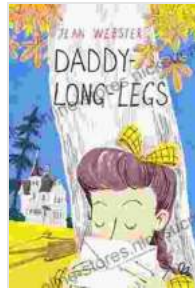


Daddy-Long-Legs: An Enduring Coming-of-Age Classic by Jean Webster



Daddy-Long-Legs by Jean Webster

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 1420 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 157 pages



Jean Webster's beloved novel, *Daddy-Long-Legs*, has captivated generations of readers with its heartwarming tale of an orphan girl's journey to self-discovery and independence. Published in 1912, the novel remains a beloved classic, lauded for its humor, charm, and poignant exploration of themes such as love, friendship, education, and social class.

Plot Summary

Daddy-Long-Legs tells the story of Jerusha Abbott, a bright and independent orphan who is the sole recipient of a generous scholarship to attend the prestigious Lincoln Memorial School. The scholarship comes with one unusual condition: Jerusha must write monthly letters to her anonymous benefactor, whom she affectionately refers to as "Daddy-Long-Legs."

As Jerusha navigates the unfamiliar world of boarding school, her letters to Daddy-Long-Legs become a candid and intimate window into her experiences. Through her witty and insightful observations, Jerusha shares her thoughts on everything from the social hierarchy of the school to the complexities of love and friendship.

Unbeknownst to Jerusha, her letters are being read by Jervis Pendleton, a wealthy and successful inventor. Intrigued and charmed by Jerusha's spirit, Jervis begins to write back, offering encouragement and advice. As their correspondence grows, a deep and unexpected bond begins to form between the two.

Themes

Daddy-Long-Legs explores a myriad of themes that resonate with readers of all ages.

Coming-of-Age

At its core, Daddy-Long-Legs is a coming-of-age story. Jerusha's journey from an orphan girl to a confident and independent young woman is a compelling and relatable tale of self-discovery and growth.

Education

The novel also highlights the transformative power of education. Jerusha's scholarship gives her the opportunity to escape poverty and pursue her dreams. Through her studies, she gains knowledge, confidence, and a broader perspective on the world.

Love and Friendship

Daddy-Long-Legs is a love story, but it is also a celebration of female friendship. Jerusha's bond with her roommate, Sallie McBride, is a source of strength and support throughout her time at Lincoln Memorial.

Gender Roles

Set in early 20th century America, Daddy-Long-Legs offers insights into the social and gender roles of the time. Jerusha's struggle for independence and her refusal to conform to societal expectations challenge the traditional notions of femininity.

Social Class

The novel also explores the themes of social class and inequality. Jerusha's experience as an orphan and a scholarship student highlights the barriers that exist between the wealthy and the poor.

Characters

Daddy-Long-Legs features a cast of unforgettable characters.

Jerusha Abbott

Jerusha is the protagonist of the novel. She is an orphan who is given the chance to attend Lincoln Memorial School on a mysterious scholarship. Jerusha is intelligent, witty, and independent, but she also struggles with feelings of insecurity and self-doubt.

Jervis Pendleton

Jervis is Jerusha's anonymous benefactor and the recipient of her letters. He is a wealthy and successful inventor who is charmed by Jerusha's spirit

and intelligence. Jervis is a complex character who is both kind and aloof, protective and demanding.

Sallie McBride

Sallie is Jerusha's roommate and best friend at Lincoln Memorial. She is a wealthy and outgoing New Yorker who takes Jerusha under her wing and helps her navigate the social complexities of boarding school.

Legacy

Daddy-Long-Legs has had a lasting impact on popular culture. The novel has been adapted into several films and stage productions, and its characters and themes continue to resonate with readers today.

Literary Significance

Daddy-Long-Legs is recognized as a classic of American literature. It is praised for its well-developed characters, engaging plot, and insightful exploration of timeless themes. The novel has been included in numerous anthologies and is a staple of high school and college curricula.

Cultural Impact

Daddy-Long-Legs has had a significant impact on popular culture. The novel has been adapted into several films and stage productions, including a 1919 silent film starring Mary Pickford and a 1955 musical starring Fred Astaire. The novel's characters and themes have also been referenced in countless other works of art and literature.

Daddy-Long-Legs is a timeless and beloved novel that continues to enchant readers of all ages. Jean Webster's heartwarming tale of an

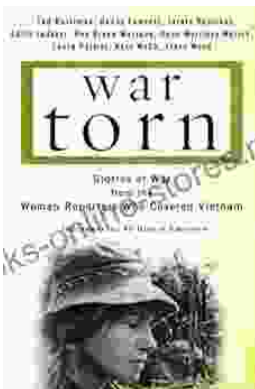
orphan girl's journey to self-discovery and independence is a testament to the power of education, love, and friendship. The novel's enduring legacy is a testament to its universal appeal and the timeless themes it explores.



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