

# **Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit Study Guide**

**Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit by P. G. Wodehouse**

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## Plot Summary

*Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit* by P.G. Wodehouse is a book in a series of novels revolving around Bertram Wooster, a wealthy bachelor, and his butler, Jeeves. In this tale, Bertram and Jeeves travel together through several humorous and outrageous adventures where Jeeves, as usual, saves Bertram and members of his family from embarrassment, violence, and even marriage. It is a wonderful comedy filled with British humor and situations only the elite of British society can imagine.

Wooster, the main character of the novel, begins the story by discussing his newly grown mustache, and his butler's dislike of the facial hair. Soon after, a series of linked events place Wooster's life in danger as Stilton, a local bully, and his fiancée, Florence, have problems in their on again off again relationship, and Wooster becomes the target for Florence's affections. When his aunt Dahlia calls for his help to raise the spirits of a young man at her estate, he is only too happy to help. On arriving, however, it is revealed that Percy, the young man, is in love with Florence. Dahlia herself is in trouble, as she has pawned a pearl necklace in an effort to retain the writing services of Daphne Morehead, in order to sell her newspaper to Percy's father, Mr. Trotter. Her husband, Tom, is having someone look at the necklace she has, which is now a fake. Jeeves devises a plan to steal the necklace.

When Florence and Stilton again break their engagement due to Wooster's influence, Stilton arrives at the estate, threatening to harm Wooster. As Wooster tries to sneak into Dahlia's room to steal the fake necklace, he finds himself instead in Florence's room, where Stilton locates him. The following day, Wooster retains a cosh for protection, but drops it during a scuffle with Stilton. Dahlia retains it and after being unable to persuade her husband's friend Spode into lying about the necklace, she bashes him on the head. Wooster later returns to find the cosh, and discovers the safe open. He steals a pearl necklace only to discover it is not Dahlia's, but a guest's. It takes the ingenuity of Jeeves to once again save him, Dahlia, and everyone else in the family from disaster.

The novel is full of humorous situations, light relationships, and constant deception that leaves one waiting breathlessly to see how Jeeves will help the family out of crisis. The characters, while often self centered, are easy to love, and have an endearing way of winning—if not forcing their way—into the hearts and minds of readers with their quick wit and comical interactions.



# Chapter 1 through Chapter 3

## Chapter 1 through Chapter 3 Summary

"Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit" by P.G. Wodehouse is a comical novel about the lives of wealthy aristocrats, who survive only thanks to the quick wit of their butler, Jeeves. It is through him that these individuals are allowed to escape marriage, bodily harm, jail, and embarrassment in a humorous novel about a man named Wooster and his life as a wealthy bachelor.

Chapter 1 begins with Bertram Wooster taking a bath. His Aunt Dahlia has requested that he entertain the Trotters that evening and has warned him they are rather boring. Wooster admits he is lost without his butler, Jeeves, who has been on holiday. He is therefore happy when Jeeves returns that very afternoon. Jeeves plans to go to the Junior Ganymede, a posh club for butlers and valets while Wooster dines out. Jeeves recaps a letter Wooster has received from Percy Gorringer, the stepson of L.G. Trotter. Percy is putting on a stage production of Spindrift, a novel by Florence Craye, and is asking Wooster for a thousand pound investment. Wooster notes Craye is the daughter of his Aunt's second husband, and is engaged to Stilton Cheesewright. He asks Jeeves' opinion of the loan, and agrees that he should not back the venture. He requests a drink from Jeeves and notes that Jeeves makes a drink capable of strengthening a man. He also notes he requires strength to face Jeeves, whom he has not seen. Once the two are in a room together, it becomes apparent why strength is needed as Jeeves takes note of Wooster's new mustache, noting he does not approve. Wooster, given courage by the drink, defends his choice, but is interrupted by the doorbell. Jeeves announces the arrival of Stilton Cheesewright.

In Chapter 2, Wooster explains he does not particularly enjoy the company of Stilton Cheesewright, who used to be a police officer. Cheesewright gives his standard greeting of "Ho!" and notes with distaste Wooster's drinking. Wooster explains to the reader Stilton has drawn Wooster's name for the annual Darts sweep at the Drone's Club, and thus stands to win money by watching over him. The two discuss Wooster's partying ways for several minutes, but Stilton is happy to hear Wooster will be dining with teetotalers, the Trotters. Wooster attempts to show him out, but Stilton notes he is waiting for his fiancée, Florence, who is supposed to be meeting him. Wooster explains Florence, upon recently breaking up with Stilton, became betrothed to him, although against his will. Although Florence and Stilton got back together, Stilton is consistently worried about Wooster's relations with Florence. Wooster claims he is excited to see Florence, as she can give him a female's opinion of his mustache, to which Stilton replies the mustache is ghastly. The two begin to argue when Jeeves announces Florence's arrival.

Chapter 3 begins with a description of Florence Craye, whom Wooster notes is highly intelligent and attractive. Florence praises the mustache, much to the disapproval of Stilton, and Wooster attempts to change the subject by asking about her novel,



Spindrift, and the play Percy is producing. Florence assures Wooster Percy will raise the money, and Wooster realizes she is unaware he has asked Wooster himself. Stilton snorts that Percy would be unable to raise a tuppence, and he and Florence begin to argue, with Florence defending Percy. Wooster watches them leave, and reflects that their relationship is tenuous. To Wooster, this is dangerous in that Florence attaches to him when she and Stilton break up, and that she tends to attempt to mold him into a different person. Wooster attends a boring dinner with the Trotters, where he finds Mrs. Trotter to be a pushy woman and her husband to be a mousy, quiet man. When dinner is finished, Wooster is happy to go to the Drone's club, but soon finds himself with Stilton once more.

## Chapter 1 through Chapter 3 Analysis

Chapter 1 serves to introduce some of the characters used throughout the story, as well as to introduce many of the plots around which the novel revolves. First, readers meet the author, Bertram Wooster. Wooster is clearly a man of wealth and high tastes, and a man of high society. It is equally clear, however, that Wooster is lost without his butler, Jeeves. When Jeeves arrives home, Wooster shows a clear happiness in his return, but also shows reluctance to face him, foreshadowing the revelation of his mustache. The two characters, however, clearly relate to one another on a personal level, and readers can already see Jeeves as a vital part in Wooster's life, foreshadowing their relationship throughout the novel. The introduction of Percy via a letter serves to introduce a key plot line of the story, that of the production of Spindrift, a novel by Florence Craye, as well as to introduce the Trotters, who become vital to the story later in the novel.

In Chapter 2, readers learn of two vital characters in the story, those of Florence Craye and Stilton Cheesewright. Stilton proves to be a stiff, self-righteous individual who clearly dislikes players such as Wooster, but he is forced to almost care for him due to the darts tournament. Stilton's clear dislike for Cheesewright foreshadow his willingness to harm him later in the novel. This chapter also serves to introduce the storyline behind the relationship between Florence and Wooster. Florence, although intelligent, seems to use Wooster as her rebound when she and Stilton argue, foreshadowing events later in the novel following her numerous breakups with Stilton. In addition, the conversation surrounding Wooster's mustache foreshadows Florence's reaction in the next chapter.

In Chapter 3, readers meet Florence Craye, and can see she is not a woman to be trifled with. She is bright, beautiful, and highly independent. Her reaction to Wooster's mustache is not only positive, but shining, and implies an attraction to Wooster that goes far beyond his mustache, foreshadowing her engagement to him later in the novel. Wooster is frightened of Stilton's reactions, showing a fear that proves to be well founded in later chapters as Stilton threatens him with harm. Again readers see the theme of Percy and the play of Spindrift, foreshadowing the development of this theme throughout the novel. Wooster's evening with the Trotters provide useful information for later in the novel, when Dahlia is forced to deal with the vocal Mrs. Trotter, since readers now know Mrs. Trotter is in control of her husband. At the end of the chapter, Wooster

finds himself again with Stilton, whose appearance only furthers the idea that there will be problems between these characters throughout the novel.



# Chapter 4 through Chapter 7

## Chapter 4 through Chapter 7 Summary

Chapter 4 opens with a discussion of Stilton's activities as a rower, the results of which are a well built, muscular frame. Wooster finds himself noting this as Stilton threatens to break his neck, believing Wooster grew his mustache in an effort to win Florence. Wooster assures him this is not the case, but Stilton claims that after leaving Wooster's home, Florence ordered Stilton to grow a mustache, to which he flatly refused. Florence then broke off the engagement. Stilton accuses Jeeves of creating the plan to win Florence, but Wooster points out Jeeves disapproves of the facial hair. Stilton leaves to ponder these facts, and Wooster returns home where he finds Jeeves on the phone, refusing Percy's request for a thousand pounds. Jeeves and Wooster discuss the club books at the club, which the butlers are required to fill in with details of their master's activities. Wooster plans to go to bed to read a mystery novel, the *Mystery of the Pink Crayfish*, but is informed by Jeeves that Florence has called. Wooster returns her call, and Florence asks that he take her to a nightclub, claiming to need to research such atmospheres for her next book. Wooster agrees to take her, after discovering she is leaving tomorrow for Brinkley, Aunt Dahlia's estate. Wooster believes he can talk Florence into reconciling with Stilton, thereby saving him from harm.

Chapter 5 opens with Wooster and Florence arriving at the Mottled Oyster, a seedy nightclub Wooster notes is one of the more seedy to which he is a member. He and Florence discuss her book, as well as Wooster's own past writings for his Aunt's newspaper. Florence tells him Daphne Dolores Morehead will also be at Brinkley, and explains he is a writer who is writing a serial for the *Boudoir*. Florence is quiet, clearly thinking of Stilton. She comments on the distasteful crowd at the club, but assures him she is not disappointed, as the hero of her story is likely to be in such a club. The two speak of Stilton, but Wooster is unable to get Florence to admit she is still in love with Stilton. Instead, Florence exclaims how noble she believes Wooster to be, believing he is in love with her but still attempting to talk her into taking Stilton back. They are interrupted by the arrival of the police. Wooster attempts to calm Florence, noting they will not be properly arrested, but Florence panics and flees. Wooster trips a police officer who attempts to follow her, and is promptly arrested.

In Chapter 6, after spending the night in jail, Wooster is taken before the Vintage Street magistrate and given a fine. When he arrives home, he tells Jeeves of his evening and order breakfast after joking with Jeeves about his need to enter the activities of his matter into the club book. After a nap, Florence calls to ask of his well being and informs him the magistrate was the uncle of Stilton. She also reveals their engagement is back on, after Stilton called and informed her he would, in fact, grow a mustache. He notices, out of the corner of his eye, that Stilton has arrived at his home just as he is ending the conversation with Florence.



In Chapter 7, Wooster ends his conversation with Florence attempting to keep the identity of the caller a secret. Stilton asks where Wooster was the night before, and Wooster lies. Stilton informs him his uncle was at his home this morning, saw Wooster's picture, and informed him of the night's events. Wooster denies the accusation, noting there are many who look like him, and appears to be astounded Stilton would believe his fiancée would do something as lowly as take Wooster to a night club. Stilton reluctantly agrees, and drinks a Jeeves' special, feeling refreshed and calmed following the drink. He informs Wooster he is planning to join Florence at Brinkley within a few days.

## Chapter 4 through Chapter 7 Analysis

Chapter 4 serves to introduce the volatility of the relationship between Stilton and Florence, as well as to show Florence's attraction to Wooster in her times of need. Wooster clearly understands the position he is in, as the object of Stilton's rage, but also quickly thinks his way out of his situation, showing his quick wit and sense of humor. Jeeves, through his conversations with Wooster as well as his actions in calling Percy and Florence show his dedication to Wooster, foreshadowing his resolve to assist Wooster later in the novel. Additionally, this chapter introduces the club books, used for information throughout the novel. Wooster's choice in novels is also introduced in this chapter, foreshadowing both Florence's response to such literary works as well as Percy's admittance later in the novel that he is, in fact, the author of such books.

In Chapter 5, Florence is clearly upset by her recent breakup with Stilton, but uses Wooster to rebound, as she is inclined to do throughout the novel. She shows no remorse about her recent breakup, but instead seems angry and upset. The conversations about Morehead's arrival at Brinkley foreshadow events later in the novel. When Florence exhibits irrational behavior on her exit from the club, Wooster again shows his chivalrous nature by assisting her in her escape, even at the expense of his own safety. However, previous mention of Stilton's uncle as a magistrate foreshadow events later in the next chapter.

In Chapter 6, Wooster's actions toward the magistrate show his personality even further. Wooster is a joker and a fun loving individual with seemingly little respect for authority. When he arrives home, Jeeves again shows his loyalty, although he does admit he will be entering the night's events into the club book. When Florence calls, Wooster discovers the magistrate was Stilton's relation, foreshadowing his arrival later in the chapter. However, Florence's comments that the engagement is back on again show how volatile her relations with Stilton truly are. Stilton's arrival at the end of the chapter indicate he is aware of Wooster's activities the previous evening.

In Chapter 7, Stilton and Wooster's conversations with one another foreshadow violence between these individuals later in the novel, as Stilton is clearly angry with Wooster. However, these encounters also show again Wooster's ability to talk individuals out of their anger, and to defend himself using only his quick wit and humor. His arguments are convincing, and Stilton finds himself unable to continue with his anger. Jeeves again



proves useful, both in his defense of Wooster as well as in his ability to create a drink to calm Stilton.



# Chapter 8 through Chapter 11

## Chapter 8 through Chapter 11 Summary

In Chapter 8, Wooster finds himself elated at the idea that all in his life is well. However, he soon receives several telegrams from his Aunt Dahlia, requesting his presence at Berkley. After many exchanges back and forth, Wooster learns she is requesting his presence to cheer Percy, who is in love with Florence, and who is heartbroken that she is engaged. He is to arrive immediately, and is also to pick up Dahlia's pearl necklace from town, as well. Wooster claims to be thinking on the idea when Dahlia calls. Dahlia, from an upbringing of hunting, has a booming voice, and demands he come quickly to cheer Percy. Dahlia admits she has the Trotters and their son in her home in an effort to do business with L.G. Trotter. Wooster attempts to escape by claiming he cannot see Percy after refusing to loan him money, but Dahlia assures him Percy has already found funding. Wooster is persuaded to come through the cooking skills of Anatole, whom Wooster claims can soothe anything with his foods. He learns Dahlia plans to sell the Boudoir to Trotter due to an inability to finance it further because of her husband, Tom's, refusal to continue financial support. They end the conversation, and Jeeves asks permission to attend the monthly luncheon of the Junior Ganymede club the following week to speak as the chair. Wooster agrees, tells Jeeves to pick up the pearl necklace, and goes to pack.

Chapter 9 finds Wooster at Brinkley, where he is greeted warmly, although humorously, by his aunt. Wooster gives his aunt her necklace and learns other dinner guests for the week are to include Lord Sidcup, an individual well rounded in silver to whom Tom wishes to show his silver collection, and Morehead, the novelist whom Dahlia has commissioned to write a serial for the Boudoir. Dahlia believed such a move would entice Trotter to buy the periodical. Wooster wonders how Dahlia commissioned the work, since Morehead is a high priced author, but Dahlia refuses to reveal her ways. Instead, she laments Trotter has not yet decided to buy the paper, and she believes Mrs. Trotter is advising him against the purchase. Percy arrives, and Dahlia introduces him to Wooster, as well as gives him a letter to give to Florence. Percy clearly dislikes Wooster, but Dahlia sends him after Percy to brighten his spirits.

In Chapter 10, Wooster finds Percy happy and reciting poetry. He questions the change, and Percy informs him the telegram he gave to Florence was from Stilton, breaking off their engagement. Percy clearly believes he has a chance at Florence, but Wooster sees this as his own demise. Percy leaves and Wooster sets off to find Florence, wondering why Stilton would have broken the engagement. He worries the mustache may be the cause. He finds Florence, who claims to be elated at the break up. She reveals Stilton broke off the engagement after inquiries at the nightclub convinced him Florence was indeed out with Wooster. She also informs him Stilton plans to break his spine in five places, and mentions her displeasure at the idea. As Florence leaves, he is concerned, but suddenly realizes Stilton does not know he is at Brinkley. Wooster does not believe Stilton will come to Brinkley, after breaking off his engagement. Happily, he



returns to his room, believing himself to be safe, only to find himself late. Jeeves expresses disapproval, and informs him Stilton has been waiting for him.

Chapter 11 opens with Jeeves reiterating that Stilton is on the premises, waiting to see Wooster. Wooster dresses numbly, disbelieving the situation. Jeeves straightens his tie and sends him to dinner. Anatole cooks delicious dinner, but Wooster is uncomfortable, having to stare at Stilton throughout dinner. Stilton doesn't speak, but gives Wooster several dirty looks throughout the meal. When Dahlia sends the women away so the men can have their brandy, Wooster escapes. He finds Uncle Tom in the gardens, and notes not only that he despises the Trotters, but that he is worried about Dahlia. He claims he has seen her recently, and she appeared to be faint. He returns to his room, wondering what could be wrong with his aunt, when Stilton comes knocking. Wooster does not allow him entry, and shortly thereafter, Jeeves knocks and is permitted to enter. Wooster requests a whiskey and soda, which Jeeves goes to make. Aunt Dahlia soon appears, hunting for Jeeves, as she claims to be in a jam from which only Jeeves can save him.

## Chapter 8 through Chapter 11 Analysis

Chapter 8 introduces Dahlia, Wooster's aunt, and several key plot line components. Aunt Dahlia clearly loves her nephew, although the two have a fun relationship with one another as they continuously give one another a hard time. Dahlia reveals much about Percy and Florence, and although not much is said about the pearl necklace, the introduction of this object foreshadows issues surrounding it later on. Additionally, the introduction of a business deal between Dahlia and Trotter foreshadows problems with this deal in later chapters. Additionally, Jeeves again shows to be a prime butler, as he assists Wooster with all his needs.

In Chapter 9, readers again see the fun loving relationship between Dahlia and Wooster. This chapter also introduces Lord Sidcup, although his true identity and his place in the story is not introduced until later chapters, and Morehead, the author. Additionally, the reason for Morehead's commissioned work on the newspaper is revealed, as Dahlia attempts to sell the paper. However, her reluctance to explain how she paid for such a work foreshadows issues with this dealing later in the novel. Percy's demeanor towards Wooster shows clearly his disappointment about the lack of funding for his play, and Wooster's reaction shows he is regretting his decision to come to Berkley. However, his determination to help his Aunt shows again his loyalty and care for his family, and his genuine good nature.

In Chapter 10, Percy's change in outward appearance shows something large has occurred, foreshadowing the letter from Stilton to Florence. The letter itself, however, simply serves to foreshadow the imminent meeting between Wooster and Stilton that has been brewing throughout the story. This is further shown by Florence's comments that Stilton does, in fact, wish to hurt Wooster. Her reaction shows more of her personality, in that she seems not upset that Wooster has been blamed for her own actions, nor that he is to come to bodily harm because of those actions. Instead, she



seems far more obsessed with being angry at Stilton for his behaviors. She is not remorseful about their break up, showing again that she does not seem to care much about Stilton. Wooster's lightened mood when he believes Stilton will be unable to find him is dampened at the end of the novel by the arrival of Stilton, further foreshadowing a violent encounter.

In Chapter 11, Jeeves, always the butler, seems far more concerned about Wooster's outward appearance than of his particular situation. The arrival of Stilton, after breaking up with Florence, shows his own lack of respect for others, in that he clearly makes everyone uncomfortable at dinner. However, he does not seem to care, being only concerned with giving Wooster dirty looks. Dahlia's sending away of the women after dinner show the type of society these individuals live in, in that women were often considered not part of business conversation, although Dahlia herself seems to defy this stereotype. Wooster's meeting with Uncle Tom, and his comments about Dahlia, foreshadow Dahlia's revealing story later about her pearl necklace. Stilton's arrival at Wooster's room, foreshadowed by his arrival at Berkley and his behaviors so far in the novel, further shows his determination to get vengeance. Jeeves again saves Wooster with his famous drink, while Dahlia's appearance, foreshadowed by the meeting with Tom, implies she is in dire need of assistance.



# Chapter 12 through Chapter 15

## Chapter 12 through Chapter 15 Summary

Chapter 12 finds Wooster attempting to calm Dahlia. She explains, after noting her extreme dislike of Wooster's mustache, that her problems began when she pawned her pearl necklace to finance her purchase of Morehead's serial for the Boudoir. She further notes she attempted to ask Tom for the money, but he refused. Knowing she needed the serial to sell the Boudoir, she had a replica of the necklace made, and then pawned the original. She believes Tom would never have known, except he has informed her Lord Sidcup, the man coming to look at his silver collection, will also look at her pearl necklace to determine its worth. Wooster realizes that if Tom discovers this situation, Dahlia will lose her status and her strong hold over Berkley. Additionally, Wooster now understands why she is searching for Jeeves, as he is known for getting others, particularly Wooster, out of dire straights. When Jeeves arrives with Wooster's drink, he gives it to Dahlia, who explains her situation. Jeeves admits he realizes the necklace was false when he picked it up, having extensive knowledge about jewelry. Jeeves leaves to think of a solution, but soon returns to suggest that they stage a robbery prior to the arrival of Sidcup. He suggests Wooster play the role of the robber and Dahlia tells him where to locate a ladder, and which room is hers. Jeeves and Wooster leave to do the deed and Wooster finds himself in what he believes is Dahlia's room. He hits a table, and suddenly realizes the woman's voice he hears is not that of his aunt. A light turns on and he sees Florence in bed.

In Chapter 13, Wooster realizes he has entered the bedroom of Florence instead of Dahlia's. Wooster believes his aunt has lied to him on purpose, although he admits he does not know why this would be the case. He explains to Florence he has locked himself out of the house, but Florence accuses him flirtatiously of sneaking in to kiss her while she slept. Wooster vehemently denies this, but when Florence asks him to kiss her, he does not refuse. She notes that while Dahlia says horrible things about Wooster, Florence believes she is mistaken. Wooster is offended. Florence reminds him of when she found him buying her novel, but Wooster admits to the reader he was, in fact, there to buy a different novel, but was given the wrong title by the clerk. Florence states she believes this was Wooster's attempt to educate himself, and she admits she likes the idea of molding him. The two argue briefly as Wooster attempts to talk her out of such ideas, but there is a knock at the door. Stilton has come, claiming he has brought her mail. Florence hides Wooster in a closet, and Stilton comes in the room. The two begin to argue as Stilton accuses Florence of having a constant affair with Wooster. After heated comments, Florence admits she plans to marry Wooster, much to his amazement. He jerks in the closet, and boxes come crashing onto his head. Stilton opens the cupboard and pulls him out.

In Chapter 14, Wooster attempts to explain to Stilton, but Stilton simply says he will meet him in the hall. Wooster feels he has won, in that he can simply climb back down the ladder, but finds the ladder has been moved. Florence tells him he cannot stay in



her room all evening, She also refuses to lower him using her sheets as rope and suggests he jump. Suddenly, Wooster has an idea. He goes to the hall and explains to Stilton he cannot do him harm, as he is his partner for the darts competition. Stilton sputters, but realizes Wooster is right and allows him to pass. Wooster returns to his room to find his aunt waiting, angry he has not stolen the necklace. Wooster explains his situation, and realizes Dahlia was giving directions to her room from within the house, explaining the mistake. Tom walks by, and, in distress, informs them there is a robber about, which he claims to know due to a ladder he found outside by an open window. He reassures Dahlia he has placed her pearl necklace in safekeeping, however. Wooster and Dahlia wonder when he leaves whether Jeeves can crack a safe, but when Jeeves arrives, are informed he cannot. Dahlia leaves, certain her life is over. However, Jeeves, hearing Dahlia discuss the arrival of Lord Sidcup, suddenly notes Sidcup is, in fact, Roderick Spode. Spode, it is explained, sells woman's underwear under a trade name and can thus be bribed to silence.

Wooster is finishing his breakfast in Chapter 15 when Dahlia comes bursting in. She has been informed by Jeeves of the situation, and is highly relieved. She also informs him Florence is already planning the wedding to Wooster. Wooster, however, admits he is unafraid, in that he has been in the same situation before and has not been forced to marry, due to circumstances that save him in the end. He leaves Dahlia and meets up with Jeeves, who reminds him he wishes to go to London to speak at the luncheon. Wooster agrees he can attend, and advises he use his vehicle. Wooster continues on to find Percy. Percy is angry, as he has learned Florence and Wooster are engaged after he asked Florence to be his wife. However, he admits he is concerned for his health, as well, since Stilton has sold him Wooster's ticket for the darts competition. Wooster realizes this means he no longer holds anything over Stilton, and this is confirmed as Percy informs him Stilton is again looking for him. Wooster is upset, but suddenly has an idea, and races to find Jeeves.

## Chapter 12 through Chapter 15 Analysis

Chapter 12 reveals more about the character of Dahlia. Unable to raise money from her husband, she pawned a necklace and used the proceeds to buy a serial in an attempt to sell her newspaper. This shows both a shrewd sense of business, in that she understands the ideas of "salting the mine" as she states, but at the same time shows a disrespect for her husband. She has lied and is so reluctant to be caught that she is willing to have her own nephew to steal the replica necklace. It is Wooster's own love for his aunt that makes him accept the task, and this leads to his arrival in the room of Florence. This foreshadows Stilton's arrival at the room, and the events later with the pearl necklace.

Chapter 13, on the other hand, reveals more about Florence Craye. Florence is convinced she is the prize of Wooster's eye, regardless of what he tells her. Her demands for attention, as well as her claims to wish to mold him, show her again as a woman who is intelligent, and yet manipulative and demanding. Her comments about Dahlia's statements in regard to Wooster show little tact, and her overall actions and



comments show her to be a somewhat shallow and self-centered woman who wants only to create the man she wants. The revelation that her thoughts of Wooster stem from a misunderstanding in a bookstore only further show her inability to see reality. Stilton's arrival, foreshadowed several times throughout the book, is not surprising. Stilton proves himself to be quick to judge Wooster and Florence, without first asking for explanation, and Florence again shows a mean and cruel side. Her desires to marry Wooster appear to be aimed only at angering Stilton, but serve, of course, to cause Wooster to be discovered.

In Chapter 14, Stilton's anger is expected, but Wooster yet again shows his quick wit and escapes certain harm. While this is a relief, it also foreshadows more meetings between these characters. Further, Florence's comments in this chapter again show her as a heartless, selfish woman, as she refuses to help Wooster escape, but simply implies he should jump out the window. Dahlia and Wooster again show loyalty to one another in this chapter and again show a close yet fun-filled relationship. Tom's tale of robbery and the pearl necklace, however, foreshadow problems for Dahlia, but Jeeves again comes to the rescue, foreshadowing events in upcoming chapters with Spode.

In Chapter 15, Dahlia is clearly much happier, showing again she is not ashamed by her actions, but is merely wishing to avoid discovery. Wooster, always the optimist, shows a high level of faith in the world as he remains unmarred by Florence's wishes to marry him. However, when Percy explains he has purchased Wooster from Stilton, this optimism for the first time seems to die. Just as quickly, however, Wooster again rises to the top as an idea floods into his head, proving again he is a quick witted and intelligent individual.



# Chapter 16 through Chapter 20

## Chapter 16 through Chapter 20 Summary

In Chapter 16, Wooster recounts a visit to the son of Aunt Agatha, Thos, where he and Jeeves confiscated a cosh, or a blackjack. He now rushes to find Jeeves and asks if he still has possession of the weapon. He does, and Wooster rides with Jeeves back to London to retrieve it, so he has protection against Stilton. Wooster arrives back at Brinkley to find Dahlia distraught, as she has not had an opportunity to corner Spode in an effort to blackmail him into saying the fake pearl necklace is real. Percy arrives, still full of concern over Wooster's well being, but Dahlia expels him from the room. As he leaves, he informs Dahlia that Mrs. Trotter is wishing to speak with her. Wooster is left alone, but is soon approached by Stilton. Wooster grasps the cosh in his jacket pocket.

In Chapter 17, Stilton again appears to cause bodily harm to Wooster. The two argue, and Wooster threatens Stilton with the cosh. However, Stilton dashes forward and knocks the cosh from Wooster's hand, leaving him defenseless. He jumps behind a couch and the two run around, chasing one another for quite some time before the butler, Seppings, arrives. Stilton, not wishing to cause harm to Wooster in someone's presence, demands to know what Seppings needs, and is informed that someone has arrived at the door. Daphne Dolores Morehead walks into the room, and is a very beautiful young woman. The two men sputter and Morehead admits she knows Stilton from his rowing, and admits she recognizes him, although hates his and all other mustaches. Wooster defends mustaches, and Stilton offers to show Morehead around while they wait for Dahlia. She accepts, and Wooster returns to his room. On waking, he remembers the cosh, and rushes downstairs to get it. It is not there, but the safe door is open.

Chapter 18 finds Wooster rummaging through the safe, locating a pearl necklace, and absconding with it, thereby believing he has saved Dahlia from her predicament. He finds her to tell her, and she is in amazing spirits. She explains that as she arrived in Tom's study to try to get Spode alone, the two went off to the safe to look at the necklace. Tom handed it to Spode, but was then wanted on the phone. Dahlia attempted to blackmail him, as planned, but was told he was no longer in the business of selling women's underwear. Just at that time, Dahlia saw the cosh, and hit Spode from behind, knocking him unconscious. Spode believes he had a moment of vertigo, fell, and hit his head. Wooster explains to her that he has the necklace, and is told Dahlia has it instead. The two figure out the necklace is really that of Mrs. Trotter. Dahlia tells him to put it back in the safe, and he advises Morehead has arrived. He goes to put the necklace back, but L.G. Trotter is in the same room as the safe. The two talk briefly of Trotter's dyspepsia, and Trotter notes the open safe. He closes it.

Wooster begins to imagine being questioned by police at the beginning of chapter 19 due to the stolen necklace. He races to Dahlia's room for advice, and finds her equally distraught. Mrs. Trotter has informed her that she will not allow Mr. Trotter to purchase





the newspaper if Dahlia does not relinquish Anatole, her wonderful cook, so he may work for the Trotters. Wooster and Dahlia both speak simultaneously, asking one another for advice. Once Dahlia finally realizes Wooster's dilemma, she begins throwing things, as she is prone to do in crisis. Tom arrives and informs them someone has stolen Mrs. Trotter's necklace. They feign surprise, Tom leaves, and the two begin to search for Jeeves. Seppings sends him in, and Wooster explains his predicament first. Jeeves calmly notes he can easily sneak the necklace into Trotter's room during dinner. Next, Dahlia explains her dilemma. Jeeves notes one can easily turn Mr. Trotter against his overbearing wife. It appears Mrs. Trotter very much wants her husband to be knighted. It also appears Mr. Trotter has been offered knighthood, but has rejected it. Jeeves supports the idea that one could easily blackmail Mr. Trotter into buying the newspaper by promising not to tell Mrs. Trotter of his rejection. The two express their gratitude to Jeeves.

In Chapter 20, Wooster heads down for breakfast, not wanting to miss Dahlia's blackmail of Trotter. He finds Stilton and Morehead together, eating breakfast happily. Stilton is very cordial to Wooster and informs him Morehead and himself plan to take a trip down the river. Morehead leaves, and Wooster brandishes the cosh, ready for a fight. Stilton explains he no longer wishes to harm Wooster, as he is grateful to be free of Florence, and is now pursuing Morehead. He further explains he now knows what love is, and that there is no hope for reconciliation with Florence. Stilton leaves and Wooster finds himself distraught, as he believes there is no way out of marrying Florence at this juncture. L.G. Trotter arrives, refuses breakfast due to his stomach problems, and laments about the horrors of marriage. Soon, Percy, Dahlia, Mrs. Trotter, Spode, and Florence come down to breakfast, each reading the paper. Spode says his head is recovering. Mrs. Trotter suddenly exclaims they have knighted her rival, Mrs. Blenkinsop's husband. She suddenly exclaims she does not want her husband to accept knighthood, ever, since it is clear they are knighting anyone these days. Dahlia drops the coffee tray, suddenly realizing her plan is no longer valid. Seppings arrives in the doorway with Mrs. Trotter's pearl necklace.

## Chapter 16 through Chapter 20 Analysis

Chapter 16 reveals Wooster's plan, foreshadowed in the previous chapter. Armed with a cosh, it is clear he feels protected from Stilton's wrath. In this chapter, we also see more of Dahlia's personality, in that she is clearly a woman not to be trifled with, as shown by her strong reactions to Percy's interruption, and by her overall reaction to the situation with Spode. Percy again shows himself to be a caring individual, despite his clear dislike of Wooster. As Stilton arrives, and Wooster grasps the cosh, one knows something violent is about to occur, foreshadowing the events in the next chapter.

In Chapter 17, Stilton again shows his violent streak with his treats to Wooster. He is clearly an angry man, full of jealousy and unwilling to let Wooster go. Wooster, for his part, shows bravery and seems confident with the cosh in hand, but is too overconfident, and quickly loses the cosh to Stilton's quick moves. As the two chase one another around the couch, one can clearly see the childishness of the situation. It is only



the interruption of Seppings that saves him, and the arrival of Morehead. Morehead's attractiveness is clear through the expansive descriptions of Wooster. As has been shown throughout the novel, Wooster is a self admitted womanizer, and his comments on the beauty of Morehead serve to show the reader with clarity her true beauty. However, it is the tongue tied elegance of Stilton that wins her over, and this adds in showing a softer side to Stilton. Wooster is overly relieved and it is his retirement to his bedroom without thought for the cosh that causes him problems later in the novel, again showing him as an overly confident individual. On waking, he runs to correct his mistake, and finds the safe open. Knowing of his aunt's dilemma, this open safe foreshadows his theft of the pearl necklace, and of the comic drama that unfolds.

In Chapter 18, Wooster's finding of the "only" pearl necklace in the safe foreshadows the situation surrounding Mrs. Trotter's stolen necklace. His cunning thoughts seem vital and quick, but lead only to despair as he comes to discover the necklace is not Dahlia's. Her own appearance upon his arrival foreshadows that something is right with her, indicating something is wrong with Wooster's plan. Dahlia's story of her attack on Spode shows not only her determination to keep her secret from her husband, but also the lengths to which she will go to keep that secret. She has violently attacked Spode with a cosh, and sees Wooster as her angel for delivering the weapon, although the deliverance was unintentional. Wooster himself feels a sense of dread until his aunt steers him to place the necklace back in the safe. However, understanding the comic situations presented in the book thus far, one can only imagine problems with this seemingly simple plan, and those thoughts are proven in the following section. Mrs. Trotter's demanding way of secluding Dahlia foreshadows her disclosure to Dahlia of her demands for the chef, and L.G. Trotter's talk of dyspepsia foreshadows issues with the same chef later in the novel. Finally, the closing of the safe at the end of the novel seems to symbolize the closing of a door on the plan of Wooster to simply replace the pearl necklace.

In Chapter 19, the imaginings of Wooster serve to show the severity of the situation in which he finds himself. Between he and Dahlia, their combined problems amount to a confusing hill of issues, as is symbolized by the confusing conversation between the two of them. This chapter reveals the truth about Mrs. Trotter and her desires for Anatole. However, from previous chapters, readers are aware of Mr. Trotter's dyspepsia after eating French food. This duality of needs foreshadows problems between these two individuals. Dahlia shows more of her passionate personality as she throws objects when she is stressed, further adding to the vibrancy of her character. When Tom arrives to note the missing necklace, the secrecy of these two individuals shows their desires to keep everything a secret. Jeeves, always the man with the plan, comes through again in this chapter for both individuals, showing not only a true sense of duty and care for his employers, but also again showing a quick wit and sense of humor. In addition, this chapter shows further the close, loving ties between Wooster and Dahlia. Jeeves' knowledge of Trotter's situation, as gained from the club books, was foreshadowed by the mention of such books earlier in the novel. Also, it is Wooster's label of Jeeves as "feudal" that lends name to the book title.



Chapter 20 reveals much more about the plot of the novel. Stilton and Morehead are clearly getting along happily, as was foreshadowed in the previous chapter following her arrival. Stilton shows a softer side as he speaks of her, and clearly no longer desires Florence. However, this leaves Wooster to marry Florence, and it is clear he is highly concerned about such arrangements, having never wanted to marry her in the first place. Stilton's lack of desire to reunite with Florence is therefore not a blessing to Wooster, other than the fact that his own well being is no longer in danger. Mr. Trotter's revelations that French food are causing his stomach issues lend to the idea that there will be issues between him and his wife, since she is trying to steal Anatole from Dahlia. While Mr. Trotter is clearly influenced by his wife, it is also clear his patience is at an end, foreshadowing events in the next chapters. However, the revelation that Mrs. Trotter no longer wishes her husband to be knighted, following by the appearance of the missing pearl necklace, foreshadow both Dahlia's and Wooster's possible demise.



# Chapter 21 through Chapter 22

## Chapter 21 through Chapter 22 Summary

In Chapter 21, Wooster finds himself almost unable to contain his despair at the appearance of the necklace. Dahlia, on the other hand, is calm and expresses praise to Seppings, and states she assumes he found it on the floor, where Spode would have dropped it. Spode speaks up, however, and notes he was handling Dahlia's necklace at the time. Trotter rises to call police and Dahlia asks if she presumes Seppings stole the necklace. Seppings notes calmly that he in fact found the necklace in Jeeves' room. Trotter asks for Jeeves to appear, and Wooster believes he will soon have to tell the entire story, since the Wooster code could not allow Jeeves to take the blame, as he likely would do in such a situation. Jeeves arrives, and states calmly he found the necklace in the hall, and believed it to be a trinket of the staff, since it is clearly fake. Mr. Trotter claims to have paid five thousand dollars for the piece, but Wooster steps to Jeeves' defense, noting his expertise in jewelry. Spode examines the necklace, and agrees it is false. Percy expresses doubt, and Spode leaves in a huff. Mr. Trotter accuses Mrs. Trotter of giving money to her lazy brother, and she refuses but is rebuked. Percy rises, and explains his mother gave him the real necklace to have cleaned. He instead pawned it for money with which to open Florence's play, since he loves her. Florence seems highly impressed, but Mr. Trotter demands that Percy leave with them this morning to start in the family business. Dahlia expresses her concerns, since Trotter has not yet agreed to buy the newspaper. Mr. Trotter prepares to leave the room to go see a doctor, and Percy leads Mrs. Trotter away to soothe her. Jeeves jumps in, and explains that one of his drinks is likely to soothe Trotter's stomach, thereby allowing him to stay. Jeeves, Dahlia, and Mr. Trotter leave after a brief warning from Wooster about the drink, and leave Wooster and Florence alone.

In Chapter 22, Florence seems distraught and Wooster attempts to discover the cause. She admits she has been overtaken by love for Percy and for his inner soul, and Wooster helps her along, noting the niceness and caring nature of Percy. Wooster suggests she marry Percy, and Florence, in gratitude, hugs him and kisses him for releasing her from being engaged to him. At that moment, Percy arrives, heartbroken at seeing their embrace, but confused as Florence detaches herself from Wooster and attaches to him, declaring her love for him. Wooster explains their marriage is off, and Percy notes his generosity. Florence and Percy discuss their meager finances and Percy explains he is actually rather wealthy, being a secret mystery author. Wooster, surprised, realizes Percy is the author of the novels he loves so much, and asks for his autograph. Florence is pleased, and the two leave together. Dahlia returns, happily, and informs Wooster Trotter has purchased the newspaper, and the two discuss their fortunate endings. Jeeves appears, and notes Trotter is ready to sign the papers. Wooster, resigned, decides to shave his mustache, believing it is too much a danger, as women will surely fall in love with him. He tells Jeeves he plans to shave, to which Jeeves positively responds.



## Chapter 21 through Chapter 22 Analysis

In Chapter 21, the appearance of the necklace is nearly enough to send Wooster into a fluster, but Dahlia again shows her personality by keeping it together. Jeeves, again showing his quick wit, explains the story of the necklace beautifully, introducing the falsity of the necklace as a fact in the story to make it more believable. In the scene that follows, where readers see Percy has done exactly as Dahlia has with her own necklace, pawning it for money. Florence is clearly impressed with this show of affection, foreshadowing events in the next chapter. Trotter, on the other hand, is furious, and has finally regained his power over his wife. However, this does not go as well as planned, in that Trotter's stomach problems supersede his desire to buy the newspaper, foreshadowing Jeeves' input to cure him through another of his special drinks, which throughout the novel have been shown to cure all ailments.

In Chapter 22, Florence again shows her inability to truly love as she again changes position in regard to whom she cares for. Wooster is grateful however, and is free from marriage, as has been foreshadowed throughout the novel by his unwillingness to be tied to marriage. In the end, thanks to Jeeves' quick wit, Dahlia's brute force, and Wooster's cunning skills, everyone is happy. The novel ends as it began, with the topic of the mustache. Wooster claims to shave it off due to its danger in bringing him attention, but Jeeves is simply happy it will be removed.



# Characters

## Bertram Wooster

Bertram Wooster is a wealthy bachelor whose life is made up of time, money, and a butler, Jeeves, who is often his saving grace. Wooster is a self-centered individual, but one cares for other close to him, such as his Aunt Dahlia and other close relatives. He is quick to assist in any way, but is often lost without the advise of Jeeves. Wooster is a womanizer, whose ways with women often get him into trouble. Such is the case with Florence, the fiancée of Stilton, a member of Wooster's social club, the Drone's Club. Florence, in the past, has shown a liking for Wooster, and when she becomes unengaged, she immediately latches on to Wooster, causing several problems throughout the novel.

However, Wooster is also quick to show his care and concern for his Aunt Dahlia, whose troubles selling a newspaper result in the sale of her pearl necklace, and seemingly inevitable embarrassment. Wooster, in attempts to assist, keeps missing the mark and making matters worse. First, in an attempt to pretend to steal a false replica of the necklace, he finds himself in Florence's room, where he is discovered by Stilton. Later, in an attempt again to steal the necklace, Wooster steals the wrong necklace, nearly resulting in catastrophe. It is only because of Jeeves that the situation resolves without severe embarrassment.

Wooster's own wit, while quick, is often also misleading. His defense against Stilton, a cosh, is very quickly removed from him during a fight due to his over confidence. However, on several occasions, his wit does allow him to escape tragedy, as he often talks his way out of situations. His light humor and personable tone are often the only solution for Wooster to escape tragedy. Overall, Wooster is a likable man with some traits that simply make his wealthy character more believable.

## Jeeves

Jeeves is the butler to whom nearly everyone in the Wooster family looks to for sound advise and solid solutions to issues. Never impolite, Jeeves is always a quick thinker and is calm in nearly all situations. His drinks, containing mysterious ingredients, seem to heal all wounds, including headache, fear, stress, and dyspepsia. Jeeves, a member of the Junior Ganymede club, has much blackmail information, but refuses to use it out of principle, until the family needs such information. It is Jeeves who plans the robbery of Dahlia's false necklace, who solves the issue of Mrs. Trotter's necklace, and whose actions result in the selling of Dahlia's newspaper, the Boudoir. Without Jeeves, both Dahlia and Wooster would be lost. Even in the face of doubt, Jeeves is consistently the individual who remains calm and collected, showing that while his employers may have wealth, it is Jeeves who has wit.



## Stilton Cheesewright

Stilton Cheesewright is an ex police officer who still functions as though he is on the force. He is quick tempered, easily made jealous, and volatile in his relationships. His quickness to judge others often lands him as one who is disliked, and his jealousy leads him rapidly into problems with his fiancée, Florence. He is large man, and this size allows him to impose his will on others, including Wooster. However, he does have a softer side as is shown by his care for Morehead in the end of the novel.

It is Stilton's jealousy that pushes him to break off his engagement with Florence twice in the novel, first for her insistence that he grow a mustache, and second in his reaction to Wooster's taking of Florence to a nightclub. It is also his jealous nature that causes him to arrive at Brinkley even after an end to his engagement, in an effort to pulverize Wooster. His jealousy even overrides his desire to win the dart tournament at the Drone's Club, in that he sells Wooster's name to Percy in order to have the freedom to harm him. His anger is only thwarted after he falls for Daphne Morehead, a novelist.

## Florence Craye

Florence Cray is a woman who seems to care little for the men she is engaged to. She is self-centered, easily angered, and quick to change her love partner in an effort to suit her needs. When Stilton refuses to grow a mustache, she breaks the engagement, and asks Wooster to take her to a nightclub. When Stilton discovers her actions, he breaks it off with her, but again, her care seems only for herself, in that she immediately latches again onto Wooster as a substitute. She freely admits to not liking much of who Wooster is, but insists she can change him. She seems unconcerned about his desire to be changed, but wants only for him to suit her needs. In the end of the novel, when Percy appears to be what she desires, she lets Wooster go to latch on to Percy. However, she seems truly to accept Percy for who is only when she discovers he is not poor. She accepts his work as a mystery novelist, even though she detested the same book as Wooster read it. Clearly, Florence is only concerned with the details that allow her to live her posh life.

## Aunt Dahlia Travers

Aunt Dahlia Travers is one of the strongest characters in the novel. Coming from a family of hunters, Dahlia is loud, boisterous and highly volatile. She is quick tempered, often throwing things when her life is distressed. She too looks to Jeeves for answers after her own actions lead to her demise. She sells her pearl necklace to retain funding for a serial written by Daphne Morehead, so that she can sell her failing newspaper, the Boudoir, to Mr. Trotter. When her plan backfires and her husband may find out, she desperately seeks Jeeves to remedy the situation. When his first plan fails thanks to Wooster's inadequacies, she resorts to violence against the man set to appraise her necklace, Spode, as she hits him with a cosh. This clearly shows Dahlia is a woman who can think on her feet, but who thinks only of her own life and who cares little for



others. Even her nephew, whom she loves, is often subjected to her wrath as her nicknames for him are often rather mean.

On the other hand, Dahlia can have moments of care and concern for Wooster. Several times throughout the novel, she shows concern for her nephew and his plight, and even has suggestions on how to assist him. However, in each of these cases, Wooster's problems stem from his attempts in helping her to cover up her mistakes. Her comments of other guests in her house also show her to be a selfishly strong character one should be wary of.

## **Percy Gorringe**

Percy Gorringe is a thin, nervous individual who is the stepson of Mr. Trotter. Percy, at first, appears to be an aspiring poet, whose looks are not as fancy as those around him. He loves Florence, but it is clear she does not love him in return. He goes to great lengths to show his love for her, including pawning his mother's pearl necklace in an effort to raise enough money to produce Florence's play. His mannerisms throughout the novel, however, show him to be a caring individual who truly does appreciate those around him. Although Wooster is betrothed to his beloved, he still shows concern for his well being. This seems almost altruistic until one takes into account that he now has Wooster's name in the Drone's dart club match. Even with that knowledge, however, Percy's actions are still above and beyond, and show him to be different from others in the novel. It is these characteristics that in the end win him Florence. In addition, he is shown to be rather intelligent as it is revealed he is a mystery writer to subsidize his income as a poet.

## **L.G. Trotter**

L.G. Trotter first appears to be a whipped man who caters to his wife's every wish. As a publisher, he is set to purchase Dahlia's Boudoir, but is being swayed by his wife. He is unaware that she is using the situation to attain Dahlia's prime chef, Anatole. He is a man with severe stomach problems, likely due to his constant giving in to his wife's demands. However, when it is revealed that Percy sells the necklace he gave his wife, he regains the upper hand. He demands that Percy follow him into the family business, and purchases the Boudoir.

## **Mrs. Trotter**

Mrs. Trotter is a large, obstinate woman who clearly holds the power over her husband in the beginning of the novel. She is talkative, bossy, and will not allow her husband to speak without interrupting. She manipulates situations to suit her own goals, as is shown by her blackmail of Dahlia. She insists on obtaining the services of chef Anatole in exchange for her husband's purchase of the Boudoir. However, when her son sells her pearl necklace for money, she loses her status over Mr. Trotter, and is quickly reduced to her place.





## **Lord Sidcup / Roderick Spode**

Lord Sidcup, also known as Roderick Spode, is a man knowledgeable in silver and in jewelry. As a friend of Dahlia's husband, Tom, he arrives at Brinkley to value the pearl necklace Tom has given to Dahlia. Spode, at one point in his life, owned and operated a woman's underwear shop, and as such, is in a position to be blackmailed, according to the Wooster family. However, when Dahlia attempts to blackmail him, it is revealed he no longer owns the shop, and as a result, Dahlia resorts to violence in keeping him quiet about her false necklace. Spode proves to be an ally, however, when he rightly notes that Mrs. Trotter's necklace is false.

## **Daphne Dolores Morehead**

Daphne Dolores Morehead is a female author whose work is readily sought throughout the novel. It is her serial that is the selling point of the Boudoir. When she arrives at Brinkley, she turns out to be a highly attractive woman as well. She manages to take Stilton's mind off of Florence, and the two appear to be happily in love, thereby relieving Wooster of impending bodily harm. Morehead appears quick witted, and clearly prefers Stilton over Wooster.



## Objects/Places

### Junior Ganymede

The Junior Ganymede is an exclusive club for the richer butlers and valets of England, to which Jeeves is a member.

### Spindrift

Spindrift is the novel by Florence Craye that Percy Gorringle plans to make into a stage play.

### Drones Club

The Drones Club is the club to which both Cheesewright and Wooster are members. The Drones is also the location of the annual Darts sweep, which becomes a vital piece of the storyline.

### Darts Sweep

The Darts sweep is a contest of dart throwing held at the Drones Club each year. This year, Stilton originally draws Wooster, but trades him in order to be able to beat him up later in the novel.

### Mottled Oyster

The Mottled Oyster is the seedy nightclub Wooster takes Florence to when she requests he assist her in gathering material for her novel.

### Milady's Boudoir

The Boudoir is a weekly newspaper produced by Wooster's Aunt, Dahlia Travers, which she is attempting to sell to Mr. L. G. Trotter, step-father of Percy Gorringle.

### Brinkley Court

Brinkley Court is the posh estate on which Wooster's Aunt Dahlia Travers lives, and where much of the story takes place.



## **The Mystery of the Pink Crayfish**

This book is one of Wooster's favorite novels, and is written, one discovers at the end of the novel, by Percy Gorringe.

### **Cosh**

A cosh, or blackjack, is a small rubber bludgeon used to knock out opponents during fights.

### **Endoscope**

A tool used to examine pearls to discern the core.



# Themes

## Deceit

The primary theme of the novel is deceit, and the consequences of such deceit on everyday life. In the beginning, it is Florence and Wooster's deceit of Stilton that result in his anger and jealousy, as they sneak off to a nightclub, and then lie to Stilton to cover their tracks. This event results in Stilton's numerous attempts to cause bodily harm to Wooster, as well as his breaking off of his engagement to Florence. Later in the novel, Wooster attempts to deceive Stilton again as he hides in Florence's closet, but again is discovered, thereby causing Stilton to again threaten bodily harm.

Dahlia's deceit of her husband, Tom, nearly leads to her own demise, as well. Wanting to secure funding, Dahlia sells her pearl necklace and creates a fake in its place. However, her husband has someone coming to value her necklace. It is her attempts to cover this deception that result in Wooster's near escape from harm as he is found in Florence's room, Spode's head injury, and Wooster's near arrest, as well as her near loss of the sale of the Boudoir. It is only Jeeves' quick thinking that allows her to escape her fate. Deceit is also the cause of many of Percy's problems. Percy has sold his mother's pearl necklace in exchange for funding to create Florence's play. When he is discovered, his step father takes control of the family from his mother, and he is cut off from his father's funding. While he does win Florence's love, it is clear his deceit causes issues in the family. Mr. Trotter, in the past, has lied to his wife, which allows the Wooster's to nearly manipulate him, showing again the problems with lying to loved ones. This theme running throughout the novel shows clearly that covering up lies and deceit is difficult, and causes more problems to arise.

## Love

Love, and the lengths to which individuals will go because of it, is another theme that runs throughout the novel. Florence believes she loves Stilton. When she is angered by him, she turns to Wooster for comfort, thereby creating a much larger problem. Several times in the novel. Florence's actions are, she believes, driven by love as she quickly moves from one man to another, showing her desperation to be loved and cared for. Stilton, engaged to Florence, on several occasions shows a severe lack of judgment as he threatens harm to Wooster as an effect of his love for Florence. He even purposefully sells Wooster, an almost guaranteed winner of the darts competition, as a result of his jealousy, showing the strength of his passion.

Percy, in an effort to win Florence, sells his mother's necklace in order to fund her play. Dahlia sells her own necklace in an effort to not bother her husband for more funding for the Boudoir. In addition, she causes bodily harm to Spode, and nearly causes her nephew to be placed in jail. Wooster, because of his love for his aunt, commits several



crimes in an effort to assist her. The novel makes clear that love causes many to make irrational judgments and can create serious situations.

## Self Centeredness

Another theme throughout the novel, although less bold than the others, is that of the selfishness of the characters. The novel is centered around a group of wealthy individuals, and it is this atmosphere that makes the situations in the novel possible. Wooster, Dahlia, the Trotters, Florence, and Stilton are all members of upper class society. Their lives are clearly different from the lives of their servants, and of others in the novel such as Percy. Whereas these upper class individuals often use deceit and cunning lies as means to their own ends, the servants are often the ones who solve the issues, as their goals are simply to assist their employers. It is the self centered nature of the wealthy characters goals that cause problems for them, and they are forced to rely on their servants to assist them. Because their servants are not acted selfishness in their attempts to help, their plans are often successful, although the selfishness of those participating is often in the way. It is Dahlia's self centered desires to sell the Boudoir that result in her near demise. It is Wooster's selfish desires for attention that result in his problems with Stilton. It is Percy's selfish desire to win Florence that result in his father's anger. However, through it all, it is Jeeves, the selfless butler, who saves the day, showing clearly that altruism rather than selfishness, prevails.

# Style

## Point of View

The point of view in this novel is first person, as the story is told by the main character, Bertram Wooster. This point of view is necessary, in that the story revolves around Wooster and his family. Without a first person view of Wooster's mind and intellect the story would lack much of the humor, as well as the credibility, that it requires to tell the story. As the main character of the story, it is Wooster's thoughts and emotions that often lead the way into the plot, and as such, would be impossible to tell from any other standpoint. It is through the workings of Wooster's mind that plots are hatched and schemed, and through his perceptions of the world around him that allow Jeeves to intervene as needed to save others from harm.

The story is told as a narrative of the thoughts of Wooster, with occasional dialog and descriptions necessary to forward the storyline. This narrative is used as a method to keep the story based on Wooster and his butler, although several other characters are introduced along the way. The humor of the story stems from Wooster's perceptions of those around him, and from his relationships with others within the story. As a result, a first person narrative is the only way to truly express Wooster's inner workings.

## Setting

The novel begins in Wooster's own estate, located in a posh area of London. It is clear from descriptions of the rooms as well as from Wooster himself that the area is wealthy. Also in London are the Drone's Club, a gentleman's club to which Wooster and Stilton are both members, and the Junior Ganymede, a posh club for butlers and valets of the wealthy. It is clear from the brief descriptions of these areas, with their smoking rooms and darts tournaments, that these areas are for the upper class only.

The story then moves to Brinkley Court, a country estate in Worcestershire owned by Wooster's aunt, Dahlia, and her husband Tom. At Brinkley, the servants and French chef, Anatole, as well as the descriptions of gardens and stables, make it clear this too is a place for only the wealthy. The guests of Dahlia, ranging from prominent businessmen to publishers and artists, also lends credit to the idea that the family's surroundings are of the highest quality. In addition, the descriptions of furniture, foods served, rivers on the estate, and the overall atmosphere of the lands further shows the high class setting of the novel. Since the novel is based in its humor of upper class deviance and betrayal, the settings of this novel are vital to the telling of the tale. Without such posh settings, the actions of the characters within the novel would not be as humorous, nor as believable.



## Language and Meaning

The novel uses British English as its base, which at times can make the novel difficult to follow. However, this base is also vital to the story, in that it is the actions of the British upper class that provide the humor and detail for the entire tale. Jeeves' language is consistent with that of a servant, in that his tone and mannerisms are consistently polite, calm, and relaxed. Wooster, too, uses language in tune with his place as a wealthy bachelor who spends much time with women, as well as with other wealthy individuals. The language, while difficult to warm to at first, becomes a delightful addition to the story, in that it is through these British interactions one is able to see relationships form. In addition, the varied ways in which individuals in this wealthy British society speak allows the reader to know the class of the person speaking, which is vital to any story relating to upper class and their hired help.

The writing of the novel tends to be very informal, providing an easy to understand plot and a comprehensive storyline. Although some of the words used are foreign to American English speakers, the tone of the story is easy to read, and thus, any difficulties in understanding language are easily overcome by looking at the context of the sentences. Dialog is broken into conversations between hired help, family members, and business associates, and is therefore it is easy to discern the status of the speaker simply by looking at the formality of speech.

## Structure

The novel is broken into twenty three chapters of unequal length. Each chapter name is by number alone, without any reference to events within the novel. The chapters are equally distributed between descriptive passages and dialog between characters. The entire novel is 231 pages.

There are several plots that wind their way through the novel. The main plot is the growth of a mustache by the main character, Wooster, and other characters' reactions to the mustache. Deeper into the novel, however, Wooster finds himself in the middle of a love square between Florence, Stilton, Percy, and himself as Florence varies between her several selections for a husband. The plot thickens, however, when Wooster's aunt Dahlia informs him of her underhanded deeds in an effort to sell her magazine, and as Wooster attempts to save her from her own fate. Wooster spends the rest of the novel making up for previous mistakes, and in the end, manages to save the day only through the help of his butler. The pace of the novel is quick due to the author's wonderful use of the British language, and is highly comical.



## Quotes

"I am sorry, Jeeves, I had hoped for your sympathy and cooperation, but if you are unable to see your way to sympathizing and cooperating, so be it. Come what may, however, I shall maintain the status quo. It is status quo that people maintain, isn't it? I have been put to considerable trouble and anxiety growing this moustache, and I do not propose to hew it off just because certain prejudiced parties, whom I will not specify, don't know a good thing then they see one." - Chapter 1, page 16.

"Love is a delicate plant that needs constant tending and nurturing, and this cannot be done by snorting at the adored object like a gas explosion and calling her friends lice. I had the disquieting impression that it wouldn't take too much to make the Stilton-Florence axis go p'fft again, and who could say that in this event, the latter, back in circulation, would not decide to hitch on to me once more?" - Chapter 3, page 29.

"Well, I was handicapped here by the fact that, never having met a peahen, I was unable to estimate the quality of these fowls' intelligence, but she had spoken as if they were a bit short of the grey matter, and I was about to ask her who the hell she meant by 'everybody' when she resumed." - Chapter 5, page 50.

"It's a curious thing about those specials of Jeeves' and one on which many revelers have commented, that while, as I mentioned earlier, they wake the sleeping tiger in you, they also work the other way round. I mean, if the tiger in you isn't sleeping but on the contrary up and doing with a heart for any fate, they lull it. You come in like a lion, you take your snootful, and you go out like a lamb. Impossible to explain it, of course. One can merely state the facts." - Chapter 7, page 65.

"I felt, accordingly, that no matter how vehemently Stilton might express and fulfill himself on discovering me...well, not perhaps exactly cheek by jowl with the woman he loved by certainly hovering in her vicinity, the risk of rousing the fiend within him was once that must be taken. It cannot ever, of course, be agreeable to find yourself torn into a thousand pieces with a fourteen-stone Othello doing a "Shuffle Off To Buffalo" on the Timbale de ris de veau Toulousiane, the discomfort unquestionably becomes modified." - Chapter 8, page 75.

"I saw what she meant, and her reasoning struck me as sound. There is something about those lunches and dinners of Anatole's that mellows you and saps you of your good judgment. After tucking into them all this time, I presumed that L.G. Trotter was going about in a sort of rosy mist, waiting to do kind acts right and left like a Boy Scout. Continue the treatment for a few more days, and he would probably beg her as a personal favor to accept twice what she was asking." - Chapter 9, page 81.

"I was completely at a loss to imagine what could have caused this in-and-out running on Stilton's part. The thing didn't make sense. When last seen, it will be remembered, he had had all the earmarks of one about whom Love had twined its silken fetters. His every word at that parting chat of ours had indicated this beyond peradventure and





doubt. Dash it, I mean, you don't go telling people you will break their spines in four places if they come oiling round the adored object unless you have more than a passing fancy for the bally girl." - Chapter 10, page 93.

"If, as Mr. Wooster has told me, madam, this jewelry expert is to be with us shortly, it would seem that your best plan is to cause the necklace to disappear before he arrives. If I may make my meaning clearer, madam,' he went on in response to a query from the sizzling woman as to whether he supposed her to be a bally conjurer. 'What I had in mind was something in the nature of a burglarious entry, as the result of which the piece of jewelery would be abstracted. You will readily see, madam, that if the gentleman, coming to examine the necklace, finds that there is no necklace for him to examine..." - Chapter 12, page 119.

"It is not like a pumpkin at all. I have this on the authority of Bertie Wooster, who says it is more like the dome of St. Paul's'. He broke off, and there was a smacking sound. He had apparently smitten his brow. "Wooster!", he cried, emitting an animal snarl. 'I didn't come here to talk about my head, I came to talk about Wooster, the slithery serpent who slinks behind backs, stealing fellows' girls from them. Wooster, the house wrecker! Wooster the snake in the grass from whom no woman is safe! Wooster the modern Don what's-his-name." - Chapter 13, page 132.

"I did a brief dance step. On his return, forsooth! When would that be? Late at night, probably, because the gang at a hot spot like the Junior Ganymede don't break up a party at the end of lunch. I know what happens when these wild butlers let themselves go. They sit around till all hours, drinking deep and singling close harmony and generally whopping it up like a bunch of boys in the Malemute saloon. It would mean that for the whole of the long summer day I should be defenseless, an easy prey for a Stilton who, as I had just been informed, was prowling about, seeing whom he might devour." - Chapter 16, page 162.

"I recalled the incident to which she referred, it having happened to come up in the examination paper that time I won that prize for Scripture knowledge at my private school, but it's probably new to you, so I will give a brief synopsis. For some reason which has escaped my memory they told this Mrs. Lot while out walking one day, not to look round or she would be turned into a pillar of salt, so of course she immediately did look round and by what I have always thought an odd coincidence she was turned into a pillar of salt. It just shows you, what? I meant to say, you never know where you are these days." - Chapter 18, page 180.

"Seppings withdrew, and I would have given a good deal to have been able to withdraw myself, for in about another two ticks, I saw, it would be necessary for Bertram Wooster to come clean and reveal all, blazoning forth to the world Aunt Dahlia's recent activities, if blazoning forth to the world is the expression I want, and bathing the unfortunately old egg in shame and confusion. Feudal fidelity would no doubt make Jeeves seal his lips, but you can't let fellows go sealing their lips if it means rendering themselves liable to an exemplary sentence, coupled with some strong remarks from the Bench. Come what

might, the dirt would have to be dished. The code of the Wooster's is rigid on points like this." - Chapter 21, page 212.



## Topics for Discussion

Throughout the novel, several characters discuss their opinion of Wooster's mustache. Locate two of these in the novel, and summarize their opinions of his new facial hair. What was Wooster's response?

In the novel, Dahlia pawned her necklace in an effort to sell her newspaper to Mr. Trotter, whereas Percy sold his mother's in an effort to raise money to support the play of the woman he loved. Therefore, both individuals committed the same act. Do you believe either of them was right in the actions? If so, why? If not, why not?

Wooster's outing with Florence to a nightclub prompted his own demise in terms of Stilton's violent actions towards him. Do you believe Stilton had a right to be angry? If so, why? If not, why? Do you believe he had a right to threaten bodily harm? Why or why not?

Dahlia hurts many individuals in her attempt to keep the pawning of her necklace a secret. Discuss two characters Dahlia's actions hurt, whether that harm was physical, emotional, or mental. Be sure to explain how her actions were a direct cause of the resulting harm.

Dahlia has several names for Wooster throughout the story that are not exactly friendly, although she seems to clearly love her nephew. Do you think Dahlia means these terms as she says them? If so, can she really care for Wooster? If not, why do you think she uses such derogatory terms?

Jeeves saves the day several times throughout the novel. Using the book, fully explain at least two of these situations, and explain how Jeeves' wit and intelligence helped in the situation.

In the end, both Dahlia and Wooster are saved from any harm. Do you think either character learned a lesson in the novel? Why or why not?