



Jill the Reckless: Revised Edition of Original Version

P.G. Wodehouse

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“Jill The Reckless” is a comic novel by P. G. Wodehouse. The heroine here, Jill Mariner, is a young woman from the lower end of the upper class. We follow her through financial disaster, a broken engagement, an awkward stay with some grasping relatives, employment as a chorus girl, and of course, the finding of true love.(Excerpt from Wikipedia)

Jill the Reckless: Revised Edition of Original Version Details

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Author : P.G. Wodehouse

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From Reader Review Jill the Reckless: Revised Edition of Original Version for online ebook

Thom Swennes says

This romantic narrative set on either side of the Atlantic is a true tale of its time. First published in 1920, Jill the Reckless commences in the better circles of London society. Jill Mariner is engaged to Derek Underhill. Both of these young people are well to do and Derek has a title to boot! What better match could be made? Unfortunately matches made in heaven are generally between just two people. This match depended, alas to a certain extent to the will of Lady Underhill, Derek's mother. Lady Underhill pushes her son to break off the engagement and this "Dear Jill" letter comes almost simultaneously with the news that her Uncle Chris (Major Christopher Selby) has lost all her fortune in the stock market. This regrettable series of events hastens their departure across the Atlantic to New York. The further life, loves and tribulations of our heroine are sure to fascinate the most demanding reader. P.G. Wodehouse has the uncanny ability to create vivid and engaging characters of every social class. He provides the reader with a literary bouquet of similes, metaphors and oxymoron's and succeeds in portraying the English aristocracy with the intelligence of an inbred Louisiana hillbilly. It is sure to prick the taste buds of most readers and leave them salivating for more.

Tandava Brahmachari says

I had never heard of this Wodehouse title before, so I was intrigued when I saw it in Swami Kriyananda's house in Asissi. In it, I found a line I seem to remember hearing Swamiji quote in a talk, though sadly I can't recall the specific context: "No wonder Freddie experienced the sort of abysmal soul-sadness which afflicts one of Tolstoi's Russian peasants when, after putting in a heavy day's work strangling his father, beating his wife, and dropping the baby into the city reservoir, he turns to the cupboard, only to find the vodka-bottle empty."

There's a slight theme in the book of playwrights trying to branch out from vapid comedies to more serious works. (Another good line: "It was a poetic drama, and the audience, though loath to do anybody an injustice, was beginning to suspect that it was written in blank verse.") And that may have been a little bit what Wodehouse was trying to do here. He doesn't leave comedy behind, but he does try to dwell more seriously on the romantic trials of our heroine and how she deals with them.

Speaking of our heroine, I think calling Jill "reckless" is a bit unfair. She seemed a bit more recked against than recking, if you take my meaning. Perhaps what he was aiming at was sort of a proto-"Manic Pixie Dream Girl" type, which she might have turned into if she weren't the main character. But anyway, I quite liked her lightness, her energy, and her generosity, plus her awareness in moving through her heartbreak. Wally Mason had some interesting points as a character as well. Most of the others were a little more "stock" types, but enjoyable. The plot seemed kind of meandering and disjointed, though. The book as a whole has some good moments, but overall not top of the line for Wodehouse.

I do have to share a few lines about a parrot, though, because—and this *is* top of the line Wodehouse—he spends a couple of pages completely unnecessarily going into delightful detail about the parrot doing pretty much nothing:

"For some moments after Nelly had gone he remained hunched on his perch, contemplating the infinite. [...] He closed his eyes and pondered on his favourite problem—Why was he a parrot? This was always good for

an hour or so, and it was three o'clock before he had come to his customary decision that he didn't know. [...] He hopped on to the window-sill. There was a ball of yellow wool there, but he had lunched and could eat nothing."

And so on. Great stuff.

Namitha Varma says

If anyone needs proof that Wodehouse is a feminist, this is the book they should read. This isn't radical, firebrand feminism, but the sensible, practical one. Not only the female characters but the key male characters in this are also feminists. (Please note that I use feminism in its best, most accommodating, practical sense.) Apart from being a topping plot, Jill The Reckless (or The Little Warrior) is humorous (of course), brilliantly written (never doubted that either) and just what you need to get your spirits soaring.

Scot says

I've read a lot of Wodehouse, and I think this gem from 1920 is one of his best in the transatlantic-romantic-comedy genre, in which characters move between New York and London and across social classes, and conflicts of economic survival are overshadowed by the struggle of true love to conquer all. One of Wodehouse's greatest assets is his gift for establishing tone, and this is aided by the marvelous range of familiar characters he uses across novels, particularly effective here. These include the plucky, forthright ingenue who must cope with losing her fortune (a harbinger of feminism in some ways); the formidable, icy aristocratic matron; the well-intentioned dunderhead rich nincompoop; the hero who earns his place through merit; the incredibly handsome but self-absorbed foil to the hero; the lovable but unreliable guardian; the chorus girl with the heart of gold. Lots of comedy of errors mishaps and especially fun for those who love the smell of greasepaint and a playful look at life in the New York theatre in the early 20th century.

Margaret says

When Jill Mariner is dumped by her rich, pompous fiancé and loses all her money on the same day, she decides to cross the ocean to New York with her rascalion uncle Chris. After a short stay with some relations on Long Island, she ends up on Broadway, in the chorus of a new musical and having an unexpected new romance.

I thought the book was a little overlong and could have been tightened; it feels a little rambling in places, particularly during the Long Island interlude, which connects the London and New York parts of the book but isn't terribly interesting in and of itself. I did like the feisty heroine and her romance, which was rather more heartfelt than usual in a Wodehouse, and Wodehouse's insider's look at 1930s Broadway is funny and engaging.

Illiterate says

In which Wodehouse puts a heroine center stage.

Jean says

This is a really great early Wodehouse! So much fun.

Phil Syphe says

I found this to be one of P. G. Wodehouse's patchy novels. The opening chapters suggest that this will be classic Wodehouse, featuring some highly entertaining scenarios, but after the main characters leave England for America and become involved with a theatrical production, the story takes a nosedive.

Many a time I found myself skipping big paragraphs that have little to offer. I didn't find much if anything humorous about the lengthy theatre scenes. Some of the rehearsal sequences were pure tedium.

Luckily the title character is entertaining – or at least she is when taken away from the theatre and given the opportunity to shine. But while Jill is great, her Uncle Chris bugs me with his long-winded waffling, which I also ended up skimming. I realise the author's intention is to cause amusement with these extensive stretches of one-man dialogue but for me it only caused boredom.

Mr Wodehouse is usually at his best with short & snappy dialogue exchanges between likeable characters. Thankfully scenes of this nature are apparent and prove successful. Most of these, however, occur in the opening chapters, ultimately growing scarce once Jill lands in America, and rarer still when the confounded theatre pops up, dash it!

Overall, not P. G. Wodehouse's finest hour.

Linda Watson says

Jill the Reckless is my favorite novel by P.G. Wodehouse, which is high praise indeed. This book has more depth than the Jeeves books, but the same brilliant word play and satire. Read this book for an inside look at the New York theater scene in the early 1920s and for an uplifting tale of a young woman who wants to make it on her own. (The original title was "The Little Warrior.")

One chapter is narrated by a parrot. It's one of the funniest chapters ever written.

The books in the Collector's Wodehouse editions are beautifully designed, with gorgeous covers and a pleasure to hold. I have about twelve of them now and covet the entire set.

Oluchi says

Wodehouse delivers as usual with this. It was predictable in some ways, what with featuring grim matriarchs and bumbling British gentlemen, but it did also put the spotlight on the world of musical productions, and

that was certainly interesting. Loved it!

Douglas Wilson says

Fun, fun, fun. Read again aloud with Nancy in March 2018.

david says

PG! PG! PG!

Throw away your telephones, televisions, lovers, partners, chocolates (except Lindt), latest wardrobes (definitely Crocs), and your jewelry, and cars and bicycles.

In a Wodehouse world you only need your eyes and brain and your already cultivated reading skills.

It is time now to dedicate your free, newly unencumbered hours to PGW's works.

Get them all, the price is right, and begin reading.

I, the dumbest amongst us, am challenging you to upgrade your life.

'Jill the Reckless' is a must read, but then again all his books must be read.

This particular book, I finished in two days.

And I read the Mandarin version of it with my Moo Goo Gai Pan, in a white take-away box, a chopstick away from my mouth.

Okay, it wasn't in any Chinese dialect, but I am dying for the revival of Moo Shoo Anything and other dishes with half the amount of fat. So, how much longer must I and others wait, Confucious?

I digress. Pardon me.

I do not know how many pages are in this fachacta novel nor do I remember the titles anymore. With these e-readers, these afore necessary characteristics of a book are no longer easily accessible or essential. But that may be just me. I can find the 'location value' of the page I am on and I dare not recede to the home page to find the 'Title,' for I will never be able to get back to the last page I was on. Technology, like gender change, is not always as easy as it looks (from what I have read from a superfluous non PGW-ite).

The point is I read the damn thing faster than Usain Bolt recently ran his races.

I could not put it down.

I was laughing throughout. I cried several times. No spoilers here but it is a love story and heaven knows I require love stories. We all need them regardless of their outcome. Drama, I say...

This was published probably a hundred years ago, about the same time I started writing this review.

Is Wodehouse the greatest writer of all time? Don't answer it, I am very tough for a Pekinese sized adult male. I could slide into your wi-fi signal and hit you on the head with a Sunflower. And even though some of you big shots have not read 'War and Peace' yet, you have heard of Napoleon? 'Nough said.

Do yourself a flavor (sic). Pick up this book, whatever it is called (Jill is in its' title) and however long it is.

Sharing what you love is a true sign of friendship.

Kathryn says

Absolutely splendid! Rollicking good fun is always elevated to grand heights with "Plum's" novels because he also deepens his work with such keen insights into human nature. And he's a heck of a wordsmith, too. I almost bailed after the first chapter or so because I just wasn't clicking with Derek Underhill and his mother and only Freddie Rooke's affability (jolly good chap that Last of the Rookes, despite being a bit of a

lightweight in the intellect department) and the promise of meeting that "reckless" Jill kept me going. I'm so glad I did!!! Once I met Jill, I knew the book would be a delight. She's a really winning heroine and the cast of characters expanded appealingly from there. Without giving too much away, I'll just say Wodehouse gets to shine his spotlight on the musical theater stage and it's so much fun because he has so much personal experience in that milieu and he said his novels are rather like musical comedies, so it's a perfect match. And, as a big theater fan myself (both as production member and audience member) I really enjoyed that aspect of the story.

Leslie says

I really should have abandoned this audiobook. Not only did I have some issues with the narrator David Ian Davies but there were also some technical problems. The book itself was amusing & I rated that in my review of the Kindle edition.

I listened to this through Hoopla's streaming audio so I don't know if the technical flaws were due to my stream or intrinsic to the recording but I did encounter them in more than one device. The issue was that small snippets of the text would be repeated. An example:

"Here, a composer who had not got an interpolated number in the show ... had not got an interpolated number in the show ... was explaining to another composer ..."

Narrator David Ian Davies was a disappointment. First of all, his narration was too slow (pace sounded normal to me at 1.5x speed, but as often happens with Hoopla, the narration has a tinny echo-y sound when not at 1.0x). In addition to being too slow, Davies paused frequently at odd places in the middle of a sentence. For example:

"And yet, as she leaned ... back in her seat, her heart was dancing ... in time to the dance-music ... of Mrs. Peagrim's hired orchestra."

But worst was the use of a pronounced Irish accent for Derek for no reason. Not only is this character not Irish, but his mother is voiced with an English accent so it isn't even consistent.

Siew Ee says

A romantic comedy, in the same vein as "A Damsel in Distress", and with Wodehouse's trademark style of writing - light, succinct, with timely humor and spot-on similies. In fact, I enjoyed his prose as much as the story itself. And like all romantic comedies, you can be assured that everything will turn out fine in the end, but it was a fun, engaging and comfortable read nonetheless. Definitely one of Wodehouse's less-known novels, but one that is worth reading.
