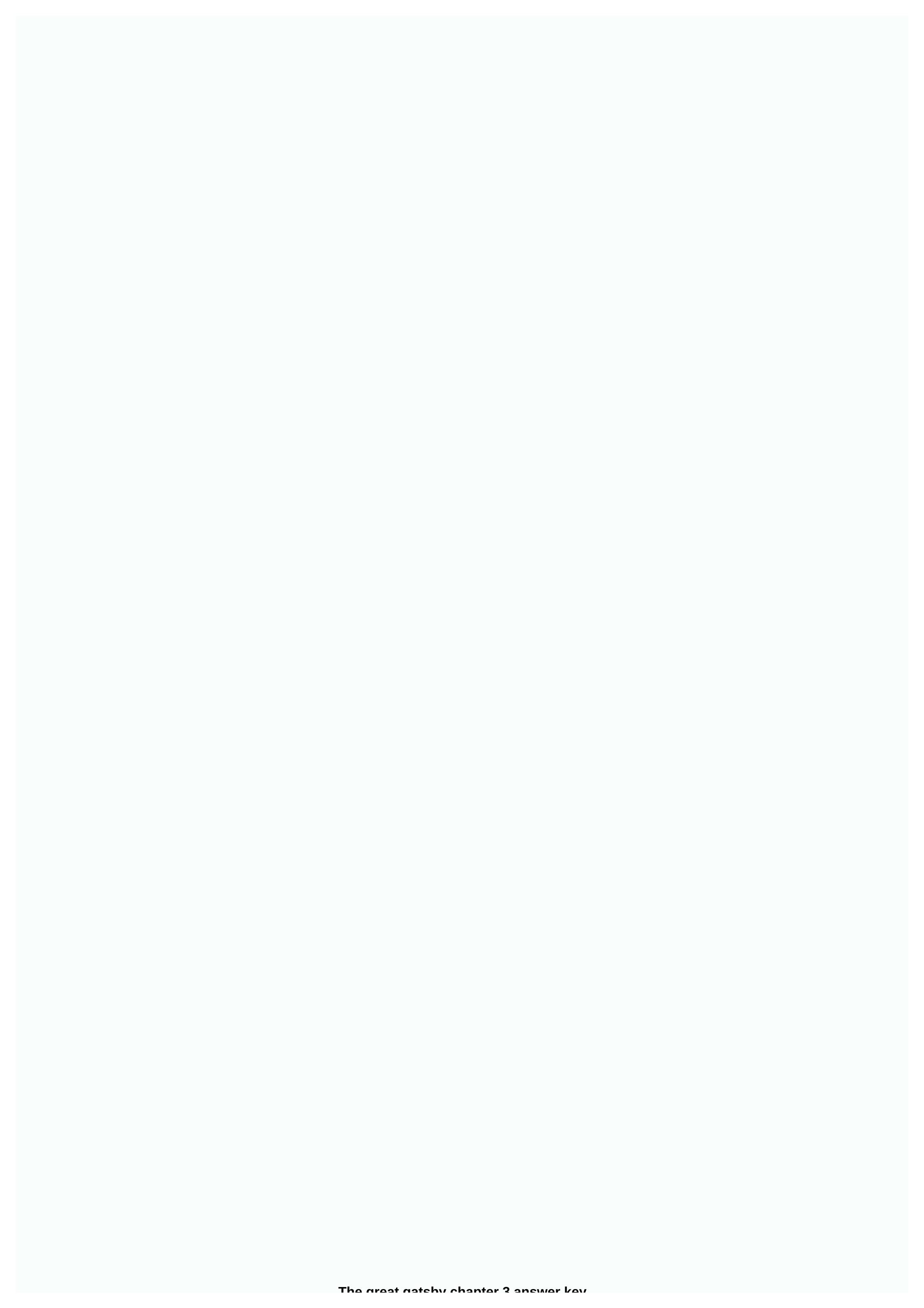
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## THE GIEAL GALDDY CHAPLET & ALIDWEL REY

In Chapter 3 of The Great Gatsby, we're finally-final!-we get to see one of Gatsby's completely off the hook parties! And it more than lives up to the hype as far as Nick is concerned. Even more exciting, we finally get to meet the man, the myth, the legend of self-Gatsby, in the flesh! So why, then, does revealing, as the novel has built against for 2.5 chapters, seem so anticlimax? Read on for our Great Gatsby Saturday night experience. Quick note on our quotes Our quote format in this guide is (chapter.paragraph). We use this system as there are many editions of Gatsby, so using page numbers would only work for students with our copy of the book. To find a quote we quote via chapter and section of your book, you can either eyeball it (Sections 1-50: beginning of chapter; 50-100: center of chapter; 100-on: end of chapter), or use the search function if you use an online or eReader version of the text. The Great Gatsby: Chapter 3 Summary Nick describes watching endless parties going on in Gatsby's house every weekend. Guests party day and night and then on Monday waiters clean up the mess. It's all about profit and a sense of overkill. Every weekend, guests are ferried back and forth to Manhattan by Rolls-Royce, boxes of oranges and lemons are juiced, an army of caterers set up tents and lighting, food is piled high, the bar is overwhelmingly stocked, and there's a big band playing. It's an even bigger deal than it sounds because all this happens during the ban, when alcohol was supposedly unavailable. The first night Nick goes to Gatsby's for a party, he is one of the very few actually invited guests. Everyone else just goes down. At the party, Nick's sick. He doesn't know anyone. There are a surprising number of Brits at the party who seem desperate to get their hands on American money. No one knows where Gatsby himself is. Nick hangs out near the bar until he sees Jordan Baker. Nick and Jordan talk to other party people. A young woman tells them that at another of these parties, when she ripped her dress by accident, Gatsby sent her a very expensive replacement. They gossip about what this strange behavior means. A rumor says Gatsby killed someone, another that he was a German spy. Food is served as Nick and Jordan eat at a table full of people from East Egg watching this crazy party of patronage. They decide to find Gatsby since Nick has never actually met him. In his mansion, they end up in the library, which has ornate carved bookshelves and piles of books. A man with owl-eyed glasses enthuses about the fact that all these books are actually real- and about the fact that Gatsby hasn't cut their pages (meaning he's never read any of them). Back out in the garden, guests are now and several famous opera singers perform. Some partygoers also perform relatively risqué acts. Nick and Jordan sit down at a table with a man who recognizes Nick from the Army. After talking about the places in France where they were stationed during the war, the man reveals that he is Gatsby. Gatsby flashes the world's biggest and most seductive (not sexually, just very appealing) smile at Nick and leaves to take a phone call from Chicago. Nick demands more information about Gatsby from Jordan, who said that Gatsby from Jordan says she doesn't believe this, and Nick lumps info in with all the other rumors he's heard (that Gatsby had killed a man, that he was Kaiser Wilhelm's nephew, that he was a German spy, etc.). The orchestra is hitting up the latest number one hit. Nick notices Gatsby looking over his guests with approval. Gatsby doesn't drink, dance, or flirt with anyone at the party. When Jordan suddenly and mysteriously asked to speak to Gatsby alone, Nick watches a drunk guest cry and then faints. He notices fights breaking out between other couples. Even the group of people from East Egg are no longer on their best behavior. Despite the fact that the party is clearly over, no one wants to leave. When Nick gets his hat to leave, Gatsby and Jordan come out of the library. Jordan tells Nick that Gatsby just told her something amazing - but she can't reveal what. She gives Nick her number and leaves. Nick finds Gatsby, apologizes for not seeking him out earlier. Gatsby invites him to go out on his hydroplane the next day, and Nick leaves as Gatsby is summoned for a phone call from Philadelphia. He waves goodbye from the stairs of his mansion, looking lonely. Outside, the man with owl-eyed glasses from the library smashed his car. An even drunk man emerges from the driver's seat of the wreckage and is comically but also horribly confused about what has happened. Suddenly, the narrative is interrupted by today's Nick. He thinks that what he has written probably gives us the wrong idea. He wasn't fixated on Gatsby this summer- this fixation has only happened since then. That summer, he spent most of his time working at his second or third tier bond trading company, Probity Trust, and had a relationship with a colleague. He really began to like the crowded and anonymous feeling of Manhattan, but also felt lonely. In the middle of summer, Nick reconnects with Jordan Baker and they start dating. He almost falls in love with her and discovers that under her veneer of boredom, Jordan is an incorrigible liar. She gets away with it because in the rigid upper class code of conduct, calling a woman out as a liar would be wrong. Nick suddenly remembers the story of his golfing career: Jordan was of cheating by moving his ball to a better lie, but the witnesses later recalled and nothing was proven. When Nick complains that Jordan is a terrible driver, she replies that she relies on the other people on the road to be careful instead of her. Nick wants to take their relationship further but rules himself in because he hasn't completely interrupted the lack of commitment at home that Tom and Daisy had asked him about in the past. He claims he is one of the few honest people that he has ever met. So lots of car accidents, and talk about car accidents, all near alcohol? Can you say foreshadowing? Key Chapter 3 Quotes I think that the first night I went to Gatsby's house I was one of the few guests who had actually been invited. People weren't invited - they went there. They got into cars that carried them out to Long Island and somehow they ended up at Gatsby's door. When introduced by a person who knew Gatsby and after they conducted themselves according to the rules of conduct relating to amusement parks. Sometimes they came and left without having met Gatsby at all, came to the party with a simplicity of heart that was his own admission ticket. (3.7) Gatsby's parties are the epitome of anonymous, pointless profits – so much so that people treat his house as a kind of public or at least commercial space rather than a private home. This is linked to the vulgarity of the new money – you can't imagine Tom and Daisy having a party like this. Or Nick for that matter. The random and pointless indulgence of his parties further highlights Gatsby's isolation from true friends. As Jordan says later, major parties are big because they provide privacy/intimacy, so Gatsby stands alone in a sea of strangers who have their own intimate moments. A stout, middle-aged man with huge owl-eyed glasses sat a little drunk on the edge of a large table, gazing with uncertain concentration on the shelves of books. ... He waved his hand against the bookshelf. About it. As a matter of fact, you don't bother to establish. I found it. They are real.... Absolutely real-have sides and everything. I thought they would be a nice durable cardboard. In fact, they're all real. Pages and - here! Lemme show you. Taking our skepticism for granted, he rushed to the bookshelves and returned with volume One of the Stoddard Lectures. View! he cried triumphantly. It's a real piece of printed matter. It fooled me. This guy is a regular Belasco. It's a triumph. What thoroughness! What realism! Knew when to stop too - don't cut the sides. But what do you expect? (3.41-50) Belasco was a famous theatre producer, so comparing Gatsby to him here is a way to describe the library as a stage set for a play – in other words, as a grandiose and convincing fake. This sea of books are either even more huge waste of resources, or some kind of miniature example of the fact that a person's core identity remains the same, no matter how many layers of disguise are placed on top. Gatsby has the money to buy these books, but he lacks the interest, depth, time or ambition to read and understand them, which is similar to how he views his quest to get Daisy. He smiled understandingly — much more than understanding. It was one of those rare smiles with a quality of eternal reassurance in it that you can come across four or five times in life. It faced – or seemed to face – the whole outer world for a moment, and then concentrated on you with an irresistible prejudice in your favor. It understood you as far as you wanted to be understood, believed in you as you would like to believe in yourself and assured you that it just had the impression of you that at your best you hoped to convey. Just then it disappeared - and I was looking at an elegant young rough neck, a year or two over thirty, whose elaborate formality speech just missed being absurd. Some time before he introduced himself I had got a strong impression that he was picking his words with care. (3.76) Lots of Gatsby's appeal lies in his ability to instantly connect with the person he is speaking to, to make that person feel important and valued. That's probably what makes him a great frontman for Wolfsheim's bootlegging business, and connects him to Daisy, who also has a preternaturally appealing quality – her voice. Dishonesty in a woman is something you never blame deeply – I was casually sad, and then I forgot about it. (3,161) The offhanded misogyny of this remark that Nick makes about Jordan tells in a novel in which women are generally treated as objects at worst or less beings at best. Even our narrator, supposedly a tolerant and non-marital observer, here reveals a core of patriarchal assumptions that run deep. Each one suspects himself of at least one of the cardinal virtues, and this is mine: I am one of the few honest people that I have ever known. (3,171) There are layers of meaning and humor here. First, humor: While in Christian tradition the concept of cardinal virtues, honesty is not one of them. So here, since the term cardinal sin is the more familiar concept, there is a small joke that Nick's honesty is actually a negative quality, a burden. Nick tells us about his conscientious honesty a second after he revealed that he has written love letters to a girl at home every week despite wanting to end their relationship, and despite dating a girl in his office, and then dating Jordan in the meantime. So honesty to Nick doesn't really mean what it can for most people. Secondly, What does it mean to have our narrator tell us in one breath that he is honest with a mistake and that he he he he think that most other people are honest? It sounds like a humble bang kind of observation. But also, we have to question Nick's ability to understand/empathize with other people if he thinks he's on such a removed plane of existence from them. And of course, since he just showed us that he's actually not that honest just one paragraph ago, we have to realize that his narrative is probably not quite factual/accurate/truthful. Plus, this observation comes at the end of the third chapter after we've met all the great players finally, so it's like the board has been set and now we finally have enough information to distrust our narrator. I think we go with Nick Carraway: World's Most Honest Liar on this one? Chapter 3 Analysis This is a good time to step back from the plot and the text to see how this chapter connects to the book's larger picture. Themes and symbols Money and materialism. Nothing says Roaring's 20s excess like the crazy party Gatsby throws. In Nick's description, it's an explosion of decorations, food, alcohol, music and anonymous guests who don't even know the host. This, combined with the over-the-top level of entertainment he provides, is jarring even for the wealthy West Egg crowd, and speaks to materialism and conspicuous display of consumption the novel regrets. It's interesting that Gatsby orchestrates but doesn't take part in his extravaganzas- even guests become show pieces of his wealth as he stands above them and watches, society and class. At the same time, we get a sense of the West Egg/East Egg divide as Jordan Baker's East Egg friends stick together and don't mix with the rest of the guests, about them as vulgar and beneath them. Changeability of identity. The beautifully decorated library, filled with books that have never been read, speaks to Gatsby's theatrical approach to creating his new identity. He can create the trapping and appearance of an Oxford man, but doesn't have the background or inner resources to actually be one. At the same time, the mystery surrounding Gatsby deepens. We get new theories about his background - he killed a man, he was a German spy during the war, he went to Oxford. And we also see him doing all sorts of inexplicable things- taking business phone calls from Chicago and Philadelphia, telling Jordan something secret and fascinating, not actually partying at his own party. At the same time, we get the first insight into the great Gatsby, the dazzling smile that fascinates Nick with his empathy and connection. Motives: Sport. We get our second mention of organized sports in Nick's brief description of a golf cheating scandal that Jordan was involved with. He chalks it up to her general tendency to lie. Golf is the perfect sport for Jordan to play. It is a game that is very ordered by social rules and customs, so it fits neatly into her reclining MO-hun on the idea of accusing a woman of cheating is seen as ungentlemanly. Jordan Baker: using staid rules of conduct the upper crust to utilize her golf game as a boss. Crucially Character Beats Nick and Jordan meet the man with owl-eyed glasses (a mysterious yet somehow important minor character-later, he'll be the only person who will show up to Gatsby's funeral), showing them the Gatsby library of unread books. Like the rest of Gatsby's life, this library is just window dressing. We finally meet Gatsby! The title character of the book does not appear until Chapter 3 – and at this point he is no longer just a man. He's a myth and a legend. His actual appearance doesn't dispel the mystery, but deepens it: why is he getting business phone calls on a weekend? How does a man as young as he is have so much money? Why doesn't he join his own party? Why doesn't Nick describe what he looks like (the way he does every other person in the book)? The owl-glasses man and his as yet drunk entourage crash a car that they have no idea how to drive. This alarming combination of driving and alcohol is here played for laughs, but is also an important bit of anticipation. The omens are put on even thicker when Jordan says that as a careless driver, she relies on other people to keep an eye on her, and Nick points out the danger of two careless people meeting on the road. Today's Nick interrupts his story to let us know that the things he describes as essential now don't seem so at the time. This shows both how much his fascination with Gatsby has grown over time, and makes the novel's heavy use of omens all the more significant. Nick and Jordan start dating, and he realizes she's a compulsive liar. What's next? Learn what makes Jordan tick in preparation for the next chapter, where she'll take over narrator duties for a while. Think about how Gatsby's parties have been portrayed in the film adaptations of this novel, as these are the scenes that have become iconic in the way Gatsby has seeped into the larger culture. Proceed to the summary of Chapter 4 or re-examine the summary of Chapter 2. Want to improve your SAT score by 160 points or your ACT score by 4 points? We've written a guide to each test about the 5 best strategies you need to get a shot at improving your score. Download it for free now: now:

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