

Ye Olde Plum News

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Hip, Hip, Hooray for Bengt Malmberg on his Birthday!!!

UNDERSTATEMENTS

Unpleasant

Bertie is discussing Queen Jezebel from the Old Testament with Jeeves:

“Eaten by dogs, wasn’t she?”
‘Yes, sir.’
‘Can’t have been pleasant for her.’
‘No, sir.’”
(Jeeves in the Offing, 1960)

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### Tinkerty tonk

Bertie is annoyed with Angela:  
“Very good,’ I said coldly. ‘In that case, tinkerty tonk.’

And I meant it to sting.”  
(Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

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I say

Rev Stinker Pinker tries to stop a raging Spode:
“when he did intervene, it was merely with the soft word that’s supposed to turn away wrath.

‘I say, you know, what?’”
(Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963)

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### H’m

“She frowned. As she frowned, she tapped her foot. And as she tapped her foot, she said “H’m!”

And she meant it, too.”  
(Hot water, 1932)

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Very good, sir

Bertie opposes to Jeeves’ plans and Jeeves answers:

“Very good, sir.’
He spoke with a certain what-is-it in his voice, and I could see that, if not actually disgruntled, he was far from being grunted.”
(The Code of Woosters, 1937)

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### A sticky day

Plum tells about his feelings when the German Army showed up at his home in Le Touquet:

“This didn’t look so good. I was conscious of a nameless fear. Wodehouse, old sport, I said to myself, this begins to look like a sticky day.”  
(Sprout: Wodehouse at War, 1981)

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Piqued

“Derek, darling!’ Her lips trembled... ‘Don’t be cross!’.

The adjective “cross” as a description of his Jove-like wrath that consumed his whole being jarred upon Derek profoundly. It was as though Prometheus, with the vultures tearing his liver, had been asked if he were piqued”

(Jill the Reckless, 1920)

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### Except for

“Except for that slight bias towards dishonesty which led her to steal everything she could lay her hands on that was not nailed down, Aileen Peavey’s was an admirable character.”

(Leave it to Psmith, 1923)

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Except for (II)

“We stayed at Cannes about two months and except for the fact that Aunt Dahlia lost her shirt at baccarat and Angela nearly got inhaled by a shark while aquaplaning, a pleasant time was had by all.”

(Thank You, Jeeves! 1934)

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### Unintentional sparkle

In an interview with Los Angeles Times Plum said: “Yet apparently they had the greatest difficulty in finding anything for me to do. Twice during the year they completed scenarios of other people’s stories to me and asked me to do some dialogue... All I did was touch it up here and there – very slight improvements... That about sums up what I was called upon to do for my \$104000.”

The Americans failed to recognize this as a humble understatement and it caused a fire-storm against Wodehouse and the Film industry.

(Taves: P. G. Wodehouse and Hollywood, 2006)

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No bonhomie

“I suppose even dictators have their chummy moments, when they put their feet up and relax with the boys, but it was plain from the outset that if Roderick Spode had a sunnier side, he had not come with any idea of exhibiting it now. His manner was curt. One sensed the absence of the bonhomous note.”

(The Code of the Woosters, 1937)

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### Pipped

“Then,’ said the relative, ‘I want you, like a good boy, to fasten the rope to the brick and tie it round your damned neck and jump into the pond and drown yourself. In a few days I will send and have you fished up and buried because I shall need to dance on your grave.’ ...

‘What,’ I said gently, ‘is this all about? You seem pipped with Bertram.’”

(Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

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A little swollen

A carelessness these last years in the matter of counting the calories had robbed her figure of its old streamlined look. Today she resembled a Ziegfried Follies girl who had been left out in the rain and had swollen a little.

(Company for Henry, 1967)

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### Feeling faint

Lord Tilbury had an ingrained dislike for parting with large sums of money. There was, and always had been, something about signing his name to substantial cheques that gave him a sort of faint feeling.

(Service with a Smile, 1962)

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Correction

Aunt Agatha is in France and has left her dog Bartolomew with Bertie. Bobbie Wickham gives the dog away as a gift to a person she wants to please regardless of that it is not her dog. Bertie is horrified:

“... when I break the news that her dog has been given away to a total stranger, I shall find her in no mood of gentle charity.’

‘I see, sir. Most disturbing.’

‘What did you say it was?’

‘Most disturbing, sir.’

I snorted a trifle. ... ‘It is not disturbing, Jeeves. It is ... what’s the word I want?’

‘Cataclysmal, sir?’”

(Very Good, Jeeves, 1930)

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### A bit fed up

Prudence made a tired gesture, like a Christian martyr who has got a bit fed up with lions.

(Full Moon, 1947)

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