

# Love from Judy

## *THE STORY OF THE PLAY*

The little orphan girls in the John Grier Home are excited by the sounds of revelry from the Mardi Gras celebrations which they cannot see on the other side of their high walls. Judy has long passed the age at which she should have left the home, for she is now 18 years old. She has been allowed to remain so that she can attend the High School, as Mrs. Pritchard, one of the trustees, believes the girl shows promise as a writer. Today happens to be the trustees' visiting day, so that Judy has to get everything, including the tiny tots, into apple-pie order. Kind-hearted Mrs. Pritchard is trying to persuade the new trustee, Jervis Pendleton, a rich bachelor, to send Judy to college, and after seeing Judy revolt against Mrs. Lippett, the matron, and the rest of the trustees, he agrees. His conditions are that he remains anonymous, known only as John Smith, to whom Judy may write just once a month. Judy only sees her benefactor's elongated shadow on the wall, and christens him her "Daddy Long-Legs".

At Fergusson Ladies' College, Judy shares a study with Sally McBride and Julia Pendleton, Jervis's niece. She quickly establishes herself as a favourite with all and sundry-particularly with Sally's brother Jimmy. He is a frequent visitor along with his pal Gordon, who is courting Sally. On the excuse of visiting his niece, Jervis is at Ferguson College with unusual regularity. He displays a growing interest in Judy. Her monthly letter has become precious to him. But when he proposes marriage to her at the farm she refuses him, although she has fallen deeply in love with him, for she lacks the courage to tell him of her upbringing. But Mrs. Pritchard, waking Judy from a nightmare, discovers the truth. She is delighted to find that Judy has told Daddy Long-Legs that she is in love with Jervis but cannot marry him. So Mrs. Pritchard arranges that Judy shall meet her guardian and ask his advice. And that is how she finds out that Daddy Long-Legs is none other than the man she loves.