

Carry on, Jeeves! Study Guide

Carry on, Jeeves! by P. G. Wodehouse

(c)2015 BookRags, Inc. All rights reserved.



Contents

Carry on, Jeeves! Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapter 1-2.....	4
Chapter 3-4.....	7
Chapter 5-6.....	9
Chapter 7-8.....	11
Chapter 9-10.....	13
Characters.....	16
Objects/Places.....	19
Themes.....	21
Style.....	23
Quotes.....	25
Topics for Discussion.....	27



Plot Summary

P.G. Wodehouse's *Carry On Jeeves* is the story about Bertram "Bertie" Wooster and his gentleman's gentleman of a servant, Jeeves. Jeeves has a head suited to fix the oddest of problems and seems almost magic at times with his ability to understand people. Although Bertie is unsure at first of Jeeves, Bertie soon realizes that Jeeves is a necessity that no gentleman should be without.

The story takes place during the early part of the twentieth century in London. Bertram Wooster has just had to let his former servant go for stealing. The agency sends over Jeeves the next day. Bertie is instantly taken with Jeeves and his mannerisms. Bertie is called to his Uncle Willoughby's house by Bertie's fiancée, Florence. Florence is upset that Willoughby has written a book that describes her father, in his younger days, getting into trouble. She demands that Bertie steal the book and destroy it or she will not marry him. Bertie takes the book and locks it in the chest in the room he is staying at but doesn't know what to do with it. Willoughby begins to look for the book and searches the chest in Bertie's room but finds nothing. Jeeves has mailed the book on and Bertie fires him when Florence ends the engagement. The next day Bertie realizes that he didn't want to marry Florence and rehires Jeeves.

Bertie's friend, Corky, needs help getting his uncle to agree to Corky's engagement. Jeeves comes up with a brilliant plan but the scheme goes a little awry when the uncle marries the girl and produces an heir. Corky is an artist and his uncle gets him to paint a picture of the child. Corky does so but the picture makes the child look hideous and the uncle swears to cut Corky off from his financial help. Jeeves then tells Corky that he should take the picture to the papers and have them run it as a comic. Corky does so and makes quite a bit of money.

Jeeves continues to help Bertie's friends with all their problems from financial and romantic to needing a good cook. Regardless of the situation, Jeeves almost always seems to have a plan. On occasion the plan doesn't go quite right, but Jeeves is able to fix the situation with ease. Jeeves is the envy of all that know Bertram, but despite their best efforts, Jeeves is loyal to Bertram and can't be stolen away no matter how much money is offered. Jeeves never tells Bertram much about himself, friends, family, or the money he acquires throughout the story, but is as loyal as a friend can be.



Chapter 1-2

Chapter 1-2 Summary

P.G. Wodehouse's *Carry On Jeeves* is the story about Bertram "Bertie" Wooster and his gentleman's gentleman, Jeeves. Jeeves has a head suited to fix the oddest of problems and seems almost magic at times with his ability to understand people. Although Bertie is unsure at first of Jeeves, Bertie soon realizes that Jeeves is a necessity that no gentleman should be without.

The story takes place in the early part of the twentieth century in London. Bertram Wooster, often called Bertie by his friends, finds that his current gentleman's gentleman is stealing his silk socks. After firing him, Bertie is sent Jeeves by the agency. When Jeeves arrives, Bertie has been out the night before with his friends and has had too much to drink. Jeeves quickly slides past Bertie, seemingly without making a sound, and fixes Bertie a concoction that seems to fix Bertie's hangover immediately. Bertie quickly announces that Jeeves is hired. Bertie has received a letter from his intended, Florence Cray, while she was staying at Bertie's uncle Willoughby's house. Bertie was due to go there, but Florence insists that he immediately start for Willoughby's house instead of waiting to come.

After Bertie and Jeeves arrive at Willoughby's house, Bertie finds that Florence is upset because Willoughby has written a book of his memoirs as a young man. In the book he speaks of a time when he and Florence's father are arrested, and of several other incidents that Florence is certain will embarrass her family. Florence demands that Bertie steal the book when Willoughby sets it on the table the next day to be mailed to the publishers. Bertie is unsure of this, but Florence swears she won't marry him if he doesn't destroy the book.

Bertie is able to grab the book and locks it in his night dresser in the guest room. Florence's little brother, Edwin, the boy scout, is also staying at Willoughby's estate. As practice of a good deed, Edwin tells Willoughby when the book is discovered missing and did not arrive at the publishers, that he thinks Bertie took it and had seen Bertie with it. Willoughby searches Bertie's room but, much to Bertie's surprise, doesn't find anything. Jeeves tells Bertie that he took care of the book by mailing it on to the publishers. Bertie is angry and fires Jeeves. Florence keeps her word and breaks up with Bertie. The next morning, Bertie realizes that he isn't upset that Florence broke up with him and finds it to have been a smart thing Jeeves has done and hires him back.

Bertie's Aunt Agatha sends Bertie over to America to stop Bertie's cousin, Gussie, from marrying a girl on the vaudeville stage. After getting there, Bertie and Jeeves decide to stay in America for a time. Bertie has a friend named Corky who is an artist but doesn't make a living at it. Corky relies on money that comes from his rich uncle Alexander Worpel. Alexander Worpel didn't have any children, and so Corky was the sole heir to Worpel's vast fortune.



One morning, Corky appears at Bertie's flat with a girl he introduces as his fiancée, Miss Singer. Corky asks Bertie to help him find a way to explain the situation to his uncle so that he won't be cut off from the fortune. Bertie calls on Jeeves, who suggests that Miss Singer write a book. Alexander Worple has written books about birds, and Jeeves tells Miss Singer to have someone write a book under her name with several references to Alexander Worple's books. He tells them that then when the book is published to have one copy sent to Alexander Worple, and that this way he has met Miss Singer and will be more likely to allow the marriage.

Some time later, Bertie sees Miss Singer in town and she is married. Bertie is shocked to find that she hasn't married Corky, but rather Corky's uncle Alexander. Soon thereafter, Bertie reads in the paper that Alexander Worple has had an heir to his fortune born. Bertie goes to see Corky, who has been employed to paint a portrait of the child that has stolen his fortune.

Something goes wrong, and Corky's painting looks horrible. The uncle is furious with Corky and cuts him off then and there. Jeeves appears and announces that if Corky will take the illustration to the newspaper office they would be happy to use it in a cartoon. Corky makes a fortune off of the cartoon, with the title provided by Jeeves, "The Adventures of Baby Blobbs."

Chapter 1-2 Analysis

The majority of the story will be written from the point of view of Bertie. At times it will appear that Jeeves is seldom seen or heard, although the stories pivotal points will always be with Jeeves, even when the reader doesn't realize he has anything to do with what has happened. The stories that come after these will have the same path. Someone will come to Bertie with a problem for Jeeves to solve. There are times when Bertie will try to solve the problem without Jeeves' help, but the reader will see that it appears to cause many more problems than it solves, leaving Jeeves with more to deal with.

The reader will see at the end of the story about Corky that Jeeves says that Corky was generous. As Jeeves continues to work favors for Bertie's friends, they will continue to give monetary compensation for the help that Jeeves provides. The reader is never actually told what, if anything, Jeeves does with his money, but the reader will see that he appears to be both honest but very discrete about his own wealth that at times appears to be rather great.

In the first chapter, Jeeves tells Bertie that he quit his previous employer because of a disagreement in wardrobe. Bertie and Jeeves will have several arguments and disagreements throughout the story and the vast majority of them will be over everything from socks and ties to silk shirts. Jeeves proves his ability to read Bertie in the respect that when Bertie has decided something, such as to give over the socks or ties, Jeeves has already done whatever it is that Bertie is trying to give Jeeves permission to do.



There is another character in the book that the reader will hear a lot about but never actually meet. Aunt Agatha, Bertie's wealthy aunt, is referred to many times in the story. Although she never appears in the story, she seems to have a large impact on Bertie's life. She is the reason that he goes to America, and the reader sees that because Bertie was unsuccessful in Aunt Agatha's task of stopping Gussie's marriage, Bertie stays in America to avoid Aunt Agatha.



Chapter 3-4

Chapter 3-4 Summary

Bertie is visited by Lady Malvern and her son Wilmot. Lady Malvern, a friend of Aunt Agatha's, is traveling around America doing a study on the prison systems in America for a book she is writing. Her son, Lady Malvern feels, is too weak to travel with her and she was told by her friend Agatha that Bertie would be more than happy to have him stay at his flat for a month. Lady Malvern feels certain that Wilmot will be no trouble since he enjoys only reading and is quiet by nature. She has Wilmot escort her to the train station with instructions that he will come directly back to the flat after dropping her off at the train. Bertie is upset over the situation, but not willing to make Aunt Agatha angry at him, accepts the situation. Bertie goes out to have a bite with some friends and when he comes home later that night he finds Wilmot nowhere at the flat. Jeeves says Wilmot came home, got dressed, and went back out. At that moment Jeeves and Bertie hear something at the door and Wilmot lays on the floor unable to walk, having had too much to drink.

The next morning Wilmot has Jeeves' after-morning drink and feels no effects of the night before. He tells Bertie that his mother never let him do anything and he has only a month to do a lifetime of living. Bertie decides to keep him close and help keep him out of trouble, but that night at dinner Wilmot throws bread rolls at the fan at the restaurant and embarrasses Bertie to the point he refuses to keep company with Wilmot any more. A couple of nights later Bertie comes home to find that Wilmot has had several "friends" over to the flat and has a bull terrier tied to the kitchen table. Bertie packs a suitcase and tells Jeeves to stay behind. Bertie travels to the country to stay with a friend of his and avoid the Wilmot situation. After but a few days, Bertie can't handle the quiet country life and goes home. When he gets home he finds it quiet and the dog gone. Jeeves announces that Wilmot is in jail for assaulting a constable. Jeeves tells Bertie that when Lady Malvern arrives to get her son, if Wilmot is not out of jail by then, to tell her Wilmot went to Boston to visit some of the sites.

Lady Malvern arrives to pick Wilmot several days ahead of schedule. Bertie tells her Wilmot went to Boston, but she then announces that she has just seen Wilmot in the prison before she came to Bertie's flat. Jeeves soon comes in and announces that Wilmot had volunteered to go into the prison system so that he would be able to help his mother's book. Lady Malvern is very excited and proud of her son and leaves, thanking Bertie. After Lady Malvern has left, Jeeves announces that he bet Wilmot a sum of money to hit a constable, realizing that it would be a good way to keep him out of trouble.

Bertie's friend Mr. Bickersteth, Bicky, has a rich uncle who provides an allowance for Bicky. His uncle, Duke of Chiswick, has been led to believe from Bicky's letters that Bicky is making a good living in New York. The Duke plans for a visit and wants to stay with Bicky, but Bicky lives in a small dingy apartment and hasn't any money. Chiswick



had wanted to send Bicky to Colorado to be a rancher, but Bicky had been able to find a profitable job in New York, and so Chiswick had recanted. Jeeves listens to the problem and suggests that Bertie let Bicky use his flat as his own and pretend that Jeeves was Bicky's servant. Bicky is excited about the idea, and all goes well until Chiswick decides that Bicky is doing well enough that he doesn't need any more monthly allowance. Bicky is panicked until Jeeves gets a group of men to pay for the privilege of shaking the hand of the Duke of Chiswick. With this money Bicky intends to start a chicken farm. While Chiswick is shaking hands, he figures out what is going and refuses to take part in the ploy. He announces he will cut Bicky off until Jeeves says that in order for Bicky to get the money he must write a story about the situation and have it published in the paper and this will give him his money. Chiswick doesn't want his name to appear in the paper in such a manner and so gives Bicky the money to start his chicken farm.

Chapter 3-4 Analysis

The reader will find as the story continues that all of Bertie's friends have an uncle or aunt that support them in some way. Bertie will often use his monetary means to support the plans that Jeeves comes up with. Although the plans don't seem to work out quite the way it was first intended, Jeeves never lets any one down.

The reader sees that the story is told from the point of view of Bertie. It isn't until the last story that the reader gets to see things from the point of view of Jeeves. He becomes more complex in some respects as the story continues. He isn't a servant because he needs the money. There appears to be a sense of duty and honor with him in regard to his profession. He also seems to have multiple contacts that surprise the reader and Bertie as the story continues. The reader has seen already that when Bicky arrived, Jeeves knew of his situation already. Later in the stories there will be other situations that Jeeves knows more about than the reader is given information about.

Jeeves takes Bertie's fashion very seriously. Often in the story the two will disagree about something, with Bertie saying he is being very strong in his refusing to change. Ultimately Jeeves is able to have his way, if for no other reason than because Bertie wants to show appreciation for Jeeves' actions. The mustache that Bertie grew appeared to be really upsetting Jeeves. At the end of that chapter, to show his appreciation, Bertie lets Jeeves shave off his mustache. Although this appears to be an insignificant thing, Jeeves appears to take it very seriously.

The reader will continue to see the two disagree with each other and will also see how they come together in the end. Jeeves and Bertie are two very different people, and in the very last chapter the reader will see that Jeeves wants to keep Bertie as his employer just as much as Bertie wants to keep him as his gentleman's gentleman.



Chapter 5-6

Chapter 5-6 Summary

Bertie's friend, Rockmetteller Todd, often referred to as Rocky, comes to Bertie's house with a letter from Rocky's Aunt Isabel. Isabel provides Rocky's monthly allowance and Rocky is her sole heir. Rocky is a poet and lives outside the city in the country. He comes to town as little as possible and loves a quiet life. His Aunt Isabel is certain that she is dying and decides that in order to live the life she has always wanted to live, she will give Rocky his money now with the agreement that he attend all the best parties and live the high life. She tells Rocky to be sure and send her letters with complete details regarding his actions and lifestyle. Rocky has no desire to live such a life and is heartbroken over what to do. Jeeves suggest that he will attend the clubs and take detailed notes for Rocky. Rocky can then compile them and send them to Aunt Isabel. Rocky is satisfied with this and so begins his letters of exciting lifestyle to Aunt Isabel. After several letters, Isabel feels she can't stay away and comes to New York to see the lifestyle for herself.

In order to make the lifestyle seem more convincing, the letters had come from Bertie's flat. Isabel shows up and is disgruntled that Bertie is obviously loafing on her nephew in his nice flat. Bertie stays at a hotel and Rocky rushes to the city to take his aunt out. Rocky is unhappy about the business, but a few days later the aunt announces that it is sinful to go to such places. She begs Rocky to go back to the country and says that her revelation came to her when the dimwitted servant, Jeeves, took her to a revival instead of the club she had asked for. At the revival the man had told about the evils that the city held and pointed directly at her. She was so ashamed and now asks Rocky to go to the country and stay away for the good of his soul. After Aunt Isabel is gone, Jeeves admits he remembers an aunt of his that had the same trouble, which is where he got the inspiration.

Bertie's friend, Charles Edward Biffen, or Biff, happens to be in Paris at the same time as Bertie and Jeeves. Biff and Bertie meet up on the street and Biff tells him that he fell in love with a girl and asked her to marry him while they were in the airport. Biff went off to get the bags and when he came back he couldn't find her. He thought she went back to the hotel, but he couldn't remember which hotel. He wanted to call her but couldn't remember anything other than her name was Mabel. He had no way of finding her. Biff was trying to mend his broken heart and has plans when he returns home to meet with a doctor named Sir Roderick Glossop, a nerve specialist. Bertie had been engaged to Roderick Glossop's daughter, Hornia Glossop, and starts to warn Biff of her nature, but Biff is in too much of a hurry. Less than a month later, Bertie is back in England and picks up a newspaper stating the engagement of Hornia and Biff. Jeeves refuses to help, which confuses Bertie, who decides to help Biff on his own. Bertie's own engagement had ended when Roderick had found out that Bertie had a history of mental disturbances in his family background. Bertie suggests this to Biff, but Biff says there isn't so much as a compulsive disorder in his family.



Biff asks Bertie to go with him on an outing that Roderick has planned. Upon seeing Bertie, Roderick is upset. Although Bertie is as rude as possible, Roderick doesn't get upset at Biff. Jeeves just happens to be told about Mabel and Biff's unfortunate separation. After this, he gives Biff the name of a place to visit where Mabel is standing behind some glass in a costume. Biff breaks the glass to get to Mabel and is taken off to jail. Roderick is furious that the man is a lunatic and tells Bertie to tell Biff the wedding is off. Jeeves tells Bertie later that his niece is Mabel and Jeeves had thought at first that Biff had been uncaring about Mabel and didn't realize that Biff honestly cared about the girl.

Chapter 5-6 Analysis

The reader sees in the story of Bertie's friend Biff that Jeeves has many more connections than Bertie knows about. It had seemed odd to him that Jeeves was unwilling to help, and the reader had an idea of what had happened, but it wasn't until later that the motives of Jeeves are known.

Hornia Glossop is never actually seen in the story, although this is not the last time she will be talked about. The reader will have the opportunity to see her father, Roderick Glossop, again and will meet other members of her family. All will prove to be just as uncomfortable for Bertie as Roderick and Hornia.

The reader sees that when Jeeves explains to Bertie that Mabel is his niece, that Bertie almost collides with another car in traffic. Although the reader doesn't always know what Bertie is thinking, and very seldom what Jeeves is thinking, this shows a great deal of explanation as to the relationship between the two. Bertie doesn't even know that Jeeves has any family and Jeeves doesn't bother to explain to anyone that the reason he dislikes Biff so much is because he believes his niece was wronged by Biff.

P.G. Wodehouse wrote many more books about Jeeves and his employer Bertram Wooster. Because there is not a central main plot or problem to be discovered, the reader will notice that the chapters more closely resemble short stories rather than one tale. Each story does build on the last showing similarities and consistencies in the characters, but other than Jeeves and Bertie there are very few that are named in more than one chapter. The consistencies in the characters are very clearly seen even though the reader doesn't get a look at Jeeves' thoughts until the last chapter of the book.



Chapter 7-8

Chapter 7-8 Summary

Bertram Wooster and his friend, Oliver Randolph Sipperley, referred to simply as Sippy, are being brought before a judge and ordered to pay a fine. Bertie and Sippy had gone to school together. Sippy happened to cross Bertie's path and tells him that he has been ordered by his wealthy aunt to visit some of his distant relatives whom he hasn't seen since he was ten. He has no desire to go, and so Bertie tells Sippy the smart thing to do is to go and steal a constable's helmet. Bertie is able to pay the fine, but the judge refuses to let Sippy simply pay the fine and gives him thirty days in jail. Sippy knows when his aunt finds out that he didn't go visit the family like she ordered him to, he will be in trouble. Jeeves tells them that the thing to do is to have Bertie go in his place. Since the family hasn't seen him in so long, they won't know the difference and Sippy can give information to Bertie to keep suspicions from being aroused. Bertie reluctantly agrees, but upon arriving at the house he finds that one of the girls looks remarkably like Hornia Glossop. Although the last name of the family that Bertie is staying with is named Pringle, it turns out the family is a relation of Roderick Glossop. Bertie, still pretending to be Sippy, catches the eye of the girl that resembles Hornia. This girl is named Heloise Pringle and is just as repugnant as Hornia. She begins to make advances toward Bertie despite his cold nature to her.

Bertie finds things increasingly confusing when Roderick Glossop drops in for dinner one evening. It is so sudden that Bertie doesn't have time to think of a way out. Roderick quickly explains that this is the horrible Bertram Wooster and Bertie quickly makes a retreat. Bertie and Jeeves go to Sippy's aunt in the hopes that Bertie can explain to her the situation that led to Sippy's incarceration and avoid her cutting Sippy off financially. After Bertie explains things to the aunt, she is tickled and laughs incessantly for some time. Jeeves explains later that the aunt has been having some difficulty with a local constable. She was so amused that her nephew stood up to one that she was happy rather than upset. Jeeves of course had talked to the local constable and knew of the story before Bertie.

Bertie comes to Jeeves for help regarding his friend Freddie Bullivant. Freddie was engaged but had a spat with his girl and she ended the engagement. Jeeves doesn't think of anything immediately, and so Bertie decides he will take Freddie to a resort for a vacation to help him get over the girl or to think of some way to win her back. When they arrive, Freddie runs into the girl, Elizabeth Vickers. She is there as well. Bertie sees Elizabeth on the beach playing with a small fat boy and giving him candies. Bertie decides the thing to do is to take the child, who obviously is some relation, and then have Freddie bring the child back and she will be so thankful that she will hug him and they will rekindle what was lost. Bertram easily gets the child and produces it to Freddie. Freddie quickly comes back to the room, still holding the child's hand, and announces that she is no relation to the child but had just happened upon him and was being kind. The little boy is too young to relay any important information to Bertie or Freddie.



regarding his home or the name of his parents. Bertie asks at the local sweet shop and finds the name and number of where the boy lives. When he arrives, the people refuse to come to the door because they have the mumps. They tell Bertie that they know his aunt and would be so thankful if he would keep Tootles until someone can come get him. Bertie is left with little choice and takes the child back home.

After a few days, Jeeves hatches a plan. He says that they will teach the little boy to say "Kiss Freddie" in return for a chocolate. After he has his line down they will find Elizabeth and create the heartwarming scene. Elizabeth shows up a few days later but Bertie is unable to control the situation. Elizabeth offers the child a candy and he begins to scream "Kiss Fweddie, Kiss Fweddie, Kiss Fweddie" while hopping up and down. Elizabeth stands there looking confused and Bertie explains the situation and that Freddie didn't know of the plans. Elizabeth quickly embraces Freddie and another of Jeeves' plans has worked.

Chapter 7-8 Analysis

Jeeves plans almost always seem a little too easy to go as they are planned, and the reader will notice that they never do. This adds to the storyline as the unpredictability of human nature is seen in the story. Regardless of what comes up before Jeeves, the reader will note that he is never angry, confused, or appears startled or taken aback. He always has a plan, and in the end the plans seem to achieve the desired result. The reader will note that often the ones that asked for help aren't happy with the immediate results, such as when Bertie lost his fiancée or when Corky lost his girlfriend to his uncle. Regardless of how things temporarily turn out, Jeeves always makes sure that they are for the best.

It appears that Jeeves almost treats Bertie like a child or someone who is incompetent. The reader will notice that Jeeves dictates what Bertie can and cannot wear and even personal hygiene, such as the mustache, becomes open game to Jeeves. The reader will see that this continues in the coming chapters when Bertie orders a set of silk shirts. Jeeves will often appear to be complying with Bertie's wishes, almost like a parent would with a child, but then does what he thinks best for Bertie regardless. The only time the reader sees that Jeeves didn't act of his own will regarding Bertie's appearance was when Bertie had his mustache. That was likely due more to the fact that Jeeves couldn't touch it without Bertie knowing it rather than it being a line that Jeeves wouldn't have crossed. It appears to be more of a sense of duty regarding his master's fashion.

Jeeves is a loyal character as the reader sees. There are those that have offered Jeeves more money than Bertie is paying him, but Jeeves refuses to go. In the last chapter, the reader will see that Jeeves is willing to manipulate the situation to ensure that the situation between him and Bertie stays the same. It is possible that there is more to Jeeves than the reader will be able to glean from these stories. He appears to be quiet and keeps much information to himself.



Chapter 9-10

Chapter 9-10 Summary

Bertie's Aunt Dahlia has asked Bertie to write an article for her women's newspaper *Milady's Boudoir*. The article is to be published on the "Husbands and Brothers" page titled "What the Well-Dressed Man is Wearing." Bertie finishes the article and after having Jeeves read through it, goes down to the *Milady's Boudoir* offices to hand it in. When he arrives, he is greeted by Mrs. Little. She is a well known woman's literature writer and has agreed to provide an article for *Milady's Boudoir*. She invites Bertie over for supper since they have a splendid cook. Dahlia and Bertie's uncle Thomas are to come as well. She tells Bertie that she is looking for a parlormaid and Bertie tells her that he will ask Jeeves.

Upon entering Dahlia's office, she tells Bertie that she desperately needs a cook. The one they currently have they refer to as the "Steak-Incinerator." Bertie assures her that he will ask Jeeves to ask around for a free cook. When Bertie arrives at the Little house that night, Bertie finds Bingo Little looking very upset. He whispers to Bertie that he must speak with him later. After a very enjoyable meal, Bingo goes to Bertie's house and explains to him that his wife is writing a piece for Dahlia's paper titled "How I Keep the Love of My Husband-Baby". Bingo tells Bertie and Jeeves that the paper is so awful that when his friends hear the things she says about him that they will laugh themselves silly at Bingo's expense. Jeeves suggests that if Dahlia and Thomas were able to successfully steal away Bingo's cook then Mrs. Little would be upset enough that she wouldn't give over anything she has written. Jeeves goes to the cook and tries to talk to him about being employed by Dahlia and Thomas, but he refuses. The cook is a French man named Anatole. He is in love with one of the other servants in the Little home and can't think about leaving.

Bingo is so upset that he convinces Bertie to sneak into his house at night and steal the paper. Bertie is unsure of himself, but agrees. He sneaks in through the window that Bingo left open but is attacked by the dog and crashes into a table, breaking several objects. One of the Little's servants brings in a policeman. Bertie is unable to convince them that he is no burglar and is forced to make a run for it. When he arrives home, Bertie finds that Jeeves has packed him a bag in expectation of a problem, and they catch a train to avoid Bingo asking any more favors. When they get on the train, Bertie finds his Aunt Dahlia there. She is angry at Mrs. Little because Mrs. Little thinks that Dahlia stole away their cook. Bertie is confused and so he explains that they did employ the cook but that she doesn't think that Mrs. Little should take it so personally. When Bertie talks to Jeeves about it, he finds that Jeeves helped the Littles to acquire a parlormaid. The parlormaid that Jeeves helped them to find was one that Anatole, the cook, had made love to and promised to marry, but then abandoned her. When the parlormaid and the other servant realized the relation to Anatole, neither were very easy to live with and Anatole began looking for new employment. Bertie is both amazed and intrigued that Jeeves was able to pull all this off.



Jeeves is bringing in a tray with tea when Bertie begins to get upset. He tells Jeeves that every day it's the same routine. Bertie begins to explain that he needs something more from life and can't stand for things to go on this way anymore. Jeeves recalls when other employers begin to speak like this they often are to the point they are thinking about matrimony, but Mr. Wooster doesn't have a young lady. Bertie then says that he wants to find a bigger house in the country so that when his sister comes back home she can come to live with him. His sister has daughters and Bertie says the sound of feet running through the house is just what he needs. Jeeves suggest that a day away from the house might do Mr. Wooster some good, and they leave for a short reprieve. While they are driving from the city, there is a girl of about twelve on the side of the road asking for a ride. Jeeves stops and agrees to take her to her school so that she won't get in too much trouble for being late.

When they arrive at an all girl's school, Jeeves suggests that in order to keep the child from getting in trouble, Mr. Wooster might explain to the head mistress that he is a friend of the girl's father and so gave her a lift. The young girl is named Peggy, and she takes Bertie to meet her friends after they have talked to the head mistress. Jeeves takes the head mistress aside and explains to her that Mr. Wooster is The Mr. Bertram Wooster and it would be nice if he could say a few words to the girls. After convincing her that Bertie is some sort of significant figure and name, Jeeves takes the car off to the shed and devises that it will be conveniently broke down when Mr. Wooster wishes to leave and won't be fixed for at least two hours.

Mr. Wooster quickly comes out to the car and tells Jeeves that he has been asked to speak with some insistence and that the girls keep giggling at him and whispering and he doesn't know what to do. Jeeves almost gives up and admits the car works when the head mistress comes out and takes him in to say a few words. Once they are in the school, Jeeves makes his way in to hear a few of the words that Mr. Wooster will say to the young girls. Bertram has no clue what to talk about, and after fumbling over a few stories of how to gamble and other inappropriate subjects, is asked to be done by the head mistress. When Jeeves and Bertie arrive home that night, Jeeves asks when he should start looking for a larger house for Bertie's sister and her daughters. Bertie then explains that there will be no need for such things and that it's nice the way that Jeeves always comes in the same time every night. It makes things feel reliable.

Chapter 9-10 Analysis

The reader finds in the last chapter that the author changes pace and begins to tell the story from Jeeves' point of view rather than Bertie's. This was necessary in the final chapter for multiple reasons. First, it gives the reader an idea of Jeeves' motives. There could have been a number of reasons that he does the things that he does, but this gives a clearer understanding of his intents and feelings. The other reason was because it was much more informative and entertaining to know that the situation with the all girl's school had been set up by Jeeves rather than just a coincidence.



Although the reader is not told what happens to Jeeves and Bertram Wooster in the other books, there are hints given from Bertram when he is speaking as though all this has passed already, and that Jeeves stays with him for some time. There are many books regarding these two characters and it appears that they are opposite sides of the coin. They are from the same world in many respects but from different sides of it. Neither of them seem to come from common people and both of them know what is expected from them and from each other. Jeeves may have a better idea of this set system than even Bertram does. It appears that Bertram is rather improper with Jeeves, but the reader will see he is constantly at attention and calls him sir or Mr. Wooster. The reader never has the opportunity to see Jeeves in a situation that would make him look like anything other than a servant.

The title of the book is "Carry On, Jeeves" and this is perhaps that because no matter what needs to be done, by the time that Bertram realizes what needs to be done Jeeves has already started doing it or has it finished. When Bertram comes home and announces that they need to leave town, Jeeves already has their bags packed, and when Bertram decides that Jeeves can get rid of his ugly socks or ties, Jeeves has already gotten rid of them.

Characters

Bertram Wooster

Bertram Wooster, often called Bertie, is one of the two main characters in the story. The reader isn't told a lot about Bertram's looks, but one knows that he is a young man. Bertram is described as being someone that can be persuaded into anything his friends need. For this reason, Jeeves will be forced to look out for him at certain intervals in the story. There are even moments when women, who Bertram admitting doesn't like at all, can seem to have a moment's worth of power over him.

Bertram has weaknesses that become apparent. Throughout the story, he always is giving help to his friends. All of his friends are similar to Bertie. They are young, unmarried men who rely on the financial distributions from either an aunt or an uncle. It takes very little for Bertram to be talked into a bad situation by someone whom he feels is a friend. Jeeves will seemingly become a father figure to Bertie in some respects. Jeeves will never call him anything other than sir or Mr. Wooste, but the reader sees that Jeeves does a lot for Bertie and seems happy to remain in his employment.

Jeeves

Jeeves is a gentleman's gentleman. This phrase describes Jeeves' nature as well as his position. The reader will find that no detail is too small for Jeeves to take into consideration. From the moment that he enters Bertram Wooster's life, Jeeves begins to change things in the direction that he believes a young gentleman should be going. He constantly is correcting Bertram in his choice of ties, socks, suits, facial hair, and any other fashion addendum that needs to be made. Bertram tries to stand firm but finds that Jeeves is often cold and standoffish after Bertram refuses to give in. No matter what the situation it takes only a matter of time before Bertram agrees to whatever it is that Jeeves suggests.

Jeeves has an uncanny ability to read those around him and manipulate the situation as needed. All of Bertram's friends come to him so that they can have the advice of Jeeves at their disposal. Jeeves' abilities as a gentleman's gentleman, as well as his capable problem solving, makes more than one person go to Jeeves in the hopes of offering him more money to come to their service and leave Bertram. The reader is never told why, but Jeeves refuses to leave Bertram and is quite loyal to Bertram. There is only one chapter in the book that is told from the view point of Jeeves, but the reader sees he is the basis for many of the decisions and actions of the other characters.



Uncle Willoughby

Uncle Willoughby is Bertram Wooster's uncle. Willoughby writes a book of memoirs from his younger days and it offends Bertram's fiancée, Florence, and she asks Bertram to steal Uncle Willoughby's book.

Corky

Corky is a friend of Bertram's who wants to get married to a vaudeville dancer. Corky's girlfriend leaves him for his rich uncle and Corky ends up painting a picture of his uncle's new baby that is so ugly the newspaper office buys it and Corky makes a large sum of money off the picture.

Wilmot

Wilmot is the son of Lady Malvern. Wilmot stays with Bertram while his mother tours the prison systems in America. Wilmot winds up in jail for assaulting a police officer.

Rockmetteller

Rockmetteller Todd, a friend of Bertram's referred to as Rocky, loves the quiet country and only comes to the city when he must. His aunt forces him out into society to go to the parties and live the high life. Jeeves is able to convince her that it is sinful to live this way, thus saving Rocky from being forced into a life he hates.

Charles Edward Biffen

Charles Biffen, referred to as Biffy, is a friend of Bertram's who gets engaged to Hornia Glossop on accident and requires Bertram's help to get out of it. Biffy is in love with Jeeves' niece Mabel.

Roderick Glossop

A nerve doctor that hates Bertram. Bertram had been engaged to Roderick's daughter then Bertram's friend Biffy. Both men narrowly escaped matrimony with the horrible girl.

Hornia Jane Louise Glossop

Hornia is the only daughter of Sir Roderick Glossop. She was engaged to Bertram until her father realized he had a history of mental illness in his family. She also was engaged to Charles Edward Biffen.



Aunt Agatha

Aunt Agatha does not make an appearance in the story but much of what Bertram does is a reflection of her actions. She is very wealthy and anything that Bertram can do to make her happy he tries to accomplish.

Tootles

The little boy that Bertram takes to thinking is some relation to a particular girl. After Bertram realizes the child is no relation, he hunts down the family who are all ill and ask him to keep the child, whom he has never seen before, for a week while they get well.



Objects/Places

New York

Part of the story takes place here. Bertram was sent here by his Aunt Agatha to stop his cousin from marrying a showgirl. When Bertram was unable to stop the union, he stayed in New York to avoid his aunt.

Paris

City where Bertram is at when he catches up with Edward Biffen, also called Biffy.

Palace of Beauty

The place that Jeeves tells Edward Biffen to go and visit. Jeeves' niece, Mabel, works there.

Mustache

Facial hair that Bertram attempts to grow. Jeeves disapproves of it and as reward for helping him with a friend in need, Bertram lets Jeeves shave it off.

Girl's School

Place where Bertram is forced to make a speech through the cleverness of Jeeves. It is here that Bertram decides against having his sister and her daughters come stay with him.

The Adventures of Baby Blobbs

The name given to the comic that Corky drew. Originally the painting was supposed to be of his nephew, but was so ugly it insulted his uncle. Corky made a large sum off of putting it in the paper.

American Birds

Book written by Alexander Worpel. This book is used as a ploy to get Corky permission from his uncle Alexander to marry. The plan fails when the uncle marries the girl Corky had been engaged to.



Recollections of a Long Life

The book written by Uncle Willoughby that insults Florence. Bertie is forced to steal the book to keep Florence as his intended, but Jeeves finds the book and mails it off to be published regardless.

Mumps

What the family of Tootles had. Because they all had this disease, they asked Bertram to keep the child while they got well, even though Bertram didn't know the child.

Milady's Boudoir

The paper that Bertram's Aunt Dahlia runs. Bertram's friend, Bingo Little, has Bertram attempt to steal an article about him so it won't appear in this paper.



Themes

Loyalty

The reader will find that a large theme in the book is loyalty. The main viewpoint of loyalty comes from Bertram and Jeeves, since they are the two main characters in the story. The reader will see that they both take care of each other in a sense. Jeeves constantly wants to change things about Bertram, such as his clothing and facial hair, but Bertram doesn't get angry with Jeeves and they are always able to reach an understanding. The reader knows that Jeeves has been offered employment by other people in the story and they offer to pay him more money, but the reader sees that Jeeves refuses to go. There is no explanation given for his actions, but the reader can see that there is a deep loyalty between the two.

There is also loyalty shown in the story between friends. Almost every chapter in the book deals with a "friend" of Bertram's coming to him for help of some type. It may be in part that Bertram is an easy target as someone who is easily talked into things, but it appears that Jeeves shields him from this just as much as from wearing the wrong shirt. Bertram's friends are always thankful and after Jeeves has executed some brilliant plan, and he is almost always rewarded with some type of payment or promise of payment.

Money

Money can often be thought of as something that demeans or degrades a friendship, but in this story it appears that most of the friendships and acquaintances are connected monetarily. Jeeves and Bertram wouldn't be together if Bertram didn't need a man servant. Although it doesn't start out as a friendship, they would be unable to continue together if for some reason Bertram lost his ability to pay Jeeves. The reader will also see that almost all of Bertram's friends have money handed to them from either an uncle or an aunt who have no one else to give the money to.

While no one in the book seems to be "money grubbers," it does appear that the need for money drives many of the characters who require Jeeves' help to ensure that they don't lose the financial backing of their rich relatives. All of them who come to Jeeves and Bertram for help are in danger of making rich relatives mad to the point that they are cut off from the purse strings. While Jeeves isn't able to keep this from happening in all the situations, the reader will find that when they are cut off from the money supply, they are able to have other means with the help of Jeeves. Corky, for instance, is able to sell his painting to the newspaper as a comic and makes a large sum of money. The same is true of Bick—when his uncle refuses to give him further financial assistance, Jeeves is the one who is able to convince him to pay Bicky money to start a chicken farm.



Importance of Details

There are many different situations that Jeeves comes across. He almost always has some piece of information that helps him in deciding the most prudent course of action. The reader will see that sometimes it comes in the form of him remembering his aunt and the similarities between her problems and the problems of Rocky's aunt, or from Jeeves going to see a movie. It also happens in one of the chapters that he is able to solve the problem at hand because he has listened to the stories that others have to tell. He knows who is seeing whom and what relationships they have with others.

Jeeves looks on every detail as if it is very important. If it were not for his ability to recognize that small things may have great impact, it is possible that he wouldn't be able to offer advice that helps to solve the problems. Jeeves also takes notice of the small details such as what time he serves the tea and regarding the fashion decisions of Mr. Wooster. Jeeves even seems willing to fight for the right to correct what he sees as wrongdoings by Bertram regarding his socks and ties, things that to other people may have been considered quite insignificant.

Style

Point of View

The story is written in first person. Although the vast majority of the book is written from the perspective of Bertram, it will change in the last few chapters and Jeeves will be the one telling the story. The story is written with a limited point of view. Although the reader is able to see actions and reactions of the other characters, the reader is not given insight into the feelings or thoughts of those other than the one telling the story. Occasionally the reader isn't given full information on that person. The reader will simply be able to know that that person is confused, but will not know fully what they are thinking. The reader will find that since the author changes who is telling the story, it gives the reader the ability to have a better understanding of both the characters and their motives.

There are times when the character seems to have insight into what other characters are feeling, but it is always given in the form of an observation. Bertram observes at one point in time that Jeeves is acting cold towards one of his friends and notes that it is odd for Jeeves to act that way to this person, but the reader isn't given any insight as to why Jeeves is acting this way. When Jeeves is the one telling the story it is clear that Bertram is upset. The reader is allowed to see many different ways in which Bertram is acting, but never given a clear insight as to the exact feelings or what has caused them.

Setting

The book never gives a set date although it clearly takes place in the early part of the twentieth century. The majority of the story takes place in London, although Bertram and Jeeves do go to New York for some time. The places and the time are all real and give the story a feeling of realism. The characters start off in London, but quickly leave for America to go to New York. Bertram has been sent there by his wealthy Aunt Agatha to stop his cousin from marrying a chorus girl. When Bertram was unable to stop the marriage, he elects to stay in New York to avoid the disappointed Aunt Agatha, explaining that London is far too small to avoid Aunt Agatha if she was angry.

The setting is realistic and so the author doesn't take much time explaining setting or scenery. The majority of the feel that the reader will get about the time and place will come from the actions and descriptions of the people. The author takes a great deal of time explaining people and the interactions between the two but not clothing or the way a place looks. Since this time in place is relatively well known it takes little for the reader to add scenery and setting fitting to the book.



Language and Meaning

The language in the book is what would have been common and current for the early twentieth century in London. While there are phrases that may be outdated or not widely used in America, the book is overall easily read. There are many times in the book where the reader will have to take into consideration the time and place to gather what certain phrases mean. There is a difference in the way that servants, such as Jeeves, speak and the way that others speak. The reader will notice that even those that are "friends" don't converse quite as casually as we would consider friends to talk today.

The language conveys a structure that was present for those that were in Bertram Wooster's class and the necessity to have an eloquence to retain one's stature. The language from Jeeves can at times be stiff but added to Bertram's relaxed nature it is very easily read and sometimes quite comical. The meaning of the language is to inform the reader of the relationship between the two main characters, Bertram and Jeeves, while being entertaining.

Structure

P.G. Wodehouse's "Carry On, Jeeves" consists of ten chapters. Each chapter is a different story, which tells about the problems that Bertram and Jeeves solve for themselves as well as other people. The chapters range in length and the chapter beginning and ends depend upon the time it takes to tell the story rather than the actual number of pages. The author uses double spaces during the chapters to note a change in time, place or to place a separate thought. The chapters are given short names that give a brief description as to what each chapter contains. For instance, the chapter where Bertram's friend Rocky gets a letter from his aunt wanting him to go and live the high life in New York while Rocky simply wants to sleep a lot and stay in the country is titled "The Aunt and the Sluggard".

The point at which the chapters are separated and the means by which the author connects them makes it easily appear that it is a collection of short stories rather than one tale. One of the only common factors of the stories are Bertram and Jeeves. A reader could quite easily take one of the stories and tell it without the others and have a significant idea of what was going on and feel that it had a solid ending as well. The beginning chapters give more background regarding Bertram. The structure does make the story read easily from chapter to chapter.



Quotes

"I tendered my resignation because I could not see eye to eye with his lordship in his desire to dine in dress trousers, and a flannel shirt, and a shooting coat." Chap. 1, p. 13

"The poor chap gave one of those mirthless laughs. He was looking anxious and worried, like a man who has done the murder all right but can't think what the deuce to do with the body." Chap. 2, p. 42

"At any rate, when I took the liberty of wagering him fifty dollars that he would not punch a passing policeman in the eye, he accepted the bet very cordially and won it." Chap. 3, p. 83

"I tell you Bertie, I've examined the darned cloud with a microscope, and if it's got a silver lining it's some little dissembler." Chap. 5, p.128

"It was her surname I'd forgotten. So I gave it up and went to Canada." Chap. 6, p. 143

"Of course, there are probably fellows in the world—tough, hardy blokes with strong chins and glittering eyes—who could get engaged to this Glossop menace and like it but I knew perfectly well that Biffy was not one of them." Chap. 6, p.146

"Now, what the man was driving at or what his motive was, I don't know, but I ask you, Bertie, is it wise, is it safe, is it judicious ever to ignore Jeeves's lightest word?" Chap. 6, p.163

"You can't make policemen take the romantic view. Not a tear did these two blighters stop to brush away." Chap. 6, p.165

"The case of the prisoner Leon Trotzky—which,' he said, giving Sippy the eye again, 'I'm strongly inclined to think an assumed and fictitious name—is more serious.'" Chap. 7, p.170

"I give you my word that, until I started to tramp the place with this child, I never had a notion that it was such a difficult job restoring a son to his parents. How kidnappers ever got caught is a mystery to me." Chap. 8, p. 205

"I mean, there can't be much wrong with the morale of a country whose sons go in to such a large extent for housebreaking, because you can take it from me that the job requires a nerve of the most cast-iron description." Chap. 9, p. 240

"As I got out, I looked at it somewhat intently. It was a good car, and appeared to be in excellent condition, but somehow I seemed to feel that something was going to go wrong with it—something serious—something that would not be able to be put right again for at least a couple of hours. One gets these presentiments." Chap. 10, p. 263

"I might run over one of the young ladies, sir.' 'Well, what's the objection to that?' demanded Mr. Wooster with extraordinary bitterness." Chap. 10, p. 273

Topics for Discussion

Discuss the relationship between Bertram and Jeeves. Is there more there than an employer/employee relationship? Explain.

Speculate on the reasons that Bertram Wooster's friends consist largely of people that have wealthy aunts and uncles. What does this say about Bertram's character?

Throughout the story Jeeves continues to be aware of information that Bertram is either unaware of or doesn't realize Jeeves knows. The few times that Jeeves does intercept information that he wasn't fully aware of he doesn't act shocked. What can you deduce about Jeeves from these facts?

Some of the answers to the problems that Jeeves thinks up might be considered immoral. For instance some of the things might be considered blackmail, not to mention lying and deceiving people. What is it about Jeeves that makes these acts seem tolerable? Explain.

Rocky's Aunt Isabel Rockmetteller was quiet convinced that going to enjoy the high life in New York would be the best for him until she went to the meeting that spoke of the evils in the city. Describe what it was that caused the aunt to change her mind? Was it more guilt or revelation or something different? Explain.

The reader sees for much of the book that Bertram tries to remain firm on certain things, such as mainly attire and his mustache, that Jeeves wishes to change. By the end of the book the reader sees that Bertram has began to accept Jeeves' changes. Explain the importance for Bertram in resisting the changes and what it signifies that he begins to give in to Jeeves.

Bertram appears to be a confirmed bachelor. Explain why this is significant to the story. Would Bertram have been content to remain a bachelor if he hadn't had Jeeves?