

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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## THE DRESS CODE OF JEEVES

### DRESSING ALWAYS MATTER

"There are moments, Jeeves, when one asks oneself 'Do trousers matter?'" "The mood will pass, sir." (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

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### SHOCKED

A boho poet told Bertie: "How on earth can I dress up like that? Do you realize that most days I don't get out of my pyjamas till five in the afternoon, and then I just put on an old sweather?" I saw Jeeves wince, poor chap! This sort of revelation shocked his finest feelings. (The Aunt and the Sluggard, 1916)

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### MAUVE SHIRTS

"Talking of shirts," I said, "have those mauve ones I ordered arrived yet?" "Yes, sir. I sent them back." "Sent them back?" "Yes, sir. They would not have become you." Well. I must say I'd thought fairly highly of those shirts, but I bowed to superior knowledge. (Jeeves Exerts the Old Cerebellum, 1921)

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### CHECK SUIT

"Unsuitable for you, sir." Well, the long and the short of it was that the confounded thing came home, and I put it on, and when I caught sight of myself in the glass I nearly swooned. Jeeves was perfectly right. I looked a cross between a music-hall comedian and a cheap bookie. (Leave It to Jeeves, 1916)

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### TIES

"What's wrong with this tie? I've seen you give it a nasty look before. Speak out like a man! What's the matter with it?" "Too ornate, sir." "Nonsense! A cheerful pink. Nothing more." "Unsuitable, sir." (Jeeves and the Unbidden Guest, 1916)

"If I might make the suggestion, sir, I should not continue to wear your present tie. The green shade

gives you a slightly bilious air." (The Aunt and the Sluggard, 1916)

"Is this a time to talk about ties?" "Yes, sir. One aims at the perfect butterfly shape, and this you have not achieved. With your permission, I will adjust it." (Jeeves and the Feudal Spirit, 1954)

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### CAUSE OF RESIGNATION

Jeeves was at one time in Lord Worplesdon's employment. I tendered my resignation because I could not see eye to eye with his lordship in his desire to dine in dress trousers, a flannel shirt, and a shooting coat. (Jeeves Takes Charge, 1916)

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### WHITE MESS JACKET

Bertie had visited Cannes without Jeeves and brought home a white mess jacket with brass buttons. "You wore it, sir?" "Every night." "But surely you are not proposing to wear it in England, sir?" I saw that he had arrived at the nub. "Yes, Jeeves." "But, sir ----" "You were saying, Jeeves?" "It is quite unsuitable, sir."... "When I wore it at the Casino at Cannes, beautiful women nudged one another and whispered: 'Who is he?'" "The code at Continental Casinos is notoriously lax, sir." (Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

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### BLUE ALPINE HAT

In the eye which he was fixing on me I detected the auntlike gleam which always means he disapproves of something, and when he said in a soupy tone of voice "Pardon me, sir. But are you proposing to enter the Ritz Hotel in that hat?"... "If you really want to know, several fellows at the Drones asked me where I had got it." "No doubt with a view to avoiding your hatter, sir." (Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963)

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### SOFT SILK SHIRTS

Bertie suggested a soft silk shirt with the evening costume. "Yes, sir," said Jeeves, in a low cold

voice, as if he had been bitten in the leg by a personal friend... "You don't like it?" "No, sir. I do not. Soft silk shirts with evening costume are not worn, sir." (Clustering Round Young Bingo, 1925)

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### PLUS-FOURS

"Pardon me, sir, are you proposing to appear in those garments in public?"... "Certainly, Jeeves," I said. "Why? Don't you like them?" "No, sir." "You think them on the bright side?" "Yes, sir." (Jeeves and the Kid Clementina, 1930)

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### CLOTH-TOPPED BOOTHES

Jeeves's judgement about suits is sound. But I as near as a toucher rebelled when he wouldn't let me wear a pair of cloth-topped boots which I loved like a couple of brothers. (Jeeves and the Unbidden Guest, 1916)

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### BLUE SUIT WITH FAINT RED STRIPE

"No, I think I'll wear the blue with the faint red stripe." "Not the blue with faint red stripe, sir." "But I rather fancy myself in it." "Not the blue with faint red stripe, sir." "Oh, all right, have it your own way." (Leave It to Jeeves, 1916)

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### SCARLET CUMMERBUND

I went straight back to my room, dug out the cummerbund, and draped it round the old tum. I turned round and Jeeves shied like a startled mustang. "I beg your pardon, sir," he said in a sort of hushed voice. "You are surely not proposing to appear in public in that thing?" "The cummerbund?" I said in a careless, debonair way, passing it off. "Oh, rather!" "I should not advise it, sir, really I shouldn't." "Why not?" "The effect, sir, is loud in the extreme." (Aunt Agatha Speaks Her Mind, 1922)

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