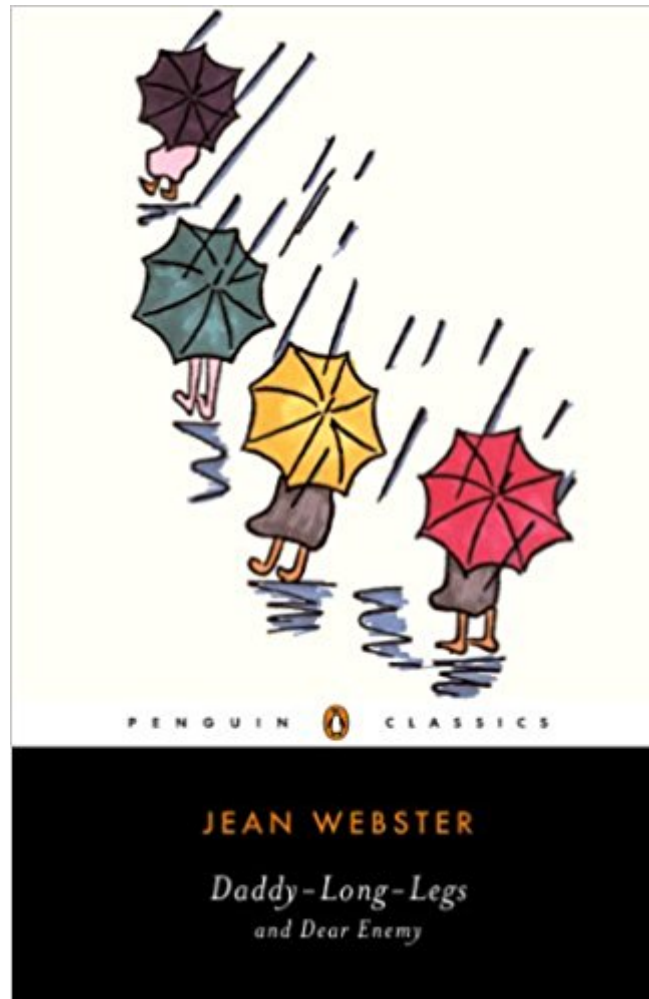


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Daddy-Long-Legs And Dear Enemy (Penguin Classics)



Synopsis

One of the great novels of American girlhood, Jean Webster's *Daddy-Long-Legs* (1912) follows the adventures of an orphan named Judy Abbott, whose letters to her anonymous male benefactor trace her development as an independent thinker and writer. Its sequel, *Dear Enemy* (1915), follows the progress of Judy's former orphanage, now run by her friend Sallie McBride, who struggles to give her young charges hope and a new life. For more than seventy years, Penguin has been the leading publisher of classic literature in the English-speaking world. With more than 1,700 titles, Penguin Classics represents a global bookshelf of the best works throughout history and across genres and disciplines. Readers trust the series to provide authoritative texts enhanced by introductions and notes by distinguished scholars and contemporary authors, as well as up-to-date translations by award-winning translators.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In *Daddy-Long-Legs*, Jerusha Abbot is an orphan that gets sent to college by a mysterious trustee that thinks she has a future as an author. The only hint to his identity is the glimpse that Jerusha had of his long legs, as he was leaving. His only request is that she write him a letter once a month (with no hope of ever having a reply). For the next four years, Jerusha learns to be like "other girls", and we watch her grow and mature as she finds her voice. *Dear Enemy*, the wonderful sequel, is set after *Daddy-Long-Legs*, where Jerusha is given the orphanage where she grew up. She enlists her best friend from college (whom we are introduced to in *Daddy*), Sally, to run the orphanage. Sally, a

flighty society girl, is completely changed as she learns to love her orphans and the new life she has chosen to lead. Both of them are romantic, fun and thoughtful, without the preachy-ness of some of the other girls novels published around the same time. Best part is that BOTH books are published in this one volume - which is a great deal (and saves room on my already overflowing bookshelf). Footnotes in the back of the book help define some of the terminology/setting of the era. This is a classic that I read as a child, and I'm so happy to have found it again!

After watching the latest movie of Daddy-Long-Legs (Fred Astaire and Leslie Caron), I had to reread my old favorite and was delighted to find the book at combining it and Dear Enemy. It was even more delightful than I remembered, probably because I understood a lot more of the humor. I recommend it to anyone from 10 to 80 who likes a nice story about nice people! Written in 1914, it portrays a different world than ours. Written as letters, it's just plain fun. I first got it from an elderly friend of my mother's, probably in the 1930s, and have read it at least half a dozen times. Enjoy!

I came across this book by accident because I needed a book on cd to listen to in the car. Now I find myself sitting in my driveway reluctant to get out of the car and leave Jerusha/Judy behind. So beautifully written it's impossible to imagine anyone who would be unmoved by this young woman's letters to her unknown benefactor.

I already reviewed "Dear Enemy" under another edition, but will repeat the info here. First, this is an excellent edition to get, as it includes both books. "Daddy Longlegs" is a classic. If you ever saw the Leslie Caron/Fred Astaire movie, forget it - this is the real thing. (Without the music and dancing.) The character of Judy, the orphan "rescued" from the orphanage and given an education, is delightful, and we see her grow up and "evolve" through the course of the story. Keep in mind that this was written at a time when (a) women could not yet vote and (b) the issue of "higher education for women" still received quite a lot of criticism! (Women didn't need it; it would destroy their femininity; their fragile brains couldn't handle it; etc.) In this period, many orphanages felt that their objective was to raise girls who could, at most, be fairly competent servants. Hence, this is actually a quite progressive book for the period. But more importantly, it's simply a great read - it's fun, it's engaging, you fall in love with Judy from the very beginning, and you can't put it down. "Dear Enemy" is a sort of sequel to "Daddy Longlegs." Like the first book, it's written as a series of letters, in this case from Judy's best friend from the previous book. Sallie McBride has agreed to take over the management of the orphanage in which Judy (of the previous book) was raised, "temporarily."

The book shows her struggles to turn the orphanage around, and of course her own progression from "I'm only doing this until you find a permanent manager" to "how could I ever leave?" It's an interesting story and entertaining, but doesn't have the spark of Daddy Longlegs. In this book the author seems far more concerned with showing readers the issues involved in orphan homes than in the evolution of a specific character - i.e., it's more of a social tract than a novel. It's certainly worth reading, but don't expect to be as emotionally engaged as with the first book. This edition also has a very helpful "glossary" at the end that provides some explanation of terms and references in both books. I definitely recommend this edition - DON'T waste your money on any of the badly-done print-on-demand versions of these books!

This is a great two for one book. I read Daddy Long Legs when I was a child, and the story has always stuck with me. I read it again about a year ago and then discovered Dear Enemy. I loved them both even more than I did the first time. These are good clean books that children can enjoy, but there is also enough romance and wit for adults to enjoy them as well. I was thrilled to find this copy with both stories. I will read them again, and I can't wait until my daughter is old enough for me to share these stories with her as well.

These books are top notch....,written over 100 years ago to showcase women's issues and orphanages. Delightful stories for older children and adults. I have read them three times and you will get a lot more from the books if you do a little Google search on Jean Webster, the author

Absolutely love these stories! Old-fashioned and written as letters from the main character, they are charming and enjoyable. "Daddy Long Legs" has been made into a musical, currently running off-Broadway. Check out the cast album!

Re-reading Daddy Long Legs was so enjoyable. Even though it is promoted as a YA I found so much more in it as an adult reader. I have never read Dear Enemy before and I think I like it even more than Daddy Long Legs! The biographical info on Jean Webster was fascinating also.

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