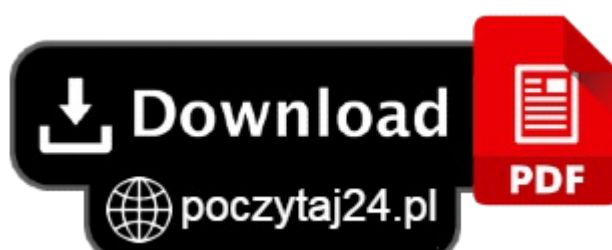


Edgar Jepson

**Pollyooly. A
Romance of Long
Felt Wants and
the Red Haired
Girl Who Filled
Them**

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Edgar Alfred Jepson was an English writer, principally of mainstream adventure and detective fiction, but also of some supernatural and fantasy stories that are better remembered. The story *Pollyooly. A Romance of Long Felt Wants and the Red Haired Girl Who Filled Them* (1912) takes place prior to World War I. Pollyooly, whose given name is Mary Bride, is the 12-year-old housekeeper of John Ruffin, a London barrister. Pollyooly and her younger brother, Roger are orphans. Raised by their aunt in a village, they come to London when her aunt is swindled out of her life's savings and forced to find work as Ruffin's cook and housekeeper. When their aunt is killed by a motorist, Pollyooly tries to fill in for her aunt in order to keep both her and her brother out of the workhouse.