

The Great Gatsby
Chapter 2 Summary, Courtesy of Shmoop.com

- Nick describes the land that lies in between the Eggs and New York as a "[valley of ashes](#)" (2.1), which sounds really unpleasant.
- Above this dead land—er, "[Waste Land](#)," perhaps?—are the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg, or rather, a billboard that features the eyes of Doctor T.J. Eckleburg.
- No, it's not socialite graffiti, just an advertisement for an eye doctor. But we get the feeling it's meaningful.
- In case you're interested in [colors](#), the eyes are blue and the spectacles yellow.
- Anyway, the whole reason we hear about these ashes and eyes is that Nick is traveling to the city with Tom, who insists on stopping to show Nick his mistress. We love show and tell!
- The mistress is the wife of an auto mechanic named [George B. Wilson](#) – at least, that's the name on the front of his repair shop.

- Tom acts like a jerk towards the husband (who is doing some sort of car work for him) and then sends the wife (Myrtle) a not-so-covert message to come with him to the city.
- George (Myrtle's husband) is blissfully ignorant. He thinks Myrtle just goes to the city to visit her sister.
- On the train on the way to the city, Myrtle wants a puppy. So Tom buys her a puppy. Obviously.
- This whole situation is so wrong that Nick tries to jump ship. But the happy couple doesn't let him.
- In the city, they head to the [adulterous apartment](#) and meet up with others, including a Mr. McKee and Myrtle's sister, Catherine.
- They drink a lot of Tom's whiskey, and Nick gets drunk for the second time in his life.
- When Nick reveals that he lives in West Egg, one of the drunken revelers goes on and on about the fabulous parties that this guy Gatsby throws.
- Myrtle's sister whispers to Nick that [Myrtle and Tom both hate their spouses](#). So, apparently, Tom has told Myrtle some lies to string her along without having to divorce Daisy.
- There is some discussion of not marrying below your [social caste](#), which apparently Myrtle did.
- Tom tells Myrtle to stop saying Daisy's name.
- Myrtle, of course, says "Daisy, Daisy, Daisy." ... and then Tom breaks her nose.
- Nick gets too drunk to remember how he got into bed.