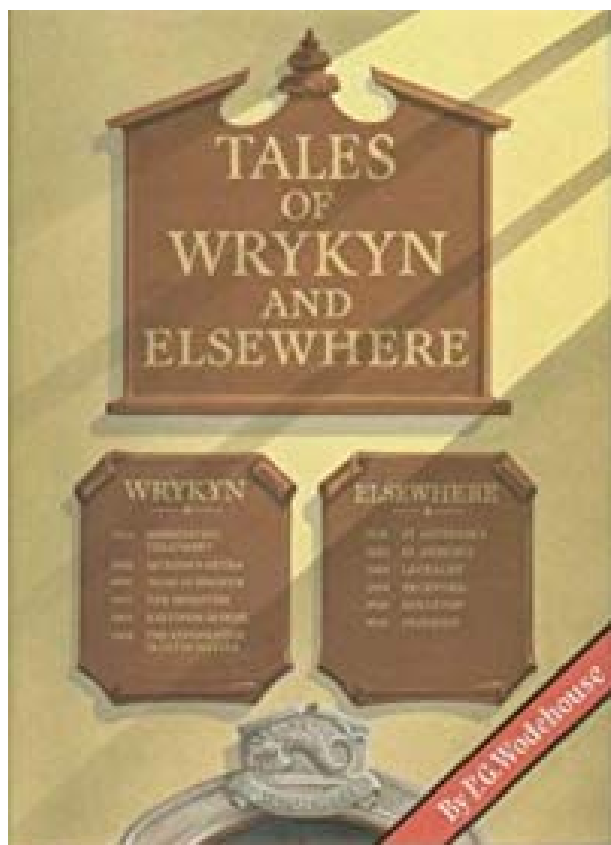


Tales of Wrykyn And Elsewhere: Twenty-five Short Stories of School Life



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In 1905 P G Wodehouse wrote six stories, set in Wrykyn College and called Tales of Wrykyn. Two years before he had published a book with twelve stories and four essays called Tales of St Austin's, and no doubt meant to produce an equivalent Wrykyn book. Here it is at last. It contains 25 new Wodehouse short stories: the six basic Tales of Wrykyn with their original illustrations; six more Wrykyn stories; and thirteen stories set in other schools. Among the "Elsewhere" stories is Stone and the Weed, where a newfangled motor car gets a Sedleigh boy away so fast from the scene of his crime that he almost establishes an alibi; Personally Conducted, in which a teenage girl creditably maroons a Beckford housemaster at the top of a church tower; and The Adventure of Split Infnitive, at the farcically named St Astrisk's, a bitter mockery of the Sherlock Holmes stories. We despise ruth Reginald even while we cannot help admiring his elegant revenges. However wrong the characters seem by any adult standards, even those of their own time, we are drawn into their world of warped values. They are unusual, even bizarre; certainly wry, they are in many ways also our kin.