

Thank You, Jeeves Study Guide

Thank You, Jeeves by P. G. Wodehouse

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



Contents

Thank You, Jeeves Study Guide.....	1
Contents.....	2
Plot Summary.....	3
Chapters 1-3.....	5
Chapters 4-6.....	7
Chapters 7-10.....	9
Chapters 11-14.....	11
Chapters 15-16.....	13
Chapters 17-20.....	15
Chapters 21-22.....	17
Characters.....	18
Objects/Places.....	22
Themes.....	24
Style.....	26
Quotes.....	28
Topics for Discussion.....	29



Plot Summary

Thank You, Jeeves is a novel by English writer P.S. Wodehouse. In this novel, Jeeves once again comes to the rescue of his employer, Bertram Wooster, as Bertram finds himself in the middle of a possible social disaster. Different in this novel, however, is the fact that Jeeves is no longer employed by Bertram Wooster because of his dislike of Bertram's new hobby of playing the banjolele. However, Jeeves goes to work for Bertram's good friend, Chuffy, making him assessable to Bertram as he struggles to help Chuffy marry the woman of his dreams, a young woman who was once Bertram's fiancé. Thank You, Jeeves is an amusing novel that that will please Wodehouse's loyal readers and new readers alike.

Bertram Wooster finds himself in the uncomfortable position of having to choose between his new hobby of playing the banjolele and losing his home and loyal employee or giving up the one hobby that gives him some measure of pleasure. Bertram chooses the banjolele, leaving Jeeves with no choice but to take a position with Bertram's school chum, Chuffy. At the same time, Bertram moves to a small cottage in the little town belonging to Chuffy in order to give himself the space he needs to continue his study of the banjolele. Upon his arrival, Bertram learns that his dreaded enemy, the psychiatrist Sir Roderick Glossop, is engaged to Chuffy's aunt, the Dowager Lady Chuffnell, and has brought to Chuffnell Regis with him Bertram's ex-fiancee, her brother, and father.

Bertram was engaged to Miss Pauline Stoker for only a short time before Sir Glossop ruined the relationship by telling Mr. Stoker rumors about Bertram's past. Now Bertram learns that Miss Stoker is in love with Chuffy and that he is in love with her. Bertram decides that he will help get the young couple together. First Bertram schemes to kiss Miss Stoker in front of Chuffy so that Chuffy will become jealous and propose. Unfortunately, Bertram mistakes Mr. Stoker for Chuffy and causes the elder gentleman to believe that Pauline is still in love with him. Mr. Stoker confines Pauline to his yacht, keeping her from Chuffy. At the same time, a fight between Dwight Stoker and the Dowager Lady Chuffnell's son, Seabury, causes a rift between Mr. Stoker and Sir Glossop. This rift ends the deal Stoker had planned to buy Chuffnell Hall, giving Chuffy the money he needs to provide for his new bride.

Bertram steps away from the situation, feeling Chuffy has it all in hand with his scheme to send Jeeves onto the yacht with a letter for Pauline. However, when Bertram returns from dinner he finds Pauline in his bed. Pauline has escaped the yacht and swam to Bertram's cottage, hoping to stay there until she can find some suitable clothes before going to see Chuffy. Bertram allows her to stay and goes out to the garage to sleep. Unfortunately, the overzealous law officers, believing that someone is attempting to break into Bertram's cottage, keep interrupting his sleep. Finally they bring Chuffy to him, believing he is ill for sleeping outside. Chuffy believes Bertram is drunk and takes him back to the cottage. While there, Pauline comes out of her hiding place, leading Chuffy to believe her morals are less than ideal.



After both Chuffy and Pauline have left, Bertram receives a visit from Mr. Stoker, who is attempting to find his daughter. Bertram assures him he has not seen her and sends him home. The following day, Bertram receives an invitation to Dwight Stoker's birthday party on the yacht. After dinner, Mr. Stoker locks Bertram in a room on the yacht, telling him that he wants him to marry his daughter since it appears they are having an affair. Bertram does not want to be married and jumps at Jeeves' scheme to get him off the yacht despite the necessity of using boot polish to darken his face. Bertram escapes the yacht and goes to his cottage, but finds his drunken valet there. Bertram has to escape the cottage, which the valet burns down by overturning a lamp.

Bertram goes to Chuffnell Hall for help, but cannot find any. Jeeves eventually comes to Bertram, but cannot supply the butter Bertram needs to clean his face because Seabury has used it all for a practical joke against Sir Glossop. Bertram is forced to spend the night in the summer house, but not before running into Sir Glossop who has also darkened his face and is desperate for a way to remove the makeup. Bertram sends Sir Glossop to his garage to use gasoline. The following morning, however, Bertram learns that Sir Glossop was arrested attempting to break in to the garage. Bertram must take his place in order to protect Sir Glossop's reputation and allow him to testify for his friend, Mr. Stoker, in an inheritance case. All turns out well, all rifts are mended, and Jeeves agrees to return to Bertram's employ.



Chapters 1-3

Chapters 1-3 Summary

Bertram Wooster is an English aristocrat who has had the same valet, Jeeves, for many years. Jeeves is highly intelligent and has helped Bertram out of many jams, making him more than an employee to Bertram.

In chapter 1, *Jeeves Gives Notice*, Bertram has discovered that his ex-fiancée is in London with her father and Bertram's mortal enemy, Sir Roderick Glossop. This situation is distressing for Bertram because it was Glossop that ended his engagement and he is concerned how Miss Pauline Stoker, the fiancée, will react if they run into one another. As he is brooding over this situation, Sir Glossop arrives at his apartment and tells him he must stop playing his banjolele, his new hobby, because it is causing distress for his downstairs neighbor who happens to be a patient of Glossop's. Shortly after this visit, Bertram gets a phone call from the building manager telling him he must stop playing the banjolele or move out. Bertram elects to move out. Upon hearing this decision, Jeeves gives his notice, stating that he cannot remain in Bertram's employ as long as he plays the banjolele.

In chapter 2, *Chuffy*, Bertram is walking in the street when he runs into his old schoolmate, Lord Chuffnell, or Chuffy. During this meeting, Bertram learns that Chuffy is about to have lunch with Sir Roderick Glossop, who happens to be a friend of his aunt. Bertram asks Chuffy if he might rent one of his cottages, which Chuffy quickly agrees to, and then tells him that Jeeves has quit. Later, Bertram learns that Chuffy has hired Jeeves to work at Chuffnell Hall for him. In chapter 3, *Re-enter the Dead Past*, Bertram is settling into his new cottage when Seabury arrives to extend an invitation to lunch at Chuffnell Hall. When Bertram arrives, he learns that Chuffy has also invited the Stokers and Sir Glossop. Bertram also learns that Sir Glossop is engaged to the Dowager Lady Chuffnell, Chuffy's aunt and the mother of Seabury. Chuffy also tells Bertram that he is hoping Mr. Stoker, who has just inherited more than \$50 million from his uncle, is planning to buy Chuffnell Hall to turn it into a private psychiatric hospital for Sir Glossop's use.

Chapters 1-3 Analysis

These early chapters introduce the main characters and the situation that will cause Bertram to abandon London and move to Chuffnell Regis, his school friend's small village. Bertram is an aristocrat who is used to having things his own way. It is because of this that Bertram dislikes Sir Roderick Glossop, a psychiatrist who makes it his duty to disturb Bertram's life every chance he gets because of a sour relationship Bertram once had with Glossop's own daughter. Most recently, Glossop interfered in Bertram's engagement to Miss Pauline Stoker, causing her father to call off the wedding. Now Bertram is playing the banjolele, apparently not very well based on the fact that many of



his neighbors have complained about the noise. This causes Bertram to get his ire up and choose the banjolele over his home and Jeeves, his valet.

Jeeves is a loyal valet who often speaks his mind, a habit that might get him fired by most people, but not Bertram. Bertram values Jeeves' intelligence. However, Jeeves is not so loyal when it comes to the idea of being locked in a small cottage with his employer playing the banjolele. Jeeves quits and quickly takes a job with Chuffy, causing a situation in which Jeeves is not in Bertram's employ, but still close by and able to help in any way necessary.



Chapters 4-6

Chapters 4-6 Summary

In chapter 4, Annoying Predicament of Pauline Stoker, Bertram has chosen not to have lunch at Chuffnell Hall, but instead to dine alone in the garden. Chuffy asks Bertram how he knows the Stokers, but Bertram chooses not to tell him about his engagement to Pauline Stoker. However, through the conversation, Bertram becomes aware that Chuffy is in love with Pauline. Later, when Pauline comes out to speak to Bertram, it becomes clear that she loves him as well. Bertram realizes that Chuffy must be hesitant to confess his love to Pauline because of his lack of money. In chapter 5, Bertie Takes Things in Hand, Jeeves comes outside to retrieve Miss Stoker. When she is gone, Bertram talks to Jeeves about Pauline and Chuffy, deciding he must do something to force Chuffy's hand in the situation. Bertram decides he will kiss Pauline in front of Chuffy and cause him to reveal his love through jealousy. Bertram enlists Jeeves' help, asking him to send both Pauline and Chuffy outside after lunch.

In chapter 6, Complications Set In, Jeeves brings Bertram some lunch and tells him that Pauline and Chuffy were talking quietly together after lunch, but that he gave both Bertram's message. When Pauline comes outside, she tries to tell Bertram something, but he interrupts her with an affectionate kiss on the cheek when he sees someone approaching. However, this person is not Chuffy, but is Mr. Stoker, Pauline's father. When Chuffy finally comes outside, he has learned of Bertram's engagement to Pauline and is jealous. Bertram insists he is no longer in love with Pauline, calming Chuffy's anger. Chuffy then tells Bertram that he has asked Pauline to marry him, encouraged by Mr. Stoker's decision to buy Chuffnell Hall. However, Mr. Stoker calls off the deal when his son, Dwight, and Seabury get into a fight and Sir Glossop takes Seabury's side even though he is clearly in the wrong. Mr. Stoker takes his children back to the yacht, confining them there until the yacht can be repaired and they can leave. Chuffy comes back out into the garden and accuses Bertram of kissing Pauline, but Bertram convinces him it was only a friendly, brotherly, kiss. However, when Bertram returns home that night from dinner in the city, he finds Pauline in his pajamas in his bed.

Chapters 4-6 Analysis

Bertram learns that his ex-fiancee and his dear friend are in love, so he vows to help them. However, his first attempt at helping them finds him in trouble. Bertram wants to make Chuffy jealous, so he kisses Pauline, but only her father witnesses this act. Mr. Stoker, who does not like Bertram and wants him nowhere near his daughter, is angered by this act. Therefore, when his good friend Sir Glossop takes a spoiled young man's side over Stoker's son's side, he ends the deal that would give Chuffy the money he needs to marry Pauline. It is all a confusing mess, but it is clear that no one is going to get what they want as long as Mr. Stoker is mad at Sir Glossop. The reader expects Bertram to see this, but instead Bertram can see nothing but his own nose. Bertram



leaves the situation in Chuffy's hands and goes out to dinner, only to return to Pauline in his bed. This could be an explosive situation for Bertram and Pauline, leaving the reader wondering if Pauline has changed her mind about the man she loves or if she is playing with fire. Perhaps Pauline simply is not the woman everyone believes her to be.



Chapters 7-10

Chapters 7-10 Summary

In chapter 7, A Visitor for Bertie, Pauline explains that she swam off the yacht and came to Bertram's until she could locate some clothes to wear in her visit to Chuffy. Pauline admits to getting into the house through a window she broke in the valet's bedroom. Pauline also says that Jeeves helped her and assured her that Bertram would be willing to help. Reluctantly, Bertram agrees to allow Pauline to stay the night. In chapter 8, Police Persecution, the local law men knock on Bertram's door. Bertram learns that they have noticed the broken window and are concerned about an intruder. Bertram assures them there is no intruder and will not allow them to search the house. Bertram then goes to sleep in his car out in the garage since Pauline is in his bed. Unfortunately, the enthusiastic sergeant has remained to watch the house and intrudes on Bertram, believing him to be the intruder. Bertram then moves to the shed at the back of his property where he is again disturbed by the law men.

In chapter 9, Lovers' Meetings, Chuffy is brought into the shed by the constable, who believes Bertram is ill. Chuffy decides Bertram is only drunk and carries him up to his bedroom with the constable's help. Bertram is relieved to see that Pauline is no longer in the bed and he lies still while Chuffy removes his boots, after the constable has left. Pauline suddenly comes out of her hiding place and comes face to face with Chuffy. Bertram tries to explain the situation, but Pauline becomes angry that Chuffy clearly jumped to the wrong conclusion without giving her the benefit of the doubt. They argue and Chuffy leaves. In chapter 10, Another Visitor, Pauline decides that since her reason for leaving the yacht is no longer a concern, she decides to go home. Bertram tries to sleep, but cannot, so he goes downstairs to get a drink. On his desk is a note from Pauline informing him that she came back and took one of his overcoats. A moment later, Pauline's father knocks on the door looking for her. After searching the house and not finding his daughter, Mr. Stoker apologizes to Bertram and takes his leave. Bertram goes upstairs and falls into a deep sleep.

Chapters 7-10 Analysis

The reader began these chapters wondering what kind of person Pauline Stoker is, since she was in Bertram's bed in the previous chapter without explanation. It turns out that Pauline is simply attempting to get to her beloved, Chuffy, but she wants to be wearing something nicer than a bathing suit when she arrives. Pauline is a moral woman that she has appeared to be since the beginning of the novel. However, Chuffy finds himself questioning the same things the reader was questioning at the end of the previous chapter, causing a rift between the two lovers and once again placing Bertram in the awkward position of deciding whether or not it is worth interfering.



Bertram again shows some of his character when he allows Pauline to stay in his room and takes himself outside to sleep. However, the diligent law men of the area will not leave Bertram alone and he eventually finds himself back in the house in the previously discussed awkward position. Later, Pauline's father shows up and Bertram comes out looking like the wronged party for the first time in this volatile relationship, leaving the reader curious what this strange turn might mean for Bertram in the near future. It also suggests that people might have been wrong about Bertram all along and can ask for forgiveness, foreshadowing another time when Bertram might find himself bestowing forgiveness on someone who has wronged him.



Chapters 11-14

Chapters 11-14 Summary

In chapter 11, *Sinister Behaviour of a Yacht-Owner*, Bertram receives an invitation to have dinner on the Stoker yacht. Jeeves tells Bertram when he delivers the invitation that Mr. Stoker asked him about the rumors regarding Bertram that ended his engagement to Miss Stoker and Jeeves was able to set the record straight. Now it appears that Mr. Stoker wants to be friends. Bertram is happy to go to dinner, and enjoys the meal. Afterward, Mr. Stoker takes Bertram on a tour of the yacht, locking him into a stateroom as Bertram goes inside to look around. In chapter 12, *Start Smearing*, Jeeves, Bertram learns that Mr. Stoker found his daughter in the car of the local constable after he arrested her for breaking into Bertram's cottage. Pauline was wearing Bertram's overcoat at the time, giving the impression that she had sneaked out to see Bertram and left out of his cottage through the broken window to avoid being discovered by her father. Now Mr. Stoker wants Bertram and Pauline to marry in order to save her reputation. Bertram does not want to marry Pauline. Jeeves comes and offers to help Bertram, but he will have to darken his face with boot polish so that Jeeves can sneak him off the yacht as a member of the minstrel group who is about to finish performing for Dwight Stoker's birthday.

In chapter 13, *A Valet Exceeds his Duties*, Jeeves' plan to get Bertram off the yacht works and he instructs Bertram to get the first train back to London. Bertram returns to his cottage to clean his face, but quickly realizes he will need butter. When Bertram goes down to get the butter, he finds his new valet, Brinkley, drunk and overturning the furniture. When Bertram yells at him to stop, Brinkley comes after him with a knife, convinced he is the devil. The constable comes into the cottage, but Bertram decides not to trust him and run the risk of being detained long enough for Mr. Stoker to find him. Instead, Bertram begins preparing to climb out of the window. As he is about ready to go, Bertram hears the constable warn Brinkley not to turn over a lamp, then smoke begins to fill the cottage. Brinkley has set the house on fire. Bertram gets away and goes to Chuffnell Hall, but the maid who opens the door is so shocked by his appearance that he is unable to ask for Jeeves. In chapter 14, *The Butter Situation*, Bertram hides in the bushes in hopes of finding Jeeves. Instead, Bertram runs into Chuffy after Chuffy has an encounter with Brinkley and sends him on his way. Bertram tells Chuffy about his escape from the yacht, but Chuffy believes Bertram has done the wrong thing and he will break Pauline's heart, therefore he refuses to help.

Chapters 11-14 Analysis

In these chapters, Bertram finds himself suddenly once again engaged to Pauline Stoker even though he has come to terms with the end of their relationship and is quite happy to see her marry Chuffy. Bertram turns once again to his loyal valet, Jeeves, for his escape, touching on the theme of loyalty. Jeeves, a quiet, intelligent man, carefully



gets Bertram out of the situation, but leaves him with a blackened face and no way to repair the damage. Bertram cannot take a train with his face blackened in this way, therefore he finds himself at the mercy of anyone he can convince to help him. That person will not be Chuffy, however, who is so heartbroken that he would rather see Bertram marry Pauline than to see Pauline brokenhearted.

Brinkley, Bertram's new valet, is the complete opposite of Jeeves, giving the reader a picture of the kind of man Bertram could have working for him if Jeeves had not been so loyal all this time. The contrast between Brinkley's wild drunken rages and Jeeves' quiet thoughtfulness not only underscores Jeeves' professionalism, but also the friendship that has developed between Bertram and Jeeves over the years, touching on yet another theme of the novel.



Chapters 15-16

Chapters 15-16 Summary

In chapter 15, Development of the Butter Situation, Jeeves finds Bertram. Jeeves tells Bertram about a fight between Glossop and Seabury that has caused a rift of sorts between the two. The fight was over Glossop's refusal to allow Seabury to attend the minstrel show on the Stoker yacht. Seabury is planning revenge on Glossop in the form of a butter slide he saw in a movie. In the meantime, Glossop has agreed to wear a black face and sing for Seabury to imitate the minstrels. Before the show, however, Glossop falls on the butter slide. Instead of allowing Seabury to get away with it as his mother is inclined to do, Glossop spansks the young man. This causes a fight between him and the Dowager Lady Cheffnell. Glossop leaves the house in a fit, his face still black. Jeeves then tells Bertram that he cannot give him butter until morning because Seabury used it all for his butter slide.

In chapter 16, Trouble at the Dower House, Jeeves tells Bertram to sleep in the Dower House for the night and he will bring him butter when the dairy delivery is made in the morning. However, when Bertram gets to the Dower House, he finds Brinkley there, stalking the house. Bertram stops to watch and sees Brinkley discover Glossop in the house and chase him away. Bertram reveals himself to Glossop outside and they talk for a few minutes. Bertram congratulates Glossop for spanking Seabury and Glossop apologizes to Bertram for their past tensions. Glossop then asks Bertram if they might go to his house for the night, but Bertram admits his cottage burned down. Glossop then suggests that the garage might still stand and contain gasoline to wash their faces. Bertram agrees, but refuses to go with Glossop in fear that Mr. Stoker might find him and make him return to the yacht. Instead, Bertram sleeps in the summer house alone.

Chapters 15-16 Analysis

As foreshadowed in a previous chapter, Bertram finds himself looking at an old enemy in a new light. Bertram has long believed that Seabury is a spoiled child who needs someone to discipline him, therefore he is happy when he discovers that Glossop has spanked the child for creating a butter slide that nearly injured Glossop when he slipped on it. Now Bertram and Glossop are making an interesting truce, attempting to help each other as they now find each other stuck outside without help or butter with embarrassing blackening on their faces.

The blackening on the faces of Glossop and Bertram touches on the setting of the novel. The novel is set in the 1930s when racial tensions were still strong in the United States and were also difficult in England. Glossop and Bertram have both darkened their faces in order to pretend to be part of an all black minstrel group, for different reasons, but are both aristocrats who would horrify polite society if they were to show their faces in this way. Therefore, both men must not be seen by anyone they cannot

trust until they find a way to clean their faces. It is a difficult situation and both men feel they have found a way out of it, but the reader is left wondering if either will manage to escape their predicament without being seen.



Chapters 17-20

Chapters 17-20 Summary

In chapter 17, Breakfast-time at the Hall, Bertram wakes after an uncomfortable night of sleep and wanders to Chuffnell Hall. Bertram is about to go to Dower House to meet Jeeves when he sees a maid leave breakfast on Chuffy's desk. Bertram is so hungry that he breaks into the office to eat the food, but before he can he hears footsteps out in the hall. Bertram hides under the desk until he realizes it is Jeeves come to call the hotel in search of Sir Glossop. Bertram reveals himself to Jeeves. Jeeves tells him that Lady Chuffnell is deeply concerned about Sir Glossop. As they talk, they hear footsteps again. In chapter 18, Black Work in a Study, Mr. Stoker comes into the room. Bertram hides once again. Mr. Stoker accuses Jeeves of helping Bertram escape his yacht and Jeeves claims to have done it to protect Mr. Stoker from criminal prosecution for kidnapping. Jeeves then sends Mr. Stoker to look for Bertram at the Dower House. Seconds later, Miss Pauline Stoker comes into the room. Bertram feels tortured as Pauline begins to eat Chuffy's breakfast. Jeeves leaves and Chuffy comes into the room. The two lovers make up.

In chapter 19, Preparations for Handling Father, Bertram reveals himself to Pauline and Chuffy. The three of them discuss Mr. Stoker's desire that Pauline marry Bertram and attempt to find a way to change his mind. In chapter 20, Jeeves Has News, Mr. Stoker returns with a black eye, the result of a potato Brinkley threw at him. Pauline and Chuffy announce their intention to marry. Mr. Stoker is not happy, afraid that Chuffy wants to marry Pauline for her money. Chuffy tries to convince him he loves her and wants to marry her out of love. As they discuss this, Jeeves arrives with a telegram informing Mr. Stoker that his uncle's will is being contested. Chuffy is happy because this puts them on equal economic footing and the fact he still wants to marry Pauline should prove his honesty. Mr. Stoker is not happy, however, because his sure way out was to have Sir Glossop testify, but he has had a falling out with him. Not only this, but it seems the law men arrested him the night before.

Chapters 17-20 Analysis

Bertram finds himself in the middle of all the conflict that has propelled the plot of this novel. First the young lovers, Chuffy and Pauline, make up, but Bertram is still engaged to her in her father's eyes. Chuffy, Pauline, and Bertram try to soothe Mr. Stoker's opinions when he gets word that his fortune is in danger. This causes another crisis because Mr. Stoker needs Glossop to testify on his behalf. The fact that Glossop has just gotten arrested. Bertram and his friends must now find a way to make things alright for Mr. Stoker, because it seems he is the one who holds all the cards, the one who can give Chuffy the money he needs to marry Pauline as well as the permission to do so. The reader is eager to see what will happen next.



breaking into Bertram's garage places him in danger of losing his reputation and therefore his effectiveness in court. Jeeves once more comes to the rescue and solves the entire situation, allowing Bertram to convince Mr. Stoker to allow Chuffy and Pauline to marry, as well as buying Chuffnell Hall for Glossop. It seems that everything has come to a satisfying conclusion for Bertram, thanks to Jeeves.



Chapters 21-22

Chapters 21-22 Summary

In chapter 21, Jeeves Finds the Way, they discuss the need to keep Sir Glossop from being prosecuted. Jeeves tells them that he has a scheme to get Sir Glossop out of the shed where the sergeant is holding him, but the constable is waiting in the parlor for Chuffy, as justice of the peace, to deal with Sir Glossop's crimes. To overcome this, Jeeves suggests that they should leave Bertram in his place. The constable has not seen the criminal and the sergeant is unlikely to say anything about the switch. Bertram would be in no legal danger because the building Sir Glossop was arrested for breaking into was Bertram's garage. Bertram agrees, as long as Mr. Stoker will agree to buy Chuffnell Hall and allow Pauline to marry Chuffy. In chapter 22, Jeeves Finds a Situation, everything is resolved and Bertram is finally able to have his breakfast. As they talk, Jeeves reveals that he had a friend from New York send the telegram to Mr. Stoker, that his fortune was never at risk. Then Jeeves asks if Bertram plans to buy a new banjolele to replace the one that burned in his cottage. Bertram says he has given up playing the banjolele. Jeeves then suggests that perhaps he might like to return to Bertram's employ since Chuffy is getting married and he does not wish to work for a married man. Bertram agrees.

Chapters 21-22 Analysis

Glossop has been arrested for breaking into Bertram's garage, which places him in danger of losing his reputation and therefore his effectiveness in court. Jeeves once more comes to the rescue and solves the entire situation, allowing Bertram to convince Mr. Stoker to allow Chuffy and Pauline to marry, as well as buying Chuffnell Hall for Glossop. It seems that everything has come to a satisfying conclusion for Bertram, thanks to Jeeves. Afterward, Jeeves admits that Stoker's fortune was never in danger, that the telegram was his doing. This shows how far Jeeves will go to make people happy, even people he has only known a short time. Jeeves then asks for his old job back. This shows the reader that Jeeves agrees that there is something more between him and Bertram than just an employer, employee relationship. This explores not only the theme of loyalty, but also the theme of friendship.



Characters

Mr. Bertram Wooster

Bertram Wooster is a bachelor living alone with his valet in London. Bertram is a man who likes to fall in love, but also values his freedom as a bachelor. Only three months before the opening of the novel, Bertram was engaged to a rich New York resident, but the engagement ended when his mortal enemy, Sir Roderick Glossop, told his fiancée's father a few rumors about his past. At the time Bertram was angry, but now believes it might have been the best thing that could happen to him. This changes, however, when Bertram becomes aware that his fiancée and her father, as well as Sir Glossop, are in London. Bertram is worried about running into this trio and becoming bogged down in an uncomfortable situation.

At the same time, Bertram has begun playing the banjolele. This instrument brings Bertram a great deal of pleasure, but most of his neighbors are annoyed and want him to stop. Instead, Bertram decides he might like to rent a small cottage where he can play the instrument without offending anyone. When Jeeves learns of this, he quits his job rather than face weeks of listening to his employer play the instrument in a tiny cottage. Bertram is angry, but he allows Jeeves to leave rather than give up something that gives him pleasure.

Bertram moves out to the country, renting a small cottage from a school friend. However, Bertram has little time to play the banjolele because he quickly finds himself involved in a scheme to help his ex-fiancee marry his good friend, Chuffy. This scheme gets out of control and Bertram finds himself relying on Jeeves, who has taken a position with Chuffy, to help him get out of it.

Jeeves

Jeeves is a valet who eats nothing but fish, therefore he is reputed to have a high IQ. Bertram admires Jeeves' intelligence and often relies on Jeeves to help him remember things and to work out schemes. Jeeves becomes annoyed with Bertram at the beginning of this novel and decides he would rather leave Bertram's employ than to be stuck with him in a little cottage, listening to Bertram play the banjolele all day long. Jeeves takes a position with Lord Chuffnell, a friend of Bertram's, and finds himself moving to the same small village where Bertram plans to spend the next few months with his banjolele.

Jeeves works for Lord Chuffnell, but often finds himself helping Bertram in his scheme to help Chuffy and Miss Stoker get together. Jeeves is also pushed by Chuffy to move into the employ of Mr. Stoker so that he can get a message to Miss Stoker, who has been restricted to her father's yacht. In this capacity, Jeeves finds himself in the perfect position to help Bertram escape the Stoker yacht when Mr. Stoker comes to believe that



he has compromised his daughter's reputation and demands they marry. In the end, Jeeves finds himself back in the employ of Lord Chuffnell where he is on hand to deliver a fake telegram that spurs Mr. Stoker into renewing his friendship with Sir Roderick. Finally, Jeeves returns to Bertram's employ, once Bertram promises not to replace his lost banjolele.

Lord Chuffnell or Chuffy

Lord Marmaduke Chuffnell, or Chuffy as Bertram calls him, is an old schoolmate of Bertram's. Bertram runs into Chuffy on the street shortly after learning he must take a cottage in order to continue to pursue his banjolele. Chuffy agrees to allow Bertram to rent one of his cottages in Chuffnell Regis. Later, Bertram learns that Chuffy is in love with the same girl that he was engaged to just three months previously. However, Chuffy is reluctant to propose due to a lack of money until Miss Stoker's father promises to buy his home, Chuffnell Hall. Bertram begins to interfere, believing he is helping his old friend, but instead he kisses Miss Stoker in front of her father, making the older gentleman believe that they are still in love with one another. Mr. Stoker restricts his daughter to his yacht, making it impossible for her to see Chuffy again.

Miss Stoker sneaks off the yacht to see Chuffy, but when he finds her in Bertram's house, he accuses her of loose morals. Miss Stoker is angered by this and it seems the wedding is off. Bertram continues to work to get them back together, however, eventually discovering that if he simply allows them to be alone together that they will fix things on their own.

Miss Pauline Stoker

Miss Pauline Stoker is the daughter of a New York businessman who recently inherited more than \$50 million. Miss Stoker was once also engaged to Bertram, but the marriage was called off when her father learned of Bertram's reputation. Now Miss Stoker is in love with Chuffy, Lord Chuffnell, but he will not propose because of his lack of money. When he finally does propose, Miss Stoker's father comes to believe she is still in love with Bertram and attempts to force them to be married. Miss Stoker is prepared to do just that at first because she is angry with Chuffy, but finally realizes that she would rather be with Chuffy. They make up and her father finally agrees to the wedding.

Mr. J.W. Stoker

Mr. J.W. Stoker is Miss Stoker's father. Mr. Stoker has come to England to buy Chuffnell Hall for his friend, Sir Roderick Glossop, and turn it into a private hospital for Glossop's psychiatric patients. However, before this deal can go through, Mr. Stoker and Glossop have an argument in regards to Mr. Stoker's son and Glossop's soon to be stepson. This causes a rift between the two gentlemen that ends the deal. Later, however, Mr. Stoker changes his mind when he learns that his new inheritance might be in danger



and Glossop is the only person who can help him. Mr. Stoker eventually buys the hall, allows his daughter to marry Chuffy, and renews his friendship with Glossop.

Dwight Stoker

Dwight Stoker is Mr. Stoker's son. Although the narrator never assigns Dwight an age, it is implied that Dwight is not much older than the Dowager Lady Chuffnell's son, Seabury. Dwight is a minor character, but a fight between him and Seabury causes the estrangement between Mr. Stoker and Sir Glossop that propels a great deal of the plot.

Dowager Lady Chuffnell

The Dowager Lady Chuffnell is Lord Chuffnell's aunt by marriage. Lady Chuffnell is an unpleasant woman who makes everyone's life unpleasant. However, Lady Chuffnell finds herself engaged to Sir Roderick Glossop in this novel, a situation that has softened her behavior somewhat. Lady Chuffnell has a son whom she believes should have inherited Chuffnell Hall and all the money and title that go with it, but her son was not the biological son of the previous Lord Chuffnell, therefore everything went to Lord Chuffnell's nephew, Lord Marmaduke Chuffnell. As a result, Lady Chuffnell is very unpleasant toward the current Lord Chuffnell and has raised her son to be unpleasant, something that will cause a great deal of tension for her and her new fiancé.

Seabury

Seabury is the Dowager Lady Chuffnell's son from a previous marriage. Seabury is an unpleasant boy who is always allowed to act in any way he wants and to show a great deal of disrespect to his elders. Seabury attempts to get money from all the characters in this novel in exchange for protection. Seabury also builds a butter slide to punish his mother's fiancé for not allowing him to go on board the Stoker yacht to see the local minstrels. Seabury is a minor character, but his fight with Dwight Stoker is the catalyst for most of the events within the plot and his fight with Sir Roderick at the end of the novel is the catalyst that repairs most of the unpleasantness the first fight created.

Sir Roderick Glossop

Sir Roderick Glossop is a psychiatrist who befriended Mr. Stoker while treating his uncle for certain behavioral idiosyncrasies. Glossop is also Bertram's mortal enemy. Bertram was once engaged to Glossop's daughter, a relationship that ended badly, therefore Glossop wastes no time in telling everyone he knows to keep away from Bertram and why. However, in this novel Bertram finds himself befriendng Glossop when Glossop's relationship with the Dowager Lady Chuffnell finds him locked out of the house with blackened cork on his face. In the end, Bertram saves Glossop's reputation by taking his place in legal custody and taking the blame for a break in at Bertram's own garage.

Brinkley

Brinkley is the valet that Bertram hires to take Jeeves' place. Brinkley is an unpleasant fellow whom Bertram suspects of plotting the murders of all aristocrats. During the novel, Brinkley disappears for a whole night and day, returning to Bertram's cottage drunk and acting outrageously. Eventually Brinkley causes the cottage to burn down. Later, Brinkley takes up residence in the abandoned Dower House and chases Glossop away. The following morning Brinkley gives Mr. Stoker a black eye by throwing a potato at him when Mr. Stoker goes in search of Glossop.



Objects/Places

Banjolele

Bertram has recently learned to play the bajolele and chooses it over home and Jeeves when everyone begins complaining about the noise.

Heliotrope Pajamas

Bertram returns to his cottage late one night to find Miss Stoker in his bed wearing his heliotrope pajamas. Later, Chuffy sees Miss Stoker in these pajamas and jumps to the wrong conclusion.

Letter from Chuffy to Miss Stoker

Miss Stoker receives a letter from Chuffy expressing his desire to marry her, leading her to escape from her father's yacht and attempt to meet with him.

Boot Polish

Jeeves uses boot polish to darken Bertram's face in order to help him escape the yacht.

Blackened Cork

Glossop uses blackened cork to darken his face while performing for his fiancée's son, Seabury.

Butter

Bertram and Glossop need butter to clean darkening agents from their faces, but Seabury has used all the butter in Chuffnell Hall in order to create a butter slide to embarrass Glossop.

Bertram's Apartment

Bertram is chased out of his apartment when several neighbors complain about the sound of his banjolele.



Bertram's Garage

Bertram attempts to sleep in the garage attached to his rented cottage when Miss Stoker comes to stay at his cottage, but is interrupted by the local police. Later, Glossop is arrested attempting to break into this garage in his desire to get gasoline to wash the blackening from his face.

Stoker's Yacht

Mr. Stoker and his children have come to England on their yacht and are moored outside Chuffnell Regis while awaiting repairs. It is on board the yacht that Mr. Stoker keeps Bertram captive in order to force him to marry his daughter.

Chuffnell Hall

Chuffnell Hall is Chuffy's large estate that he can no longer afford to care for and would like to sell. Chuffy hopes to sell the house to Mr. Stoker so that he may turn it into a psychiatric facility for his friend, Sir Roderick Glossop.

Dower House

Bertram attempts to spend the night in the Dower House while waiting for butter to clean the boot polish from his face, but finds Glossop and his man, Brinkley already there.

Chuffnell Regis

Chuffnell Regis is the village that belongs to Lord Chuffnell. This is where Bertram rents a cottage in order to play his banjolele without disturbing anyone.



Themes

Loyalty

Bertram has employed Jeeves for many years when this novel begins. Jeeves has gotten Bertram out of many tough spots over the years through his intelligence and ability to conceive wild schemes in a moment's notice. Jeeves has been intensely loyal to Bertram their entire relationship, just as a good valet should have been in the time in which this novel is set. However, when Bertram begins to play the banjolele, Jeeves can no longer pledge his loyalty to Bertram and remain his valet. Bertram lets him go, refusing to keep up his end of the relationship by giving up his banjolele. This situation severely tests the loyalties of servant and master.

When Bertram goes to Chuffnell Rivas to rent a cottage where he hopes to be able to play his banjolele unmolested, he discovers that Jeeves will also be in Chuffnell Rivas, working at the hall for Bertram's good friend, Chuffy. When they meet again, it is like nothing has changed. Bertram finds himself confiding in Jeeves and Jeeves finds himself drawn in on Bertram's scam to try to get Chuffy together with his lady love, Miss Stoker. Together, Bertram and Jeeves manage not only to get Chuffy and Miss Stoker together, but they also manage to repair the damage done to the friendship between Glossop and Mr. Stoker as well as preventing Glossop from ruining his professional reputation by being arrested for breaking into Bertram's garage. In the end, Jeeves comes back to Bertram, proving that their loyalty in one another runs deeper than employee and employer.

Love

Bertram has often believed himself in love, most recently with Miss Pauline Stoker. However, Glossop, his sworn enemy, often comes between him and his loves, ending these relationships with gossip and rumor. It seems, though, that Glossop is doing him a favor because Bertram finds himself more interested in being free to do as he pleases, rather than being tied down to one woman. Chuffy, on the other hand, falls head over heels with Miss Pauline Stoker upon their first meeting and is more than willing to tie himself down to her for life. Unfortunately, Chuffy's lack of riches leaves him feeling inadequate to propose marriage to Miss Stoker.

Bertram takes it upon himself to fix Chuffy's relationship with Miss Stoker, but in the process manages to make things worse. First Bertram kisses Miss Stoker in an attempt to make Chuffy jealous, but only succeeds in making Miss Stoker's father believe they are still in love with one another. Later, Miss Stoker is restricted to her father's yacht and has to escape in order to see Chuffy. Unfortunately, Chuffy finds her first, staying at Bertram's cottage in his pajamas. A misunderstanding leads Mr. Stoker into forcing Bertram to stay on his yacht in an attempt to marry his daughter to him to protect her



reputation. Eventually, however, love overcomes and Chuffy and Miss Stoker find themselves together once more. It is for this reason love is a theme of the novel.

Friendship

Bertram and Chuffy have been friends since childhood. It is for this reason that Bertram turns to Chuffy when he needs a place to stay and why Bertram takes it upon himself to help Chuffy get together with Miss Stoker. Bertram wants to help this dear friend, but at one point it seems he is only making the situation worse. In the end, it is not Bertram's friendship with Chuffy that makes the situation come out well, but Jeeves' desire to help his ex-employer and friend, Bertram.

Chuffy is in love with Miss Stoker, Bertram's former fiancée, and wants to marry her, but his lack of money and her father's wishes continuously get in the way. Bertram tries to help, but only makes things worse by convincing Miss Stoker's father that she is still in love with Bertram. Bertram must escape Mr. Stoker's yacht where the old man is attempting to force the two in marriage. It is Jeeves who eventually comes through for Chuffy, helping to solve the situation that keeps Chuffy and Miss Stoker apart and to soothe Mr. Stoker's complaints. Jeeves does this, not because Bertram is his employer, but because Jeeves feels that Bertram has become something of a friend over the years and he simply wants to help. This is what makes friendship a theme of the novel.

Style

Point of View

The novel is written primarily in the first person point of view, as though in a diary or story written by Bertram Wooster himself. Bertram tells the story from his own point of view, often using the first person pronoun. However, there are also times when Bertram slips into the second or third person point of view, referring to himself by name and the third person pronoun. These moments of detachment not only reveals to the reader the name of the main character, but also allows for some distance between the reader and the narrator that gives the novel something of a sense of aloofness from the action.

The point of view of this novel can be distracting to the reader as the narrator often refers to himself in the first person point of view and the third person point of view. This change in view point shows the characters detachment from the action taking place around him, allowing some distance between him and the mistakes he has made in his attempts to help his friend, Chuffy. However, this change comes without warning sometimes and it leaves the reader often confused about the identity of the narrator and the action of the plot.

Setting

The novel begins in the big city of London, England, specifically in the exclusive apartment owned by Bertram Wooster. This setting allows the reader to get an idea of the money and reputation the main character has, especially when introduced to his valet, Jeeves. This also helps establish the time period in which the novel is written, the mid-1930s. The novel then moves to Chuffnell Regis, the small village that is part of the title Bertram's friend Chuffy, or Lord Chuffnell, has inherited. Bertram goes to Chuffnell Regis to find a quiet place to play his banjolele, but leads him into a scheme to unite Chuffy with his ex-fiancee Miss Stoker.

The setting of the novel is important for many reasons. The first is the fact that the novel takes place in the 1930s. This time period is one in which it was common for aristocratic young men to employ valets, like Jeeves, and a time when titles were still important among members of English society. The second important factor regarding the setting is that it takes place in England. Again, this setting supports Bertram's relationship with Jeeves and allows for the ideas that propel the plot of this short novel. Finally, the small village where Bertram comes to stay is like many small villages that were in actuality owned by titled aristocrats, supporting another aspect important to the overall plot of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The novel is written in an English that can at times become very formal. However, the novel is not difficult to read despite this formality. The novel's dialogue is stiff, reflecting the speech patterns of the characters that populate the novel. The exposition is less formal, but still includes some words and phrases that readers unfamiliar with this type of novel will not recognize and might have difficulty understanding.

The novel is not written in a foreign language and does not include foreign phrases. However, the novel is quite formal and can be difficult for those not used to this type of writing to understand. The dialogue and the exposition both reflect the setting and characters of the novel, adding to the authenticity of the novel. However, this language can be difficult to read and is filled with archaic expressions that some young readers may find it difficult to understand. In the end, however, patience and a slow pace will allow the reader to find a great deal of amusement in this short novel.

Structure

The novel's structure is fairly straightforward. The novel does not include parts, prologue, or epilogue. The novel is written in twenty-two short chapters, each chapter filled with both exposition and dialogue. The writer has chosen to tell his story through first person narration, writing the novel as if it is a diary entry or non-fiction story written down by the main character, Bertram Wooster, for the pleasure of his readers.

The novel tells the story not only of the friendship between Bertram Wooster and his valet, Jeeves, but also Bertram's attempts to get his old friend Chuffy together with his ex-fiancee Miss Stoker. The main plot follows the misadventures Bertram experiences in his attempts to help his friend and the many ways in which Jeeves is forced to help his old boss out. The novel comes to an amusing end that satisfyingly completes all open story lines within the plot.



Quotes

"It seemed to me a situation fraught with embarrassing potentialities had arisen."
Chapter 1: Jeeves Gives Notice, pg. 7

"But though I did not care to think what existence would be like without Jeeves, I had no thought of weakening." Chapter 2: Chuffy, pg. 15

"You know, the longer I live, the more I feel that the great wheeze in life is to be jolly well sure what you want and not let yourself be put off by pals who think they know better than you do." Chapter 3: Re-enter the Dead Past, pg. 20

"This man and I might have severed our professional relationship, but a Wooster is always debonair." Chapter 5: Bertie Takes Things in Hand, pg. 35

"Nevertheless, I did not waver in my view that I was jolly glad it was Chuffy who, if all went well, was going to marry her, and not me." Chapter 6: Complications Set In, pg. 45

"The attitude of fellows towards finding girls in their bedroom shortly after midnight varies. Some like it. Some don't. I didn't." Chapter 7: A Visitor for Bertie, pg. 58

"It has been well said of Bertram Wooster that he is a man who is at all times glad to see his friends and can be relied upon to greet them with a cheery smile and a gay quip." Chapter 9: Lovers' Meetings, pg. 74

"Tragedy had stalked through the home." Chapter 11: Sinister Behaviour of a Yacht-Owner, pg. 89

"My first emotion on realizing that the Law was in our midst was one of pretty sizable relief." Chapter 13: A Valet Exceeds his Duties, pg. 113

"I had never realized before what an important part one's complexion plays in life."
Chapter 14: The Butter Situation, pg. 118

"I mean to say, if a man has thrown his weight about in a stately home of England, ticking off the residents and asserting positively that he jolly well isn't going to darken its doors again, he has no right to come strolling in barely two days later as if the place were an hotel with 'Welcome' on the mat." Chapter 18, Black Work in a Study, pg. 154

"Thank you, Jeeves,' I said." Chapter 22: Jeeves Applies for a Situation, pg. 192



Topics for Discussion

Who is Bertram Wooster? Why is the story told from his point of view? Does the plot revolve around Bertram? If not, who is the main character of the novel? Why does Bertram decide he must move from his apartment? Where does he go? Why does Bertram choose this place? What complications arise when he arrives at this location? Why?

Who is Jeeves? For whom does Jeeves work at the beginning of the novel? For whom does Jeeves work later in the novel? Who is the third person for whom Jeeves works? Why does Jeeves change employers so often? For whom does Jeeves work at the end of the novel? For what reason does Jeeves take this final job at the end of the novel? What other reasons might there be for Jeeves decision to work for this person?

Who is Lord Chuffnell? Why does Bertram call him Chuffy? What is Lord Chuffnell's first name? Why does Bertram not know this name? Why does Bertram find this name amusing? How does Bertram finally learn this name? What is Chuffy's relationship to Bertram? Why does Chuffy allow Bertram to rent a cottage from him? With whom is Chuffy in love? Why does Chuffy refuse to propose to this woman? What happens when Chuffy does propose?

Who is Wotwotleigh? Why does Chuffy think of this person when he falls in love with Miss Stoker? How does this person compare to Chuffy? Who later compares Chuffy to Wotwotleigh? For what reason does this person make this comparison? Is the comparison justified? In what way?

Who is Mr. Stoker? Why has he come to Chuffnell Regis? For what reason does Mr. Stoker want to purchase Chuffnell Hall? What happens to end this deal? How is this situation rectified? Does Mr. Stoker eventually buy Chuffnell Hall? For whom? What will it be used for? Where did Mr. Stoker get his money? What has caused Mr. Stoker fear that he might lose this money? Is this justified? How does this situation lead to Mr. Stoker mending a broken friendship?

Who is Seabury? Who is Dwight Stoker? What is interesting about the characters of these two young men? Why does no one like Seabury? What is the root of Seabury's unfriendly attitude? How might this be rectified? Does the plot imply that this situation will be rectified? What feud do Seabury and Dwight begin? How does this feud affect Chuffy and his engagement to Miss Stoker? How does Bertram get involved? Should Bertram have gotten involved?

Who is Sir Roderick Glossop? Why does Bertram consider Sir Roderick his mortal enemy? Is he? What engagement did Glossop ruin for Bertram? Was Glossop corrected in spreading the rumors that ended this engagement? How did Glossop come to be aware of these rumors? What personal stake did Glossop have in this engagement or his knowledge of Bertram's behaviors? How does the relationship between Bertram and

Glossop change at the end of the novel? What does Bertram do for Glossop? Will this kindness continue in later books, in your opinion?