

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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## FLORENCE CRAYE'S ENGAGEMENTS

### OLD "FLORENTIANS"

*England is strewn with ex-fiancés whom she bounced because they didn't come up to her specifications. Dozens of them. I believe they form clubs and societies.* (Much Obligated, Jeeves, 1971)

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### ANONYMOUS JOCKEY

*And long ago, someone told me, she was engaged to a gentleman jockey and she chucked him because he took a spill at the canal turn in the Grand National.* (Much Obligated, Jeeves, 1971)

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### BERTIE WOOSTER, 1<sup>st</sup> TIME

*"Lady Florence and I are engaged, Jeeves," I said. "Indeed, sir?" Bertie failed a mission given by her and she ended the engagement. After all, though she had a wonderful profile, was it such a catch being engaged to Florence Craye as the casual observer might imagine? Wasn't there something in what Jeeves had said about her character? I began to realize that my ideal wife was something quite different, something a lot more clinging and drooping and prattling and what not.* (Carry On Jeeves, 1925)

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### BOKO FITTLEWORTH

Nobby Hopwood told Bertie about her fiancé Boko: *"When he arrived in Steeple Bumpleigh, he was engaged to Florence."* "What!" "It was she who made him settle here. That was what I meant when I said he couldn't woo me, as you call it, with any real abandon at first ... It's his sweet impulsive nature. He can't say No. I believe that's how he came to get engaged to Florence." (Joy in the Morning, 1946)

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### STILTON CHEESEWRIGHT, 1<sup>st</sup> TIME

Bertie asked: *"Your betrothed, I take it, is a resident (at Steeple Bumpleigh)?"* "Yes. Her name's Craye. Florence Craye." "What!" Stilton learnt that Bertie and Florence once had been engaged and was a prey to the green-eyed monster. "I'll tell you what you wanted to do, young blasted Wooster. A bit of snake in the grassing." As a

police officer he took his duties very seriously and was furious when Florence's father, the Justice of Peace, stopped him from arresting a man he thought was a burglar. Florence defended her father which Stilton didn't approve. She broke the engagement. (Joy in the Morning, 1946)

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### BERTIE WOOSTER, 2<sup>nd</sup> TIME

Bertie defended Stilton: *"The whitest man I know",* and tried to persuade Florence to forgive Stilton. *Well, I don't know what reaction I had expected on her part – possibly the drooping of the head and the silent tear... What I had definitely not expected was that she would kiss me, and with a heartiness that nearly dropped me in my tracks. "Bertie, you are extraordinary!" She laughed, a thing I couldn't have done, if handsomely paid. "So quixotic. It is what I love in you. Nobody hearing you would dream that it is your dearest wish to marry me yourself ... I will be your wife, Bertie."* (Joy in the Morning, 1946)

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### STILTON CHEESEWRIGHT, 2<sup>nd</sup> TIME

Stilton told Bertie: *"I tell you your engagement is off. Florence is going to marry me. I met her, as I came away from that pest house, and had it out with her. After that revolting exhibition of fraud and skulduggery in there, I had decided to resign from the Force, and I told her so. It removed the only barrier there had ever been between us.* (Joy in the Morning, 1946) She liked Bertie's moustache and demanded Stilton to grow one. When he refused, she broke their engagement. (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954).

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### STILTON CHEESEWRIGHT, 3<sup>rd</sup> TIME

Bertie asked Stilton: *"That broken engagement, has it been soldered?"* He nodded. "Yes," he said. *"I made certain concessions and yielded certain points."* Some time later Percy Gorrington told Bertie: *You remember that telegram your aunt gave me to give to Florence?" ... "It was from Cheesewright, breaking the engagement."* The Othellian Stilton didn't tolerate that Florence for a new novel had made a research visit at The Mottled Oyster, an illegal night club, accompa-

nied by Bertie. (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954).

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### BERTIE WOOSTER, 3<sup>rd</sup> TIME

Aunt Dahlia asked Bertie to help her to "steal" her own necklace during the night, but by mistake he entered Florence's bedroom and woke her up. *"Oh, Bertie!" she said, and not, mark you, with that sort of weary fed-up-ness with which girls generally say "Oh, Bertie!" to me. "What a romantic you are! ... I suppose you had some sort of idea of kissing me softly while I slept.* She then told Stilton that she intended to marry Bertie. (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954)

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### PERCY GORRINGE

An author with whiskers, madly in love with Florence. He had converted her novel Spindrift into a play and was trying to raise money to set it up at a theatre.

*"I say," I said, "here's a thought. Why don't you marry Percy?" ... "Bertie! You will release me?"* (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954) Later: *She handed Percy Gorrington the pink slip because the play he made of her novel only ran three nights.* (Much Obligated, Jeeves, 1971)

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### HAROLD WINSHIP

He ran for the Parliament because Florence, his betrothed, wished him to. However, he became fed up with her bossiness and fell in love with his secretary. As Florence didn't tolerate a looser, he deliberately messed up his campaign and she discarded him. (Much Obligated Jeeves, 1971)

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### BERTIE WOOSTER, 4<sup>th</sup> TIME

*"I have been thinking things over, and I have made up my mind. Harold Winship is a mere lout, and I am having nothing more to do with him. I see now that I made a great mistake when I broke off my engagement to you. You have your faults, but they are easily corrected. I have decided to marry you, and I think we shall be very happy."* When Mr. Runkle accused Bertie for having stolen his silver porringer she said: *"I shall not marry you."* (Much Obligated Jeeves, 1971)

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