* Ofe Olde Plum Svews *

No 10, Extra number Valentine's day, February 14 2021.



FREDDIE WIDGEON



PERSISTENTLY IN LOVE

MAVIS PEASEMARCH

Daughter of the fifth Earl of Bodsham. During a trip to New York she ended their engagement because of Freddie's chivalry to other girls. (Fate 1931)

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V DAHLIA PRENDERBY

Daughter of sir Mortimer Prenderbury, Matcham Scratchings, Oxfordshire. Freddie's treatment of the cats in their house revolted Dahlia and her family and Freddie had to flee from their home. (Good-Bye to all Cats, 1934)

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#### **COMMENTS BY FRIENDS**

"Do you know," said a thoughtful Bean, "I'll bet that if all the girls Freddie Widgeon has loved and lost were placed end to end – not that I suppose one could do it – they would reach halfway down Piccadilly," "Further than that," said the Egg. "Some of them were pretty tall. What beats me is why he ever bothers to love them. They always turn him down in the end. He might just never begin." (Good-Bye to all Cats, 1934)

#### **V** DRUSILLA WIX

Freddie was in Cannes with his uncle, Lord Blicester, when he met this girl who abhorred gambling. Freddie was in the casino to see his uncle and found himself betting at a roulette. His uncle lost his money but Freddie won. Drusilla discovered his gambling and the affair was over. (Noblesse Oblige 1934).

**▼** APRIL CARROWAY

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Daughter of Lady Carroway, Tudsleigh Court was a girl who loved poetry and accordingly Freddie took up reading Tennyson. April found her young sister Prudence playing Lady Godiva and blamed Freddie for the idea. Freddie fled from Tudsley, from April and from a rival. (*Trouble down at Tudsley*, 1935)

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V DORA PINFOLD

Lord Blicester regarded this girl a suitable wife for Freddie and introduced him to Dora and her mother, Lady Pinfold. Freddie, as was his habit, fell in love at first sight. Dora was heavily involved in charity and Freddie helped her. On a rash impulse he promised to pay for afternoon tea at a charity event. He entered a song competition to finance the feast, but a drunken pianist devastated his chances. When Dora found out she left him. (The Masked Troubadour, 1936)

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▼ MAVIS PEASEMARCH 2nd TIME

Mavis and her father decided to give Freddie a second chance, on probation. If he proved himself steady and serious, those wedding bells would ring out. If not, not a tinkle. He saved another damsel in distress and the damsel thanked him with a kiss in front of Mavis and her father. End of that romance. (Bramley is so Bracing, 1939)

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#### **MORE COMMENTS BY FRIENDS**

"I wish I had a quid for every girl Freddie Widgeon has loved and lost" sighed an Egg wishfully. (Fate 1931)

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"He rarely fails to click, but never seems able to go on clicking. A whale at the Boy Meets Girl stuff, he is unfortunately equally unerring at the Boy loses Girl Stuff," (Bramley is so Bracing, 1939)

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Oofy Prosser told that other girls Freddie had been in love with were ♥ Helen Christopher, ♥ Vanessa Vokes and ♥ Hildegarde Watt-Watson. (Ice in the Bedroom, 1960)

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"And as luck would have it the first person he ran into in the bar was Freddie Widgeon, not only one of the finest minds in the club but a man who all his adult life had been thinking up ingenious ways of getting himself out of trouble with the other sex." (Bingo bans the Bomb, 1965)

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#### SALLY FOSTER

"There had been a time, and not so long ago, when he and Sally had been closer than the paper on the wall — everything as smooth as dammit, each thinking the other the biggest thing since sliced bread. And then, just because she had found him kissing that dumb brick of a Bunting girl at a cocktail party — the merest civil gesture, as he had tried to explain, due entirely to the fact that he had run out of conversation and felt that he had to do something to keep things going — she had blown a gasket and forbidden the banns." (Ice in the Bedroom, ch 2, 1960)

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♥ SALLY FOSTER 2nd TIME

Sally realizes that like Freddie's record of girlfriends, she had a record of boyfriends. She wavers when she hears the melting words from the only man she had ever really loved. "'Do you really love me?' 'Like billy-o." But Mrs. Dolly Molloy caused a break of the relations. She got caught in the rain, barged into the house where Freddie and his cousin George lived. George told her to go up to Freddie's room and borrow his pyjamas. Freddie found her dressed like that when he came home and soon after that Sally entered and drew hasty conclusions. (*Ice in the Bedroom, ch 8, ch 18, 1960*)

♥ SALLY FOSTER 3rd TIME

Sally's employee mrs Leila Yorke believes in Freddie and pleads for him with Sally. For the third time they are lovers. Freddie gets an offer to buy a coffee plantation in Kenya. He and Sally plans to go there, but unfortunately Freddie has bought shares from Soapy Molloy for all his money. The shares are completely worthless. They are devastated, but a benevolent, and secretly rich, neighbour is the guardian angel and lends them the money. Freddie and Sally disappear out of sight. Hopefully they went to Kenya and lived happily ever after. (*Ice in the Bedroom, ch 26, 1960*)

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