



The Man Upstairs and Other Stories

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There were three distinct stages in the evolution of Annette Brougham's attitude towards the knocking in the room above. In the beginning it had been merely a vague discomfort. Absorbed in the composition of her waltz she had heard it almost subconsciously.

The Man Upstairs and Other Stories Details

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Author : P.G. Wodehouse

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From Reader Review The Man Upstairs and Other Stories for online ebook

Joe Stevens says

Some of these short stores feel like Wodehouse. Early in his career he experimented with many styles, wrote some romances and many school stories. None of them had that Wodehouse touch that we have come to know and love. Here there are moments, not enough to make it a great collection, but moments of wit that indicate what is to come.

Amy says

Fun short stories.

An Odd1 says

Romances sidetracked. Snappy silly banter, last century, wealthy high-society British, witty Albert Campion style. Objective observations on human behavior, especially in-love youngsters detoured by interfering outsiders or their own foolishness, in situations impossible today, expansive master vocabulary. Even a Dickensian name, "Blatherwick", can trigger giggles.

in progress -- up to #14

Kobo saves front cover, author photo here, uses no energy

1 The Man Upstairs 31 pg

Striving artist Beverley knocks on ceiling, and striving composer Annette answers. Her music students have "solid ivory skulls ... about a teaspoonful of grey matter distributed among the entire squad", with Annette's latest "at the tail-end of the division". Neighbor Reginald patronizes, annoys with "a habit of addressing her as 'Ah, little one!'" p 10, a manner "intolerable in an emperor to a black-beetle" p 18. When he comes "curveting [prancing] in here with his chest out and started to slate my [Beverley's] masterpiece" p13 - I take that as slang and invention. Who but PG creates publishers called "Gruszcinsky and Buchterkirch" p20? (das Buch= book, die Kirche= church) Scene thus set for yet another whimsical smiling whiling-away time. (view spoiler)

2 Something to Worry About 31 pg

Sally Preston is sent to rusticate in Millbourne by father angry she snuck to movie. On her first day at Aunt Jane's, she throws mud on the boy next door. Being second gardener at the Hall and autumn past flowers, Tom bestows vegetables in return. Naturally, other village boys fall in line. Hijinks ensue. (view spoiler)

3 Deep Waters 34 pg

Playwright and expert swimmer George Barnert Callender falls in Marvis Bay, and infatuated with his

rescuer Mary, accepts her offer to teach him swimming. But actor Mifflin wants George to rescue Mifflin, for publicity.

4 When Doctors Disagree 29 pg

At Hotel Belvoir, hair-cutter Arthur is silent and unhappy, jealous of bucks who chat up manicurist Maud. When he suddenly reforms, she despairs of his love and writes a newspaper advice column. (view spoiler)

5 By Advice of Counsel 28 pg ??

Waiter Jack regales a silent customer with tale about affable deaf Joe Moore who subsidized himself and similarly-minded Bailey or Roach until Jane beckoned. (view spoiler)

6 Rough-Hew Them How We Will 32 pg ??

As waiter in Parisian restaurant, Paul moons for placid Jeanne. Off duty as artist, he strives to sell his masterpiece. (view spoiler)

7 The Man Who Disliked Cats

A fellow cafe diner narrates to the narrator how his hatred began when his uncle hired him as a Paris hotel cashier and killed his dream of art. Guests bring camels, champagne-swilling giraffe, lion, alligator, and worst, cat Alexander. But he finds a lost parrot for pretty guest Marion, and falls in love. (view spoiler)

8 Ruth in Exile

The girl who records loans for a Monte Carlo area pawnbroker is encouraged by her profligate gambling father to accept apparently rich George. (view spoiler)

9 Archibald's Benefit

Striving golfer finally wins championship, because his equally incompetent friends want to reward his generous nature in front of his girl, newly arrived on vacation. But stopping hardball Gossett delays Archibald's date with beloved Margaret. (view spoiler)

10 The Man, the Maid, and the Miasma 26 pg

Trying to avoid just fired Punctual Plodder office-boy Roland Bean, boss Ferguson gets locked in the office with him after closing time. Running upstairs, he bumps into ex-girlfriend. (view spoiler)

11 The Good Angel 29 pg

Martin woos Elsa Keith while staying with the family, helped by butler Keggs, who has drawn his name in the servants' betting pool, hindered by house-party competitor poetic Barstowe.

12 Pots o'Money 30 pg

Owen dramatizes a novel by Edith Butler, who makes no reply to the submission. ("Botts" are fly maggot infestations of livestock, close to Kobo definition.) On a farm holiday, the resident granny sees "pots o' money" in Owen's cards, and a string of unlikely chances fulfill the prediction. Writer Prosser is fellow guest, meet again in London. (view spoiler)

13 Out of School 23 pg

Narrator, a distracting sidetracking commentator, explains "extenuating circumstances" around case of James Datchett 22, aspiring writer. Uncle Frederick has "just about enough brains to make a jay-bird fly crooked" p2, but prospered in Western Australian sheep, so his advice is heeded, and the nephew must succeed at teaching in Harrow, or be deported Colony-ward. School doorman German Adolf sees new teacher innocently kiss maid Violet in a happy moment, threatens to tell headmaster Blatherwick, monopolizes James' free writing time for English lessons, until, caught on a bad day, the blackmail victim refuses and kicks back. (view spoiler)

14 Three from Dunsterville 28 pg

.. in progress ..

Typos:

confusing to use underscores for italics, quotation marks, and French

13 p2 emph but tit has proper quotes, p3 tit but emphasis dislocated "_having Colonies_" should be "*having Colonies.*", 8 tit 9 "Universal" magazine title not underscored as in p8,

14 p1 title 'Our City' properly not underscored

Ian Wood says

The Man Upstairs is Wodehouse's first collection of short stories after graduating from the school stories which with the benefit of hindsight were a blot on the old escutcheon. The Quality does vary from story to story but the good far outweighs the poor and the Wodehouse genius is definitely making it's presence felt although still not as pronounced as in his middle period work.

In the Title story the man upstairs is not a reference to the God generally found in heaven accompanying the Larch on the Thorn in P G Wodehouse's idyllic but an Artist attempting to court the composer downstairs by banging on the ceiling.

Also worthy of mention is 'The Good Angel' which first introduces us to Keggs whose butting career ran through the subsequent Wodehouse novels. Here Keggs' scheme is to clean up on the engagement sweepstake by cunning use of insider dealing and taking a hand in the wooing as required. As you can imagine although true love doesn't run smoothly it runs predictably and Keggs wouldn't need money to pay off his bookie if he only bet on such bankers.

Peter Hall says

I found the voice in my head, narrating these stories was that of Hugh Laurie as Bertram Wooster. Not altogether a bad thing since the man has a gift for it as has Wodehouse for piecing together humour with tragedy. His biting wit jumped out just at the moments I wasn't expecting it promoting a number of 'laugh out loud's. The only reason I'm not giving five stars is that I find the short story format a little difficult; more a novel man myself.

Anyway... I'd highly recommend it if you want a well written, hilarious insight into love, success, failure and heroism with just a dash of violence. Great fun read!

kelly says

I didn't expect to like this collection of short stories so much. I just got it because it was one of a few of the free Kindle editions of work by P. G. Wodehouse, who I only know of through the Jeeves series, but there are some real gems in here. The stories aren't all his typical upperclass-playboy-and-wise-butler-escapades; the scenes do vary (knights of the round table, new york artist commune) but all with the same rich, tight plots and signature wit of Wodehouse, so light-hearted and accessible.

Jeff Miller says

Typical Wodehouse, otherwise great stuff. These stories don't include some of his more famous characters, but follow the general Wodehouse plot device. Boy meets girl, problem presents itself, problem resolved. No matter how many times Wodehouse follows this his stories don't get old. How he gets from a to b to c is always fun.

Jessica says

This was a fun one to listen to! I always love Wodehouse, and these short stories made me laugh out loud. Wodehouse makes a great palate cleanser between other books!

Anjana says

<https://superfluoureading.wordpress....>

Mela says

My first P.G. Wodehouse's book. The collection was more or less about love and romances.

It was funny, sometimes with a really wise message.

Most of them I give 3 or 3.5 stars, but I give even more for: 'Something to Worry About' (I liked it the best), 'When Doctors Disagree' and 'Ruth in Exile'.

Besides I must add to my rating Mike Harris as a reader (I listened it from LibriVox), who read it splendidly.

Mark says

A few weeks ago, whilst reading a memoir by Susan Hill, it was brought home to me that I had never read any PG Wodehouse. I thought the easiest way to put this right was to read a book of his short stories. This collection, originally written in, I think 1914, are very funny with some fantastic turns of phrases and descriptions. Inevitably the language can seem slightly dated and the circles in which his characters move elegantly around are generally wealthy or at least hankering after wealth through a good marriage or clever alliance though not always. I can't say I warmed to many of his characters; they often appeared rather mercenary or irresponsible but they were easy to read and, as I mentioned, a good many of his turns of phrase made me smile. I shall read more of him and thank Susan Hill's memoir for having given me the impetus by convicting me of my ignorance of his imagination

Sarah TheAromaofBooks says

Full disclosure: If I hadn't known that these books were written by Wodehouse, I wouldn't have guessed it. They really lacked his classic sparkle and wit. While a decent collection of short stories, they didn't have the magic that Wodehouse's writing generally has - many of the stories felt rather flat. Later short story collections of his have that fantastic zing at the end that pulls everything together, but these tended to be rather bland on the whole. Fine for a one-time read, but not a collection I intend to return to later.

Illiterate says

I believe it was the critic, Harry Bud, who relegated this collection from the 6 Wodehouse books in the canon to the 9.4 candidates for the canon.

Libbeth says

I will use this "review" for all the P. G. Wodehouse I have read. I read them all so long ago and enjoyed them so much that I have given them all 5 stars. As I re-read them I will adjust the stars accordingly, if necessary, and add a proper review.

When I first discovered P. G. Wodehouse I devoured every book I could find in the local library, throughout the eighties and early nineties. Alas, this means that I have read most of them and stumbling across one I have not read is a rare thing. I'm sure that through this great site I will joyfully find at least a few I have not read, and be able to track them down.

My records only began in 1982, so I do not have a note of any I read before then. I'm sure I will enjoy re-reading them.

Thom Swennes says

A great writer doesn't have to use many words to bring a story to life. P.G. Wodehouse was a great writer. It is maybe logical that he is best known for his novels but his novellas and short stories are qualitative their equals. This book contains fourteen uniquely different stories that will tantalize the reader's pallet and leave the sweet aftertaste of laughter. Many of the tales have a parable or fable-like qualities that impart a little unrealized wisdom or lesson. Love is generally the central theme and it is approached in a platonic and wholly innocent way. What love may lead to (except for mundane dialogs) is never mentioned, making the whole both quaint and slightly outdated. This said, the humor remains timeless and I think it can still be appreciated by the multitudes. If somebody is looking for "light reading", pick up The Man Upstairs and Other Stories and enjoy.
