

CONTENTS

CHAPTER I	7
<i>Doctor Witherspoon offers a theory</i>	
<i>I engage a manservant</i>	
<i>An incident with a burglar</i>	
<i>Doctor Witherspoon expounds on common sense, warning signs and Pythagoras</i>	
CHAPTER II	13
<i>A peaceful old house</i>	
<i>I do not use proverbs on principle</i>	
<i>The peculiar ways of Saturnin</i>	
<i>We live on a boat</i>	
<i>I agree to recapture Marcus Aurelius</i>	
<i>No man can abide doubts about his courage</i>	
CHAPTER III	23
<i>Miss Barbara</i>	
<i>I play three losing sets of tennis</i>	
<i>Saturnin builds a training wall</i>	
<i>An unusual agreement with the owner of the boat</i>	
<i>Doctor Witherspoon delivers a speech on the decline of craftsmanship</i>	
CHAPTER IV	33
<i>Aunt Catherine and Bertie</i>	
<i>Concerns about the future of Bertie</i>	
<i>Recollecting Uncle Francis</i>	
<i>Chemical discoveries which the junior classes of secondary schools make from their teaching materials</i>	
<i>Family feuds over Grandpa</i>	
<i>An unexpected visit, a ban on smoking and other episodes</i>	
CHAPTER V	45
<i>I am made homeless</i>	
<i>Further recollections concerning Uncle Francis</i>	
<i>Saturnin's war plan</i>	
<i>The Devil and St. Nicholas</i>	
<i>My aunt leaves and Saturnin brews up black coffee</i>	
<i>Smoking is permitted</i>	
CHAPTER VI	55
<i>We go on holiday</i>	
<i>Grandpa invites Miss Barbara</i>	
<i>A Week in the Life of...</i>	
<i>Saturnin fails to greet Aunt Catherine</i>	
<i>A secret outing by car</i>	
<i>Saturnin teaches Grandpa ju-jitsu</i>	
CHAPTER VII	65
<i>They transport me to hospital</i>	
<i>Rain, downpour, cloudburst, deluge</i>	
<i>Doctor Leveret</i>	
<i>The hospital is a trap</i>	
<i>The administrator has his regulations</i>	

Barbara sorts us out
By pure accident we fail to drown
Doctor Witherspoon

CHAPTER VIII 76

All hell breaks loose outside
Reflections on the young ladies of today
Bertie in the role of lady-killer
A scandalous bet
Saturnin goes on the warpath against Bertie
Maria the maid and the cook disappear
My aunt wraps Grandpa in a blanket
The bridge is swept away by the flood

CHAPTER IX 90

An extract from the Koran concerning the cow
Bertie is sent to fetch worms
Miss Barbara cooks our first lunch
The duty to deliver a story at bedtime
My aunt offers Grandpa various delicacies
The return of Bertie

CHAPTER X 100

I tell my story
A romantic overnight stay
A night visitor
Footprints in the snow
There's someone else living in every house
Mr. Lock leaves and comes back again
Mr. Lock leaves and this time it's for good
An unpleasant dream
Tomorrow it will be Grandpa's turn to tell a story

CHAPTER XI 107

It is beautiful outside and there is no pain in my ankle
Miss Barbara cannot find a roe deer
Aunt Catherine accuses me of schoolboy pranks
Miss Barbara comes to my defence
This time it's Saturnin's turn to disappear
Bertie is behind bars
No short straws for me
We go mushrooming
It was wonderful

CHAPTER XII 118

Grandpa is insulted by Aunt Catherine
Dr. Witherspoon delivers a speech ridiculing proverbs
How to conduct oneself at a funeral
A failure to appreciate proverbs
I look at the stars with Miss Barbara
Silence, please
Saturnin again
What really happened

CHAPTER XIII 128

Someone rings the bell
Alarm on the first floor
I am caught without my umbrella

	<i>The sound of gunfire like a parade on Corpus Christi Day</i>	
	<i>I am attacked</i>	
	<i>Saturnin lies</i>	
	<i>Look who's speaking Spanish</i>	
CHAPTER XIV	.....	137
	<i>A sweet awakening</i>	
	<i>We are waiting for a new bridge</i>	
	<i>My aunt seeks to be reconciled with Grandpa</i>	
	<i>Concerning the Good Old Days</i>	
	<i>Recollections of an old trooper</i>	
	<i>Grandpa and a nobleman in period costume</i>	
	<i>The grey general</i>	
	<i>Grandpa forgets to tell his story about the countess</i>	
CHAPTER XV	.....	147
	<i>Becoming even closer to Miss Barbara</i>	
	<i>The enchanted deckchair</i>	
	<i>Bertie's mishaps</i>	
	<i>Aunt Catherine hankers after a career as a writer</i>	
	<i>She proposes a novel about 'Martha, the delicate flower'</i>	
	<i>Even Bertie could have a literary career</i>	
	<i>Only one thing matters</i>	
CHAPTER XVI	.....	162
	<i>An indiscreet question from Dr. Witherspoon</i>	
	<i>On novels for women</i>	
	<i>Courting by numbers</i>	
	<i>Do not marry a lunatic</i>	
	<i>Dr. Witherspoon clambers onto an armchair and swears an oath</i>	
	<i>Supplies are running low</i>	
	<i>Planning our rescue</i>	
	<i>Drastic action from Grandpa</i>	
CHAPTER XVII	.....	171
	<i>A million people in a line</i>	
	<i>Bertie doesn't want to tell a story</i>	
	<i>A bizarre tale from Saturnin</i>	
	<i>A cognac-drinking ghost</i>	
	<i>The unseemly behaviour of an oak wardrobe</i>	
	<i>The chief fire officer and fourteenth century armour</i>	
	<i>Balthasar Crisp longs for peace</i>	
	<i>Saturnin in the service of a private detective</i>	
	<i>We opt to die with dignity</i>	
CHAPTER XVIII	.....	182
	<i>Some of the last supplies go missing</i>	
	<i>Aunt Catherine is being over-sensitive</i>	
	<i>Saturnin refuses to give an answer</i>	
	<i>We fail to live up to our responsibilities</i>	
	<i>Bertie surprises us</i>	
	<i>Dr. Witherspoon makes a rather confused speech about mental health</i>	
CHAPTER XIX	.....	190
	<i>The expedition sets off</i>	
	<i>Saturnin is our chronicler</i>	
	<i>Dr. Witherspoon's log cabin</i>	
	<i>Miss Barbara reads a letter</i>	

	<i>Prehistoric man and his tree-climbing habits</i>	
	<i>An unusual hiding-place for a key</i>	
	<i>Bathing in a tarn is good for your health</i>	
	<i>What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander</i>	
CHAPTER XX	.....	198
	<i>An evening in the mountains</i>	
	<i>Cool air and cold water</i>	
	<i>What would happen if I looked into a well through binoculars</i>	
	<i>Caesar didn't wear a flannel shirt</i>	
	<i>Grandpa makes a speech with disastrous consequences</i>	
CHAPTER XXI	.....	209
	<i>A night in the forest</i>	
	<i>I am on sentry duty till eleven o'clock</i>	
	<i>What happened next that night</i>	
	<i>Bertie surprises me</i>	
	<i>I ought to have a shave</i>	
	<i>It rains</i>	
	<i>We look like vagabonds</i>	
	<i>A brief reflection on our adventure</i>	
	<i>Journey's end</i>	
CHAPTER XXII	.....	220
	<i>We bask in the fruits of civilisation</i>	
	<i>My aunt nurses Grandpa</i>	
	<i>Grandpa goes out of his mind</i>	
	<i>My aunt would like to see the audacious man who ...</i>	
	<i>Give the Goddess of Quarrels and Strife some cognac</i>	
CHAPTER XXIII	.....	232
	<i>Our holiday comes to an end</i>	
	<i>Miss Barbara thinks for herself</i>	
	<i>Recalling a man who didn't know how to tell a story</i>	
	<i>Tomorrow at the National Theatre</i>	
CHAPTER XXIV	.....	242
	<i>Grandpa's letter</i>	
	<i>How Aunt Catherine nursed Grandpa</i>	
	<i>A Holy War on novelists is declared</i>	
	<i>Grandpa asks a favour, the first in twenty-eight years</i>	
CHAPTER XXV	.....	248
	<i>Saturnin's letter</i>	
	<i>"With God at our side, we shall not die of thirst"</i>	
	<i>A passage from a popular romance</i>	
	<i>What really happened</i>	
	<i>Mr. Dale, a game of poker and what it led to</i>	
	<i>Heaven help writers</i>	
CHAPTER XXVI	.....	259
	<i>I am aware of the fact that a wedding is the only appropriate ending for every tale, and it gives me pleasure that I needn't disappoint my readers in this important regard</i>	
	<i>A little later in Prague's grandiose Church of St. Ludmila</i>	
	<i>Aunt Catherine remarried into money</i>	