



Power And Gaze

Directions: Read the excerpt carefully. Choose either a **feminist** or **Marxist** lens to analyze the passage. A **feminist lens** examines gender roles, power, and inequality between men and women, while a **Marxist lens** examines class, wealth, and social power. Use the questions to guide your analysis. Support all answers with **textual evidence**.

Excerpt from The Great Gatsby, Chapter 1

"I looked back at my cousin, who began to ask me questions in her low, thrilling voice. It was the kind of voice that the ear follows up and down, as if each speech is an arrangement of notes that will never be played again. Her face was sad and lovely with bright things in it, bright eyes and a bright passionate mouth—but there was an excitement in her voice that men who had cared for her found difficult to forget: a singing compulsion, a whispered 'Listen,' a promise that she had done gay, exciting things just a while since and that there were gay, exciting things hovering in the next hour.

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 anticlimax. His family were enormously wealthy, even in college his freedom with money was a matter for reproach."

1. How might a **feminist critic** interpret the way Daisy's voice and appearance are described?
2. How might a **Marxist critic** interpret Tom's characterization and social position?
3. Compare the balance of power between Daisy and Tom in this passage. What inequalities or dynamics stand out?
4. How does the narrator's perspective (Nick's descriptions) influence how we view Daisy and Tom?
5. Write a short paragraph (5–7 sentences) applying **one critical lens** (feminist or Marxist) to interpret the dynamics between Daisy and Tom.