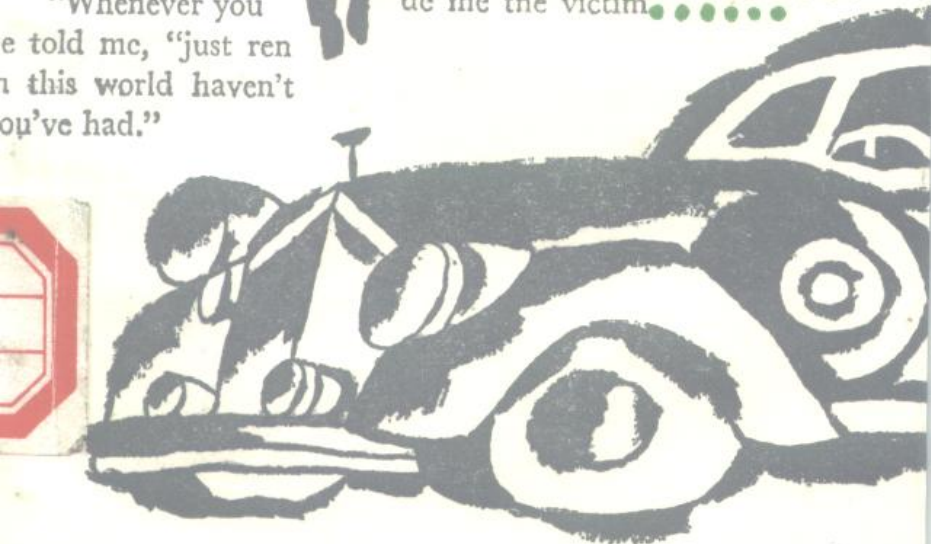


灯绿梦渺

The Great Gatsby by Fitzgerald

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英语注释读物

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注释者的话

The Great Gatsby 这部中篇小说是美国著名作家弗·斯科特·菲茨杰拉德脍炙人口的杰作，搬上银幕后也大获成功。原作于本世纪二十年代，二次大战后尤得读者与评论家之青睐，对它的评价与日俱增。

书名有译《伟大的盖茨比》者，似乎失之平淡；有译《大亨小传》者，但实非传记体，盖茨比也算不得大亨。仔细读来，盖茨比经历颇富传奇性，小说情节又类“言情”，作者用意当在批判，注释者姑译为《灯绿梦渺》。

绿灯实为盖茨比毕生梦想的象征。绿色代表生机，绿色使人欢快，绿色又是万能的美元钞票的颜色。出身农家的盖茨比抵抗不住财富和美色的诱惑，走上一条典型的美国式奋斗道路。黛西则象征着财富和美色的结合。此种象征手法书中屡见不鲜，珍珠项链，人牙袖扣，各式轿车皆是。但其着力点不在机械地比附，而在气氛的烘托。

盖茨比的梦想终于破灭了。书尾处安慰激励之词亦不能稍减其渺茫之感。盖茨比凄凉的下场是美国生活的悲剧。闪闪发光的金钱，高踞在金钱之上诱人的爱情，都是镜花水月，不值得追求。盖茨比毕竟斗不过那个弱肉强食的社会，因为他还不够狡诈，不够冷酷，还有几分中西部的“傻气”。牛头马面似的人物将他团团围住，一片哄笑声中把他打翻在地，肆意践踏，如同虫豸一般。

这本书散发着强烈的时代气息。美国二十年代里法西斯思想的胎动，早期工业化的恶果，大战后

“爵士乐时代”的醉生梦死，无一不跃然纸上。

这本书决不仅是“负心女子痴情汉”的恋爱悲剧。从中读者可以触摸到美国社会生活的脉搏，可以看到美国一个历史阶段的文艺画卷。

作者遣词造句朴素真挚，极少十九世纪小说中的冗长繁缛，也没有当时已萌芽的现代主义的奇奥艰深。可是他行文并不单调平直。他时而后退三步，描绘中夹着若隐若现的讽刺和淡淡的幽默；他时而又置身其中，情不自禁地激昂动情；他时而又诗意盎然，不乏华丽之词，是浪漫气质的自然流露。

读了《红楼梦》，有时不免想到贾宝玉和曹雪芹的关系。这本书又如何呢？作者有一段自述可供参考：

“在每一篇故事里，都有一滴我在内——不是血，不是泪，不是精华，而是更亲密的自己，真正挤出来的。”

本书是文学作品，读者也具有一定的英语水平，故注释重在理解和欣赏。大凡借助《新英汉词典》可以解决的词汇短语，以及语法结构，一般都不再加注。相反，在某些容易忽略的地方倒是费了一点笔墨。个别译文不求字对字的“精确”，但求晓畅达意。

注释者才疏学浅，谬误之处实所难免，望读者不吝教正。

CHAPTER I

In my younger and more vulnerable¹ years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since.

"Whenever you feel like criticizing any one," he told me, "just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had."

He didn't say any more, but we've always been unusually communicative in a reserved way, and I understood that he meant a great deal more than that. In consequence, I'm inclined to reserve all judgments, a habit that has opened up many curious natures to me² and also made me the victim of not a few veteran bores. The abnormal mind is quick to detect and attach itself to this quality when it appears in a normal person,³ and so it came about that in college I was unjustly accused of being a politician, because I was privy to the secret griefs of wild, unknown men. Most of the confidences were unsought⁴ — frequently I have feigned sleep, pre-

1. more vulnerable: 世故不深的, 易受影响的。 2. a habit that ... natures to me: 这习惯(指“不随意褒贬别人”)使我接触到许多性情古怪的人。 3. The abnormal mind ... a normal person: 心理不正常的人能很快发现正常人身上的这种品质并盯住不放。 4. Most of the confidences were unsought: 大多数私房话是人家主动(来向我)说的。

occupation, or a hostile levity when I realized by some unmistakable sign that an intimate revelation was quivering on the horizon⁵; for the intimate revelations of young men, or at least the terms in which they express them, are usually plagiaristic and marred by obvious suppressions.⁶ Reserving judgments is a matter of infinite hope. I am still a little afraid of missing something if I forget⁷ that, as my father snobbishly suggested, and I snobbishly repeat, a sense of the fundamental decencies is parcelled out unequally at birth.⁸

And, after boasting this way of my tolerance, I come to the admission that it has a limit. Conduct may be founded on the hard rock or the wet marshes,⁹ but after a certain point I don't care what it's founded on. When I came back from the East¹⁰ last autumn I felt that I wanted the world to be in uniform and at a sort of moral attention forever¹¹; I wanted no more riotous excursions¹² with privileged glimpses into the

5. was quivering on the horizon: 出现苗头, 显出征象。

6. are usually plagiaristic ... obvious suppressions: 通常是抄袭来的, 而且明显地有所隐瞒。这种“抄袭”有“为赋新诗强说愁”的意思。

7. I am still ... if I forget ...: 我还是担心, 万一我忘记了……我便会(待人不够宽容而)有所失。

8. a sense of ... at birth: 为人处世的基本品格并非人人生来就相同的。

9. Conduct may be ... wet marshes: (人的)行为也许有坚实的基础, 也许没有坚实的基础。wet marshes是作为 hard rock 的反面说的。这个比喻的实际意义是“有的人行为光明磊落, 有的人行为猥琐卑鄙”。

10. the East: (美国)东部。是当时的经济文化中心。

11. to be in uniform ... attention forever: 直译是: 要身穿军装并永远在道德方面立正。这个比喻的意思是说, 要象军人那样受约束, 并且永远在道德方面规规矩矩。

12. wanted no more riotous excursions: 不想再目睹那些激烈场面。

human heart¹³. Only Gatsby, the man who gives his name to this book, was exempt from my reaction — Gatsby, who¹⁴ represented everything for which I have an unaffected scorn. If personality is an unbroken series of successful gestures, then there was something gorgeous about him, some heightened sensitivity to the promises of life,¹⁵ as if he were related to one of those intricate machines that register earthquakes ten thousand miles away. This responsiveness had nothing to do with that flabby impressionability which is dignified under the name of the “creative temperament”¹⁶ — it was an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness¹⁷ such as I have never found in any other person and which it is not likely I shall ever find again. No — Gatsby turned out all right at the end; it is what preyed on Gatsby, what foul dust¹⁸ floated in the wake of his dreams that temporarily closed out my interest¹⁹ in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men²⁰.

My family have been prominent, well-to-do

13. with privileged ... human heart: 被人当作心腹。

14. who: 这里 who 引出的定语从句有“让步”的意味。即“尽管他是那样的人”。

15. some heightened ... promises of life: 对幸福欢乐的高度敏感。

16. that flabby ... “creative temperament”: 那种被美称为“创作才能”的软弱的感受能力。这话含着对某些所谓“艺术气质”的非议。

17. a romantic readiness: 一种对浪漫蒂克的偏好。

18. foul dust: 秽土。指(Gatsby因追求幸福而遭受的)侮辱和中伤,与书中书尾相呼应,也指那些侮辱、中伤 Gatsby 的人。

19. closed out my interest: 使我丧失兴趣。

20. the abortive sorrows ... of men: 人们受挫时的沮丧和好景不长的欢乐。

people in this Middle Western city for three generations. The Carraways are something of a clan, and we have a tradition that we're descended from the Dukes of Buccleuch, but the actual founder of my line²¹ was my grandfather's brother, who came here in fifty-one, sent a substitute to the Civil War, and started the wholesale hardware business that my father carries on to-day.

I never saw this great-uncle, but I'm supposed to look like him — with special reference to the rather hardboiled painting that hangs in father's office. I graduated from New Haven²² in 1915, just a quarter of a century after my father, and a little later I participated in that delayed Teutonic migration²³ known as the Great War. I enjoyed the counter-raid so thoroughly that I came back restless²⁴. Instead of being the warm center of the world, the Middle West now seemed like the ragged edge of the universe — so I decided to go East and learn the bond business. Everybody I knew was in the bond business, so I supposed it could support one more single man. All my aunts and uncles talked it over as if they were choosing a prep school for

21. the actual founder of my line: (Carraway 家族中)我家这一支的实际奠基者。 22. New Haven: 纽黑文, 美国康涅狄格州一市名, 耶鲁大学所在地, 这里指耶鲁大学。

23. Teutonic migration: 条顿民族大迁徙, 第一次世界大战由奥、德发动, 属国民多属条顿民族。作者把它和罗马帝国崩溃前后条顿民族的迁徙侵袭相比拟。 24. I came back restless: 我(复员)回来(无所事事而)坐立不安。

me, and finally said, "Why — ye-es,"²⁵ with very grave, hesitant faces. Father agreed to finance²⁶ me for a year, and after various delays I came East, permanently, I thought, in the spring of twenty-two.

The practical thing was to find rooms in the city, but it was a warm season, and I had just left a country of wide lawns and friendly trees, so when a young man at the office suggested that we take a house together in a commuting town²⁷, it sounded like a great idea. He found the house, a weatherbeaten cardboard bungalow at eighty a month, but at the last minute the firm ordered him to Washington, and I went out to the country alone. I had a dog — at least I had him for a few days until he ran away — and an old Dodge²⁸ and a Finnish woman, who made my bed and cooked breakfast and muttered Finnish wisdom to herself over the electric stove²⁹.

It was lonely for a day or so until one morning some man, more recently arrived than I, stopped me on the road.

"How do you get to West Egg village?" he asked helplessly.

25. "Why—ye-es,": why 是感叹词。这样拼写 ye-es 表示迟疑不决的口气。

26. to finance: 给……提供资金。在美国社会里, 子女成年独立后一般与父母在经济上各不相干, 故用此商业口吻。

27. commuting town: 郊区城镇, 其居民上下班需乘车往返。

28. an old Dodge: 一辆旧道奇牌汽车。本书中主要人物的汽车各具象征意义。旧道奇象征传统和守旧。

29. muttered Finnish ... the electric stove: 一边在电炉上烧饭, 一边念叨芬兰的谚语。

I told him. And as I walked on I was lonely no longer. I was a guide, a pathfinder, an original settler.³⁰ He had casually conferred on me the freedom of the neighborhood³¹.

And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer.

There was so much to read, for one thing, and so much fine health to be pulled down out of the young breath-giving air³². I bought a dozen volumes on banking and credit and investment securities, and they stood on my shelf in red and gold³³ like new money from the mint, promising to unfold the shining secrets that only Midas and Morgan and Mæcnas³⁴ knew. And I had the high intention of reading many other books besides. I was rather literary in college — one year I wrote a series of very solemn and obvious³⁵ editorials for the *Yale News* — and now I was going to bring back all such things into my life and become again that most limited of

30. I was a guide ... original settler: 我就成了向导, 拓荒者和早期的移民。这几个“头衔”表示 Nick 受宠若惊, 因为他也是刚到那里的新住户。 31. the freedom of the neighborhood: 该地区的荣誉特权。 32. so much fine health ... breathgiving air: 清新有益的空气可使身体变得如此健康。 down: 从空气中取得, 所以称 down. breath-giving: 使精力充沛的, 是类比 breath-taking 而造的。 33. in red and gold: 红封皮烫金。 34. Midas: 希腊神话中点石成金的国王; Morgan: 美国大财阀摩根; Mæcnas: 古罗马富有的文学艺术赞助人。 35. obvious: 言人之所言的, 肤浅的。

all specialists, the “well-rounded man.” This isn’t just an epigram — life is much more successfully looked at from a single window³⁶, after all.

It was a matter of chance that I should have rented a house in one of the strangest communities in North America. It was on that slender riotous island which extends itself due east of New York — and where there are, among other natural curiosities, two unusual formations of land. Twenty miles from the city a pair of enormous eggs, identical in contour and separated only by a courtesy bay³⁷, jut out into the most domesticated body of salt water in the Western hemisphere, the great wet barnyard of Long Island Sound³⁸. They are not perfect ovals — like the egg in the Columbus story³⁹, they are both crushed flat at the contact end — but their physical resemblance must be a source of perpetual confusion to the gulls that fly overhead. To the wingless⁴⁰ a more arresting phenomenon is their dissimilarity in every particular except shape and size.

I lived at West Egg, the — well⁴¹, the less

36. *Life is...a single window*: 只从一个角度去看问题, 生活便会显得美好得多。这句话是前文中 *this* 的内容。后面的 *after all* 是 *This isn't just an epigram* 句子的一部分。 37. *a courtesy bay*: 一个够不上称海湾的海湾。 38. *Long Island Sound*: 长岛湾, 在长岛与大陆之间。 39. *the egg in the Columbus story*: 哥伦布铁事中顶端压平的鸡蛋。一次宴会上, 有人称哥伦布发现新大陆无甚惊人之处。哥伦布不作答, 反问席间何人能竖鸡蛋于桌上而不倒, 众皆不能。哥伦布即随手将鸡蛋一端击破压平竖于桌上, 说凡事成功后总觉无甚惊人之处。 40. *the wingless*: 指地上的人。 41. *the—well*: 语气词, 表示似乎说出口但终于说出来。

fashionable of the two, though this is a most superficial tag to express the bizarre and not a little sinister contrast between them⁴². My house was at the very tip of the egg, only fifty yards from the Sound, and squeezed between two huge places that rented for twelve or fifteen thousand a season. The one on my right was a colossal affair by any standard — it was a factual imitation of some Hôtel de Ville in Normandy⁴³, with a tower on one side, spanking new under a thin beard of raw ivy, and a marble swimming pool, and more than forty acres of lawn and garden. It was Gatsby's mansion. Or, rather, as I didn't know Mr. Gatsby, it was a mansion, inhabited by a gentleman of that name. My own house was an eyesore, but it was a small eyesore, and it had been overlooked, so I had a view of the water, a partial view of my neighbor's lawn, and the consoling proximity of millionaires⁴⁴ — all for eighty dollars a month.

Across the courtesy bay the white palaces of fashionable East Egg glittered along the water, and the history of the summer really begins on the evening I drove over there to have dinner with the Tom Buchanans. Daisy was my second

42. the less fashionable ... between them: 这段话暗指两地居民的道德风貌迥然不同。

43. Hôtel de Ville in Normandy: 法国诺曼第省的市政厅。

44. the consoling proximity of millionaires: 与百万富翁为邻而自慰。

cousin once removed⁴⁵, and I'd known Tom in college. And just after the war I spent two days with them in Chicago.

Her husband, among various physical accomplishments, had been one of the most powerful ends⁴⁶ that ever played football at New Haven — a national figure in a way, one of those men who reach such an acute limited excellence⁴⁷ at twenty-one that everything afterward savors of anticlimax⁴⁸. His family were enormously wealthy — even in college his freedom with money was a matter for reproach — but now he'd left Chicago and come East in a fashion that rather took your breath away; for instance, he'd brought down a string of polo ponies from Lake Forest. It was hard to realize that a man in my own generation was wealthy enough to do that.

Why they came East I don't know. They had spent a year in France for no particular reason, and then drifted here and there unrestfully wherever people played polo and were rich together. This was a permanent move⁴⁹, said Daisy over the telephone, but I didn't believe

45. second cousin once removed: second cousin: 父母的堂(表)兄弟姐妹所生的子女。 once removed: 相隔一代。连起来就指 second cousin 的子女, 或父母的 second cousin。按中国的习惯说法, 是要么高一辈, 要么低一辈的堂(表)亲戚。 46. ends: 足球队의 边锋(复数)。 47. an acute limited excellence: 在有限范围内的显赫成就。 48. savors of anticlimax: 有走下坡路的味道。 49. a permanent move: 定居。

it—I had no sight into Daisy's heart, but I felt that Tom would drift on forever seeking, a little wistfully, for the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game⁵⁰.

And so it happened that on a warm windy evening I drove over to East Egg to see two old friends whom I scarcely knew at all. Their house was even more elaborate than I expected, a cheerful red-and-white Georgian Colonial mansion, overlooking the bay. The lawn started at the beach and ran toward the front door for a quarter of a mile, jumping over sun-dials and brick walks and burning gardens⁵¹—finally when it reached the house drifting up the side in bright vines as though from the momentum of its run. The front was broken by a line of French windows⁵², glowing now with reflected gold⁵³ and wide open to the warm windy afternoon, and Tom Buchanan in riding clothes was standing with his legs apart on the front porch.

He had changed since his New Haven years. Now he was a sturdy straw-haired man of thirty with a rather hard mouth and a supercilious manner. Two shining arrogant eyes had established

50. the dramatic turbulence of some irrecoverable football game: 某些一去不复返的足球赛中的兴奋刺激。

51. jumping over ... burning gardens: 越过日晷(花园中的风雅装饰品), 砖砌小径和绚丽的花园。这里 jumping 和前面的 ran 相呼应。ran 一语双关, 既指“伸展”又指“奔驰”, 故后文中有 the momentum of its run。

52. French windows: 法国式落地长窗。

53. glowing now with reflected gold: 现在正反射着金色的夕阳而熠熠发光。

dominance over his face and gave him the appearance of always leaning aggressively forward. Not even the effeminate swank of his riding clothes⁵⁴ could hide the enormous power of that body — he seemed to fill those glistening boots until he strained the top lacing⁵⁵, and you could see a great pack of muscle shifting when his shoulder moved under his thin coat. It was a body capable of enormous leverage — a cruel body.

His speaking voice, a gruff husky tenor, added to the impression of fractiousness he conveyed. There was a touch of paternal contempt in it, even toward people he liked — and there were men at New Haven who had hated his guts.

“Now, don’t think my opinion on these matters is final,” he seemed to say, “just because I’m stronger and more of a man than you are.” We were in the same senior society⁵⁶, and while we were never intimate I always had the impression that he approved of me and wanted me to like him with some harsh, defiant wistfulness of his own⁵⁷.

54. even the effeminate ... riding clothes: 哪怕他这骑马服花哨得带女子气。 55. to fill those ... the top lacing: 紧套在那闪亮的长统马靴内, 从下到上(一直到最上面一圈鞋带)绷得紧紧的。 56. senior society: 高年级学生参加的社团。 57. with some harsh ... of his own: 带着一点他特有的又想亲近又鄙夷不屑的严厉态度。作者善于把某些矛盾对立的词(如 defiant 和 wistfulness)放在一起, 来表达事物复杂的面貌。