

Ye Olde Plum News

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HANDLING OF BEASTS

SCORPIONS

"In the interesting land of India, where snakes abound and scorpions are common objects of the wayside, a native who has had the misfortune to be bitten by one of the latter pursues an admirably common-sense plan. He does not stop to lament, nor does he hang about analysing his emotions. He runs and runs and runs, and keeps on running until he has worked the poison out of his system." (Uneasy Money, 1917)

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### WASPS

"A Tankard of Stout had just squashed a wasp as it crawled on the arm of Miss Postlethwaite, our popular barmaid, and the conversation in the bar-parlour of the Angler's Rest had turned to the subject of physical courage...

'Why, sometimes in the picking season,' said the Tankard 'I've had as many as six standing on each individual plum, rolling their eyes at me and daring me to come on.' Mr Mulliner looked up from his hot Scotch and lemon. 'Suppose they had been gorillas?' he said." (Monkey Business, Blandings Castle, 1935)

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GORILLAS

Jack Fosdyke: "Bless my soul, I remember once in Equatorial Africa. I was strolling along with my elephant gun and my trusty native bearer, 'Mlongi, and a couple of the brutes dropped out of a tree and started to throw their weight about and behaving as if the place belonged to them. I soon put a stop to that, I can tell you. Bang, bang, left and right and two more skins for my collection. You have to be firm with gorillas.'"

"'Struggle?' Monrose laughed. 'Oh, dear no. There was no struggle. I very soon showed the animal that I was going to stand no nonsense. I generally find with gorillas that all one needs is the power of the human eye.'"

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### JAGUARS

J. Bashford Braddock "appeared to think it only sporting to give jaguars a chance by fighting them one-handed."

"I recollect, that time out in the Ngobi desert when I strangled the jaguar.' Osbert's Adams Apple slipped a cog. 'W-what jaguar?' 'Oh, you wouldn't know it. Just one of the jaguars out there. I had a rather tricky five minutes of it first, because my right arm was in a sling and I could only use my left.'"

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LEOPARDS

"Jane Hubbard was a splendid specimen of bronzed, strapping womanhood ... She was a thoroughly wholesome, manly girl, about the same age as Billie, with a strong chin and an eye that had looked leopards squarely in the face and caused them to withdraw abashed into the undergrowth, or wherever it is that leopards withdraw when abashed." (The Girl on the Boat, 1921)

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### PANTHERS

"There is a sweet womanly strength about her (Jane Hubbard), Sam. She was telling me she once killed a panther with a hat pin.' ... 'At least I think it was a panther,' said Eustace Highnett at a quarter past one. 'Either a panther or a puma.'"

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ALLIGATORS

Jane Hubbard told about an alligator that got into her tent in Central Africa. "Oh, I jabbed him in the eye with a pair of nail-scissors, and he went away!' ... 'It ruined them unfortunately. They were never any use again.'"

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### LIONS

Agnes Flack said to big game hunter Jack Fosdyke: "You once killed a lion with a sardine opener.' 'Ah, but I first quelled him with the power of the human eye.'"

"It was a confusion of ideas between him and one of the lions he was hunting in Kenya that had caused A. B. Spottsworth to make the obituary column. He thought the lion was dead, and the lion thought it wasn't." (Ring for Jeeves, 1953)

Mr Franklyn once brought down two lions in one shot. (The Story of William, Meet Mr Mulliner, 1927)

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SHARKS

"A girl cannot help but respect a man who once killed three sharks with a Boy Scout pocket-knife.' 'So he says,' growled William. 'He showed me the pocket-knife,' said the girl, simply." (The story of William, Meet Mr Mulliner, 1927)

Jack Fosdyke: "Sharks get in the way and hamper a man. The time I saved the Princess della Raviogli in the Indian Ocean there were half a dozen of them,

horsing about and behaving as if the place belonged to them. I had to teach one or two of them a sharp lesson with my Boy Scout pocket knife. The curse of the average shark is that if you give it the slightest encouragement it gets above itself and starts putting on airs." (Feet of Clay, Nothing Serious, 1950)

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### RHINOCEROSES

"He (Mr Franklyn) then told me how he had once been chased up a tree by a rhinoceros in Africa and escaped by throwing pepper in the brute's eyes. (The Story of William, Meet Mr. Mulliner, 1927)

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TIGERS

"Like an enthusiastic but ill-advised sportsman in the jungle of India who caught a tiger by the tail, he was feeling that he was all right so far, but that his next move would require a certain amount of careful thought." (Big Money, 1931)

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### SWANS

Bertie Wooster and Mr. Filmer had taken refuge upon the roof of a pavilion to escape a furious swan who now was watching them from the ground. Jeeves came to their rescue.

"Every young man starting life ought to know how to cope with an angry swan, so I will briefly relate the proper procedure. You begin by picking up the raincoat which somebody has dropped; and then judging the distance to a nicety, you simply shove the raincoat over the bird's head; and, taking the boat-hook which you have prudently brought with you, you insert it underneath the swan and heave. The swan goes into a bush and starts trying to unscramble itself; and you saunter back to your boat, taking with you any friends who happens to be in the vicinity. That was Jeeves's method, and I cannot see how it could be improved upon." (Jeeves and the Impending Doom, Very Good, Jeeves, 1930)

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SPIDERS

"'Voules will stand by you. Voules can tackle any spider. How many spiders was it you were telling me you took on in India once, Voules?' 'Ninety-six, m'lord.' 'Big ones, if I remember rightly?' 'Whackers, m'lord.' 'There, Bertie. You see there's nothing to be afraid of.'"

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