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世界名著阅读丛书

The Great Gatsby

了不起的盖茨比

[美] 弗·司各特·菲茨杰拉德 著

王成成 等编译



外文出版社
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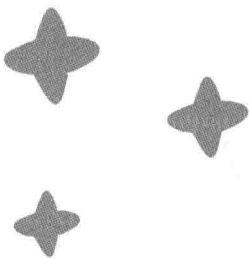
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内 容 简 介

《了不起的盖茨比》是世界文学经典名著，被誉为 20 世纪最伟大的英文小说之一，入选教育部推荐的中小学生必读书目。故事的主人公盖茨比出身寒微，一次偶然的机会他认识了富家少女黛西，两人一见钟情，私订终身。后来黛西背叛了他，嫁给了有钱人汤姆。盖茨比为了赢得爱情，不择手段聚积金钱。为了追求黛西，盖茨比耗尽了自己的感情和才智，但理想最终还是破灭了，他带着残破的梦离开了人世。盖茨比是了不起的，他用生命谱写了一曲“爵士年代”的哀伤恋歌；盖茨比的悲剧是“美国梦”破灭的典型代表。



前 言

弗·斯格特·菲茨杰拉德（Francis Scott Fitzgerald, 1896—1940），20世纪美国著名作家。

1896年9月24日，菲茨杰拉德出生在美国明尼苏达州圣保罗市一个小商人家庭。1913年，进入普林斯顿大学学习，中途辍学。1917年入伍，次年升为中尉军官，1919年退伍，之后在一家商业公司当抄写员，业余时间致力于文学创作。1920年，他出版了第一部长篇小说《人间天堂》，该书一经出版便成为当时最畅销的小说之一，在社会上引起了很大的反响。继《人间天堂》之后，他又陆续出版了《美国的悲剧》（1925年）、《了不起的盖茨比》（1925年）和《夜色温柔》（1934年）等。他在长篇小说创作方面取得了巨大的成就，特别是《了不起的盖茨比》取得了巨大的成功，该作品确立了菲茨杰拉德在美国文学史上的地位，是他杰出的代表作。菲茨杰拉德是个多才多艺的小说家，除长篇小说之外，他主要的短篇小说也非常有特色，包括《爵士时代的故事》（1922）、《所有悲伤的年轻人的故事》（1926）等。短篇小说不仅给他带来了商业上的成功，而且还为他赢得了一般大众的认同和喜爱。他的短篇小说布局精巧曲折，文字细腻华丽，风格机智诙谐，经常有欧·亨利式的出人意料的结尾，读起来是一种愉快的享受。

菲茨杰拉德是20世纪与海明威、福克纳齐名的美国著名作家。20世纪的20年代和30年代是美国小说的黄金时代，这20年间可谓是群星璀璨。除菲茨杰拉德外，美国文坛还涌现出了像辛克莱·刘易斯、赛珍珠、福克纳、海明威、斯坦贝克、莫里斯等饮誉世界的作家。这个年代也被称为“爵士年代”，因为这是美国历史上最会享乐、最绚丽的时代，也是空前繁荣的时代，是创造“美国梦”的时代。菲茨杰拉德的作品生动地反映了20世纪20年代“美国梦”的破灭，展示了大萧条时期美国上层社会“荒原时代”的精神面貌。


菲茨杰拉德纵情参与了“爵士时代”的酒食征逐，这段经历也完全融化在他的作品之中。正因为如此，他才能栩栩如生地重现那个时代的社会风貌、生活气息和感情节奏。但更重要的是，在沉湎其中的同时，他又能冷眼旁观，体味“灯火阑珊，酒醒人散”的怅惘，用严峻的道德标准衡量一切，用凄婉的笔调抒写了战后“迷茫的一代”对于“美国梦”幻灭的悲哀。而《了不起的盖茨比》正是这个时代的写照。这部小说谴责以汤姆为代表的美国特权阶级自私专横，为所欲为，以同情的态度描写了盖茨比的悲剧，并指出他的悲剧来自他对生活和爱情的幻想，对上层社会人物缺乏认识。著名诗人兼文艺评论家艾略特对《了不起的盖茨比》进行了高度评价，称之为“美国小说自亨利·詹姆斯以来迈出的第一步”。海明威在回忆菲茨杰拉德时写道：“既然他能够写出一本像《了不起的盖茨比》这样好的书，我相信他一定能够写出更好的书。”该书被兰登书屋列为“20世纪百部英文小说”的第二

名。时至今日，《了不起的盖茨比》已成为美国大学和中学英文课的必读文学经典。

在中国，《了不起的盖茨比》同样受到广大读者的喜爱。基于以上原因，我们决定编译《了不起的盖茨比》，并采用中文导读英文版的形式出版。在中文导读中，我们尽力使其贴近原作的精髓。我们希望能够编出为当代中国读者所喜爱的经典读本。读者在阅读每章之前，可以先阅读中文导读内容，这样有利于了解每章的背景，从而加快阅读速度。同时，为了使读者更好地理解故事内容，书中加入了大量的插图。我们相信，该经典小说的引进对提高当代中国读者，特别是大学生读者的文学修养是非常有帮助的。

本书由蔡红昌组织编译。参加本书编译工作的还有王成成、赵雪、刘乃亚、纪飞、陈起永、熊建国、程来川、龚武元、李毛华、徐平国、敖宗林、龚桂平、熊志勇、潘文华、陈凤英、谭学民、李丹妮、张灵羚、谭榜乾、付建平、汪疆玮、龚火荣、葛文聪、杨晓、葛文博、张雨、葛其昌、于丹等。限于我们的科学、人文素养和英语水平，书中难免会有不当之处，衷心希望读者朋友批评指正。

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第一章

Chapter 1

导 读

尼克年轻的时候，父亲曾告诉他，并非世上所有人都拥有他这样的优越条件。为此，他习惯于对人保留判断和倾听别人的诉说，大学期间人们指责他为小政客。尼克认为，人在道德观念上的分配是不均的，如果所有人在道德上像军人站立正姿势那样一致就好了，但有一个人例外——那就是盖茨比，他有一种对人生希望高度敏感和富于浪漫的天赋。

尼克姓卡罗威，其家族在当地也算是个名门望族，这个家族据说还是布娄奇公爵的后裔。尼克祖父的哥哥于 1851 年来到那里买了个替身参加南北战争，然后自己做起了五金批发生意，这买卖现在由尼克的父亲经营。尼克 1915 年从纽黑文毕业，后来到东部尝试做债券生意。父亲答应为他提供一年的费用，于是，1921 年他到了东部大城市纽约。尼克原来准备和同事在近郊合租一套房子，但后来同事调到华盛顿去了，他只好一个人搬到了郊外。

纽约市的正东有一对像鸡蛋一样的小岛，外形一模一样，中间有一条

小河相隔。尼克住在小河的西岸，房子紧靠在“鸡蛋”的顶端，夹在两座豪华别墅的中间。他右边的别墅是一位姓盖茨比的人的公馆。尼克虽然不认识盖茨比，但他为每月只付八十美元就能与百万富翁为邻而自豪。小河对岸的东卵豪华住宅区住着汤姆·布坎农夫妇——女主人黛西是尼克的远房表妹，男主人汤姆则是尼克在大学里认识的。汤姆非常有钱，搬来时的排场非常大，甚至拉来了一群用来打马球的马。

一天晚上，尼克开车去东卵地区看望那两个他并不十分了解的朋友。三十多岁的汤姆举止高傲地站在面向海湾的前门阳台上，给人一种盛气凌人的印象。尼克和汤姆在阳台上谈了几分钟，然后穿过高高的走廊，来到玫瑰色的屋里。风从窗外吹来，把窗帘吹向天花板。沙发上有两位年轻的



尼克租的房子在小河西岸

女士，其中平躺着的那位较年轻的尼克并不认识；另外一位少妇——黛西向尼克微微欠了欠身，轻轻地一笑，拉着他的手告诉他那位姑娘姓贝克。尼克告诉黛西，在芝加哥停留的一天中有十多个朋友向她问好，这使她很高兴。黛西建议尼克去看看她三岁的宝宝，不过宝宝现在睡着了。

这时，一直在屋里走动的汤姆停下来问尼克现在干什么买卖，尼克回答说做债券生意，并介绍了公司的名字，汤姆说从来没听说过这家公司。这使尼克感到不舒服，他漫不经心地答道：“你在东部待久了就会听说的。”汤姆说：“我一定会在东部待下去的。”贝克小姐突然接了一句“一定如此”，说完便站了起来；接着又抱怨说，在沙发上躺久了，身体都木了。

尼克对贝克小姐颇有好感，而且觉得在什么地方见过她。贝克小姐问尼克是不是住在西卵，并说认识住在那里的盖茨比。尼克正要回答说盖茨比是他的邻居，佣人宣布开饭了。阳台的餐桌上四只蜡烛在风中闪烁，黛西却不喜欢，把它们掐灭了。贝克小姐提议应该计划干点什么，黛西赞成她的看法，又询问尼克的意见。尼克还没来得及回答，黛西又把话题转到她的小手指上了——指关节有些青紫，她埋怨是汤姆碰伤的，并用了汤姆最不喜欢的词语“笨拙”，说他是又粗大又笨拙的汉子。

尼克对黛西说：“你让我觉得自己不文明，你不能谈点庄稼或者别的什么吗？”这句并没有什么特殊用意的话却让汤姆接过去了，他气势汹汹地说，文明正在消退，并让尼克读一读戈达德写的《有色帝国的兴起》。这本书的大意是说，白色人种将会被淹没。汤姆说这本书是有科学根据的，如果不提高警惕，其他人种将会掌握世界。黛西一边对着炽热的太阳眨眼，

一边低声说：“我们非打倒他们不可。”

这时，屋里电话响了，男管家离开阳台去接电话。黛西赶紧拿男管家的鼻子开玩笑，她兴奋地小声说：男管家以前替纽约一个人家擦银餐具，那家有一套供二百人用的银餐具，导致鼻子受到损害，后来鼻子的情况越来越坏，只得辞职不干，到了这里。

管家回来在汤姆耳边说了些什么，汤姆眉头一皱，到屋里去了。黛西立刻活跃起来，对尼克说，在餐桌上见到他便想起了一朵玫瑰花，随后突然说了声“失陪”就到屋里去了。屋里传来激烈的争吵声，声音几度起伏，最后停止了。贝克小姐告诉尼克，汤姆在纽约有个女人，但那女人应该识大体，不该在吃饭时来电话。

这时，汤姆和黛西回到了餐桌上，黛西强装愉快地对汤姆说：草坪上有一只夜莺在唱歌，浪漫极了。汤姆哭丧着脸说了句“非常浪漫”。突然，屋里的电话铃又响了，黛西向汤姆摇了摇头。在餐桌上这最后五分钟，谁也不知道汤姆和黛西在想什么。

饭后，尼克和黛西穿过几条走廊来到前面的阳台，并排在一把柳条椅子上坐下。黛西对尼克说：“我们是表亲，但你没参加我的婚礼，我们并不熟识。”尼克解释说，当时正在打仗。黛西突然抱怨说自己受够了，把一切都看透了。她犹豫了一下，欲言又止。然后他们又把话题扯回到她女儿身上来。黛西说女儿出生不到一个钟头，汤姆就不知道到哪去了；自己很高兴生了个女孩，可以让她做一个美丽的小傻瓜。

尼克和黛西回到屋里，贝克小姐正在给汤姆念《星期六晚邮报》，这时正好念完。贝克小姐把杂志扔在桌上，说十点了，该睡觉了。黛西解释说，乔丹明天要去参加锦标赛。这时尼克才知道为什么觉得她面熟，原来她就是高尔夫球运动员乔丹·贝克。贝克小姐和他们道了晚安就上楼去了。

黛西对尼克说想做个媒，把贝克小姐和他撮合到一起。汤姆说贝克小姐是一个好姑娘，她家里人不应该让她到处乱跑。黛西说她家里只有一个七八十岁的老姑妈，这里的家庭环境对她大有好处，而且以后尼克可以照顾她。

结束贝克小姐的话题后，汤姆质问黛西是不是把心里话都对尼克讲了，并告诫尼克说：不要听到什么都信以为真。几分钟后，尼克告辞了，当他发动汽车时，黛西喊住了他：“忘了问你一件事，听说你在西部订婚了？”尼克解释说，那是诽谤，而且这正是自己来到东部的一个原因。

尼克回到西卵的住处，明亮的夜里，看到一只猫的侧影在月光下移动。五十英尺外，邻居盖茨比从大厦的阴影中走出来，仰望着星光。尼克正打定主意要跟他打个招呼，却看到盖茨比突然将两臂朝向大海伸了出去，似乎不愿意别人打扰。尼克不禁也朝海上看去——远处只有一盏小绿灯。再回头时，盖茨比已经不见了，不平静的夜里留下了尼克独自一人。

In my younger and more vulnerable 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 me 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, 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 unsought—frequently I have feigned sleep, preoccupation, or a hostile levity when I realized by some unmistakable sign that an intimate revelation was quivering on the horizon—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. Reserving judgments is a matter of infinite hope. I am still a little afraid of missing something if I forget that, as my father snobbishly suggested, and I snobbishly repeat a sense of the fundamental decencies is parcelled out unequally at birth.

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 but after a certain point I don't care what it's founded on. When I came back from the East last autumn I felt that I wanted the world to be in uniform and at a sort of moral attention forever; I wanted no more riotous excursions with privileged glimpses into the human heart. Only Gatsby, the man who gives his name to this book, was exempt from my reaction—Gatsby who 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, 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”—it was an extraordinary gift for hope, a romantic readiness 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 dust floated in the wake of his dreams that temporarily closed out my interest in the abortive sorrows and short-winded elations of men.

My family have been prominent, well-to-do 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 line 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 today.

I never saw this great-uncle but I'm supposed to look like him—with special reference to the rather hard-boiled painting that hangs in Father's office. I graduated from New Haven in 1915, just a quarter of a century after my father, and a little later I participated in that delayed Teutonic migration known as the Great War. I enjoyed the counter-raid so thoroughly that I came back restless. 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 me and finally said, “Why—ye-es” with very grave, hesitant faces. Father agreed to finance 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 town it sounded like a great idea. He found the house, a weather beaten 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 Dodge and a Finnish woman who made my bed and cooked breakfast and muttered Finnish wisdom to herself over the electric stove.

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.

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

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 air. I bought a dozen volumes on banking and credit and investment securities and they stood on my shelf in red and gold like new money from the mint, promising to unfold the shining secrets that only Midas and Morgan and Maecenas 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 obvious 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 all specialists, the “well-rounded man.” This isn’t just an epigram—life is much more successfully looked at from a single window, 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 bay, jut out into the most domesticated body of salt water in the Western Hemisphere, the great wet barnyard of Long Island Sound. They are not perfect ovals—like the egg in the Columbus story 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 wingless a more arresting phenomenon is their dissimilarity in every particular except shape and size.

I lived at West Egg, the—well, the less fashionable of the two, though this is a most superficial tag to express the bizarre and not a little sinister contrast between them. 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 Normandy, 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 eye-sore, but it was a small eye-sore, 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 millionaires—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 cousin once removed 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 ends that ever played football at New Haven—a national figure in a way, one of those men who reach such an acute limited excellence at twenty-one that everything afterward savors of anti-climax. His family were