

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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## HABITS OF LAMBS

### BITE

Lord Emsworth told Claude "Mustard" Potts about his pig: 'You can't be bitten by the Empress.' 'Oh, no? Who made up that rule?' 'She's as gentle as a lamb.' 'I was once bitten by a lamb.' Lord Ickenham was surprised. 'What an extraordinary past you seem to have had, Mustard. One whirl of excitement. One of these days you must look me up and tell me some of the things you haven't been bitten by.' (Uncle Fred in the Springtime, 1939)

Eunice bit her lip. She was piqued. She felt as if she had patted the head of a pet lamb, and the lamb had turned and bitten her in the finger. (The Rough Stuff, 1920)

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### BLEAT

"Jeeves," I said, and I am free to admit that in my emotion I bleated like a lamb drawing itself to the attention of the parent sheep. "what the dickens is all this?" (Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

Lady Constance, normally very dominant, had a bad conscience when she came to see her brother, Lord Emsworth. Her manner as she opened the conversation filled him with amazement. Not only did it lack ferocity, it was absolutely chummy. It was as if a lion had come into the library and started bleating like a lamb. (The Crime Wave at Blandings, 1936)

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### BE BAA-LAMBS

Stiffy Byng told Sir Watkyn Basset about the curate Harold Pinker, her beloved: "He's a baa-lamb." "No doubt." "He played football for England." "Very possibly." "And he's marvellous at tennis." "I dare say he is. But that is not a reason why he should marry my niece." (The Code of the Woosters, 1938)

Penny Donaldson about Jerry Shoesmith: "He's a baa-lamb. And you can't say a baa-lamb isn't a nice thing to have around the house." (Pigs Have Wings, 1952)

Jerry was not deaf, but he was deeply agitated, and in the circumstances the toughest baa-lamb might have been excused for being so." (Pigs Have Wings, 1952)

"He's a baa-lamb," said Jane. "You hear? Jane says he's a baa-lamb. Just the sort of chap we want about the place." (The Crime Wave at Blandings, 1936)

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### LEAP

Tuppy Glossop was after Gussie Fink-Nottle, but he escaped. Bertie met Gussie. "I was thinking that Tuppy is probably lurking somewhere." He leaped like a lamb in springtime. "What shall I do?" (Right Ho, Jeeves, 1934)

The voice of Sebastian Beach had spoken at his (Gally) elbow, causing him to leap like a lamb in springtime. Absorbed in his remarks, he had no inkling that there were butlers present." (Pigs Have Wings, 1952)

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### GIVE IN

Bertie Wooster: No one can call me an unreasonable chappie, and many's the times I've given in like a lamb when Jeeves has voted against one of my pet suits and ties; but when it comes to a valet's staking out a claim on your upper lip you've simply got to have a bit of the good old bulldog pluck and defy the blighter. (My Man Jeeves, 1919)

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### BE TRACTABLE

Gally about Lady Constance: She right-hoed like a lamb. (Pigs have wings, 1952)

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### BE VICTIMS

Millicent Threepwood had love problems and referred to Schopenhauer to express her feelings. "Schopenhauer says we are like lambs in a field, disporting themselves under the eye of the butcher, who chooses first one and then another for his prey." (Summer lightning, 1929)

"Ah!" said Hugo, his eye falling on Pilbeam. He stiffened. He stood looking at the detective like Schopenhauer's butcher at the selected lamb. (Summer lightning, 1929)

But his jaw had fallen, and he (Beach) was looking at his visitor (Gally) rather in the manner of the lamb mentioned by the philosopher Schopenhauer when closeted with the butcher. (Pigs Have Wings, 1952)

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### BE SLAUGHTERED

Plum: I have stopped eating meat, not for hygienic reasons but because I saw a lamb being killed in a field! I vowed I wouldn't touch another bite and I haven't. It is making me quite slim. It's remarkable how little one misses meat. (Letter to William Townend May 5. 1927) His vegetarian period was however very short.

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### GET LOST

References to the parable of the lost lamb in the Bible (Luke 15).

I have never actually seen a shepherd welcoming a strayed lamb back into the fold, but I should imagine that his manner on such an occasion would closely parallel that of this female twenty-minute egg as she heard my words. (The Mating Season, 1949)

Wodehouse used the title "The Lost Lambs" instead of "Mike" for the serial in The Captain 1908.

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### TO FOLLOW

Bertie: "I don't think she had a surname, had she? I was alluding to the child who had a little lamb with fleece as white as snow, and everywhere that Mary went the lamb was sure to go. Now I'm not saying that I have a fleece as white as snow, but I am going everywhere that Willie Cream goes, and one speculates with some interest as to what the upshot will be. He resents my constant presence." (Jeeves in the Offing, 1960)

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### BE EWE-LAMBS

Bertie's Uncle Tom collected silver and owned a cow-creamer. Bertie said: "Sort of cream jug kind of thing, ghastly but very valuable. One would not be far out describing it as Uncle Tom's ewe lamb." (Jeeves in the Offing, 1960)

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