

Ye Olde Plum News

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SOME NUTCASES

STARK, STARING MAD

About Rupert Baxter:

"The man's mad," cried Lord Emsworth, his last doubts removed. 'Stark, staring mad! I thought so before, and now I'm convinced of it.' His lordship was no novice in the symptoms of insanity. Several of his best friends were residing in those palatial establishments set in pleasant parks and surrounded by high walls with broken bottles on them." (Leave It To Psmith, 1915, ch 11:5)

About Tipton Plimsoll:

"And why do you say he ought to be in a loony bin? ... Because he must be stark, staring mad." (Full Moon, 1947, ch 7:2)

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### MAD AS A COOT

About Lord Emsworth:

Sir Gregory Parsloe: "I always knew, Emsworth, that you were as mad as a coot." "As a what?" whispered his lordship. 'Coot,' said the Hon. Galahad curtly. 'Sort of duck.'" (Summer Lightning, 1929, ch 7)

About Rupert Baxter:

"Well, then, your lordship, (said Beach) I think it possible that Mr Baxter, if he will pardon my saying so, may have been suffering from a hallucination." 'Tchah!' said the Efficient Baxter. 'You mean that he's potty?' said Lord Emsworth, struck with the idea. ... He looked at Baxter keenly. There was a sort of wild gleam in his eyes. The old coot glitter. ... 'Mad as a coot,' he said. ... 'Madder,' said the Hon. Galahad." (Summer Lightning, 1929, ch 12)

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POTTY TO THE CORE

About Lord Emsworth:

Alaric, Duke of Dunstable: "Eccentric be blowed. He's potty to the core... I think he was born potty, though he may have been dropped on his head when a baby." (A Pelican at Blandings, 1969, ch 9)

About Rupert Baxter:

Lord Emsworth: "The fellow's potty to the core, and always has been. Haven't I seen him on the lawn at five o'clock in the morning in lemoncoloured pyjamas, throwing flowerpots in at my window?" (Crime Wave at Blandings, 1936)

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### HALF-WITTED

About Bertie Wooster:

Bertie himself: "It's one of the advantages I get from being a bachelor - and, according to my nearest and dearest, practically a half-witted bachelor at that." (The Delayed Exit of Claude and Eustace, 1922)

Roderick Spode: "But you can't love a half-baked, half-witted ass like Wooster". (Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963, ch 22)

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OFF HIS ONION/NUTS

About Sir Aylmer Bostock:

Bill Oakshott: "...my uncle's gone off his onion." Lord Ickenham pursed his lips. 'Nuts?' 'Completely nuts.' ... 'What caused it?' 'Pongo.'" (Uncle Dynamite, 1948, ch 6)

About Leo Tolstoy:

Vanessa Cook to Bertie: "You have many faults, of course. I shall be pointing them out when I am at leisure. For one thing," she said, not waiting till she was at leisure, "you smoke too much. You must give that up when we are married. Smoking is just a habit. Tolstoy," she said, mentioning someone I had not met, "says that as much pleasure can be got from twirling the fingers." My impulse was to tell her Tolstoy was off his onion, but I choked down the heated words." (Aunts Aren't Gentlemen, 1974, ch 10)

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### IDIOT

About Lord Emsworth:

Lady Constance: "Clarence, you're an idiot! Even Voules could not prevent her saying that. After all, she was revealing no secrets." (Summer Lightning, 1929, ch 17)

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LUNATIC

About Bertie Wooster:

Uncle Percy Worplesdon: "I might have known! My best friends would have warned me what would come of letting a lunatic like you loose in the place." (Joy in the Morning, 1946, ch 10)

About Bertie Wooster:

Chuffy, Lord Chuffnel: "You really are without exception the most completely drivelling lunatic that was ever at large." (Thank You, Jeeves, ch 19)

About Lord Emsworth:

Colonel Horace Mant: "Every one knows that Emsworth has been to all practical intents and purposes a dashed lunatic for years. ... A man as absentminded as he is has no right to call himself sane." (Something Fresh, 1915, ch 9)

About Lord Ickenham:

Major Brabazon-Plank: I've just discovered that that raving lunatic, Barmy Twistleton - Lord Ickenham he calls himself now - has been passing himself as me under your roof. (Uncle Dynamite, 1948, ch 13:3)

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### FIT FOR ASYLUM

About Stephany "Stiffy" Byng:

"How do you imagine a girl gets a mind like Stiffy's, Jeeves?" 'Certainly the young lady is somewhat eccentric in her actions, sir.' 'Eccentric? She could step right into Colney Hatch, and no questions asked. They would lay down the red carpet for her.'" (The Code of the Woosters, 1936, ch 13)

About Mrs. Spottsworth: "I expect she'll soon be receiving all sorts of flattering offers from Colney Hatch and similar establishments." (Ring for Jeeves, 1953, ch 7)

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VICTIM OF DELUSION

About Basil Milbank's father:

"Mrs. Porter's objection to him was that his father had died believing to the last that he was a teapot." (The Coming of Bill, 1919, ch 1)

About Duke of Ramfurline:

Sir Roderick Glossop: "... to which I had the occasion to allude just now, is under the impression - this is in the strictest confidence - that he is a canary." (Sir Roderick comes to Lunch, 1922)

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### LOONEY/POTTY/GOOFY

About Madeline Bassett:

Bertie Wooster: "She is, in short, about as looney a young shrimp as ever wore a wind-swept hair-do." (Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963, ch 3)

Bertie Wooster: "I was aware that Madeline B. was as potty as they come in the matter of stars and rabbits and what happened when fairies blow their wee noses, but I had never dreamed that her goofiness would carry her to such lengths as this." (Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963, ch 7)

About Lady Constance and women in general:

Duke of Dunstable: "Women are all potty. Never knows their own minds from one day to another." (A Pelican at Blandings, 1969, ch 1)

About Wilbert Cream:

Bertie Wooster: The man is looney as a coot. (Jeeves in the Offing, 1960, ch 7)

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CRAZY AS A BED BUG

About Mrs. Spottsworth:

Bertie Wooster: "the woman's as crazy as a bed bug. Though, arising from that, how is it that bed bugs have got their reputation for being mentally unbalanced?" (Ring for Jeeves, 1953, ch 7)

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