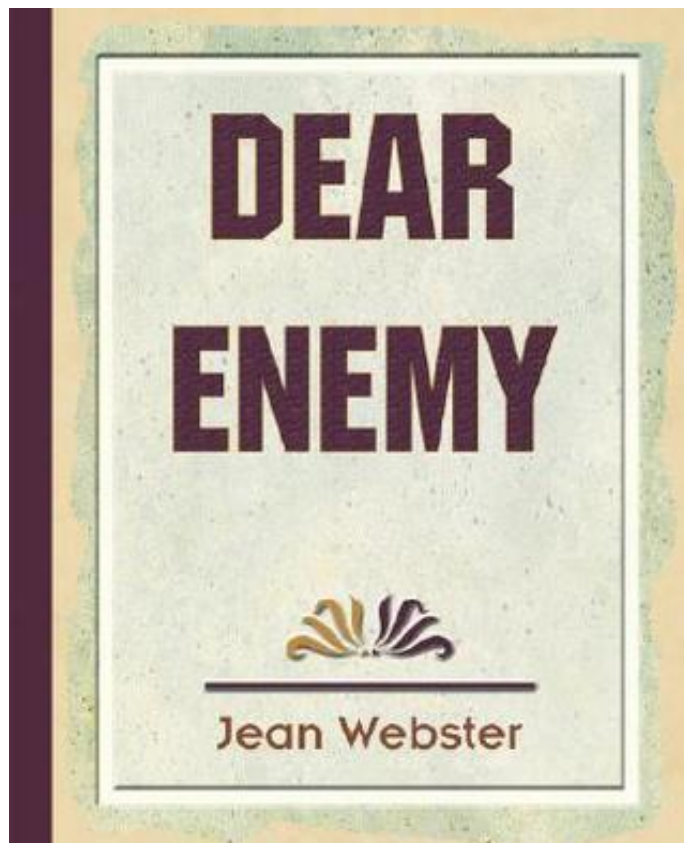

Jean Webster

Dear Enemy (Daddy-Long-Legs #2)



Title: Dear Enemy (Daddy-Long-Legs #2)

Author: Jean Webster

Format: Paperback

Language: English

Pages: 356

Publisher: , 0

ISBN: 1594623759

Format: PDF / Kindle / ePub

Size: 9.9 MB

Download: allowed

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Gwen: When you read this book, FORGET ALL MENTION OF EUGENICS. It's terrible, but this is what you get for reading a book that's almost 100 years old. Not that that is any excuse, however.

Other than that glaring concern (plus the subtle--but thankfully rare--cases of racism) (I'm really not selling this book well, am I?), I love this book, even more than [Daddy Long Legs](#). This is a wonderful journey of a woman learning to become more independent and self-assured, all while maintaining a sense of humor about the world.

I've read this book many times since my grandmother gave it to me years ago (although sadly, not the original copy--I had to buy a used copy of the 1991 reprint, and all page numbers are from that edition). Reading it recently, I was struck by how feminist and subversive (for the time period) it can be--all caveats aside, of course.

* Sallie admits that motherhood may not be for her: "I am beginning to be afraid that this famous mother instinct which we hear so much about was left out of my character." (25)

* Sallie yearns for a life independent of her family: "[Betsy] likes to be independent of her family, as do all of us in these degenerate times." (31)

* Sallie's thoughts on religion: "You remember that illuminated text over the dining room door--'The Lord Will Provide.' We've painted it out, and covered the spot with rabbits. It's all very well to teach so easy a belief to normal children, who have a proper family and roof behind them but a person whose only refuge in distress will be a park bench must learn a more militant creed than that." (44-46)

* Sallie on gender roles and expectations: "People are forever talking about the desirability of training girls for motherhood. Why not institute a course of training in fatherhood...?" (48) "I find it awfully convenient to have been born a daughter; I am not asked to like overall [father's--and brother's--business], but am left free to follow any morbid career I may choose, such as this." (60) "Aren't men funny? When they want to pay you the greatest compliment in their power, they

naively tell you that you has a masculine mind." (76)

* Sallie on employment and volunteering (and gender roles): "Then work which is undertaken for your own good should be paid, but work which is undertaken for the public good should not be paid?' 'Fiddlesticks!' says he. 'She's a woman, and her family ought to support her.' This opened up vistas of argument which I did not care to enter..." (160-161)

* Sallie on the slow death of a relationship and gender equality: "We no longer have any interests in common; we are not friends. He doesn't comprehend it; he thinks that I am making it up, that all I have to do is to take an interest in his life, and everything will turn out happily. Of course, I do take an interest when he's with me. I talk about the things he wants to talk about, and he doesn't know that there's a whole part of me--the biggest part of me--that simply doesn't meet him at any point. I pretend when I am with him. I am not myself, and if we were to live together in constant daily intercourse, I'd have to keep on pretending all my life. He wants me to watch his face and smile when he smiles and frown when he frowns. He can't realize that I'm an individual just as much as he is." (293-294)

A line that I especially enjoyed due to its inherent truthiness: (Bless you, Stephen Colbert, for coining that word.) "The awful thing about a vacation is that the moment it begins your happiness is already clouded by its approaching end." (232)

And amid all this fantastic social commentary and character development, there's an equally matched romance, fun characters, and a good look at facets of American life before WWI.

Even with the unfortunate eugenics mentions, I love this book--it's comforting and entertaining and never fails to perk up my spirits.

FYI: Dutchess County is in New York (not Massachusetts, like I thought when I first read this book)--it's between the Hudson River and Connecticut. Just in case you were wondering.

Robina Fox: it is a novel of letters from Sallie McBride, Judy's university good friend from Daddy-Long-Legs, occasionally to the "enemy" of the identify (a gruff Scottish doctor), occasionally to Judy or her husband, occasionally to Sallie's boyfriend Gordon, an emerging politician. Sallie, regardless of her frivolous nature, is persuaded by way of Judy to take over the working of the awful orphan asylum the place Judy herself was once raised. firstly she loathes it, yet she involves be deeply drawn to the paintings of reworking where and intensely connected to the hundred plus orphans. The health care professional is morbidly desirous about the tips concerning the genetic transmission of drunkenness, criminality, and feeble-mindedness that have been present on the time (the 1910s), and Sallie submits to being knowledgeable approximately them, notwithstanding she secretly believes that every one the orphans have to end up good is love and care. Gordon retains attempting to pry Sallie unfastened from the asylum, yet first her stubbornness and later her dedication make it transparent she is going to by no means turn into the socialite spouse he desires her to be. The ebook is particularly powerful on woman independence. It's effortless to be distracted by means of a number of retro rules (it's transparent even from the reviews the following that the "everybody has the ideal to

reproduce" camp is the present frontrunner, although let's now not fail to remember which may change) however the revolutionary principles approximately orphan care are nonetheless of significant interest, and Sallie's many inventions are very entertaining. Personally, I'll do without the final letter; I believe it can be left for the reader to accomplish the tale in her personal head, yet I am convinced many readers locate it very satisfactory.

Argona: I've got nice love for this novel. I learn it first as a teenage lady and because then, I've got learn it repeatedly and every time, I get pleasure from it immensely and shut the booklet with a major smile on my face. Dear Enemy is a sequel to the recognized novel "Daddy lengthy Legs" and is advised in a chain of letters from Sallie to various people, generally Judy. I must say that I like this tale greater than the 1st novel. In my opinion, pricey Enemy is much extra interesting, humorous, vigorous and romantic in comparison to the 1st novel. maintain an open brain whereas examining and remind yourselves that this tale has been written a long time in the past and easily skim via any superseded evaluations and reviews you'll find. on the time of this story, women-right actions have been simply commencing to shape and societies have been taking nice steps ahead and regardless of whatever you could locate outdated, this tale occurs to aid feminism in a good way. the 1st novel concentrates on women's correct to coach whereas this one is set a woman's trip to independence and discovering her personal position in society no longer who and what she is meant to be. Sallie is not a crucial personality within the first novel yet after studying this, I got here to like her greater than Judy. She is formally my so much favourite red-head. She is kind, hard-working, humorous and a superb girl in general. She additionally has particularly a temper, a attribute that she stocks along with her "Enemy"! Sallie is an excellent author and her letters to her "Enemy" are my favorites! whereas studying this book, whatever remotely on the topic of her dating together with her "Enemy" supplies me nice joy. I name THIS romance! "Enemy" is simply as specified as Sallie herself and jointly they make one nice humorous couple. There are many characters that advance and develop in the course of the tale as Sallie grows into her realself and unearths confidence. lots of youngsters are memorable and the booklet images the characters in lots of diversified colors instead of simply black and white. This is a really funny, attractive and heart-warming tale with strong innovations and should constantly stay in my favorites shelf.

Arla: 3.5/5 Es una lectura dirigida a lectores más adultos que Papaíto Piernas Largas y me ha costado más cogerle el punto a Sally que a Judith, pero me ha acabado pareciendo una historia igual de tierna. Son interesantes las rules que aparecen sobre los angeles educación de los niños a principios de siglo.

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