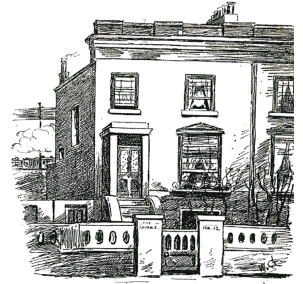


The Diary of a Nobody (1892)

by George & Weedon Goldsmith

adapted for [audio](#) from Chapter Three by Kieran McGovern

*We settle down in our new home, and I resolve to keep a diary.
I paint the bath red, with unexpected results*



“The Laurels.”

April 25 – I bought two tins of this new ‘wonder paint’ Pinkford's Enamel (red) on my way home. After tea I went into the garden and painted some flowerpots. Called out to Carrie, who said: ‘You've always got some new-fangled craze.’

But she had to admit that the flowerpots looked remarkably good.

Went upstairs into the servant's bedroom and painted her washstand, clotheshorse, and chest of drawers. To my mind it was an extraordinary improvement, but our servant, Sarah, was not pleased.

‘I thought they looked very well as they were before,’ she said.



I painted the washstand in the servant's bedroom.

April 26 Got some more red enamel paint (red, to my mind, being the best colour), and painted the coal scuttle. I also painted the backs of our *Collected Shakespeare*.

April 27

Painted the bath red, and was delighted with the result. Sorry to say Carrie was not so pleased. In fact we had a few words about it. ‘You should have asked me first,’ she said. ‘I have never heard of a bath being painted red.’

I replied: ‘It's a matter of taste.’

April 28. Went home early and bought some more enamel paint black this time. I spent the evening painting old pairs of boots, making them look as good as new. I also painted my friend Gowing's walking stick, which he left behind last night.

April 29, Sunday. Woke up with a terrible headache and strong symptoms of a cold. Carrie said, 'That's because you've spent the last few days with your nose over a paint-pot.'

'Nonsense,' I told her firmly. 'I've got a chill and need a hot bath to cure it.'

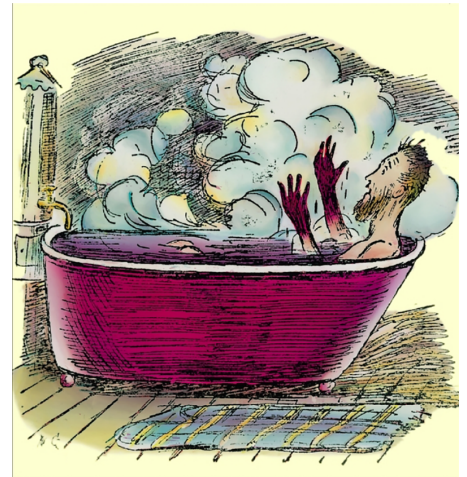
I got the bath ready and got in. It was VERY hot, but acceptable. I lay still for some time.

Then I moved my hand above the surface of the water. It was at this moment that I experienced the greatest fright of my life.

Imagine my horror on discovering my hand full of blood! My first thought was that I had cut an artery, and was bleeding to death.

Then I realised that it was not blood that filled the bath – but red paint! The enamel had dissolved in the boiling water. I stepped out of the bath, red from head to toe.

I decided not to say a word to Carrie, but to tell the ironmonger to come on Monday and paint the bath white.



Quick Check: Which of these sentences is true.

1. Mr Pooter is unhappy with his new home.
2. Mr Pooter works as a painter and decorator.
3. He paints books and boots.
4. Carrie loves the new red bath.
5. Mr Pooter thinks he has cut a vein

Vocabulary: Find words or phrases in that mean the following

6. Where you can hang clothes to dry *April 25*
7. Judgement, personal style, opinion. *April 27*
8. Footwear for country, football, winter etc *April 28*
9. Scare *April 28*
10. Melted into liquid form *April 25*

[I Paint the Bath - Quiz](#)

[Listening](#)