

# \*Ye Olde Plum News\*

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## BABIES

### "BABY BLOBS" WORPLE

Jeeves gave advice: *Mr. Corcoran's portrait may not have pleased Mr. Worple as a likeness of his only child, but I have no doubt that editors would gladly consider it as a foundation for a series of humorous drawings.*

*Corky was glaring at the picture, and making a sort of dry sucking noise with his mouth. He seemed completely over-wrought. And then suddenly he began to laugh in a wild way.*

*"If I might make the suggestion, Mr. Corcoran – for a title of the series which you have in mind – "The Adventures of Baby Blobs." The series was a big hit and gave Corky a prosperous life.*

(The Artistic Career of Corky, 1916)

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### NATURE'S LAST WORD?

Freddie Widgeon needed money and contemplated an offer to be judge at the Peasant Mothers Baby Competition in Cannes. *Now, Freddie's views on babies are well defined. He is prepared to cope with them singly, if all avenues of escapes are blocked and there is a nurse or mother standing by to lead aid in case of sudden hiccoughs, retchings, or nauseas. Under such conditions he has even been known to offer his watch to one related by ties of blood in order that the little stranger might listen to the tick-tick. But it would be paltering with the truth to say that he likes babies. They give him, he says, a sort of grey feeling. He resents their cold stare and the supercilious and up-stage way in which they dribble out of the corner of their mouths on seeing him. Eyeing them, he is conscious of doubts as to whether Man can really be Nature's last word.*

(Noblesse Oblige, 1934)

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### BONNY BABIES COMPETITIONS

*School treats, he said, were dashed dangerous things, always to be avoided by the shrewd, as they were only too apt to include competitions for bomy babies. ... "The mothers are the ones you want to watch out for," said Plank. "I'm not saying the little beasts aren't bad enough themselves, dribbling out of the side of their mouths at you and all that sorts of thing, but it's the mothers who constitutes the really grave peril. Look," he said, and I think he must at this point have pulled up a trouser leg. "See that scar on my calf? That's what I got in Peru once*

*for being fool enough to let myself be talked into judging a competition for bomy babies. The mother of one of the Honourable Mentioned spiked me with a native dagger as I was stepping down from the judge's stand after making my speech. Hurt like sin, I can assure you.*

(Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963)

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### WHERE DO BABIES COME FROM?

*She (Madeline Bassett) holds the view that the stars are God's daisy chain, that rabbits are gnomes in attendance on the Fairy Queen, and that every time a fairy blows its wee nose a baby is born, which, as we know, is not the case.*

(Stiff Upper Lip, Jeeves, 1963)

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### ALGERNON AUBREY LITTLE

*He (Bingo Little) had no illusions about his first-born's appearance, being well aware that though Time, the great healer, would eventually turn Algernon Aubrey into a suave boulevardier like his father, he presented to the eye as of even date, like so many infants of tender years, the aspect of a mass murderer suffering from an in-grown toenail.*

(Leave it to Algy, 1959)

Bingo and Algy visited Oofy Prosser, who was his godfather. *Observing what it was that Bingo was carrying, Oofy backed hastily. "Hey!" he exclaimed. "Don't point that thing at me!" "It's only my baby." "I dare say. But point it another way."*

(Leave it to Algy, 1959)

*"Because if I ever saw a baby that looked like someone the police were spreading a dragnet for," said the Pieface, "it is this baby of Bingo's. Definitely the criminal type. It reminds me of Edward G. Robinson."*

(Sonny Boy, 1939)

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### ARABELLA PIQUELET

Bingo and Algy, his firstborn baby, were out walking when they met Bingo's bookie Mr. Piquelet with his baby. *Then, looking up with a start, he saw that a stout man in a frock coat and a bowler hat had come alongside, wheeling a perambulator containing a blob-faced baby. ... Bingo found it ugly, but not as ugly as his son. Mr. Piquelet disagreed. "Why, yours look human." Bingo could scarcely believe his ears. "Human? Mine?" "Well, practically human." "My poor misguided Piquelet, you're talking rot." "Rot, eh?" said Charles Piquelet, stung. "Perhaps you'd care to have a bet on it?" A policeman was chosen to settle the issue. "Officer," said Charles Piquelet, "to settle a bet, is this baby here uglier than that baby there?" "Or vice versa?" said Bingo.... Just as the policeman stood vacillating, there peeped through the clouds a ray of sunshine. It fell on Arabella Piquelet's face, causing her to screw it up in a hideous grimace. And at the same instant, with the race neck and neck, she suddenly started blowing bubbles out of the corner of her mouth. The policeman hesitated no longer. He took Miss Piquelet's hand and raised it. "The winnah!" he said. "But you ought to see the one I've got at home."*

(Sonny Boy, 1939)

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### A SMILE CAN WORK MIRACLES

*Girls as pretty as Kay Derrick, especially if their faces are by nature a little grave, should be extremely careful how and when they smile. ... And when they saw that smile even babies in their perambulators stopped looking like peevish poached eggs and became almost human.*

(Sam the Sudden, 1925)

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### CANVASSING TRIBULATIONS

Ukridge instructed Corky: *"The job you've got to do is the baby-kissing----." "I won't kiss their infernal babies!" "You will, old horse, unless you mean to spend the rest of your life cursing yourself vainly when it is too late... Be an altruist!"*

(The Long Arm of Looney Coote, 1923)

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