

Serial Stories by Herbert Allingham – originals and reprints

1908-9

Plucky Polly Perkins

Published in (1) *The Butterfly* 1908-9 (2) *Puck* 1911 as ***The Smart Girl of the Family*** (3) *My Weekly* 1917-8 (4) in Leng's 1918-1930 reprint deal (5) *Film Fun* as ***When the Heart is Young*** 1923-4 (6) *The Kinema Comic* 1931 as ***Pluck will Tell***. Provides possible starting point for ***Polly the Unimportant*** Leng/Thomson 1929.

Plucky Polly Perkins begins when Polly announces to her schoolboy brother and anxious older sister that she has bought a shop. This involves her in local domestic and political crises, particularly though her friendship with Joe Mullins son of the local mill-owner. Later adventures take her to holiday resort where she meets Will Holt and Maximilian Trent, among others.

1909 - 1911

Driven From Home

Published (1) in *The Butterfly* (2) as A.P. cheap book 1911 (3) in *The Christian Globe* as ***The Trials of Mary Travers*** 1914 (4) in *The Firefly* as ***Cast Adrift*** (5) in *The Happy Home* 1917 (6) in Leng's 1918-1930 reprint deal (7) in *The Butterfly* as ***A Convict and a Man*** 1923 (8) reprint 1931 requested by Cordwell (9) in *The Family Journal* 1936 as ***Mary Tanner – She Paid the Price***.

Driven From Home was a major and continuing success. It opens on a stormy night with the arrival of the heroine and child at a tavern. She is fleeing wicked guardian; her husband has been unjustly imprisoned but, on that very night, he escapes and they meet.

1909-10

Perkins and Co

Series of stories continuing directly from ***Plucky Polly Perkins***.

Published in *The Butterfly*.

Perkins and Co is subtitled 'a society for doing good'. It opens with Polly's arrival at King's Cross and her meeting with Max the Magnificent whose millionaire father has rewarded Polly for saving his son. They spend the money righting a variety of social injustices. 31 stories.

These stories do not seem ever to have been reprinted though *Kinema Comic* in 1926 does something very similar by following up a serial ***Poor Little Rich Boy*** with a do-gooding, money-spending series called ***The League of the Helping Hand***. Probably not by HJA.

Miss Maggie MacFee

Short story series / mini-serials published in (1) *Puck* (2) *The Kinema Comic* 1926 as ***The Girl Who Made Good***.

Miss Maggie MacFee is a girl typist who has tried to run her own bureau but has failed. Her office was previously a detective agency and she is mistaken for Michael Power's assistant. Thus she begins a new career. Michael Power later arrives and as they work together, he becomes more and more attracted to her. She prefers to stay single. (Michael Power was previously the protagonist in a series of six detective stories 'The Achievements of Michael Power' written by HJA for *Pearson's Weekly* in 1901. He appears regularly as a supporting character in other HJA stories as do other detectives from the short story opus – eg Pelham Webb and Phinella Martin (*Woman's Weekly* 1916, probably mainly by EJA). HJA contributed to Martin Steele detective series (*Comic Cuts* 1908) and occasionally uses Steele elsewhere.)

1910

Ruby Wray

Published in (1) *The Jester* (2) *The Kinema Comic* 1924 as **Only a Factory Girl**.

Ruby Wray opens with the 'girl of grit' protecting a younger workmate from bullying by the factory foreman. She loses her job. Is drawn into the business complications around the owner's family and falls in love with unjustly maligned son, Tom. Class issues. Later Ruby becomes heiress and Tom is impoverished. Problems with rival claimant, misunderstandings and reversals. She leaves for London.

Ruby Wray in London

Published in (1) *The Jester* following ***Ruby Wray*** (2) *The Kinema Comic* 1924 as **Only a Factory Girl** (both original serials run into one).

Ruby Wray in London comprises short stories and mini-serials describing Ruby's adventures in London and her eventual reunion with Tom. Ends as they set off on their return home to the industrial North.

Phil Fisher of Friars

Published in *Puck*.

Phil Fisher of Friars: Two boys, Phil Fisher ('a charity kid') and Tom Jones ('a desperate case') meet on a railway station as they are returning to school. School a horrible place with sadistic headmaster (Dr Meeke). Phil eventually discovered to be heir to Lord Bryant, local magnate with lovely adopted daughter, Ethel.

The Rod of the Oppressor

Published in (1) *The Christian Globe* (2) *The Dundee Weekly News* 1911 (3) *Kinema Comic* 'Life's Crossroads' series 1924 (4) *The Weekly Welcome* (Glasgow) as ***The Silence of Minnie Bradford*** 1928 (5) *The People's Friend Library* 1930 as ***The Fateful Hour*** (6) *The Family Journal* 1934 as ***She Had To Share His Shame*** (cut in office).

The Rod of the Oppressor: Rev Arthur Searle, younger son of unpopular Tolchester industrialist, goes to visit Mary Grant whose husband David has just lost job. David has been dispossessed by the Searles so is not welcoming to Arthur. Later, for the sake of Mary and their child, he humbles himself to go to Daniel Searle's home and ask for work. Unwittingly comes upon murder and is convicted for it. (Later makes good as an inventor in Canada.) Story focuses on Mary's struggles to provide for self and child and prove husband innocent. Also theme of industrial relations.

The Girl Without a Home

Published in (1) *Merry & Bright* 1910-1911 (2) *Fun & Fiction* (cut) 1913 as ***The Odds Against Her*** (3) *The Happy Home* 1919 - 1920 as ***Alone in the World***
REWRITE arranged 1935

Alternative titles ***The Life of Dorothy Darrell & They Would Not Give Her a Chance***.

The Girl Without a Home opens in cosy cottage of Dick and Dorothy Darrell. They are newly married and expecting first child. It's a stormy night. Police arrive to accuse Dick of stealing the Ravenscourt pearls and drag him away to prison. On the night their baby is born he escapes but is recaptured. Clergyman meanwhile fights to prove Dick's innocence. Just as he succeeds, Dick escapes again but this time is shot, perhaps killed ...

1910 - 1911

The Lights of Home

Published in (1) *The Jester* (2) *Merry and Bright* 1922 as ***The Face Behind The Veil*** 'by' Sessue Hayakawa

(New opening written for planned reprint 1935).

The Lights of Home opens with young naval officer (Harry) on a mission to deliver secret papers. Clandestine marriage to Lucy. Her defiance of her father. Accusation against Harry. She thinks she has shot villainous Kenneth Hyde.