

# SPARROW TREE SQUARE



Summer Fun



*“Summer afternoon – summer afternoon;  
to me those have **always** been the **two** most  
beautiful words in the **English** language.”*

– Henry James, American-born British writer

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# Missed

*P. G. Wodehouse*



The sun in the heavens was beaming, 1  
The breeze bore an odour of hay, 2  
My flannels were spotless and gleaming, 3  
My heart was unclouded and gay; 4  
The ladies, all gaily apparelled, 5  
Sat round looking on at the match, 6  
In the tree-tops the dicky-birds carolled, 7  
All was peace—till I bungled that catch. 8  
My attention the magic of summer 9  
Had lured from the game—which was wrong. 10  
The bee (that inveterate hummer) 11  
Was droning its favourite song. 12  
I was tenderly dreaming of Clara 13  
(On her not a girl is a patch), 14  
When, ah, horror! there soared through the air a 15  
Decidedly possible catch. 16  
I heard in a stupor the bowler 17  
Emit a self-satisfied 'Ah!' 18  
The small boys who sat on the roller 19  
Set up an expectant 'Hurrah!' 20

The batsman with grief from the wicket	21
Himself had begun to detach—	22
And I uttered a groan and turned sick. It	23
Was over. I'd buttered the catch.	24
O, ne'er, if I live to a million,	25
Shall I feel such a terrible pang.	26
From the seats on the far-off pavilion	27
A loud yell of ecstasy rang.	28
By the handful my hair (which is auburn)	29
I tore with a wrench from my thatch,	30
And my heart was seared deep with a raw burn	31
At the thought that I'd fozzled that catch.	32
Ah, the bowler's low, querulous mutter	33
Points loud, unforgettable scoff!	34
Oh, give me my driver and putter!	35
Henceforward my game shall be golf.	36
If I'm asked to play cricket hereafter,	37
I am wholly determined to scratch.	38
Life's void of all pleasure and laughter;	39
I bungled the easiest catch.	40

PELHAM GRENVILLE WODEHOUSE  
 (1881—1975) was an English writer. He is  
 best known for his humorous works  
 featuring Bertie Wooster and the valet  
 Jeeves, and those set at Blandings Castle.