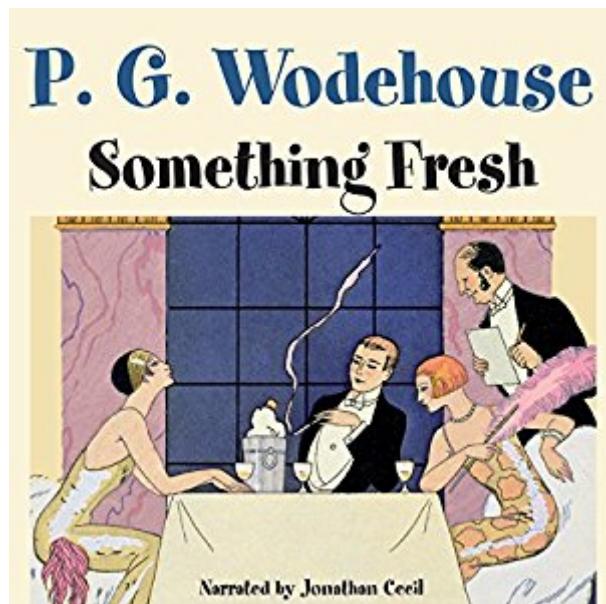


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# Something Fresh



## **Synopsis**

The one thing that could be expected to disturb the peace of life at Blandings is the incursion of imposters. Blandings has imposters like other houses have mice. On this occasion there are two of them--both intent on a dangerous enterprise.

## **Book Information**

Audible Audio Edition

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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## **Customer Reviews**

In P.G. Wodehouse (Thames and Hudson Literary Lives Series), James Connolly offers this advice: "Relax and reread Wodehouse; he's the boy to restore a sense of proportion." Absolutely good advice. I find rereading Wodehouse is more enjoyable than most first reads of other authors, and he's quite easy to reread, even if you don't intend to, because his stories appear in various collections and his novels were often published under various titles. "Something Fresh," officially the first book in the Blandings Castle saga, was published as "Something New" as a serial in The Saturday Evening Post in 1915, and then as a book with the same title in an American edition. "Something Fresh" is a slightly altered British edition of that book. Ashe Marson, the unknown author of the hard-boiled Gridley Quayle, Investigator series of paperback pulps, answers an ad: "WANTED--Young Man of Good Appearance, who is poor and reckless, to undertake delicate and dangerous enterprise. Good pay for the right man." Poor and reckless is a formula in Wodehouse for a good-hearted, down on his luck guy, about to be smiled upon by a beneficent Providence. It's a carry-over from his work in musical comedy and as a struggling writer, but he is one of the few authors who make his leading characters writers, and one of the very few who throws them any of

the good parts. This book is a double bonus, with not only Ashe, but a female writer, Joan Valentine, who knows even more of the hard-bitten life of the streets, and is therefore even poorer and more reckless, as a stellar second in the personnel.

In late September of 1915 the British Army launched the Battle of Loos on the Western Front. This marked the first use of poison gas by British forces in the Great War. The Tommies would suffer nearly 60,000 casualties in this appalling battle. That same month, just over a hundred years ago, a novel called *Something Fresh* by PG Wodehouse was published *Something Fresh* (Collector's Wodehouse). *Something Fresh* was the first in a series of novels that would be set in and near Blandings Castle -- Jeeves and Wooster would follow. Some of those poor Tommies in the trenches could, therefore, have had a copy of the Wodehouse classic. Fiction provides us with a means of escape and the soldiers on the Western front were sorely in need of that. In spite of the wartime horrors that loomed so large at its writing and publication *Something Fresh* does not give even a hint of being a "wartime" book. Instead it is a brilliantly written comedy masterpiece. Its hero and heroine are two young hack writers living in London's Leicester square. Ashe Marson is the athletic creator of *The Adventures of Gridley Quayle Investigator* with installments such as *The Adventure of the Wand of Death*. Joan Valentine writes short stories about the nobility for a "horrid little paper" called *Home Gossip*. She is described as being "a tall girl, with wheat gold hair and eyes as brightly blue as a November sky when the sun is shining on a frosty world." Comely Joan is, of course, the love interest. The really astounding thing about *Something Fresh* is that, a hundred years later...it still is.

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