Great Gatsby Summary Chapter 4 - First 20 pages

At the beginning of this chapter, the source of Jay Gatsby's wealth is shown as being debated by the attendees of his luxurious parties. Some accounts say that he is a bootlegger, and helps with illegal work. Other people say he killed a man who knew his source of wealth. After that, the main character lists all of the people who have ever attended his extravagant parties. This list of people represents everyone at the top of society in Long Island.

Next, the main character details a trip with Gatsby to New York, where Nick and Gatsby have a conversation about his past, as Nick seems skeptical about his past. Gatsby says he was from a wealthy family in the Midwest, San Francisco specifically, and lists achievements such as going to Oxford, collecting rare jewels, and hunting many large animals. Nick is doubtful of these seemingly outlandish things, but is reassured when Gatsby shows a war medal he received and a picture of him playing golf at Oxford. Then, in New York, Gatsby and Nick meet a Jewish man named Meyer Wolfsheim.

After some conversation and lunch between the party, it is revealed that Meyer Wolfsheim is an underhanded businessman who fixed the 1919 World Series. This connection gives more clues to the real source of Gatsby's wealth, as having connections to such underhanded people is suspicious. After the lunch, Nick spots Tom Buchanan at the same restaurant, and goes to meet him and introduce Gatsby to Tom. When Gatsby sees Tom, he gets evidently nervous and flees before he can be properly introduced. This foreshadows that there must have been a previous meeting or connection between Gatsby and Tom.