände voll)," I said (sagte ich). "I'm much obliged (ich bin sehr dankbar; *obliged* [ə'blaɪdʒd] — *verpflichtet, dankbar*) but I couldn't take on any more work (aber ich könnte nicht mehr Arbeit annehmen)."

8

I realize now that under different circumstances that conversation might have been one of the crises of my life. But, because the offer was obviously and tactlessly for a service to be rendered, I had no choice except to cut him off there.

"I've got my hands full," I said. "I'm much obliged but I couldn't take on any more work."

"You wouldn't have to do any business with Wolfshiem (Sie würden keine Geschäfte mit Wolfshiem machen müssen)." Evidently he thought (offensichtlich dachte er; *evidently* ['eɪvɪd(ə)ntli]) that I was shying away from the "gonnegtion" mentioned at lunch (dass ich vor der beim Mittagessen erwähnten "Verbindung" zurückscheute; *to shy* — *scheu werden, scheuen*), but I assured him he was wrong (aber ich versicherte ihm, dass er sich irrte; *assure* [ə'ʃʊə]). He waited a moment longer (er wartete einen Moment länger), hoping I'd begin a conversation (hoffend, dass ich eine Unterhaltung beginnen würde), but I was too absorbed to be responsive (aber ich war zu in Anspruch genommen um ansprechbar zu sein; *absorb* [əb'zɔ:b];

responsive [rɪ'spɒn(t)sɪv]), so he went unwillingly home (also ging er widerwillig nach Hause).

9

"You wouldn't have to do any business with Wolfshiem." Evidently he thought that I was shying away from the "gonneg-tion" mentioned at lunch, but I assured him he was wrong. He waited a moment longer, hoping I'd begin a conversation, but I was too absorbed to be responsive, so he went unwillingly home.

The evening had made me light-headed and happy (der Abend hatte mich leichtsinnig und glücklich gemacht); I think I walked into a deep sleep (ich glaube ich spazierte in einen tiefen Schlaf) as I entered my front door (als ich meine Eingangstür durchschritt). So I didn't know (also wusste ich nicht) whether or not Gatsby went to Coney Island (ob Gatsby nach Coney Island fuhr oder nicht) or for how many hours he "glanced into rooms" (oder für wie viele Stunden er "in Räume blickte"; *glance* [glɑ:n(t)s]) while his house blazed gaudily on (während sein Haus grell weiterleuchtete). I called up Daisy from the office next morning (ich rief Daisy am nächsten Morgen vom Büro aus an) and invited her to come to tea (und lud sie ein, zum Tee zu kommen).

"Don't bring Tom (bring Tom nicht mit)," I warned her (warnte ich sie).

"What (was)?"

"Don't bring Tom (bring Tom nicht mit)."

"Who is 'Tom' (wer ist 'Tom')?" she asked innocently (fragte sie unschuldig; *innocent* ['inəs(ə)nt] — *unschuldig*).

10

The evening had made me light-headed and happy; I think I walked into a deep sleep as I entered my front door. So I didn't know whether or not Gatsby went to Coney Island or for how many hours he "glanced into rooms" while his house blazed gaudily on. I called up Daisy from the office next morning and invited her to come to tea.

"Don't bring Tom," I warned her.

"What?"

"Don't bring Tom."

"Who is 'Tom'?" she asked innocently.

The day agreed upon was pouring rain (am vereinbarten Tag schüttete es; *to pour* [pɔ:] — *schütten; strömen*). At eleven o'clock a man in a raincoat dragging a lawn-mower tapped at my front door (um elf Uhr klopfte ein Mann in einem Regenmantel, der einen Rasenmäher zog, an meine Eingangstür; *raincoat* ['reɪnkəʊt]; *lawn* — *Rasen, Rasenfläche*; *mower* ['məʊə] — *Rasenmäher, Mäher*; *to mow* — *mähen*) and said that Mr. Gatsby had sent him over to cut my grass (und sagte, dass Mr. Gatsby ihn herüberschickt hatte um mein Gras zu schneiden). This reminded me (dies erinnerte mich; *remind* [rɪ'maɪnd])

that I had forgotten to tell my Finn to come back (dass ich vergessen hatte meiner Finnin zu sagen zurückzukommen) so I drove into West Egg Village (also fuhr ich nach West Egg Village) to search for her among soggy white-washed alleys (um sie in den feuchten weißgetünchten Gassen zu suchen; *among* [ə'mʌŋ]; *soggy* — *durchnässt, feucht*; *alley* [,æli]) and to buy some cups and lemons and flowers (und um einige Becher und Zitronen und Blumen zu kaufen; *lemon* [,lemən]).

11

The day agreed upon was pouring rain. At eleven o'clock a man in a raincoat dragging a lawn-mower tapped at my front door and said that Mr. Gatsby had sent him over to cut my grass. This reminded me that I had forgotten to tell my Finn to come back so I drove into West Egg Village to search for her among soggy white-washed alleys and to buy some cups and lemons and flowers.

The flowers were unnecessary (die Blumen waren unnötig; *necessary* ['nesəs(ə)rɪ] — *notwendig*), for at two o'clock a greenhouse arrived from Gatsby's (denn um zwei Uhr kam ein Gewächshaus von Gatsbys an; *greenhouse* ['grɪ:nhaus]), with innumerable receptacles to contain it (mit unzähligen Gefäßen um es zu beinhalten; *innumerable* [ɪ'nju:m(ə)rəbl]; *receptacle* [rɪ'septəkl] — *Behälter, Gefäß*; *contain* [kən'teɪn]). An hour later the front door opened nervously (eine

Stunde später öffnete sich die Eingangstür nervös; *nervously* ['nɜːvəsli]), and Gatsby in a white flannel suit, silver shirt and gold-colored tie hurried in (und Gatsby in einem weißen Flannelanzug, silbernen Hemd und goldfarbener Krawatte eilte herein; *flannel* ['flæn(ə)l]). He was pale (er war blass) and there were dark signs of sleeplessness beneath his eyes (und es gab dunkle Zeichen von Schlaflosigkeit unter seinen Augen; *beneath* [br'niːθ]).

12

The flowers were unnecessary, for at two o'clock a greenhouse arrived from Gatsby's, with innumerable receptacles to contain it. An hour later the front door opened nervously, and Gatsby in a white flannel suit, silver shirt and gold-colored tie hurried in. He was pale and there were dark signs of sleeplessness beneath his eyes.

"Is everything all right (ist alles in Ordnung)?" he asked immediately (fragte er sofort; *immediately* [ɪ'miːdiətli]).

"The grass looks fine (das Gras sieht gut aus), if that's what you mean (wenn es das ist, was Sie meinen)."

"What grass (welches Gras)?" he inquired blankly (fragte er verständnislos nach; *inquire* [ɪn'kwɪə]; *blankly* — *verblüfft, verständnislos*). "Oh, the grass in the yard (oh, das Gras im Hof)." He looked out the window at it (er blickte aus dem Fenster darauf), but judging from his expression (aber nach seinem Gesichtsausdruck zu urteilen)

I don't believe he saw a thing (glaube ich nicht, dass er irgendetwas sah).

"Looks very good (sieht sehr gut aus)," he remarked vaguely (bemerkte er vage; *remark* [rɪ'mɑ:k]; *vague* [veɪɡ] — *unklar, ungenau, vage*). "One of the papers said (eine der Zeitungen sagte) they thought the rain would stop about four (sie dachten der Regen würde um etwa vier aufhören). I think it was 'The Journal' (ich denke es war 'The Journal'; *journal* [ˌdʒɜ:n(ə)] — *Zeitschrift*). Have you got everything you need in the shape of — of tea (haben Sie alles was Sie brauchen in Gestalt von – von Tee; *shape* — *Form; Gestalt*)?"

13

"Is everything all right?" he asked immediately.

"The grass looks fine, if that's what you mean."

"What grass?" he inquired blankly. "Oh, the grass in the yard." He looked out the window at it, but judging from his expression I don't believe he saw a thing.

"Looks very good," he remarked vaguely. "One of the papers said they thought the rain would stop about four. I think it was 'The Journal.' Have you got everything you need in the shape of — of tea?"

I took him into the pantry (ich brachte ihn in die Vorratskammer; *to take smb. to a place* — *jem. zu einem Ort mitnehmen, jem. zu einem Ort bringen*) where he looked a little reproachfully at the Finn

(wo er etwas vorwurfsvoll die Finnin ansah; **reproach** [rɪ'prəʊtʃ] — *Vorwurf*). **Together we scrutinized the twelve lemon cakes from the delicatessen shop** (gemeinsam musterten wir die zwölf Zitronenkuchen aus dem Delikatessengeschäft; *scrutinize* ['skru:tɪnaɪz]; *delicatessen* [ˌdelɪkə'tesn]).

"**Will they do** (werden sie reichen; **to do** — *tun; genügen, reichen*)?"
I asked (fragte ich).

"**Of course, of course** (natürlich, natürlich)! **They're fine** (sie sind gut)!" and he added **hollowly** (und er fügte dumpf hinzu; **hollow** — *hohl, leer, dumpf*),"... **old sport** (alter Freund)."

14

I took him into the pantry where he looked a little reproachfully at the Finn. Together we scrutinized the twelve lemon cakes from the delicatessen shop.

"Will they do?" I asked.

"Of course, of course! They're fine!" and he added hollowly, "... old sport."

The rain cooled about half-past three to a damp mist (der Regen nahm um etwa halb vier zu einem feuchten Nebel ab; **to cool** — *kühlen; abnehmen*) **through which occasional thin drops swam like dew** (durch den gelegentliche dünne Tropfen wie Tau schwammen; *occasional* [ə'keɪʒ(ə)n(ə)]; **to swim**). **Gatsby looked with vacant eyes through a copy of Clay's "Economics"** (Gatsby sah mit leeren Augen