



## Right Ho, Jeeves

*P. G. Wodehouse (1881 - 1975)*

Read by:	Mark Nelson	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
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*Right Ho, Jeeves* (1934) is the second novel by P. G. Wodehouse featuring the unflappable character of Reginald Jeeves, valet to ditsy British aristocrat Bertie Wooster. Set mostly at Brinkley Court, the English country home of Bertie's Aunt Dahlia (and the title of the U.S. edition), the story centers on a pair of romantic pairings, the first involving Bertie's nerdy friend Gussie Fink-Nottle and the goofy Madeline Bassett, and the second his cousin Angela and chubby athlete Tuppy Glossop. Things are set in motion when Bertie visits to comfort his aunt after his cousin breaks her engagement with Tuppy, and discovers that she has lost considerable sums at the gaming tables at Cannes, which threatens her ability to finance her magazine, *Milady's Boudoir*. Bertie dispenses questionable advice to all parties, things unravel in

classic screwball comedy style, and at the height of the chaos Bertie throws in the towel and calls on Jeeves, the consummate "gentleman's personal gentleman" and Bertie's all-purpose guardian angel. Jeeves manages to get Bertie out of the way for a few hours, during which time he quickly solves all the problems. The novel is considered by many to be the best in the Jeeves canon of eleven novels and is famous for its episode of a drunken Gussie presenting the prizes at the Market Snodsbury Grammar School, which appears in many collections of comic literature and is thought by some to be the funniest piece of sustained comic writing in the English language. Parts of the story were featured in the English television series *Jeeves and Wooster*.

Sir Pelham Grenville "P. G." Wodehouse (October 15, 1881 – February 14, 1975) was an English author and one of the most popular and widely read humorists of the 20th century. He was born to a family with a long ancestral history in the lower echelons of the aristocracy; his father was a magistrate in Hong Kong, and he and his brothers were raised in the care of a nanny in a house adjoining his grandparents, as was the custom in families based in the colonies. He attended Dulwich College, then worked for a bank for two unhappy years before catching his stride as a writer with his early school stories. He is best known for his comic fiction featuring stereotypical British characters, but also wrote Broadway musical comedies with Jerome Kern and Guy Bolton in the 1910' and 1920's and screenplays for MGM in the 1930's. Wodehouse was prolific, producing over ninety books, forty plays, and two hundred short stories. He is noted for his inimitable style, which combines the erudition and precision of the upper crust with the slang and allusions of the mass culture and seasons it with wit and whimsy. Newspaper critics, like Gerald Gould in *The Observer*, expressed a widespread opinion: "In the most serious and exact sense of the word [PGW] is a great artist. He has founded a school, a tradition. He has made a language... He has explained a generation." He was in the habit of producing a novel every three months, a remarkable pace given his method of juggling multiple projects, meticulously building a plot and writing an extensive scenario of thirty thousand words before writing a book. While his characters and style are quintessentially British, Wodehouse lived abroad for much of his life, dividing his time between England and New York in the early years of the century, moving to France to avoid double taxation in the 1930's and then settling in the United States in 1947. He was knighted in 1975 six weeks before his death at age 93 in Southampton, Long Island, New York.