The Great Gatsby – Vocabulary – Chapters 7, 8, & 9

1. He was a son of God - a phrase which, if it means anything, means just that-and he must be about His Father's Business, the service of a vast, vulgar and meretricious beauty.

1. She was appalled by West Egg, this unprecedented "place" that Broadway had begotten upon a Long Island fishing village-appalled by its raw vigor that chafed under the old euphemisms,
2. So the whole caravansary had fallen in like a card house at the disapproval in her eyes.

1. The immediate contingency overtook him, pulled him back from the edge of the theoretical abyss.
2. Her expression was curiously familiar-it was an expression I had often seen on women's faces but on Myrtle Wilson's face it seemed purposeless and inexplicable until I realized that her eyes, wide with jealous terror, were fixed not on Tom but on Jordan Baker, whom she took to be his wife.

1. The transition from libertine to prig was so complete.

1. The circle closed up again with a running murmur of expostulations it was a minute before I could see anything at all.

1. I walked back along the border of the law, traversed the gravel softly and tiptoed up the veranda steps.

1. He put his hands in his coat pockets and turned back eagerly to his scrutiny of the house, as though my presence marred the sacredness of the vigil.
2. ... and of romances that were not musty and laid away already in lavender but fresh and breathing and redolent
3. He looked at me anxiously as if he hoped I'd corroborate this.
4. He stopped at the garage for a pneumatic mattress that had amused his guests during the summer, and the chauffeur helped him pump it up.
5. A new world, material without being real, where poor ghosts, breathing dreams like air, drifted fortuitously about...like that ashen, fantastic figure gliding toward him throughout the amorphous trees.
6. ...I thought the whole talk would shortly be served up in racy pasquinade-but Catherine, who might have said anything didn't say a word.
7. ...and then hasty addenda beneath:
8. After a little while Mr. Gatz opened the door and came out, his mouth ajar, his face flushed slightly, his eyes leaking isolated and unpunctual tears.
9. The he went into the jewelry store to buy a pearl necklace-or perhaps only a pair of cuff buttons-rid of my provincial squeamishness forever.
10. I went over and looked at that huge incoherent failure of a house once more.
11. Its vanished trees, the trees that had made way for Gatsby's house, had once pandered in whispers to the last and greatest of all human dreams;
12. ...face to face for the last time in history with something commensurate to his capacity for wonder.