

Life with Jeeves Study Guide

Life with Jeeves by P. G. Wodehouse

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Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 1

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 1 Summary

Bertram Wooster has returned from his holiday in Cannes. Jeeves tells him that Gussie Fink-Nottle has been a frequent caller. He has been confiding in Jeeves on the subject of his unrequited love for a girl named Madeline Bassett whom Bertie Wooster socialized with in Cannes.

Bertie leaves for his club telling Jeeves to give Gussie a drink when he calls that evening. On returning home Bertie finds Gussie dressed as Mephistopheles.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 1 Analysis

The story starts directly with a conversation between Bertie Wooster and his man Jeeves. The point of view is that of Bertie in the first person. The reader is informed, not only of the conversations Wooster has, but also his innermost thoughts, which he addresses to the reader and which explain his thinking and actions. The tone is always conversational and in the first person. The reader is gradually exposed to the world of Bertie Wooster through his thoughts and self-justifications.

The author, through the voice of Wooster, outlines the choice of story beginning and even outlines the list of characters that will appear in the story. This combination of foreshadowing and flashback plunges the reader directly into the action.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 2

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 2 Summary

Bertie tells Gussie that Jeeves has told him everything about his predicament. The Mephistopheles costume is Jeeves's idea.

Gussie does not want to go to the Fancy Dress Ball but Madeline Bassett has sent him the ticket. When he has gone off in his taxi, Bertie Wooster berates Jeeves for the idea of the costume and says Bertie will see Gussie the next day and will devise a solution to his predicament.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 2 Analysis

This chapter describes Gussie Fink-Nottle's character and lays the foundation for his attempt to attend the fancy dress ball. The delineation of Jeeves as a confidant and advisor to Bertie Wooster's friends is described, as is Bertie Wooster's conviction that he has better ideas than Jeeves. In the particular case of the Mephistopheles costume, there is a lot of justification for skepticism in the plan.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 3

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 3 Summary

The next day Bertie receives a telegram from his aunt Dahlia, requesting he "come at once." There is a flurry of telegrams where Bertie resists the demand for him to visit his Aunt and finally promises to go down to Brinkley Court. The following morning Jeeves informs him that Mrs. Travers has arrived.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 3 Analysis

The gradual exposition of Wooster's world and his mental processes lead the reader to an easy acceptance of the device of communication by telegrams. This story was first published in 1934. The use of the telegram, rather than the telephone, does not seem unusual and leads to several amusing exchanges in telegraphic style. This chapter is the reader's introduction to Aunt Dahlia and the existence of Brinkley Court.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 4

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 4 Summary

Aunt Dahlia wants Bertie to distribute the prizes at her local Grammar School because all her other candidates are unavailable. He finally succumbs when she threatens him with no more dinner invitations.

Jeeves then announces that Gussie has arrived.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 4 Analysis

The spectacle of a languid young man of privilege is no more tellingly indicated than when Bertie Wooster indignantly insists that "he does not receive" before he has had his morning tea. The fact that he is in the habit of receiving his guests while still in bed harks back to a bygone era. The reader now learns of the unique cuisine to be found at Brinkley Court and is informed of the forth-coming Prize Giving ceremony at Market Snodsbury Grammar School.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 5

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 5 Summary

Jeeves describes Gussie's misadventures of the previous night; he got the wrong address of the ball, didn't have any money, and he was unable to pay the cab driver. In an altercation with the cab driver he had lost his cloak and spent the night skulking down side alleys until he was able to make his way to Mr. Sipperley's residence where he found lodging.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 5 Analysis

The description of Gussie Fink-Nottle's nighttime adventures and his ineptitude and forgetfulness are well described here. They serve as a reference for the remarkable transformation that will be observed in Fink-Nottle later in the story.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 6

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 6 Summary

Bertie finds out that Gussie's romantic interest is going to visit Bertie's Aunt Dahlia and Gussie will take advantage of the romantic nature of the place to woo Madeline.

Bertie proposes that Gussie be the prize giver at the school. He also telegraphs Gussie that he should demonstrate the effect that Madeline has on him by declining to eat most of the food offered to him.

To Bertie's great delight, Aunt Dahlia agrees to the change of prize giver and tells him he can stay in London. The next day when a telegram comes from his aunt to inform him that her daughter Angela and her fiancée Tuppy Glossop have broken off their betrothal after a huge row.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 6 Analysis

This is a pivotal chapter in the story. Bertie Wooster becomes convinced he is superior to Jeeves in sorting out personal problems. He sends Fink-Nottle to Brinkley Court and successfully persuades his aunt to not only accept him as a guest but also to recruit him for the role of prize giver at the local Grammar School. His celebration comes to an abrupt end when he learns that his niece has broken off her engagement to Tuppy Glossop. He rushes down to Brinkley Court to give his aunt moral support. The key players and the venue are now all set for the comedy to unfold.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 7

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 7 Summary

Aung Dahlia tells Bertie that she needs an infusion of cash for her weekly magazine for woman.

Bertie tells his Aunt Dahlia that he has formulated a plan to bring about reconciliation between the two young people, but is crushed to hear his aunt plead with him not to interfere. In vain he tries to persuade his aunt that Jeeves is all washed up, but she will not hear of it.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 7 Analysis

The underlying cause of the row between tuppy and Angela is amusingly described, and Aunt Dahlia's financial problems with her lady's journal are introduced. The rapprochement between Bertie and his aunt is soon destroyed when he tries to persuade her that Jeeves's mental abilities are in a decline. This is a common error for Wooster and is the basis for all the unfortunate outcomes in this story. His jealousy of Jeeves is heightened when his aunt insists that Jeeves should be given the task of engineering a reconciliation



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 8

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 8 Summary

Bertie runs into Tuppy Glossop and they discuss the reasons for the row with Angela. Eventually, Tuppy admits that he is still in love with Angela and is then introduced to Bertie's plan. This entails Tuppy demonstrating his lovelorn suffering by pushing away the evening gourmet masterpiece of the Brinkley Court's chef , Anatole.

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Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 8 Analysis

Bertie's plan for Tuppy to re-engage the sympathies of Angela is to be based on him exhibiting a "lovelorn" attitude by refusing his meal at dinner. As Jeeves points out, without any psychological preparation, this might be construed as indigestion.

A similar scheme for Aunt Dahlia to invoke the sympathy of her husband by the identical tactic can have only one consequence, as the reader is meant to anticipate: a severe dent to the ego of the temperamental chef Anatole.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 9

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 9 Summary

Bertie and Jeeves discuss possible tactics to effect the reconciliation of Angela and Tuppy, and Jeeves mentions he has seen a fire alarm in the grounds on the outside of the house. Bertie tells Jeeves of his own plan that is in force.

Aunt Dahlia tells Bertie that her magazine funds had been given to her by her husband, Tom, but she lost the money at baccarat. Bertie suggests that Aunt Dahlia show a loss of appetite in the same way that Tuppy and Gussie are going to do to impress their romantic interests, but in her case it will attract sympathy from her husband .

Outside in the garden Bertie runs into Gussie, who is aggrieved to find he has been given the role of prize giver. Bertie reassures him that it is all part of his plan to disarm the fair Madeline Bassett with his skill as orator.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 9 Analysis

The effect of the refusal of the dinner dishes is inadvertently revealed by Bertie when he describes his escape from the game of backgammon with his aunt because she is called to the kitchen to speak to Anatole. His self-confidence in his own ability remains unshaken when his plans for Gussie Fink-Nottle to shine as an orator at the Grammar School Prize Giving is ascribed, again, to the genius of Jeeves. The crucial fact of Gussie's total abstinence from alcohol is made known to the reader.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 10

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 10 Summary

Bertie and Madeline discuss broken hearts and when he broaches the subject of another possible assignation, she thinks he is proposing to her. Madeline declines and Bertie guesses that Madeline is in love with Gussie, who is sidling out from behind a tree. Bertie leaves them to reward himself at the drinks table in the smoking room.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 10 Analysis

In a characteristically clumsy way Bertie embarks on an alternate plan for Gussie Fink-Nettle to be noticed by Madeline Bassett. His lack of frankness leads him to the threshold of being considered the young lady's secret admirer. Bertie thinks he has averted this situation when, as planned, Gussie Fink-Nettle emerges on to the scene. In fact, of course, this mistaken identity forms an essential part of the comic opera-like confusion that continues until the last moments of Chapter 22.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 11

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 11 Summary

Tuppy complains that Angela has not noticed his sacrifice in foregoing dinner and Bertie suggests he eat the leftover steak and kidney pie in the larder.

Bertie's plan has also backfired on Tom, who is upset that Anatole has given notice.

Bertie sees Gussie and Jeeves seated on a bench. Gussie announces his intention of going to the kitchen garden to drown himself in the pond.

Jeeves recounts to Bertie that Gussie had only been able to talk about newts to Madeline Bassett. The lady had returned to the house in the middle of his dissertation.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 11 Analysis

Bertie's schemes are beginning to unravel and his aunt's attitude is becoming hostile. She even suggests he drown himself in the kitchen garden pond, which is also the avowed intention of the distraught Tuppy Glossop. As always, the irrepressible Wooster continues on with his over-optimistic machinations.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 12

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 12 Summary

Tuppy's midnight snack had been interrupted by Aunt Dahlia followed by Uncle Tom and Angela.

When Tuppy rushes off at the sound of the breakfast gong, Bertie comes to the conclusion that Tuppy is still madly in love with Angela and that he now has a plan to rectify the situation.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 12 Analysis

Unlike the reader, Bertie is blithely unaware of the misconstruction that will be put on his protestations. The scene in the larder is one of the few scenes where the characters' costumes are described.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 13

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 13 Summary

When a third person criticizes the object of a lover's attentions, the lover immediately defends the partner. So Bertie will roundly criticize Tuppy when he next meets Angela. This will make Angela spring to Tuppy's defense and the engagement is inevitable.

Bertie proposes to lace Gussie's orange juice with gin on the day of the Prize Giving ceremony. This will give Gussie the necessary release from his inhibitions, produce an impressive oration, and give him the necessary spiritual reinforcement when he presents himself to Madeline Bassett in round two.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 13 Analysis

Bertie Wooster continues to ignore Jeeves's warnings and outlines another dangerous scheme to further the reconciliation between Tuppy Glossop and Angela Travers. As to Gussie Fink-Nottle, Bertie instructs Jeeves to introduce gin into the teetotaler's orange juice. Jeeves's point-blank refusal to follow orders is a unique incident in the Jeeves saga. The author gives no explanation as to why Jeeves should do this, given his normal method of dealing with his young master's ill founded plans. The fact that the deeply hurt Wooster does not extract some kind of retribution on his insubordinate manservant reinforces the readers belief that Bertie is too kind-hearted for his own good.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 14

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 14 Summary

Angela tells Bertie about the servant's ball scheduled for the next night. She also admits her engagement to Tuppy is over. Bertie congratulates her on her decision and proceeds to malign Tuppy. Instead of springing to his defense, Angela adds to the litany of Tuppy's defects. Angela then returns to the house and Bertie is still digesting the unexpected turn in events when Tuppy emerges out of the undergrowth.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 14 Analysis

The preparatory exposition of the neighboring manor's servants' ball and the fact that the Brinkley Court staff will all be in attendance is woven into the conversation between Bertie and Angela. When Bertie, in accordance with his plan, begins to denigrate his friend's character, no specific mention is made of the practical joke that Tuppy played on him at the Drones Club, but it can only add impetus to his impassioned list of Tuppy's deficiencies. The unforeseen reaction of Angela's total agreement with the disparagement of Tuppy and the fact that Tuppy, mistaken for a wild animal in the undergrowth, has been a witness to the betrayal are classic elements in the comic opera farce that unfolds.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 15

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 15 Summary

Tuppy is convinced that Bertie stole Angela from him in Cannes. Bertie invents the story that his romantic interest in Cannes had been Madeline Bassett. Tuppy's rage dies down when Angela reappears carrying a plate of ham sandwiches for Bertie to give to Tuppy if he sees him.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 15 Analysis

Previously, Tuppy Glossop's prowess as a rugby player was revealed to the reader. This adds an undertone to the physical threat in his attempt to wreak revenge on his detractor. The fact that, when Angela returns with the plate of ham sandwiches, she cannot see him is not fully explained to the reader but the narrative sweeps on without hindrance.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 16

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 16 Summary

On the day of the Prize Giving, Gussie is still distressed about the speech he has to give. Bertie tries to cheer him up by telling him the gist of his conversation the previous day with Madeline Bassett and encourages him to think of a second round.

In his room he finds Jeeves, who has added a tumbler of gin to the orange juice. Bertie decides that one tumbler might not be enough and adds his own supply of gin to the orange juice.

Gussie has already taken about ten swigs from the whiskey decanter in the smoking room. .

Jeeves and Bertie both notice the empty orange juice jug and simultaneously realize that Gussie has drunk it all before leaving for the ceremony.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 16 Analysis

The dramatic transformation of the newt-loving recluse is well described. The change in personality with the dissolution of Gussie Fink-Nottle's inhibitions contrasts with the earlier descriptions of his ineptitude at the London Fancy Dress Ball and his failure to successfully woo Madeline Bassett. The progression of personality change is described with seemingly expert knowledge.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 17

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 17 Summary

At the Prize Giving ceremony Gussie alternates between fits of explosive laughter and somnambulistic torpor.

Gussie's confusion grows and he makes a spectacle of himself. Bertie returns to Brinkley Hall.

Tuppy appears at the door of Bertie's room, deeply disturbed.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 17 Analysis

The description of the Prize Giving ceremony at the local Grammar school is the key chapter in the story. It is vividly portrayed. As the intoxicated Augustus Fink-Nottle teeters on the edge of spectacular disaster, Bertram Wooster flees from the public spotlight. In the following chapter twenty-three, where Bertie is away on his midnight bicycle ride as the main action takes place at Brinkley Court, a similar device could have been used by the author but is not.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 18

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 18 Summary

Tuppy apologizes for doubting his story about being in love with Madeline Bassett. Tuppy is now convinced that Angela's affections have been stolen by none other than Gussie, who proposed to Angela right after the ceremony.

As Bertie tells Jeeves about the latest developments, Gussie emerges from beneath the bed. Simultaneously, Tuppy tries to reenter the room only to find the door locked. Jeeves and Bertie let in Tuppy, who accuses Bertie of hiding Gussie in his cupboard, which is exactly from where Gussie bursts and flees down the corridor, closely followed by the deranged Tuppy.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 18 Analysis

The aftermath of the Market Snodsbury Prize Giving now gives an impression of a rising crescendo of comic farce. The opportunity for Gussie Fink-Nottle to describe what must have been a colossal hangover is passed over as the enraged Glossop chases him around Brinkley Court.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 19

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 19 Summary

Bertie confronts Angela in the garden and she admits that her engagement to Gussie is merely a ruse to get back at Tuppy.

Aunt Dahlia tells Bertie he must congratulate Gussie for the amusing performance at the Prize Giving. Her high spirits are the result of Anatole withdrawing his notice. Seppings, the butler, informs her that Mr. Fink-Nottle is making faces through the skylight of Anatole's bedroom.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 19 Analysis

Aunt Dahlia's approval of Gussie's performance at the Prize Giving is a major twist in the plot. Her new appellation for him, "Fink-Bottle", is a masterstroke by the author. The threat to the well-being of Anatole continues with the appearance of the fleeing Gussie in his bedroom's skylight.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 20

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 20 Summary

Gussie explains he was escaping from Tuppy and had shinned up to the roof when he got stuck in Anatole's skylight.

Aunt Dahlia tells Bertie that Anatole refuses to stay and she has just been informed that her daughter, Angela, is engaged to this Bottle chap.

Jeeves appears with a letter for Bertie from Miss Bassett. She is writing to tell him that she will marry him.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 20 Analysis

With the action taking place in chef Anatole's bedroom the reader is given a thumbnail sketch of Anatole himself. The mixture of American slang and French is explained by his previous employment by an American family in Nice where the chauffeur was one of the Maloney's of Brooklyn.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 21

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 21 Summary

Jeeves proposes the fire alarm tactic. All the staff, with the exception of Anatole, will be at the ball at the neighboring Kingman Manor, and in the melee caused by the alarm, various people will demonstrate their innermost priorities and reconciliations will be effected. Bertie is to ring the Brinkley Court fire bell at half past midnight.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 21 Analysis

The reader can only sympathize with Bertie Wooster as he verges on the border of surrender to the unkind fates. His appeal to the inimitable Jeeves produces a final tactic for the final solution to all the problems being experienced by the inhabitants of Brinkley Court. The reader, as well as Bertie Wooster, wonder how it will achieve success.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 22

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 22 Summary

After ringing the bell Bertie goes to the front lawn to find everyone assembled there. None of the anticipated reconciliations have taken place.

All the doors are locked and the key is with Seppings at the Kingman Manor ball. The garage is also locked and Jeeves suggests that one of the gentlemen ride a bicycle to Kingham Manor and get the key. Bertie is delegated. Seppings tells Bertie's that the key is on the kitchen windowsill and that Jeeves had arranged this.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 22 Analysis

The description of Aunt Dahlia's emotional outburst at Bertie's final disastrous act has been a long time coming in the mind of the reader. It lays the ground for the speedy decision to get rid of Bertie, who is now called "Attila the Hun" by his aunt, on his bicycle ride to Kingham Manor. The description of Bertie's emotions and imagined fears as he rides through the night makes the reader aware that beneath Bertie Wooster's unassailable self confidence there does, indeed, exist a small and frightened boy.



Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 23

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 23 Summary

On his return to Brinkley Manor Bertie is met by Madeline Bassett who asks him to release her from her betrothal. Bertie runs into Tuppy, who tells him that he and Angela made up. He adds that Aunt Dahlia is now above herself as Anatole has agreed to stay on and her husband Tom has given her a check to cover the expenses for her publication.

Jeeves explains that the inhabitants of Brinkley Court, faced with spending a night of discomfort, united in their abuse of Bertie. When Jeeves informed them he had found the back door key, their animosity turned to cordial amusement.

Right Ho, Jeeves, Chapter 23 Analysis

The final denouement of the success of Jeeves's real plot and its psychological basis is handled without the inevitable confrontation between the returning cyclist and the rest of the Brinkley Court. The reader is left with the image of a now mollified Bertie Wooster as he indulges in his favorite pastime—eating a well-prepared breakfast—as he resignedly accepts Jeeves final triumph: the destruction of the white mess jacket.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 1 Jeeves Exerts the Old Cerebellum

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 1 Jeeves Exerts the Old Cerebellum Summary

On his walk in the park, Bertie runs into Bingo Little who has fallen in love with a girl called Mabel who works as a waitress.. Bingo begs Bertie to get Jeeves to help him make sure his uncle does not cut off his allowance when he tells him about Mabel. Jeeves suggests that Bingo read books by Rosie M. Banks which recount tales of marriage with young persons of inferior social status.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 1 Jeeves Exerts the Old Cerebellum Analysis

The narrative unfolds as told by Bertie Wooster, in the first person, confiding to the reader in a stream of conscious mode. The exposition of Jeeves as being a valet, trusted friend, and philosopher is a key to all the stories in the book. One wonders why the publisher places this key story in the book after the "Right Ho Jeeves" piece that was first published ten years after this story. Foreknowledge of Jeeves and Bertie Wooster's relationship is an implied assumption in the "Right Ho, Jeeves" story.

A curious omission in this first chapter is any explanation as to the identity of the narrator. The inference that he is Jeeves's young master is made easily, but not that it is Bertie Wooster himself.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 2 No Wedding Bells for Bingo

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 2 No Wedding Bells for Bingo Summary

The ruse succeeds and Bingo's Uncle Mortimer is now an addict for the romances of Rosie M. Banks. Bingo then inveigles Bertie have lunch with his uncle. Bingo telephones Bertie to tell him that his uncle believes Bertie is the authoress Rosie M. Banks.

Bertie tells Uncle Mortimer Bingo wants to marry a waitress. Mortimer then announces that he is going to marry his cook, Jane.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 2 No Wedding Bells for Bingo Analysis

There is a foreshadowing in this chapter of Bertie's Aunt Agatha who thoroughly disapproves of the life that Bertie leads in London. The reader also learns that Bingo is tall and thin and that his uncle is the fattest man that Bertie has ever seen. The subscription dance at Camberwell, the locale where these liaisons originated, was Jeeves's idea all along.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 3 Aunt Agatha Speaks her Mind

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 3 Aunt Agatha Speaks her Mind Summary

Bertie receives a letter from his Aunt Agatha demanding that he join her in France.

Bertie arrives and learns that his aunt is arranging his marriage to a Miss Hemingway. His aunt will not brook any resistance from Bertie and Jeeves is no help in his predicament.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 3 Aunt Agatha Speaks her Mind Analysis

The hold that Aunt Agatha has on Bertie Wooster is explained as being from his very earliest childhood. Her formidable presence is elaborated with the description of the havoc she causes on the staff of the Hotel Splendide.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 4 Pearls Mean Tears

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 4 Pearls Mean Tears Summary

Miss Hemingway tells Bertie that her brother has lost a lot of money playing roulette at the casino, but in an attempt to make good he has written a cheque for one hundred pounds to a Colonel Musgrave, one of his parishioners. Now he has lost all the one hundred pounds again at roulette. He begs Bertie to lend him one hundred pounds, as he has to repay Colonel Musgrave before he returns to England that evening. Bertie gives the money to the Hemingways who insist on giving him a string of pearls as surety for the loan.

Jeeves had recognized the brother as a well-known character named Soapy Smith, and had surreptitiously recovered the pearls when he helped him on with his coat. He lays another, identical case, on the table, and in it are the pearls.

The pearls belong to Bertie's Aunt Agatha. Bertie returns the pearls and tells his aunt that the thief is Miss Hemingway.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 4 Pearls Mean Tears Analysis

Bertie Wooster's initial reaction to the curate's gambling losses is one of admiration for his demonstration of "sporting blood". Jeeves's adroit pickpocketing skills and his recognition of noted confidence tricksters merely emphasize his omnipotence and his ability to save his young master from the consequences of his naiveté and generosity.

This story is significant in showing Bertie Wooster's reaction to being kissed by a strange woman.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 5 The Pride of the Woosters is Wounded

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 5 The Pride of the Woosters is Wounded Summary

Bertie overhears Jeeves telling the substitute valet that Bertie is amiable but not very intelligent. Bertie bursts out of the flat and goes to Bucks where he runs into Bingo Little.

Bingo has had to accept work as a tutor to the son of the Glossop family. When Bertie says he knows the family but has only met the girl Honoria, Bingo becomes agitated as he has fallen in love with her.

Bertie has to accept an invitation to spend a few days at Ditteredge Hall where he runs into Bingo. They cook up a plan where Bertie will push the boy Oswald into the lake and Bingo will save the boy from drowning in front of Honoria. She will then be smitten with Bingo and Bertie will be off the hook.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 5 The Pride of the Woosters is Wounded Analysis

The revelation of Jeeves's poor opinion of Bertie's mental capabilities comes as a shock to the reader, though the deficiency is well displayed in his soliloquies. Its failure to permanently dampen Bertie's self-esteem merely reinforces the opinion that his good humor and self-confidence are unassailable. This description of Jeeves's thoughts about his master are unique within the Jeeves saga, Bertie's much more charitable opinion of Jeeves is expressed in chapter one.

The fact that Aunt Agatha still considers it open season on matrimonial prospects for her nephew leads the reader to conclude that he is considered quite a catch by the London society in which he lives.

The reader is now introduced to the Glossop family, and specifically to Oswald Glossop. As noted in the analysis of a previous chapter, the order of the stories in the book would make this story a precursor to the "Right Ho Jeeves" piece where Tuppy Glossop plays a major part.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 6 The Hero's Reward

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 6 The Hero's Reward Summary

Honorina says she is worried about Oswald falling in the lake and Bertie goes to the boy to tell the boy and then pushes him in. Bingo never appears. Bertie jumps in the water but Oswald is a strong swimmer and it is Bertie who gets into trouble.

Bertie learns that Bingo is in love with a Miss Braythwayt instead of Honorina.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 6 The Hero's Reward Analysis

As a result of Bingo's perfidy, or rather his distressing habit of falling in love with any woman who crosses his path, Bertram Wooster is now officially engaged to Honorina Glossop. As with all his dalliances, Bertie and Honorina's relationship appears to be purely platonic. Bertie's profound shock at being kissed by a woman, as described in the story of the pearls, makes the reader wonder what exactly would happen if either Bertie or Bingo had a real physical contact with a member of the opposite sex.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 7 Introducing Claude and Eustace

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 7 Introducing Claude and Eustace Summary

Aunt Agatha tells Bertie that Sir Roderick Glossop has been told by Oswald that Bertie pushed him into the lake. Sir Roderick now wants to interview Bertie to see if he is suffering from the same eccentric behavior that led to Bertie's late Uncle Henry spending his last days in some sort of a home.

On his way to his flat where he will have lunch with Sir Roderick, Bertie runs into the twins Claude and Eustace.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 7 Introducing Claude and Eustace Analysis

This chapter deals with a lot more than the introduction of the twins Claude and Eustace, who appear as characters in at least two other stories. Bertie's engagement is in peril from Sir Roderick's suspicions as to his mental health and the fact that Honoria and his aunt both wish to get rid of Jeeves spells doom for the final outcome. Aunt Agatha's antipathy to Jeeves is very significant as it defines her relationship to her nephew Bertie. Jeeves's outspoken criticism of Bertie's various lady friends makes the reader realize that Jeeves's opinion of Bertie's matrimonial prospects is a counter balance to Aunt Agatha's. This is in marked contrast to Aunt Dahlia who relies heavily on Jeeves's skills to ensure the continuation of her daughter's engagement to Tuppy Glossop.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 8 Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 8 Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch Summary

Sir Roderick is appalled by Bertie's eccentric lifestyle. He asks Jeeves to accompany him outside, as he wants to ask him some questions.

Jeeves believes that Bertie's engagement is definitely off.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 8 Sir Roderick Comes to Lunch Analysis

The twins' initiation rites to a university undergraduate society serve as an ingenious device to explain the presence of the improbable collection of artifacts in Wooster's flat. This, in turn, leads to a disastrous lunch for Sir Roderick and the inevitable end to Bertie's engagement to his daughter. Sir Roderick's suspicion as to the mental condition of Bertie Wooster is a key factor in ascribing the blame for the deception of Lord Bittlesham and the successful marriage of Bingo Little in "Alls Well" in chapter eighteen.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 9 A Letter of Introduction

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 9 A Letter of Introduction Summary

Bertie and Jeeves make friends with a playwright, George Caffyn. A man called Cyril Bassington-Bassington leaves a letter of introduction from Aunt Agatha in London. Bertie sees this as a chance to redeem himself with his aunt and to eventually return home.

Cyril has had an altercation with a New York cop and Bertie and George extricate him from his predicament. Bertie leaves Cyril in the company of George.

Cyril has been offered a small part in George's musical instead of pursuing a career in the diplomatic service in Washington.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 9 A Letter of Introduction Analysis

Except for the incident with the New York cop, the reader is not informed of Wooster or Jeeves's impression of the New World. The action could just as easily be taking place in London. This is not the only piece that deals with stage performances, notably Bingo Little's production of "What Ho, Twing" in "The Metropolitan Touch". The reader becomes aware that flight to America does not ensure that Bertie and Jeeves are beyond the zone of influence of Aunt Agatha.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 10 Startling Dressiness of a Lift Attendant

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 10 Startling Dressiness of a Lift Attendant Summary

A week later Cyril tells Bertie that he has offended the theatre manager's son and his drama career is over.

Cyril is going to Washington to take up his diplomatic career. Bertie realizes that Jeeves has been the instigator of the successful outcome of what could have been a disaster.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 10 Startling Dressiness of a Lift Attendant Analysis

The debacle of the theatrical career of Bassington-Bassington leaves the way clear for Bertie Wooster to return to London. The character of Blumenfield and his son reappear in the "Episode of the Dog McIntosh" in "Very Good Jeeves", where they are visitors to London.

The reader is not left with any conclusive impressions of the US from either Bertie or Jeeves. It was a full thirty years after the first publication of this story that the author, P. G. Wodehouse, became an American citizen.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 11 Comrade Bingo

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 11 Comrade Bingo Summary

Bertie has returned to London and runs into Bingo's uncle who thinks that Bertie is the author of the Rosie M. Banks romances. The uncle has become Lord Bittlesham and he is now the proud owner of Ocean Breeze, a horse who is the favorite for the next race event at Goodwood.

The next day Bertie sees Bingo who is in love with a woman named Charlotte who is part of a socialist revolutionary group run by a man called Rowbotham. If Lord Bittlesham finds out about his activities Bingo will undoubtedly lose his allowance.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 11 Comrade Bingo Analysis

The depiction of Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park is an important part of this story. Along with the locale of the Goodwood Races, it is one of the few places which are not part of various country estates and their surrounding villages. The pointing out to the crowd by the revolutionary speaker of Wooster and Lord Bittlesham is one of the rare occasions when the reader is actually presented with a third person point of view of Bertram Wooster.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 12 Bingo Has a Bad Goodwood

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 12 Bingo Has a Bad Goodwood Summary

Bertie is at the Goodwood race and runs into Lord Bittlesham who is perturbed because the revolutionary is at the races. Bingo is disguised as the revolutionary and, is making an impassioned speech about the callousness of Lord Bittlesham. Bingo is followed by his rival Butt as revolutionary speaker on the platform. Butt informs the crowd that Lord Bittlesham's nephew is amongst the revolutionaries and yanks the false beard off the unsuspecting Bingo.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 12 Bingo Has a Bad Goodwood Analysis

The seemingly automatic acceptance of the necessity of gambling is well documented in this story. It is further elaborated in the stories that follow. The fact that Jeeves, in protecting his master's interests, has no qualms about betraying Bingo's deception, and the fact that Wooster does not hesitate to reward his valet with cold cash leads the reader to the realization that this is a formidable team.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 13 The Great Sermon Handicap

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 13 The Great Sermon Handicap Summary

At Twing Hall Bertie meets Lord Wickhammersley's daughter, Cynthia. Bingo has also fallen in love with Cynthia. Also in the group are the twins Eustace and Claude, who are embarking on a scheme to run a handicap on the length of the sermons preached by the vicars of the dozen hamlets within a six mile radius of Twing Hall.

The odds-on favorite is old Heppenstall, a previous tutor of Wooster's, who has inadvertently distorted the odds by losing half his notes on the previous Sunday and consequently preaching a falsely abbreviated sermon. The front-runner, old Heppenstall, succumbs to hay fever and will not be able to preach his well-known sermon on Brotherly Love. This sermon is guaranteed to last an hour. The odds fluctuate wildly as the day of the Great Sermon Handicap approaches.

The final denouement occurs when Jeeves, who has previously declined to be involved, places a ten-pound bet on a young curate by the name of Baxter. Until Bertie receives a letter from Heppenstall explaining the latest developments, the syndicate is unaware that Heppenstall has asked Baxter to deliver, verbatim, his sermon on Brotherly Love the next Sunday. This he does because the service will be attended by the Board of Governors of a school where Baxter is a candidate for headmaster.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 13 The Great Sermon Handicap Analysis

The names of the dozen hamlets and their vicars allows the author to demonstrate his forte in inventing authentic names and places, each one with just a suggestion of tongue-in-cheek humor. The adroitness of Jeeves in his triumph over the syndicate's machinations is again due partly to the free masonry of the upper level staff of the landed gentry.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 14 The Purity of the Turf

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 14 The Purity of the Turf Summary

Bingo proposes that he and Bertie form a syndicate and bet on the outcome of the various races at the Annual Village School Treat. Bertie and Bingo consult Jeeves who also approves of their syndicate. After a survey of the events and odds on the form of various participants, the syndicate's interest focuses on the pageboy Harold in the Choir Boy Handicap. Bertie places as much money as he can without attracting the suspicions of the Streggles Ring and gets a hundred-to-twelve odds.

Streggles succeeds in getting Harold expelled from the choir. The syndicate's hopes are now focused on Mrs. Penworthy in the Mothers' Sack Race. Jeeves has placed a bet in the Girls Egg and Spoon race on Prudence Baxter.

Again the syndicate's chances are dashed by Streggles, who nobbles the Mothers' Sack Race favorite by getting Mrs. Penworthy to overindulge in the refreshment tent. The final event, the Girls Egg and Spoon Race, is run and is won by the favorite Sarah Miles.

An announcement is made that the manservant of one the guests at the Hall gave each of the first four girls five shillings to win. Consequently the first four girls are disqualified and the winner is Prudence Baxter.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 14 The Purity of the Turf Analysis

The almost reverential attitude of the landed gentry towards the demonstration of their "sporting blood" in the matter of gambling on the outcome of seemingly innocent rustic village sports is well described. It is a constant theme in many of the other stories. The well meaning but fatally flawed attempt by Lord Wickhammersley's vicar Heppenstall to redress the corruptive influences of the wagers of the "bloods" merely leads to the vindication of Jeeves as the savior of the syndicate.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 15 The Metropolitan Touch

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 15 The Metropolitan Touch Summary

Bingo is now in love with Mary Burgess, the niece of Reverend Heppenstall. His rival in the affair is the Reverend Wingham, Mr. Heppenstall's new curate. Bingo has, out of financial necessity, taken up his old position as tutor to Lord Wickhammersley's son at Twing Hall.

Steggles is still at Twing Hall studying for his exams under Mr. Heppenstall and is trying to upset Bingo's chances of triumphing over his rival Mr. Wingham.

Wingham, has come down with the mumps and Bingo will take over task of organizing the Village School Christmas Entertainment.

Bertie fears Steggles will sabotage the show but is unable to get to Bingo to warn him. The performance is successful at first but then the lights in the hall go out twice. The whole cast is on stage and the girls are supposed to toss oranges into the audience. At the London Palace the oranges are made of yellow wool. In the Twing Hall, they are real, slightly rotten fruit, the result of a switch by Steggles.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 15 The Metropolitan Touch Analysis

This is another theatrically based story, this time in a village hall and not New York, but with references to the London Revue scene. The previous stage scene was in "Chapter 10 Startling Dressiness of a Lift Attendant" and the piece was "Ask Dad". In the preface to this addition the author, P. G. Wodehouse, labels his writing as being like a musical comedy. It is interesting to note that he often uses this environment in his stories.

Again the affairs of the heart are subordinated to the predilection to running books and wagering on the outcome of village events. The reader might wonder at the forbearance shown by Lord Wickerhammersley and his staff toward the antics of the guests at Twing Hall.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 16 The Delayed Exit of Claude and Eustace

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 16 The Delayed Exit of Claude and Eustace Summary

Bertie is minding his twin nephews Claude and Eustace who are on their way to South Africa and he is given strict instructions to make sure they do not miss the boat train after spending one night at his flat.

Bertie awakens to find that each twin has slipped away from the boat train and made his way back to Bertie's where they intend to hide instead of going to South Africa because they are in love with the actress Marion Wardour.

Each twin agrees to catch the next liner to South Africa and asks Bertie to get them berths. Bertie is delighted and accompanies Claude himself to Southampton so that Eustace will be unaware that he is traveling in the company of his twin brother.

Jeeves recommended that Marion lie and tell the twins that she was going to South Africa and the twins are only too anxious to go now.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 16 The Delayed Exit of Claude and Eustace Analysis

The explosive social mixture of the unrestrained twins and Bertie Wooster leads to inevitable consequences. Disappointingly, the shadowy figure of Marion Wardour is never fleshed out but her attractiveness is implied and the reader wonders at Bertie's feelings towards her.

It takes a simple suggestion from Jeeves to rectify the situation and the British Empire is left to tremble at the danger in which it will find itself when this undisciplined and unprincipled duo arrive in the Colonies.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 17 Bingo and the Little Woman

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 17 Bingo and the Little Woman Summary

Bertie and Bingo are lunching when the waitress catches the eye of young Bingo. Bertie and Bingo decide to resuscitate the Rosie M. Banks romantic novel ploy so that Bingo will get his allowance back.

Three days later Bingo turns up at Bertie's flat with a flower in his buttonhole and a strange look on his face. He tells Bertie that he is married.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 17 Bingo and the Little Woman Analysis

The comparison of Bertie's own club, The Drones, and the Senior Liberals Club provides the reader with insightful description of London Clubs and their different atmospheres. Likewise, the meal, in which Bertie and Bingo indulge, is, from the plover's eggs to the gooseberry tart, of epicurean stature.



The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 18 All's Well

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 18 All's Well Summary

Bertie quotes from the latest Rosie M. Banks novel to persuade Bittlesham to accept Bingo's marriage. When Lord Bittlesham agrees, Bertie informs Bingo and his bride of his triumph and leaves.

Bingo's bride admits that she is Rosie M. Banks. Bingo knows his uncle will be infuriated to learn that Bertie and he have been deceiving him.

Bertie goes to Bingo's address and is met by Lord Bittlesham who, instead of showing indignation, rushes out of the room to avoid him. Apparently, Jeeves explained to everyone that Bertie has been suffering from hallucinations for years and had completely fooled Bingo into believing that he was the famous romantic novel author.

The Inimitable Jeeves, Chapter 18 All's Well Analysis

The drawing together of the narrative strands from several stories is ingenious. The part played by Sir Roderick Glossop's poor view of Bertie's sanity and Lord Bittlesham's enthusiasm for Rosie M. Bank's novels all combine in the final scene, and the reader can only breath a sigh of relief when the saga of Bingo's interminable infatuations comes to a successful. The volume ends with the vision of Bertie Wooster, with nary a cloud on the horizon, enjoying domestic peace at last, under the suave administrations of his man Jeeves.



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 1 Jeeves and The Impending Doom

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 1 Jeeves and The Impending Doom Summary

Bertie has been invited to spend three weeks at his Aunt Agatha's place at Woolham Chertsey. Aunt Agatha announces that some people will be coming over to play tennis. Up until then Bingo has been keeping close tabs on young Thomas who has vowed revenge on the Right Honorable Filmer for having reported him to his mother for smoking in the garden.

Bingo and Bertie are engrossed in their tennis doubles match when they realize that young Thomas has disappeared. A violent thunderstorm interrupts the play and everyone stampedes for the house except for Mr. Filmer, whom it is assumed is sheltering somewhere in the grounds.

Jeeves informs Bertie that Mr. Filmer is on the island in the middle of the lake in the grounds. He adds that young Thomas rowed over to the island after the Rt. Hon. gentleman and set his boat adrift.

Bertie and Jeeves rescue the marooned Mr. Filmer. Back on dry land Mr. Filmer comes to the conclusion that it was his hostess' son who set his boat adrift and goes to see Mrs. Gregson. A little later, the butler informs Bertie that Mrs. Gregson would like to see him. Jeeves says that the problem in the matter of Mr. Filmer's boat has been solved. Jeeves has gone to Mr. Filmer and informed him that it was Bertie who had untied the boat. This benefits Bingo who will now keep his position, and Bertie will benefit as well. Jeeves explains that Aunt Agatha's motive in inviting Bertie to meet Mr. Filmer is so that Bertie can become the Rt. Hon's private secretary.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 1 Jeeves and The Impending Doom Analysis

It transpires that Aunt Agatha is plotting to get Bertie a position as a Cabinet Minister's private secretary. There is no indication as to why she thinks this is likely, given Bertie's propensity as a scallywag and wastrel and the obvious mismatch in personalities between the two men. Again the reader finds Bingo Little in an impecunious situation even though he is happily married to a successful authoress. It is his inability to control his ward, young Thomas, that finally defeats the machinations of Aunt Agatha. Jeeves's solution to the problem presented by the Right Honorable gentlemen is to blame Bertie for the untying of the boat and then to escape back to London.



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 2 The Inferiority Complex of Old Sippy

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 2 The Inferiority Complex of Old Sippy Summary

An old pal of Bertie's, Sipperley, is editor of a weekly paper. He is suffering from an inferiority complex on two accounts. Firstly, he is in love with the poetess Gwendolen Moon and cannot bring himself to approach her. Secondly, his ex-headmaster, Waterbury, keeps insisting that Sipperley insert his writings into the magazine.

Bertie and Jeeves are in contention on two accounts. Firstly, Jeeves disapproves of Bertie's latest acquisition, a rather ornate vase. Secondly, Jeeves suggests Sipperley's devotion to Miss Moon be demonstrated by him having an accident and calling out her name, while Bertie's plan is to play a practical joke on Waterbury, getting him covered in flour, the next time he calls at the magazine office. This will have the effect of Sipperley seeing Waterbury in a new light and becoming free from his intimidation.

Bertie sets his booby trap on the public door of the Gazette's office, but later is surprised to find Waterbury seated at Sipperley's desk without a trace of flour on him. After a wait of about two hours, Sipperley enters the office singing at the top of his voice. He jovially declines Waterbury's literary efforts. After Waterbury has left, Sipperley explains that he has just invited Gwendolen to tea at the Carlton and they are engaged to be married.

Sipperley recounts that he had been in Bertie's drawing room when he awoke to find himself on the floor with the fair Gwendolen bending over him weeping; the rest was easy. He then rushes off. Jeeves, who is outside the office, admits to Bertie that he telephoned both Sipperley and Miss Moon asking them to come to the flat, and that then, before Miss Moon arrived, he contrived to hit Sipperley on the head with one of Bertie's golf clubs. The rest was as described by Sipperley except that Jeeves told him that he had been struck on the head by a vase that had fallen on him.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 2 The Inferiority Complex of Old Sippy Analysis

The curing of Sipperley's inferiority complex by a blow to the back of the head by Jeeves seems a little drastic, but it works, whereas Bertie's flour booby trap does not. The reader might wonder why the same technique could not be used in Bertie's continuous subjugation by his domineering Aunts.

The destruction of the vase, Bertie's latest acquisition which offends Jeeves, is a foregone conclusion, but the list of similar objects expostulated by Bertie in its defense is an interesting catalog of similar objects in other stories in the Jeeves saga.



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 3 Jeeves and the Yule-Tide Spirit

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 3 Jeeves and the Yule-Tide Spirit Summary

Bertie has accepted an invitation to spend Christmas at Skeldings. Also at Skeldings will be Sir Roderick Glossop and his nephew Tuppy Glossop. Bertie will also be seeing Roberta Wickham, with whom he is infatuated.

After dinner that evening, Roberta, on being informed of Bertie's desire to get even with Tuppy, suggests creeping into his bedroom at night, and piercing his hot water bottle with a darning needle.

Bertie creeps into Tuppy's bedroom and punctures the hot water bottle, but to his dismay finds the occupant of the bed to be Sir Roderick Glossop. Sir Roderick demands that he be given Bertie's bed.

In the morning Jeeves points out to Bertie that he is in fact lucky at the outcome of events as getting back into Sir Roderick's good graces would mean that his engagement to Honoria might be revived.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 3 Jeeves and the Yule-Tide Spirit Analysis

Readers, unfamiliar with bed warming devices that preceded the advent of electric blankets, will have to accept that pranksters can locate a rubber hot water bottle in an occupied bed and puncture it with a darning needle through the bedding. The reappearance of Sir Roderick Glossop, Tuppy Glossop, and Roberta Wickham all invoke a familiar cast of characters.

Bertie's constant preoccupation with getting revenge on Tuppy Glossop for his practical joke at the Drones club is again paraded before the readers. That it is not that serious can be deduced from the last story in this volume, "The Ordeal of Young Tuppy", when Bertie becomes afraid for the actual physical safety of young Glossop.



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 4 Jeeves and the Song of Songs

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 4 Jeeves and the Song of Songs Summary

Tuppy is on the verge of becoming betrothed to Cora Bellinger and describes his plan to win her heart. He will sing at a concert where Cora will also be singing.

Aunt Dahlia tells Bertie that Tuppy is breaking her daughter Angela's heart with his dalliance with Cora Bellinger. Jeeves outlines his plan to discredit Tuppy in the eyes of Cora Bellinger. The gist of the plan is that Bertie will also sing at the concert, just before Tuppy, and he will sing the same song, "Sonny Boy." The audience will be completely bored with the same song being sung twice and Tuppy's performance will be a flop. .

Jeeves persuades Tuppy to prepare for his performance by going to a neighboring pub so that Tuppy does not realize that the preceding performer, Bertie, has delivered the song he has chosen. As anticipated, Bertie barely succeeds in finishing his version of "Sonny Boy" before Tuppy is booed off the stage.

When the master of ceremonies tells the audience that the famous opera singer Miss Cora Bellinger is on her way, Bertie realizes that she has missed Tuppy's fiasco and the plan seems to have misfired.

The next day Tuppy turns up with a black eye and says that he doesn't think Cora Bellinger is the right girl for him and asks Bertie to call Angela to see if she would like to go out with him this evening.

Jeeves says he saw Cora Bellinger strike Tuppy in the eye the previous evening because she was upset at the reception to her performance by an audience that resented her choice of song, "Sonny Boy".

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 4 Jeeves and the Song of Songs Analysis

The appeal for help by Aunt Dahlia in diverting young Tuppy's attention away from the opera singer and back towards her daughter Angela is a by now familiar situation. In this story, for a change, Bertie plays his part in the subterfuge without any mishaps. It is Jeeves who pulls all the strings and manipulates the pawns.

Again the reader is presented with a theatrical setting and is reminded of the similar environment in New York and Twing Hall.



In the order of stories chosen by the publisher (Penguin Books) the often-endangered engagement between Tuppy Glossop and Angela Travers appears here in the last volume of stories and in the first part of "Right Ho, Jeeves". It would appear that in the author's order of events this volume of stories, "Very Good Jeeves", would be followed by the first volume, "Right Ho, Jeeves".



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 5 Episode of the Dog McIntosh

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 5 Episode of the Dog McIntosh Summary

Bertie has been left in charge of Aunt Agatha's Aberdeen terrier, McIntosh. Bertie has agreed to provide lunch for Roberta Wickham and the the stage producer Blumenfield and his son who had successfully destroyed Bassington-Bassington's theatrical career in New York. When Bertie finds out who the guests are he leaves his apartment to have lunch at his club.

When he returns Bertie finds out that Roberta gave McIntosh to Blumenfield's son and it is now in the Blumenfield's suite at the Savoy. Bertie goes to the Savoy and with aniseed on his trousers, Bertie has no trouble extracting the dog and returning to his apartment. He realizes that Roberta is in danger of being blamed by the Blumenfields for the loss of the dog. When the father arrives in the room looking for Bertie Jeeves explains to him that Bertie is eccentric and possibly violent. Bertie emerges from his hiding place to find Jeeves holding a five-pound note that Blumenfield gave him when he left with the Aberdeen terrier that Jeeves had given him. Bertie's horror is assuaged when Jeeves tells him that the terrier, with which Blumenfield had left, is one that Jeeves had purchased that afternoon, not McIntosh who is safely locked up in the back bedroom.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 5 Episode of the Dog McIntosh Analysis

The reader might wonder at Aunt Agatha's wisdom in confiding the care of her precious McIntosh to Bertie Wooster knowing, as she does, his propinquity to cause confusion and chaos in all about him. After all, young Bingo Little placed his wife's Pekingese at the Kosy Komfort Kennels in Kent when he had to take up a tutoring position in chapter one. However, the situation does lead to an action packed afternoon chez Wooster.

As explained in the text, the reader first came across Blumenfield and his son in New York in "A Letter of Introduction".



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 6 The Spot of Art

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 6 The Spot of Art Summary

Bertie has fallen in love with Gwladys Pendlebury, an artist he met in Chelsea. One day Gwladys has run over a man just outside the flat. The injured pedestrian, Lucius Pim, has been accommodated in Bertie's spare bedroom. He tells Bertie that his sister will be arriving from Paris to visit him. They both agree that the accident will be described as a hit and run. Lucius Pim's sister is married to a Mr. Slingsby, the founder and owner of Slingsby's Superb Soups.

Lucius tells his sister that Bertie ran him over and tells Bertie to send some roses over to her residence. Bertie thinks this is a good idea and takes care of the errand himself. Later, while practicing his putting on the carpet in the drawing room, Bertie is startled to find he has a caller, none other than Mr. Slingsby. Slingsby accuses Bertie of importuning his wife because of the roses with Bertie's card. Just then Mrs. Slingsby arrives. Mr. Slingsby does not know she has come to visit her injured brother and his worst fears are confirmed. Mr. Slingsby slips on a golf ball and collapses in a heap on the living room floor. Bertie tells Jeeves to put Mr. Slingsby into Bertie's bed, call the doctor, and meet him at Charing Cross with some luggage as he is going to Paris.

Bertie returns to London only to find that his face and portrait are plastered all over London as part of an advertising campaign for Slingsby's Superb Soups. Jeeves explains that he was able to persuade Mr. Slingsby that the Pendlebury portrait had merit as an advertising piece and Miss Gwladys Pendlebury secured a very remunerative contract negotiated by her new fiancée, Lucius Pim.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 6 The Spot of Art Analysis

As Aunt Dahlia observes, when told of Bertie's latest romance, he does not think Jeeves would approve, does he? Obviously this was part of Jeeves's plot to break up this affair, get rid of the offending portrait, and arrange for him and his young master to take part in the Mediterranean yacht cruise. Aunt Agatha's distress at Bertie's vulgarization of the family's honor is in contrast to Aunt Dahlia's (and Jeeves's) disappointment at not having him present on her cruise. Obviously young Bertie Wooster's attendance is not always looked at in an unfavorable light.



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 7 Jeeves and the Kid Clementina

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 7 Jeeves and the Kid Clementina Summary

Bertie and Jeeves stay at the Hotel Splendide at Bingley-on-Sea while Bertie participates in the Drones Club annual golf tournament. Bertie is concerned that his presence at the resort remains unknown to Miss Mapleton, a close friend of his Aunt Agath's.

Bertie runs into Roberta Wickham who explains she has come to Bingley-on-Sea to take her cousin Clementina out to celebrate her thirteenth birthday. Clementina is a pupil at Miss Mapleton's school. Clementina has been sent to bed as punishment for putting sherbet in the ink and she should not be out and about. However, Bobbie Wickham persuades Bertie that all he has to do is climb a tree in the school grounds, drop a flower pot on to the conservatory roof and, when someone comes to investigate, Jeeves can usher Clementina back into the school through the unguarded open door.

Bertie is apprehended by a constable who marches him off to be confronted by Miss Mapleton. Jeeves is on hand to explain that Bertie was up the tree looking for suspicious individuals that he and Jeeves had observed, as they were about to call on Miss Mapleton.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 7 Jeeves and the Kid Clementina Analysis

After having been double-crossed by Miss Bobbie Wickham in the affair of the punctured hot water bottles (chapter three) the reader might wonder at Bertie's unquestioned confidence in this young lady who is becoming something of a nemesis for him.



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 8 The Love that Purifies

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 8 The Love that Purifies Summary

Bertie meets Mr. Anstruther, a septuagenarian, who had been a close friend of Aunt Dahlia's late father. Also visiting are Aunt Dahlia's son, Bonzo, and Aunt Agatha's son, Thomas.

Anstruther, in an effort to get peace and quiet, has instituted a Good Conduct competition between the boys. The winner will earn a prize of five pounds.

Aunt Dahlia tells Bertie that she has entered a wager that if Thomas wins the prize, Aunt Dahlia will exchange the services of her chef Anatole for those of Lady Snettisham's kitchen maid. Aunt Dahlia tries to persuade Bertie to get his man Jeeves down to Brinkley Court to ensure that Thomas does not win the contest, but Bertie claims he has a plan to accomplish this result.

He tries to get Thomas to lose control by insulting him but to no avail. Jeeves suggests that Aunt Dahlia invite young Sebastian Moon, son of Miss Moon, Sipperley's fiancée. The reasoning is that the boy has glorious golden curls that will provoke some kind of mischief on the part of the hypocritical Thomas. Again Thomas remains impervious to the temptation and even carries the golden haired boy on his back when he gets a nail in his shoe. Finally Thomas is observed chasing Sebastian with a stable bucket in his hands. Sebastian seeks shelter behind Anstruther, who is resting in a deck chair, and it is Anstruther who receives the full load of the stable bucket from Thomas.

The Good Conduct prize is won by Bonzo and the services of Anatole are retained.

The key to the chink in young Thomas's armour of virtue is that Thomas has become infatuated with the image of Greta Garbo, and all Jeeves had to do was to get Sebastian to make some disparaging remarks about the screen idol.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 8 The Love that Purifies Analysis

The ethical question of whether Aunt Dahlia should, or even could, dispense with the services of Anatole and indenture him to Lady Snettisham is not even considered in this story. Again, the unhesitating indulgence in the gentle art of nobbling the field in the course of securing the outcome of any kind of wager is demonstrated in this story.



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 9 Jeeves and the Old School Chum

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 9 Jeeves and the Old School Chum Summary

Bingo Little has secured a permanent income from his Uncle Lord Bittlesham and inherited a fine estate not far from Norwich. Unfortunately, the Littles' domestic bliss has soured under the influence of Laura Pyke, an old friend of Mrs. Bingo's. Bertie fears that the strain on the marriage will cause permanent damage. Jeeves's opportunity to examine the personality of Laura Pyke will come when he accompanies the house party to an outing to the local races at Lakenham.

A lunch hamper has been packed under the supervision of Bingo. At Lakenham, the party gets ready for luncheon before the start of the races, but then it is discovered that the hamper has been left behind. Fortunately Jeeves has packed enough sandwiches in his lunch supplies for three and the men stave off the pangs of starvation behind a hedge. Jeeves explains to Bertie that it was he who had unloaded the missing luncheon hamper. His reasoning is that, given the delectable spread in the basket, young Bingo would have made a spectacle of his unrestrained appetite and caused further adverse comment from the two ladies.

That evening Mrs. Bingo suggests to Bertie that he could drive herself and Laura in the Bingo car back home while Bingo and Jeeves would wait until the last race is over and return in Bertie's car. Bertie is at the wheel of the Bingo car when the car stops running. Laura Pyke discovers that the vehicle is completely out of fuel.

Bertie goes off on foot to find fuel but then runs into Jeeves and Bingo in his vehicle. Bingo asks Jeeves to give them five minutes and then to drive on. As Bingo and Bertie approach the broken-down automobile they hear the signs of a first class row between the two stranded women.

Jeeves surreptitiously puts a can of petrol in the bushes next to the broken-down vehicle. Laura Pyke asks Bertie if Jeeves can drive her back to the house as she is going to catch the evening train to London. Mrs. Bingo, convinced that Bingo did not forget to fill the car with petrol, now regards her husband with renewed respect and love.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 9 Jeeves and the Old School Chum Analysis

Bingo Little and his marriage to the famous authoress Rosie M. Banks is described in chapter eighteen of "The Inimitable Jeeves". The depiction of Mrs. Bingo's long and

eloquent reply to her old school chum's hostile outburst has all the rhythm and cadence of a comic opera quintet. It is, probably, one of the author's finest monologues.



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 10 Indian Summer of an Uncle

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 10 Indian Summer of an Uncle Summary

Bertie's Uncle George has fallen in love with a waitress. Jeeves knows that the young lady in question is a Miss Rhoda Platt of East Dulwich. Aunt Agatha wants Uncle George to be stopped and her solution is to offer the girl money to relinquish her hold on Uncle George.

Bertie is delegated to conduct the negotiations. At the house on Kitchener Road he is met by Miss Platt's aunt. The young lady in question has influenza and is indisposed. Bertie, ingeniously, makes the excuse that his uncle has heard that Miss Platt is not feeling well and has asked him to check on her.

Bertie returns to his aunt and reports his failure to accomplish anything. Jeeves suggests inviting the girl's aunt to have lunch with Uncle George at Bertie's flat. Aunt Agatha tells Bertie to return to East Dulwich the next day and do as she tells him.

Bertie prefers Jeeves's plan and asks him to get the Platt girl's aunt on the phone and invite her for lunch, and that he will do the same for Uncle George. The aunt, Mrs. Wilberforce, arrives first. It turns out that Mrs. Wilberforce had been a barmaid at the Criterion and when Bertie mentions the name Wooster she admits to having almost married a George Wooster once. The two luncheon guests greet each other as long lost lovers.

Aunt Agatha informs Bertie that Uncle George is not going to marry the Platt girl but instead has announced his intention to marry a Mrs. Wilberforce.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 10 Indian Summer of an Uncle Analysis

The sudden reluctance of Aunt Agatha to involve Jeeves in the delicate family affair is consistent with her attitude towards Jeeves on previous occasions. It is also interesting that Uncle George was a Wooster before he inherited his title. The reader is left pondering on the details of the Wooster family tree and the origin of its escutcheon, so often invoked by Bertie.



Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 11 The Ordeal of Young Tuppy

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 11 The Ordeal of Young Tuppy Summary

Bertie is in high spirits as Jeeves packs for their Christmas holidays at Sir Reginald Witherspoon's country house Bleaching Court at Upper Bleaching, Hampshire. Bertie plans to get even with Tuppy Glossop who is also going to be a guest for his practical joke on Bertie at the Drones Club. Before they can leave, Aunt Dahlia calls to inform them that Tuppy Glossop is breaking her daughter Angela's heart by taking up with another girl at Upper Bleaching because of a row between Angela and Tuppy in which he told her that her latest hat makes her look like a Pekingese. Aunt Dahlia insists that Bertie engages Jeeves to get Tuppy Glossop to forget the other girl.

On arrival at Bleaching Court, Bertie and Jeeves find Tuppy deeply involved with a Miss Dagleish, who is an avid dog and hound enthusiast. Tuppy is hoping that Bertie has brought an Irish water spaniel with him as a gift he wants to present to Miss Dagleish. Bertie has not been able to procure an animal of that pedigree. In addition to the Irish water spaniel, Tuppy has volunteered to participate in the annual rugby match between Upper Bleaching and the neighboring village of Hockley-cum-Meston in an effort to impress his latest lady. Local opinion has it that young Glossop is very unwise to get involved in a local grudge match that has a long history of being particularly brutal.

Bertie has a plan to save Tuppy from being seriously injured. He concocts a telegram, supposedly from Angela, which is to be delivered to Tuppy at the beginning of the rugby match. On the day of the match, Bertie waits until the brawl has begun and Tuppy is being severely picked on by the opposite side. He goes on to the field to deliver the spurious telegram that should cause Tuppy to rush up to London to visit Angela, who is meant to be ill. Unfortunately, Bertie, in his own inimitable fashion, has left the telegram back at Bleaching Court.

The game proceeds with Tuppy, now with his blood up and playing like a hero, becoming the scorer of the winning try. Back at Bleaching Court, Bertie realizes his plan to get Tuppy out of the game has backfired and now young Glossop is the toast of Upper Bleaching that will further entrench him in the affections of the Dagleish girl.

When Tuppy Glossop does appear in Bertie's room, however, he is unexpectedly bitter at all females, in particular Miss Dagleish. Apparently she was not at the game to witness Tuppy's heroic efforts, having left the game to check on the availability of an Irish water spaniel that a mysterious phone caller had told her about. When Bertie shows him the concocted telegram he suddenly is overcome with remorse at having abandoned Angela and borrows Bertie's two seater to rush up to London to see her.



Bertie guesses correctly that Jeeves was the originator of the mysterious telephone call about the Irish water spaniel. Furthermore, Jeeves has informed Angela's mother that Tuppy is on his way, expecting to find her to be recovering from an illness.

Bertie and Jeeves join together in a celebratory whiskey and soda.

Very Good, Jeeves!, Chapter 11 The Ordeal of Young Tuppy Analysis

Bertie Wooster's very real concern over the physical danger in which Tuppy has placed himself belies his desire to revenge himself for the Drones club practical joke. This story also depicts an image of young Tuppy as a strong stalwart chap who is capable of looking after himself in an awkward situation. This is significant in the scene in "Right Ho, Jeeves" where Tuppy actually tries to manhandle Bertie Wooster.

Bertie Wooster's professed ignorance of the game of rugby is a little surprising given its pervasiveness among English Public schools, but the match is superbly described and catches the spirit of the game of rugby football.

The tiff between Angela and Tuppy over the hat that he says makes Angela look like a Pekingese is a feature of the "Right-Ho Jeeves" story that, chronologically, should follow this chapter.



Characters

Bertram Wooster

Bertie Wooster, to his friends and family, is the young master of Jeeves, as he thinks of himself. An independently wealthy young man about town who lives in an apartment in the Berkeley area of London, he drives a two-seater sports car and is a member of the Drones Club. The Wooster family is well connected; some of Bertie's uncles have titles and his Aunts Agatha and Dahlia have considerable influence over him, though they never seem to succeed in getting him to "do something with his life".

Bertie Wooster is a frequent guest at the country estates of friends and relatives where he is invariably accompanied by his valet and manservant Jeeves. At one stage, Bertie is engaged to the daughter of one of his aunts' friends, Lady Honoria Glossop. He is also is permanently getting entangled and almost engaged to various other young ladies.

Bertie once overhears his valet Jeeves expressing his opinion, to a temporary replacement valet, that Bertram Wooster is an exceedingly pleasant and amiable young man but in no way intelligent. His aunts think of him as an "Abysmal Chump" and live in trepidation of his well-meaning schemes to rectify various situations, but they constantly invite him to their estates and, like many of his friends, use him to employ the talents of his valet Jeeves, who advises them on various social matters.

Bertie thinks of Jeeves as a sort of guide, philosopher, and friend. The master and servant do, however, often disagree on Bertie's choice of spats, shirts, vases, and mess jackets that he purchases on his own whims of fancy away from the restraining advice of his valet. Jeeves inevitably, firmly and tactfully always manages to get rid of the offending article.

Bertie's frequent debacles invariably arise when he ignores Jeeves's advice and tries to implement various schemes independently of him. Bertie is perpetually and erroneously optimistic concerning his superiority over Jeeves. The manner in which Jeeves deferentially but firmly extracts his young master from the messes in which he gets embroiled is the essence of P. G. Wodehouse's stories of Jeeves.

Jeeves

The reader knows very little about the personal life of Bertram Wooster's valet and general factotum, even to the extent of being ignorant of his full name. He is always addressed as Jeeves and never refers to Wooster as Bertie. Bertie's formidable aunts, who regard Jeeves as something of a social engineering genius, are always referred to by their correct formal names by the ever-deferential Jeeves.



From the fragmentary exposition of the various stories the reader knows that Jeeves occasionally forms alliances with young ladies he meets at venues such as the Camberwell Subscription dances. He, also, according to Bertie, likes to have a flutter at the casinos in Monte Carlo, and on his annual holiday goes to Bognor Regis from which returns tanned and fit.

His master's friends and relatives regard Jeeves as a source of social wisdom and a channel to tap into the otherwise unavailable opinions of their own and other people's staff. His well-placed "Very good sir!" can speak volumes as to his real opinion of the statements and actions of his master and his master's friends. The not so completely insensitive Bertie often remonstrates to Jeeves about the implied tone of the deferential acquiescence but never meets with any success in drawing out a direct criticism.

Aunt Dahlia

Mrs. Travers is Bertie Wooster's Aunt Dahlia, mother of Angela and wife of Mr. Thomas Travers. They have their country estate at Brinkley Court, Market Snodsbury, and Worcestershire. Aunt Dahlia publishes a weekly newspaper for woman called "Milady's Boudoir", which is financed by her husband. She likes the occasional game of baccarat, at which she loses heavily, and, at one time, rode with the local hunt so that her speech is sometimes interspersed with hunting cries. Her well-concealed affection for her nephew Bertie does not prevent her from badgering him into last minute duties such as Prize Giving at the local Market Snodsbury Grammar School, of which she is a Governor. Nor does she hesitate in calling on the services of Jeeves when her daughter Angela's fiancée, Tuppy Glossop, is distracted by competing females.

On her staff Aunt Dahlia has the French Chef Anatole, whose culinary masterpieces are the only cuisine her husband can tolerate, and whose reputation for providing gourmet delights makes invitations to dine at Brinkley Court a much sought after social cachet.

Aunt Agatha

Aunt Agatha is Mrs. Gregson, wife of Sir Spenser Gregson, with whom she owns a country estate at Woolham Chertsey, Hertfordshire. Bertie Wooster sometimes refers to Aunt Agatha as "the family curse" and regards her with fear and trepidation. On her part she regards Bertie as a vapid and frivolous wastrel. This is not to say that she does not harbor ambitions to "make something" of her nephew, either in the form of matrimony to Honoria Glossop or by becoming private secretary to a Cabinet Minister. Very conscious of the reputation of the Wooster family name, Mrs. Gregson also interferes in the love life of Bertie's Uncle Thomas, Lord Yaxley.

Lord and Lady Wickham

Lord and Lady Wickham have their country seat at Skeldings Hall, Hertfordshire and are good friends of Aunt Agatha. Their red-haired daughter, Roberta (Bobbie) has a



penchant for getting Bertie Wooster into all sorts of predicaments, and Jeeves thinks that the young lady needs a husband of commanding authority and considerable strength of character to curb her vivacious nature. This would not be Bertram Wooster in Jeeves's opinion.

Sir Roderick Glossop

Sir Roderick Glossop is a noted nerve specialist ("loony doctor"). He is the father of Honoria and Hildebrand (Tuppy) and is convinced that Bertie Wooster is quite insane. He is also president of the Anti-Gambling League, is an abstemious eater and drinker who believes coffee is the root cause of all mental health problems.

Hildebrand (Tuppy) Glossop

Tuppy Glossop and Bertie Wooster often meet at the Drones club where they are both members and where Tuppy previously played a practical joke on Bertie that resulted him in taking a swim in the pool in full evening dress. Tuppy is betrothed to Angela Travers. He is also a formidable rugby player.

Honoria Glossop

Honoria Glossop is the daughter of Sir Roderick Glossop. She and Bertie Wooster were once engaged for at least two weeks as a result of the machinations of Bertie's Aunt Agatha. Her idea of "molding" Bertie is to take him around art galleries and concerts and to read to him from the writings of Ruskin. She is a large, brainy, and strenuous girl whom Bertie thinks may have boxed for the 'Varsity.

Richard (Bingo) Little

Bingo Little and Bertie Wooster have known each other since their earliest childhood. Born in the same village within days of each other, they went through kindergarten, Eton, and Oxford together and have enjoyed each others company in London.

After many youthful infatuations, he marries the famous authoress Rosie M Banks. His uncle, Lord Bittlesham, eventually settles a generous allowance on him, but before that, he and Bertie go through many a scrape together. When another wealthy uncle dies, Bingo inherits a sizable income and a fine estate near Norwich.

Rosie M. Banks

Rosie M. Banks is the celebrated female novelist who meets Bingo Little while she is working as a waitress in a London club to get material for one of her books. She and Bingo get married and retire to life in on an estate near Norwich.



Augustus (Gussie) Fink-Nottle

Gussie Fink-Nottle is a young acquaintance of Bertie Wooster. He has spent a lot of his early life living in almost hermit-like conditions in the country, where he has been able to indulge his passion for the study of newts. He misses the chance to overcome his inhibitions and court Madeline Bassett at a fancy dress ball in London. He is then introduced to Aunt Dahlia as a guest at Brinkley Court where Madeline Bassett is also a guest. Aunt Dahlia inveigles him to be the Prize Giver and Speaker at the local grammar school in Market Snodsbury.

Madeline Bassett

Madeline Bassett is the young lady with whom Gussie Fink-Nottle is in love. She was at Cannes when Bertie Wooster and his Aunt Dahlia were staying there.

Eustace and Claude

Eustace and Claude are younger relatives of Bertie Wooster, and are first encountered at Twing Hall where they are being tutored in the classics by Rev. Heppenstall. Later, the twins are expelled from Oxford University and are sent to South Africa by Aunt Agatha, who asks Bertie to look after them for one night.

Monsieur Anatole

Monsieur Anatole is the renowned chef at Brinkley Court. His gourmet cuisine is the only cooking that Tom Travers can tolerate, and invitations to dine at Brinkley Court, usually issued by Bertie Wooster's Aunt Dahlia (Mrs. Travers), are widely sought after. He is originally from Provence but was previously in the employ of people with American connections

Cousin Thomas

Cousin Thomas is the young son of Aunt Agatha. He is tutored by the impecunious Bingo Little. He maroons the Right Hon. Mr. Filmer on a lake at his aunts' estate and also participates in the Good Behavior cup at Brinkley Court.

Cyril Bassington-Bassington

Cyril Bassington-Bassington is the son of a friend of Aunt Agatha's who contacts Bertie Wooster during his stay in New York with a letter of introduction. He has theatrical pretensions but his father wants him to take up a career in the diplomatic corp.



Mr. Blumenfield

Mr. Blumenfield is the theatrical producer that Bertie and Jeeves meet in New York who later turns up in London. He has a son on whom he places confidence as the arbiter of public taste in theatrical matters.

Lord Bittlesham

Lord Bittlesham is Bingo Little's wealthy uncle on whom he relies for an allowance. Lord Bittlesham owns a racehorse called Ocean Breeze, and is a great fan of the romantic novels published under the name of Rosie M. Banks.

Charlotte Corday Rowbotham

Charlotte Corday is the daughter of the noted socialist revolutionary comrade Rowbotham. Bingo Little has become infatuated with her and pretends to be a socialist revolutionary as well.

Lord Wickhammersely

Wickhammersely is the lord of the manor at Twing Hall. He was a great friend of Bertie Wooster's father when he was alive.

Lady Cynthia Wickhammersely

Lady Cynthia is the youngest daughter of Lord Wickhammersely. She and Bertie Wooster once had an affair but they are now pals. Bingo Little becomes infatuated with her when he is at Twing Hall to tutor Cynthia's brother. She eventually becomes engaged to Reverend Bates, the nephew of the Reverend Heppenstall.

The Right Reverend Heppenstall

The Right Reverend Heppenstall is the Vicar at Twing Hall. He is tutoring a group of Oxford undergraduates when Bertie and Jeeves descend on Twing Hall to escape the summer heat in London.

Miss Mary Burgess

Miss Mary Burgess is the niece of Reverend Mr. Heppenstall; she is staying at Twing Vicarage. Bingo Little falls in love with her but has a rival in the form of Heppenstall's new curate, Mr. Wingham.



The Right Honorable Mr. Filmer

Mr. Filmer is a cabinet minister and president of the Anti-Tobacco League. Aunt Agatha invites him to stay at Woollam Chertsey in the vain hope of getting Bertie Wooster to be his personal secretary.

Mr. Sipperley

Mr. Sipperley, or Old Sippy as he is known to Bertie Wooster, is an old friend who once gained fame by doing thirty days without the option for punching a policeman in the stomach on Boat-Race night. He is now the editor of the Mayfair Gazette and is madly in love with a Miss Gwendolen Moon.

Miss Gwladys Pendlebury

Miss Pendlebury is an artist that Bertie Wooster met at a party in Chelsea. Bertie is madly in love with her and cancels the trip on his Aunt Dahlia's yacht in the Mediterranean, to which he is invited, to ward off the attentions of his rival Lucius Pim. She drives a little red sports car at great speed.

Mr. Slingsby

Mr. Slingsby is a very successful businessman who owns "Slingsby's Superb Soups" and who misconstrues Bertie Wooster's intentions when he sends flowers to his wife. He negotiates the copyright for the portrait of Bertram Wooster to use as part of a publicity campaign.

Clementina

Clementina is the thirteen-year-old niece of Bobbie Wickham who attends Saint Monica's at Bingley on Sea and who is meant to be in her dormitory and not having dinner with Bertie Wooster and Miss Roberta Wickham.

Mr. Anstruther

Mr. Anstruther is an old friend of Aunt Dahlia's late father. He is a septuagenarian and given to nervous breakdowns. In an effort to secure peace while he is a guest at Brinkley Court, he devises a Good Conduct competition between the small boys also staying there.



Uncle George

Uncle George (also known as "Piggy") has become Lord Yaxley. He is reacquainted with the love of his youth, Maudie. He is what is called a "prominent London Club man".



Objects/Places

Bertie Wooster's Flat

Bertie Wooster's flat is at Number 6A, Crichton Mansions, Berkeley Street, West London.

Brinkley Court, Worcestershire

The country estate of Mr. and Mrs. Travers. (Aunt Dahlia) is at Brinkley Court, Worcestershire.

Market Snodsbury, Worcestershire

The local village next to Brinkley Court. There is a grammar school in the village.

Woollam Chertsey, Hertfordshire

Woollam Chertsey is the location of country estate of Mr. and Mrs. Spenser Sneldgrove (Aunt Agatha).

Kingham Manor, Hertfordshire

Kingham Manor, Hertfordshire is the estate adjacent to Brinkley Court, where the staff of Brinkley Court are attending a servants ball on the night of the fire alarm, and to which Bertie Wooster makes his nighttime bicycle ride.

Skeldings Hall, Hertfordshire

Skeldings Hall, Hertfordshire is the country estate of Lord and Lady Wickham.

The Drones Club,

The Drones Club is the club in London where Bertie Wooster spends a lot of his time and where he has innumerable friends.



Bingley-on-Sea

Bingley-on-Sea is the seaside resort where the Drones club has its annual golf tournament and where Miss Mapleton, an old friend of Bertie's Aunt Agatha, runs a girl's school called Saint Monica's.

Roville-sur-Mer

Roville-sur-Mer is the French seaside resort town where Aunt Agatha tries to get Bertie engaged to the sister of an English curate, and where she loses and recovers her pearls.

Ditteredge, Hampshire

Sir Roderick Glossop and family have a home at Ditteredge in Hampshire. There is a lake in the grounds where the young Oswald Glossop fishes.

New York, NY, USA

New York, NY, USA is where Bertie Wooster and Jeeves flee to escape Aunt Agatha's wrath after the disastrous lunch with Sir Roderick Glossop.

Twing Hall, Gloucestershire

Twing Hall, Gloucestershire is the country seat of Lord and Lady Wickerhammersley.

Parishes within six miles of Twing Hall

Parishes within six miles of Twing Hall are Lower Bingley, Gandle-by-the-Hill, Badgewick, and Fale-by-the-Water.

Objects of Contention

The following objects that Bertie Wooster acquires all suffer from the disapproval of Jeeves; the white mess jacket, the scarlet cummerbund, the Eton spats, the colorful plus fours, the portrait of Bertram Wooster by Miss Pendlebury, the mauve shirts, the purple socks, and the ornate vase.



McIntosh

McIntosh is the Aberdeen terrier, owned by Aunt Agatha, that she ill advisedly leaves in the care of Bertie Wooster.

Bleaching Court

Bleaching Court, Upper Bleaching, Hampshire is the country estate of Sir Reginald Witherspoon.

Hockly-cum-Meston and Upper Bleaching

Hockly-cum-Meston and Upper Bleaching are two villages that engage in an annual rugby match of great brutality near Sir Reginald Witherspoon's estate.



Themes

Platonic Love

In several of the stories involving Bertie Wooster he is kissed by the female character. In each case he expresses repugnance to the gesture. On the other hand neither he, nor any of his lovelorn friends, ever demonstrate any physical affection to the objects of their romantic attentions. Despite the very real intensity of their emotions, and here one recalls the mighty rage of Tuppy Glossop chasing his supposed rival Gussie Fink-Nottle, there never seems to be anything approaching physical expressions of love. A few examples are given below.

At the climax of "Right Ho, Jeeves", when Madeline Bassett is released from her supposed engagement to Bertie Wooster, she kisses him on the forehead. The reaction of the relieved Bertie is "Unpleasant of course, but as Anatole would say I can take a few smooths with a rough". In "Pearls Mean Tears" the girl, Aline Hemingway, on receiving a loan of one hundred pounds, kisses the startled Bertie and legs it from the room. Bertie's reaction to this seemingly impulsive act of gratitude is to be completely rattled. He is appalled by the fact that a girl like that, "quiet and demure and what not" should go about the place kissing fellows. In "Comrade Bingo", Jeeves describes Charlotte Rowtham as slapping young Bingo "roguishly" and Bertie expostulates that he didn't think things had gone as far as that. The ecstatic Sipperley celebrates his engagement by taking his Gwendolen to tea at the Carlton and young Bingo Little actually gets married to Rosie Banks, but only because she challenges him to brave his uncle's wrath and marry her right away. This is in marked contrast to the lurid romantic novels for which Miss Banks is well known. The consummation of the marriage is left to the reader's imagination.

Given that the stories are set in an era before direct references to sex were socially acceptable, and where mixed bathing on the French Riviera was considered the epitome of daring, it is perhaps not so strange that the stories contain no allusions at all to overt physical attraction. But these inhibitions contrast with the well-known vulgarity of British Comedic humor, where oblique references to carryings on and slaps and tickles below the stairs are a constant source of amusement for the readers and audiences. Perhaps it is a matter of social class after all.

If readers did not know any better, they might assume that this whole segment of society, of which Bertie Wooster is a member, is doomed to extinction, or, at least, to a highly curtailed birth rate.

Sporting Blood

The inability to resist placing a bet or a wager, whether it is on a horse race or a village sports event, is a common trait of most of the characters in the stories. The fact that Sir



Roderick Glossop is the president of the Anti-Gambling League would indicate that this is a major social problem, but in Bertie Wooster's social milieu it is more than that. "Taking a flutter" is an almost imperative social obligation and elevates a person to the level of a "Blood". The voluntary and reckless endangerment of one's financial security has to be carried out with all the stoic, dignified calm of the true aristocrat. This is a social attribute to be desired, rather in the nature of the samurai code of honor, and it goes very deep into the self-image of the upper levels of society.

The connotation "Young Sporting Blood" as a justification for all kinds of reckless behavior does imply that the ability to suffer misfortune with a calm indifference—or at least to possess the means to regard it as unimportant—is, in fact, tied to the perceived inherent superiority of certain breeds of society. The related activity of trying to manipulate the odds on an event by ensuring a specific outcome is also socially acceptable and is regarded rather like a chess master practicing his skills. Deliberate dishonesty, however, is not accepted and the social opprobrium resulting from its detection is often severe.

Recalling the continuous financial misfortunes suffered by young Bingo Little as a result of his almost suicidal betting, when he relied on his uncle for an allowance, it is with a certain foreboding that the reader ponders his fate now that he has inherited a substantial fortune and estate as described in "Jeeves and the Old School Chum". Will Bingo's "Sporting Blood" be the demise and dissipation of his estate, as history tells us was the fate of so many of his contemporaries?

The Wooster Escutcheon

It is only by careful gleaning of the facts that are gradually revealed over the course of three books, that the reader can eventually form a tangible picture of Bertram Wooster's family background. His easy acceptance by various members of the peerage as a guest at their stately homes is an obvious indicator of his social acceptance at the highest levels of English pre-war society.

As Wooster himself describes the situation in "The Ordeal of Young Tuppy", "There is a good deal of anxiety and apprehension among the owners of the better class of country house throughout England as to whom will get Bertram Wooster's patronage for the Christmas Holidays. It may be one or it may be another. As my Aunt Dahlia says, you never know where the blow will fall". As many of these potential hosts are members of the peerage, the reader might safely assume that Bertie Wooster is a respected member of that class. Respected for his social background that is, but not necessarily for his social acumen; this is taken care of by Jeeves, who accompanies him on these sorties.

The reader knows that Bertie grew up in the same village as Bingo Little and they went to Eton and then to Oxford University together. Nothing is ever mentioned about Bertie's mother but his father, while alive, was a very close friend of Lord Wickerhamerseley.



Of the many aunts and uncles in the Wooster family, it is Aunt Agatha who maintains guardianship of the Wooster escutcheon. It is she, who at the drop of a hat, will outline the social antecedents of prospective, by matrimony, members of the family, as one can see in the case of "The Indian Summer of an Uncle". Here Aunt Agatha first tries to buy off the young waitress and then quite erroneously identifies the girl's Aunt Maudie as belonging to the Wilberforce famil—either the Essex or Cumberland branch.

Again it is Aunt Agatha who castigates Bertie for blotting the family escutcheon when his portrait is used in an advertising campaign for Slingsby's Superb Soups, but it is Aunt Dahlia who provides him with an escape from the unwelcome publicity by inviting him aboard her yacht for a Mediterranean cruise.

Thus, the reader is given a portrait of an enormously wealthy young man, who languidly awaits his morning tea before "receiving" anyone, and who has an automatic entrée into the highest society. It is the result of the author's genius that, instead of resenting or envying Bertie Wooster, the reader commiserates and sympathizes with him in his adventures.



Style

Point of View

The point of view for all three books and for each chapter within them is that of Bertram Wooster, speaking to the reader in the first person or, occasionally, as a spokesman for the Wooster family. These monologues are interspersed with dialog between the characters, notable between Bertie Wooster and his valet Jeeves. Important characters such as the Aunts Dahlia and Agatha speak their own words, but the reader is informed of their thoughts and emotions only from the content of the dialog, or Bertie Wooster's observations and his personal interpretation of their speech.

The innermost thoughts and opinions of the character Jeeves are only available to the reader through inference from what he says or does. There is one important exception to this in "The Pride of the Woosters is Wounded". Here Wooster is allowed to overhear Jeeves instructing a replacement valet and giving a frank and an honest opinion of his young master.

Setting

With the exception of two episodes that take place in New York and Rollville-sur-Mer, somewhere in France, the setting of each story is either in Bertie Wooster's London Flat, his club, the Drones, or at the various country estates of his aunts or other family friends. The occasional exception is a setting in a village or concert hall in London with the odd horse racing meeting thrown in.

All these locations are fictitious but are set in real counties in the southern part of England. The author has a wonderful knack of inventing such realistic sounding names that the reader is easily persuaded that such places really do exist. None of these locations is described in the physical sense and the reader is left to build up an image of the location through the gradual exposition afforded by Bertie Wooster's comments and actions.

In the fictitious stately homes that are Bertie Wooster's milieu, there are always enough rooms to accommodate unexpected guests and their valets. Dinner is always a black tie dress occasion followed by withdrawal of the ladies from the dining room to the drawing room and the men to the smoking room. The presence of chefs, butlers, parlor maids, and other staff is a given.

Language and Meaning

The language of Bertie Wooster, with which he addresses the reader and which is used by most of the characters in these stories, can only be described as the affected form of English practiced by the landed gentry. It is characterized by explosive interrogations



such as, "What Ho" and jocular queries such as "I say old chap". Combine this with the habit of what might be described as the "metaphoric familiar" when referring to ones head "the old lemon" or familiar objects such as "the old dahjeeling". Then there is the allied affectation of the drastic abbreviation for objects such as "the old eggs and b." for eggs and bacon and the "f. and c." for "finely chiseled features". Taken together, this form of vocabulary and manner of speech gives a unique and unmistakable tone to the language consistently used in every story.

The language, therefore, enhances the stories with the distinctive feel of the characters themselves. This device, or rather the depiction of the speech characteristics of the participants, lends an authentic tone to the narrative. Whether or not the reader is familiar with the social intercourse practiced by the English Upper Crust, the image painted by the language is both amusing and effective in its purported accuracy.

Structure

Each of the three volumes that comprise this book form a self-contained set of narratives. The repeated appearance of certain characters and locations form a constant theme in the stories that supplement the main characters who appear in all volumes.

References to various incidents described in other volumes are well documented so that the reader is well oriented to events that occurred in previous chronological periods. However, there seems no reason for the reader to not follow the chronological order of the original publications, "The Inimitable Jeeves" (1924), "Very Good Jeeves" (1930), and "Right Ho, Jeeves!" (1934).

The chapters in the first two volumes carry descriptive titles and the stories are self-contained and limited to one or two chapters with the time line of each chapter progressing in a linear manner. The final volume, "Right Ho, Jeeves" comprises twenty-three chapters in a single story that develops steadily through each chapter to a final climax at the end. There are many references in "Right Ho, Jeeves" to incidents and characters which occur in the other two volumes, and this leads to the recommendation that the reader leaves this volume to the last.



Quotes

"As I drained the glass now, new life seemed to burgeon within me. I remember Jeeves, who, however much he may go off the rails at times in the matter of dress clothes and in his advice to those in love, has always had a neat turn of phrase, once speaking of someone rising on stepping-stones of his dead self to higher things. It was that way with me now. I felt that the Bertram Wooster who lay propped up against the pillows had become a better, stronger, finer Bertram." Right Ho, Jeeves, Chap. 5, p. 34

"I mean, I know marriage is a pretty solemn business and the realization that he is in for it frequently churns up a chap a bit, but I had never come across a case of a newly-engaged man taking it on the chin quite so completely as this." Right Ho, Jeeves, Chap. 11, p. 90

"To look at you, one would think you were just an ordinary sort of amiable idiot—certifiable perhaps, but quite harmless. Yet, in reality, you are a worse scourge than the Black Death. I tell you, Bertie, when I contemplate you I seem to come up against all the underlying sorrow and horror of life with such a thud that I feel as if I had walked into a lamp post." Right Ho, Jeeves, Chap. 20, p. 164

"It is a recognized fact, sir, that there is nothing that so satisfactorily unites individuals who have been so unfortunate as to quarrel amongst themselves as a strong mutual dislike for some definite person." Right Ho, Jeeves, Chap. 23, p. 196

"You see, all through my childhood and when I was a kid at school she was always able to turn me inside out with a single glance, and I haven't come out from under the 'fluence yet." The Inimitable Jeeves, Chap. 3, p. 217

"You have no engagement. And even if you had, you must put it off. I shall be very seriously annoyed, Bertie, if you do not go to Ditteredge Hall tomorrow." The Inimitable Jeeves, Chap. 5, p. 234

"'I think he's a bad influence for you,' said Honoria. 'When we are married, you must get rid of Jeeves.'" The Inimitable Jeeves, Chap. 7, p. 243

"I would not take such a liberty, sir. It is possible that young Master Blumenfield may have gathered from casual remarks of mine that I did not consider the stage altogether a suitable sphere for Mr. Bassington-Bassington." The Inimitable Jeeves, Chap. 10, p. 271

"Well she said that the sort of man she liked was the self-reliant, manly man with strength, good looks, character, ambition, and initiative." The Inimitable Jeeves, Chap. 13, p. 297

"I could not hazard a conjecture, sir. But my experience has been that what pleases the London Public is not always so acceptable to the rural mind. The metropolitan touch



sometimes proves a trifle too exotic for the provinces." The Inimitable Jeeves, Chap. 15, p. 327

"How would this do you, Bingo?' I said at length. 'A few plovers' eggs to weigh in with, a cup of soup, a touch of cold salmon, some cold curry, and a splash of gooseberry tart and cream with a bite of cheese to finish?'" The Inimitable Jeeves, Chap. 17, p. 351

"Oh, that!' said young Bingo airily. 'That was settled days ago. The dove of peace is flapping its wings all over the place. Everything's as right as it can be. Jeeves fixed it all up. He's a marvel, that man, Bertie, I've always said so. Put the whole thing straight in half a minute with one of those brilliant ideas of his.'" The Inimitable Jeeves, Chap. 18, p. 363

"I can't understand it. He appears to be a free agent, if you know what I mean; and yet would any man who was a free agent wantonly come to a house which contained my Aunt Agatha?" Very Good Jeeves, Chap. 1, p. 373

"Not another word, Jeeves,' I said. 'You have gone too far. Hats, yes. Socks, yes. Coats, trousers, shirts, ties, and spats, absolutely. On all these things I defer to your judgment. But when it comes to vases, no.'" Chap. 2 Very Good Jeeves, p. 387

"I would always hesitate to recommend as a life's companion a young lady with quite such a vivid shade of red hair. Red hair, sir, in my opinion, is dangerous.'" Very Good Jeeves, Chap. 3 p. 407

"I knew you'd be pleased. Oh, Bertie, there's just one other thing. You remember saying to me once that there wasn't anything in the world you wouldn't do for me?" Very Good Jeeves, Chap. 5, p. 441

"Like some aristocrat of the French Revolution popping into the tumbrel, what? The brave smile. The stiff upper lip." Very Good, Jeeves, Chap. 8 p. 499

"Hi! I shouted. 'I say! Hi! Half a minute! Hi! Ho! I say! Ho! Hi! Just a second if you don't mind.'" Very Good Jeeves, Chap. 9 p. 517

"Besides,' he went on, in a quiet meditative voice, 'there is no power on earth that could get me off this field until I have thoroughly disemboweled that red-haired bounder. Have you noticed how he keeps tackling me when I haven't got the ball?'" Very Good Jeeves, Chap. 11, p. 552



Topics for Discussion

An often-repeated justification for appeals for help from friends of Wooster is the invocation of the phrase "we were at school together". The bonds that are formed in public school and at University carry on for the whole of an individual's life. In "Jeeves and the Old School Chum" the reader is exposed to the female equivalent of male bonding. Does this bonding seem to be as strong and pervasive? Discuss.

Bertie Wooster uses his London Club, the Drones, as an extension of his own home. It is here he meets his friends and passes the time when he wants to be away from his flat. In "Bingo and the Little Woman" Bertie Wooster and Bingo Little have to go to another club, The Senior Liberal Club. Describe how the different clubs reflect the tastes of their members and what is different about the Drones Club.

Aunt Agatha succeeds in getting Bertie Wooster engaged to Honoria Glossop for at least two weeks before the engagement fails. Given Aunt Agatha's determination to marry off Bertie Wooster and Jeeves's very pronounced views on the subject, discuss the realistic chances of Bertie Wooster becoming married, and identify which of his uncles that represents the likely outcome of his life if he manages to avoid "the impending gloom".

From Fink-Nottle to Bingo Little, including Bertie Wooster himself, the young gentlemen are constantly falling in and out of love. Nowhere in the narratives is there any intimation that these infatuations lead to anything approaching a physical relationship. Are we dealing with romantic love in the spirit of the chivalrous knights of old or is it simply puppy love that, when the right person is met, will dissolve into a real relationship? Discuss.

Many of the stories concern gambling or wagering on events such as horse races or village sporting events or even romantic affairs. Is this predilection to the reckless risking of money, usually someone else's, a harmless social fad or is it a symptom of a deeper malaise? Discuss cases where restraint has been exercised by the "Young Sporting Bloods" or where compulsive gambling has taken over.

There is only one instance in all fifty-two chapters of the book where the usually deferential Jeeves flatly refuses an order from Bertie Wooster. This is the case of the spiking of Fink-Nottle's orange juice in chapter thirteen of "Right Ho, Jeeves". Is this simply a temporary aberration? Does Jeeves's placid demeanor harbor a deep-seated resentment of his young master or does his obvious superior ability rule this out of the question? Discuss Jeeves's servility or lack of it.

Part of the charm of the Jeeves chronicles is the complete disassociation from the unpleasant realities of modern life. Fleeting references to "a slight friction in the Balkans" and "this strong bear movement in the American Market" are the only allusions to the rise of National Socialism in Europe and the Wall Street crash of 1929. As described in the publisher's preface, this was a deliberate stance of the author, P. G.



Wodehouse, who described his works as being more like musical comedies ignoring real life altogether. Does it not, however, also accurately reflect the serene unconcern and indifference of the really wealthy? Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this approach.