

city seen for the first time, in its first wild promise of all the mystery and the beauty in the world” (68). The image Nick constructs of New York reflects his own desires and

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As Nick Carraway narrates F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel *The Great Gatsby*, his character evolves alongside his opinions of New York City, which contains both rampant immorality and honest endeavors. This range of possibilities leads to the paradoxical result that, even though it can support Nick’s dream, New York undermines it by likewise supporting the goals of Tom, Myrtle, Wolfsheim, and Gatsby, goals antithetical to Nick’s

When Nick’s friends and relatives from West and East Egg take him to the city, however, they show him the parts of it that, while appealing to them, possess a corruption that offends Nick. Tom Buchanan, for instance, visits his mistress Myrtle Wilson while Nick accompanies them. And rather than traveling to “the white chasms of lower New York” that Nick frequents for his work (56), Tom, Nick, and Myrtle travel to a street in New York

Importantly, both Tom and Gatsby seek out in New York what Nick avoids. The very same party and affair that leave Nick “repelled” are Tom’s reasons visiting the city (35).

On a separate visit to New York, Nick meets Jay Gatsby’s colleague Meyer Wolfsheim, who uses “human molars” as “cuff buttons” (72)—a far cry from the