

Ye Olde Plum News

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USEFUL FOR BLACKMAIL

FEAR OF DOGS

The bookie Joe the Lawyer had swindled Ukridge for £50. Ukridge got his revenge thanks to a mongrel. The dog had found Joe's wallet and wouldn't let Joe come near it. Joe was heading to the races and his bookie business there. He complained vividly of losing several hundreds of pounds. They were out in the countryside and no other persons were in sight. Ukridge wasn't afraid of the dog and offered to fetch the wallet but first he wanted a fee. Joe was furious but paid £150 to Ukridge and then got his wallet. (The Level Business Head, 1926)

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### KID

"Smooth Sam" Fisher had kidnapped Ogden Ford and negotiated with his parents. Sam wanted to retire from the kidnapping business and made a proposition: His prize for returning Ogden was not money but to be employed by his parents to watch over Ogden in the future, against other kidnapers. (The Little Nugget, 1913)

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NOTES FOR A SPEECH

Bobbie Wickham and Kipper Herring wanted to marry but there was a steppingstone. Kipper had written a review of a book by Aubrey Upjohn who called the review libelling and intended to sue the *Thursday Review*. Kipper's employment was jeopardized and with that their marriage. Aubrey Upjohn had serious aspirations to become the conservative candidate for Market Snodsbury in the coming by-election. A speech in the Grammar school, in front of the party committee, was of greatest importance, but he couldn't make his speech without his notes. Bobbie had got hold of his manuscript and called him: "*This is Roberta Wickham, Upjohn. If I might have your kind attention for a moment. Beginning with a curt 'Listen Buster,' she proceeded to sketch out with admirable clearness the salient points in the situation... 'I was sure you'd come round to see our view. Then I will be with you shortly. Mind there's plenty of ink in your fountain pen.*" Mr Upjohn withdraw his lawsuit in exchange for his notes. (Jeeves in the Offing, 1960)

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### DISGRACEFUL SECRETS

Galahad Threepwood was finishing his Reminiscences. His sister Lady Constance: "*The book is full from beginning to end of libellous anecdotes, Mr Baxter. About all our best friends. If it is published we shall not have a friend left. Galahad seems to have known everybody in England when they were young and foolish, and to remember everything particularly foolish and disgraceful that they did.*" Ronald wanted to marry Sue Brown, a ballet girl. His mother Julia, together with her sister Lady Constance, objected strongly to the idea. But their brother Galahad intervened. He told Sue what had happened: *Well, the fact of the matter is, my dear, knowing how strongly my sister Constance has always felt on the subject of those Reminiscences of mine, I went to her and put it to her squarely. "Clarence," I said to her, "is not the sort of man to make any objection to anyone marrying anybody, so long as he isn't expected to attend the wedding. You're the real obstacle" I said. "You and Julia. And if you come round, you can talk Julia over in five minutes. You know she relies on your judgement." And then I said that, if she gave up acting like a barbed-wire entanglement in the path of true love, I would undertake not to publish the Reminiscences.*" (Summer Lightning, 1929)

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ANTIQUe AMBER STATUETTE

Sir Watkyn Bassett: "*I have no intention of entrusting Mr. Pinker a vicarage.*" Stiffy Byng who wanted to marry Harold Pinker, was furious with her uncle and acted. She stole a black amber statuette from his collection of antiques. She showed it to Bertie. "*What on earth did you do that for?*" "*Perfectly simple. The idea was to go to uncle Watkyn and tell him he wouldn't get it back unless he did the square thing by Harold. Power politics, don't they call it, Jeeves?*" "*Or blackmail, miss.*" "*Yes, or blackmail, I suppose. But you can't be too nice in your methods when you are dealing with the Uncle Watkyns of this world.*" The blackmail however became unnecessary as Harold Pinker got a vicarage from Major Plank instead, who needed a man who was a combined vicar and rugby player. (Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963)

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### LAUGHING STOCK

Gally Threepwood told lady Constance: "*Parsloe, for some reason known only to himself, got the idea that Beach had pinched his pig, and instead of waiting like a sensible man and sifting the evidence had him summarily arrested and taken off to Market Blandings prison ... Beach now, quite naturally, proposes to sue him.*" ... "*The scandal!*" she wailed. ... "*You really mean that Beach would consent to drop this action of his for five hundred pounds?*" "*It's a lot of money.*" "*A lot of money? To avoid a scandal that would make us all the laughing stock of the county? Give me my cheque book. It's in the drawer over there.*" (Pigs Have Wings, 1952)

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BAN FROM ANATOLE'S COOKING

Aunt Dahlia wanted Bertie to steal a cow-creamer from sir Watkyn Basset. "*Perform this simple, easy task for me, or guests at my dinner table will soon be saying: 'Why is it that we never seem to see Bertie Wooster here any more?'*" ... "*Aunt Dahlia, this is blackmail!*" "*Yes, isn't it?*" (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

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### THREATENED AUTHORITY

Roderick Spode is the founder and head of the Saviours of Britain, a Fascist organization better known as the Black Shorts... about seven feet in height... *It was as if Nature had intended to make a gorilla, and had changed its mind at the last moment...* His ambition was to make himself a Dictator. He didn't love Gussie Fink-Nottle. "*You can tell him that I am going to break his neck.*" Bertie wanted to help Gussie and Jeeves told him how: "*I am at perfect liberty to tell you that it would greatly lessen Mr. Spode's potentiality for evil, if you were to inform him that you know everything about Eulalie, sir.*" Spode designed women's under-clothing for Eulalie Soeurs, and if revealed, it would jeopardize his authority over his followers. "*You can't be a successful Dictator and design women's underclothing.*" (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

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