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P.G. Wodehouse

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Mr. Mulliner is the genial Scheherazade of the Anglers' Rest, a bucolic English pub. Each evening, sipping his Scotch and lemon, Mr. Mulliner tells of an adventure that once befell a nephew, a cousin's son, or some other un-stuffy younger relative. Mr. Mulliner's narratives showcase Wodehouse's particular genius for fetching whimsy and eccentric shenanigans.

Mulliner Nights Details

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Author : P.G. Wodehouse

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From Reader Review Mulliner Nights for online ebook

Gerald says

The real tabasco! Top hole! Wise not to mix metaphors, mind you. Putting tabasco in any of your holes not advised.

This is a collection of stories told around the fireplace at the Angler's Rest pub by the loquacious but mild-mannered Mr. Mulliner. Each story features one of his relatives, each with a particular personal quirk or ill-starred circumstance.

My fave in this stewpot is "Best Seller." A literary critic chap falls in love, making sure at first his intended has no intention of writing a romance novel. But after they've sealed the deal, she does just that, not only going back on her word but quoting his (the carefully chosen ones in his proposal) verbatim. He reads it, and it's rot. Wouldn't you know, it conquers the heights of fandom? He can't bear it, and they part. He returns to her divan later to get an interview for his magazine and finds her incapable of writing another word.

Romance is restored when he offers to gift her all his own trashy unpublished manuscripts. They decide to use her famous nom-de-plume and have a bit of a chuckle all the way to the bank.

X says

Nothing deep here, but it was a fun collection of stories (my favorite being "Best Seller" which had such a sweet, happy ending!) and was nicely written and nicely British as well.

Spiros says

I have, over the years, read a lot of Wodehouse. I have read all the Jeeves & Wooster (and one hamfisted pastiche which came out a coupe of years ago), all of the Blandings, all of the Psmith; I have read anything Drones Club related, all of Uncle Fred, and many one-off novels. I have even read all of the School stories, and a couple of Plum's ill-considered autobiographical writings. What I have been sedulously avoiding, for reasons that are now unclear to me, are the Mulliner stories, the Oldest Member stories, and Ukridge. Then I stumbled across this slim volume, languishing in the free box at work, and said "What-ho! Why not?".

This is Plum, working at the height of his powers: of course it's brilliant. What it boils down to is that I much prefer Plum's novels, or at least his stories which are connected to each other, to his stories. I love it when Plum can extend himself, and introduce a large cast of characters who can bounce off each other.

I'm still not sure why I've given Ukridge (Plum's favorite character) the elbow. This will be remedied.

Rizowana says

Very witty. Great use of language, after overlooking the obvious colonial undertones of the times. Excellent characterisation: this book is a wonderful study into human psychology through the lens of humour.

Gayatri, eine Leseratte says

Wow. I LOVED reading this book. Each story in this book is unique and I enjoyed reading them all. Simply awesome. :D

Mr. Mulliner, his nephews and cousins never cease to amuse you. I wish The Anglers' Rest was real and I could visit it and give the almighty Mr. Mulliner a much deserved bow.

I am smiling even while writing this review, such is the magic of P.G.Wodehouse! Hats off, sir!

Derelict Space Sheep says

42 WORD REVIEW:

The stories in this collection read somewhat like unused subplots from Wodehouse's Blandings Castle and Jeeves & Wooster novels, but in their upgraded state fairly dazzle with insouciance. Wodehouse riffs masterfully on his favourite topic (thwarted engagements), his prose wild and expressive.

Madison Vander Dussen says

I've heard before that P.G Wodehouse is funny, but it wasn't until half a story and a few laughs into the book when I realized just how funny. As anyone could expect when reading a book of short stories, there were some I liked more than others, but each one had an aspect I very much enjoyed. Sometimes it was the situations Wodehouse created and other times it was his delivery and clever use of vocabulary which captured my attention. Also for someone who likes cats, I was very happy to read two stories which featured felines prominently and captured characteristics of their diverse personalities perfectly.

This is the only Wodehouse book I've read, so I'm not sure how it compares to his other works. But, this is something I hope to change in the near future.

Peter says

So much as been said about this wonderful collection of stories that there is nothing new to add.

The two part story with the cat, bloody hilarious. Websters story is a cross between a decadent tale infused with a gothic tale completely turned on its head.

The second Cats Will Be Cats is pure slapstick.

Enjoy!

Lewis says

I downloaded the Goodreads app, clicked 'Quotes' and one of the first things I saw was the highly-rated quote by Wodehouse 'There is no surer foundation for a beautiful friendship than a mutual taste in literature', which I'd only read a few hours earlier in this very book and thought wholesome, a quite serendipitous coincidence. As for the book itself he lives up to the hype, only my second Wodehouse, he seems to have had a thing for describing the motion of thrown food, his use of metaphors is astonishing and unlike any other writer I've discovered thus far. I am glad to hear there's about a hundred more of his books to get through.

F.R. says

Another wonderful collection of stories from The Angler's Rest. Here, for your enjoyment, are quotes from each tale:

The Smile That Wins

"There was enough of the financier to make two financiers. It was as if Nature, planning a financier, had said to itself: 'We will do this thing well. We will not skimp.'"

The Story of Webster

"The real objection to the great majority of cats is their insufferable air of superiority. Cats, as a class, have never completely got over the snootiness caused by the fact that in Ancient Egypt they were worshipped as gods. This makes them too prone to set themselves up as critics and censors of the frail and erring human beings whose lot they share."

Cats will be Cats

"Neither Lady Widdrington nor her mother, the aged Mrs Pulteney-Banks, actually struck Lancelot or spiked him with a knitting-needle. But there were moments when they seemed only by a miracle of strong will to check themselves from such manifestations of dislike."

The Knightly Quest of Mervyn

"Mervyn tells me that he got a good laugh out of a photograph of the girl's late father on the mantelpiece – a heavily-whiskered old gentleman who reminded him of a burst horsehair sofa."

The Voice from the Past

"The last time she had seen Sacheverell, it must be remembered, he had been the sort of man who made a shrinking violet look like a Chicago gangster. And here he was now, staring her in the eye and shooting off his head for all the world as if he were Mussolini informing the Italian Civil Service of a twelve percent cut in their weekly salary."

Open House

"Wittleford-cum-Bagsley-on-Sea, so I am informed by those who have visited it, is not a Paris or a pre-War Vienna. In fact, once the visitor has strolled along the pier and put pennies in the slot machines, he has shot his bolt as far as the hectic world of pleasure is concerned."

Best Seller

“From far away in the distance came the faint strains of the town band, as it picked its way through the Star of Eve song from *Tannhäuser* – somewhat impeded by the second trombone, who had got his music-sheets mixed and was playing ‘The Wedding of the Painted Doll’.”

Strychnine in the Soup

“‘You don’t know mother. The moment she got the picture postcard, she would come over to wherever we were and put you across her knee and spank you with a hair-brush. I don’t think I could ever feel the same towards you if I saw you lying across mother’s knee, being spanked with a hairbrush. It would spoil the honeymoon.’”

Gala Night

“She was seething with that febrile exasperation which, since the days of Eve, has come upon women who find themselves linked to a cloth-head.”

If all that wasn’t cracking enough, this book also features a cat so supercilious that the man looking after it is forced to don full evening-wear every time he deals with it; as well as creating a world where female romantic novelists spout such saccharine nonsense in interviews that those journalists sent to meet them are frequently found afterwards broken and weeping.

Brilliant!

Sandheep says

There are some really funny short stories in the 2nd half of the book. Archaic english is always a concern while reading Wodehouse, but the comedies are worth the pain. A very very leisurely read that is sure to make you leap out with laughter, atleast in some of the stories.

Nandakishore Varma says

I love Mulliner and his inexhaustible supply of nephews, nieces and cousins and their incredible tales. Another gem from Wodehouse.

Bruce says

This is collection of nine short stories, all told by Mr. Mulliner to his buddies (entourage) at the Anglers' Rest pub while he sips his hot Scotch and lemon. Each member of his audience is identified by his drink - Pint of Stout, Whisky Sour, Mild and Bitter. The stories are all about Mr Mulliner's relatives (usually nephews) and are triggered by comments made by his friends. The stories are most amusing, as one might expect, often involving hapless males in pursuit of bright young females.

This reading of Wodehouse at bedtime is becoming delightfully habit-forming. On to the next!

Beau Stucki says

As exciting as a stay at Blandings Castle or Bertie's penthouse might be, it is difficult to imagine a more enticing or inviting endroit than The Angler's Rest. I would love experience one of Mulliner's nights. I suppose I just did.

Tosh says

P.G. Wodehouse. The man was a genius and one of the great writers of the 20th Century. Period. Boris Vian loved him. Pynchon, I bet, loves him. In fact I suspect he's a writer's writer. If not, then there is something wrong with contemporary writing.

One can choose any title -and it's all the same. In one word, great! For whatever reason, I find Mulliner Nights my favorite. Why? I don't know why. All I can tell you is that it is a set of stories where Mr. Mulliner is in his favorite pub and he starts telling these crazy tales. It's hysterical. But all Wodehouse novels are hysterical. How many books did he write? One million, and every one of them is a hoot. Genius galore! I am not kidding. And I strongly suggest all writers study this man's prose work, because he is a real writer. He doesn't mess around. He gets in and then he gets out. You want to study plotting, how to get from A to Zed? Wodehouse will teach you.

All I know is that the rich are super funny people!
