

Ye Olde Plum News

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NAPPINGS OF KIDS AND OTHERS

OGDEN FORD

Ogden "The little nugget" Ford was a spoiled and repellant boy, and a perfect victim for kidnapping. His parents were divorced, fought about him and both of them were stinking rich. The court had given his father the custody.

- Miss Cynthia Drassilis kidnapped him from his father's house in England and brought him to his mother. He was immediately collected by his father who placed him in Sanstead House, a boarding school far away in the English countryside.

- This was not the first kidnapping attempt. Smooth Sam Fisher once tried to kidnap Ogden in New York and Buck McGinnis once made an attempt in Chicago.

- Miss Drassilis tried again to extract him from Sanstead. So did Smooth Sam Fisher, and Buck McGinnis. They all failed. But Sam and Buck and their gangs united their forces. The united effort was a success, with help from Ogden. Sam then double-crossed Buck. He negotiated with Mr and Mrs. Ford. He wanted to retire from the kidnapping business and was employed by them to watch over Ogden. Who could be better suited for that mission than an ex-kidnapper?

(The Little Nugget, 1913)

- This was not the end. Mr Ford died. Mrs. Ford and Ogden moved to New York and she remarried. His new step-father plotted to kidnap Ogden and to place him in a private disciplinary home. Ogden thought that the kidnapper, as before, demanded a ransom and offered to follow him voluntarily for 50% of the ransom.

(Piccadilly Jim, 1916)

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### JOEY COOLEY

The boy movie star Joey "the Idol of American Motherhood" Cooley, was kidnapped. *Something wet and sploshy came slapping over my face, and I smelt the smell of chloroform. And it was suddenly borne in upon me that, on top of everything else I had been through that day, I was now being kidnapped. It seemed to me to put the tin hat on things.* The kidnapping turned out to be a publicity stunt arranged by a female movie star who wanted to save him and get publicity as a real-life heroine.

(Laughing Gas, 1935)

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WILLIAM BANNISTER

He had advised Kirk, as a solution of his difficulties, to kidnap the child and take him to Connecticut... It was still Steve's intention to remove, steal, purloin, and kidnap William Bannister that night, but now that the moment had come for doing it, he was nervous.

(The Coming of Bill, 1914)

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### PARROT

Millie was a niece to Lady Lakenheath. Millie needed her consent to marry Ukridge, so they bird-napped Lady Lakenheath's beloved parrot. *Millie and I are building on the old lady's being so supremely bucked at having the bird restored to her that there will be nothing she won't be willing to do for me.* (Ukridge Rounds a Nasty Corner, 1923)

The scheme was successful. In the novel *Love Among the Chickens* (1908) Millie is Mrs. Ukridge.

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PIGS

- Gally told: *"Puffy Benger and I stole old Wivenhoe's pig the night of the Bachelors' Ball at Hammer's Easton in the year '95.* (Summer Lightning, 1929)

- Sir Gregory Parsloe's pride, the Queen of Matchingham, was a dangerous competitor to the Empress of Blandings in the Shropshire Fat Pig Contest and was pig-napped by Gally. (Pigs Have Wings, 1952)

- Lord Emsworth's Empress of Blandings was repeatedly pig-napped.

1) Ronnie Fish picked up the idea from Gally and confided in Beach: *I have made up my mind to sneak the Empress away and keep her hidden in that game-keeper's cottage in the west wood and then, when Uncle Clarence is sending out S.O.S.'s and offering large rewards, I shall find it there and return it, thus winning his undying gratitude and putting him in the right frame of mind to yield up a bit of my money that I want to dig out of him.* (Summer Lightning, 1929)

2) Binstead and Wellbeloved were employees by sir Parsloe. They had betted on the Queen of Matchingham as winner in the Shropshire fat pig contest and

they plotted against the Empress of Blandings. *"So if you went and snatched her, she wouldn't make a fuss about it?" "Coo!" said George Cyril, stunned as the brilliancy of the idea hit him.* The plan was carried through but revenge was executed by Gally. (Pigs Have Wings, 1952)

3) The Duke of Dunstable was plotting with his nephew Ricky. *Ricky blinked. "I don't quite follow that, Uncle Alaric. You aren't going to keep the animal in your room?" "That is exactly what I am going to do. It's on the ground floor, with serviceable French windows. What's simpler than to bring the pig in through these windows and lodge it in the bathroom?"* (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)

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### MONKEY

The dancer Lady Wetherby kept a pet monkey, Eustace, in her home in Long Island as a PR-gimmick. Eustace came in conflict with the domestic staff, deviated from home and settled down with a neighbor, miss Elisabeth Boyd. She knew who owned Eustace. She didn't abduct him, but found him useful and deliberately forgot to return him or report where he was. *"You realize our position? I wonder if we could be arrested for kidnapping. The monkey is far more human than most of the millionaire children who get kidnapped."* (Uneasy money, 1917)

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CAT

Potato Chip was a racing horse belonging to mr Cook. The horse held strong affections for the stable cat and bereaved the company of this cat he refused to eat and his victory in the coming Bridmouth race was endangered. Bertie Wooster's Aunt Dahlia, and other competitors, made plots to steal the cat and use it for black-mailing mr Cook. The cat liked Bertie Wooster and often visited his house. Bertie was wrongly accused for cat-napping. (Aunts Aren't Gentlemen, 1974, The US edition of this novel was titled The Cat-nappers.

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