

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

No 51, Extra, January 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 Congratulations Frans on your birthday!

## EDWINS ACTS OF KINDNESS

### A SERIOUS BOY SCOUT

Edwin was son to Lord Worplesdon, younger brother to Florence Craye and was living in Easeby with them. He was fourteen now and had just joined the Boy Scouts. He was one of those thorough kids, and took his responsibilities pretty seriously. He was always in a sort of fever because he was dropping behind schedule with his daily acts of kindness. However hard he tried, he'd fall behind; and then you would find him prowling about the house, setting such a clip to try and catch up with himself that Easeby was rapidly becoming a perfect hell for man and beast. (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916)

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### POLISHING BERTIE'S SHOES

"I felt that I should tell you, sir, that somebody has been putting black polish on our brown walking shoes." "What! Who? Why?" "I could not say, sir." ...

"I'm five days behind. I was six till last night, but I polished your shoes." (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916)

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### LOOKING FOR LEFT THINGS

Mr. Berkeley had this room while you were away. He left this morning. I thought perhaps he might have left something in it that I could have sent on. I've often done acts of kindness that way. (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916)

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### TIDYING UP BERTIE'S ROOM

I charged in like a mustang and nearly stubbed my toe on young blighted Edward, the Boy Scout. He was standing at the chest of drawers, confound him, messing about with my ties. "Hallo!" he said. "What are you doing here?" "I'm tidying your room. It's my last Saturday's act of kindness." (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916)

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### SNIPPING BERTIE'S CIGARS

"There's something much kinder than that which you can do," I said. "You see that box of cigars? Take it down to the smoking-room

and snip off the ends for me." (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916)

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### HELPING UNCLE WILLOUGHBY

Ordered by Florence Bertie had hidden a parcel with Uncle Willoughby's memoirs in his room. Bertie overheard a conversation between Edwin and Uncle Willoughby. "It's about Bertie." "About Bertie?" I heard Uncle Willoughby say. "About Bertie and your parcel... I believe he's got it." ... I understand they deliberately teach these dashed Boy Scouts to cultivate their power of observation and deduction and what not. Devilish thoughtless and inconsiderate of them, I call it." Edwin never said that he counted this as an act of kindness. (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916)

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### "TIDYING UP" A COTTAGE

"What was that explosion?" "It was the kitchen chimney. It was full of soot, so I shoved some gunpowder up it. And I think I may have used too much. Because there was a terrific bang and everything sort of caught fire. Cool!" ... "Why didn't you pour water on the flames?" "I did. Only it turned out to be paraffin." "Well, you've properly messed things up." I said. "It didn't all work out quite the way I meant," he admitted. "But I wanted to do my last Friday's act of kindness." (Joy in the Morning, 1947)

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### FINDING FLORENCES BROOCH

Bertie had brought a brooch to Steeple Bump-leigh for Aunt Agatha. It was intended to be her birthday present to Florence. The parcel somehow fell out of Bertie's pocket and Edwin found it. Edwin said "Cool!" and stooped, and came up holding the thing. "Did you drop this?" he asked. ... I wrenched the thing from his grasp, and once more pocketed it". Edwin offered to bring it to Florence but Bertie refused. Later Bertie dropped it again. Edwin found it and brought it to Florence as a gift from Bertie, with the result that her old engagement to Bertie was on again. (Joy in the Morning, 1947)

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### FIXING AN EGG-BOILER

Boko Fittleworth told: Generally, when Edwin is trying to catch up with his acts of kindness, human life is imperilled. The mind flits back to the time when he mended my egg boiler... You know the sort of thing I mean. It rings an alarm, hopes you've slept well, pours water on the coffee, lights a flame underneath and gets action on the egg. Well, the day after Edwin had fixed some trifling flaw in the apparatus, the egg was scarcely in position when it flew at me like a bullet, catching me on the tip of my nose and knocking me base over apex. I bled for hours. (Joy in the Morning, 1947)

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### HELPING FLORENCE WITH ALBUM

"I say, Bertie, I did another act of kindness this morning." "Oh, yes?" "I finished pasting the notices of Florence's novel in her album. That puts me all right up to last Wednesday." ... "I have just been looking at my album of press clippings, and he has gone and pasted in half the reviews of "Spindrift" wrong side up. I believe he did it on purpose." (Joy in the Morning, 1947)

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### TIDYING UP NOBBY'S STUDY

"When I got up this morning, I couldn't find that letter anywhere, and I was looking for it when Edwin came along and told me he had done an act of kindness last night by tidying my room. I think he must have destroyed the letter."

Bertie: "I mean to say, I had been banking everything on that letter. I had counted on it to destroy the Wooster glamour in Florence's eyes. And lacking it, I couldn't see how she was going to be persuaded that I was not a king among men. To Bertie's great relief his engagement to Florence was broken anyhow. Stilton yielded to Florence's wish and abandoned his career in the Police Force, and so the engagement between him and Florence was on again. (Joy in the Morning, 1947)

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