

THE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE

BY MARY ROBERTS RINEHART
ILLUSTRATIONS BY
RAY WALTERS

SYNOPSIS.

CHAPTER I.—Miss Innes, spinster and guardian of Gertrude and Halsey, established summer headquarters at Sunny-side. Amidst numerous difficulties the servants deserted. As Miss Innes looked up for the night, she was startled by a dark figure on the veranda.

CHAPTER II.—She passed a terrible night, which was filled with unwelcome noises. In the morning Miss Innes found a strange link cuff button in a clothes hamper.

CHAPTER III.—Gertrude and Halsey arrived with Jack Bailey. The house was awakened by a revolver shot. A strange man was found shot to death, in the hall.

CHAPTER IV.

Where is Halsey?

Gertrude gazed at the face in a kind of fascination. Then she put out her hands blindly, and I thought she was going to faint.

"He has killed him!" she muttered almost inarticulately; and at that, because my nerves were going, I gave her a good shake.

"What do you mean?" I said frantically. There was a depth of grief and conviction in her tone that was worse than anything she could have said. The shake braced her, anyhow, and she seemed to pull herself together. But not another word would she say; she stood gazing down at that gruesome figure on the floor, while Liddy, ashamed of her flight and afraid to come back, drove before her three terrified women servants into the drawing room, which was as near as any of them would venture.

Once in the drawing room, Gertrude collapsed and went from one fainting spell into another. I had all I could do to keep Liddy from drowning her with cold water, and the maids huddled in a corner, as much use as so many sheep. In a short time, although it seemed hours, a car came rushing up, and Anne Watson, who had waited to dress, opened the door. Three men from the Greenwood club, in all kinds of costumes, hurried in. I recognized a Mr. Jarvis, but the others were strangers.

"What's wrong?" the Jarvis man asked—and we made a strange picture, no doubt. "Nobody hurt, is there?" He was looking at Gertrude. "Worse than that, Mr. Jarvis," I said. "I think it is murder."

At the word there was a commotion. The cook began to cry, and Mrs. Watson knocked over a chair. The men were visibly impressed.

"Not any member of the family?" Mr. Jarvis asked, when he had got his breath.

"No," I said; and motioning Liddy to look after Gertrude, I led the way with a lamp to the cardroom door. One of the men gave an exclamation, and they all hurried across the room. Mr. Jarvis took the lamp from me—I remember that—and then feeling myself getting dizzy and light-headed I closed my eyes. When I opened them their brief examination was over, and Mr. Jarvis was trying to put me in a chair.

"My niece is here," I said. "There is no one but yourself and your niece?"

"My nephew," I had to moisten my lips.

"Oh, a nephew. I should like to see him, if he is here."

"He is not here just now," I said as quietly as I could. "I expect him—at any time."

"He was here yesterday evening, I believe?"

"No—yes."

"Didn't he have a guest with him? Another man?"

"He brought a friend with him to stay over Sunday, a Mr. Bailey."

"Mr. John Bailey, the cashier of the Traders' bank, I believe." And I knew that some one at the Greenwood club had told. "When did they leave?"

"Very early—I don't know at just what time."

Mr. Jarvis turned suddenly and looked at me.

"Please try to be more explicit," he said. "You say your nephew and Mr. Bailey were in the house last night, and yet you and your niece, with some women servants, found the body. Where was your nephew?"

I was entirely desperate by that time.

"I do not know," I cried, "but be sure of this: Halsey knows nothing of this thing, and no amount of circumstantial evidence can make an innocent man guilty."

"Sit down," he said, pushing forward a chair. "There are some things I have to tell you, and, in return, please tell me all you know. Believe me, things always come out. In the first place, Mr. Armstrong was shot from above. The bullet was fired at close range, entered below the shoulder and came out, after passing through the heart, well down the back. In other words, I believe the murderer stood on the stairs and fired down. In the second place, I found on the edge of the billiard table a charred cigar which had burned itself partly out, and a cigarette which had consumed itself to the cork tip. Neither one had been more than lighted, then put down and forgotten. Have you any idea what it was that made your nephew and Mr. Bailey leave their cigars and their game, take out the automobile without calling the

chauffeur, and all that at—let me see—certainly before three o'clock in the morning?"

"I don't know," I said, "but depend on it, Mr. Jamieson, Halsey will be back himself to explain everything."

"I sincerely hope so," he said. "Miss Innes, has it occurred to you that Mr. Bailey might know something of this?"

Gertrude had come downstairs and just as he spoke she came in. I saw her stop suddenly, as if she had been struck.

"He does not," she said in a tone that was not her own. "Mr. Bailey and my brother know nothing of this. The murder was committed at three. They left the house at a quarter before three."

"How do you know that?" Mr. Jamieson asked oddly. "Do you know at what time they left?"

"I do," Gertrude answered firmly. "At a quarter before three my brother and Mr. Bailey left the house, by the main entrance. I was—there."

"Gertrude," I said excitedly, "you are dreaming! Why, at a quarter to three—"

"Listen," she said. "At half-past two the downstairs telephone rang. I had not gone to sleep, and I heard it. Then I heard Halsey answer it, and in a few minutes he came upstairs and knocked at my door. We—we talked for a minute, then I put on my dressing gown and slippers, and went downstairs with him. Mr. Bailey was in the billiard room. We—we all talked together for perhaps ten minutes. Then it was decided that—that they should both go away—"

"Can't you be more explicit?" Mr. Jamieson asked. "Why did they go away?"

"I am only telling you what happened, not why it happened," she said evenly. "Halsey went for the car, and instead of bringing it to the house and rousing people, he went by the lower road from the stable. Mr. Bailey was to meet him at the foot of the lawn. Mr. Bailey left—"

"Which way?" Mr. Jamieson asked sharply.

"By the main entrance. He left—it was a quarter to three. I know exactly."

"The clock in the hall is stopped, Miss Innes," said Jamieson. Nothing seemed to escape him.

"He looked at his watch," she replied, and I could see Mr. Jamieson's eyes snap, as if he had made a discovery. As for myself, during the whole recital I had been plunged into the deepest amazement.

"Will you pardon me for a personal question?" The detective was a youngish man, and I thought he was somewhat embarrassed. "What are your—your relations with Mr. Bailey?"

Gertrude hesitated. Then she came over and put her hand lovingly in mine.

"I am engaged to marry him," she said simply.

I had grown so accustomed to surprises that I could only gasp again, and as for Gertrude, the hand that lay in mine was burning with fever.

"And—after that," Mr. Jamieson went on, "you went directly to bed?"

Gertrude hesitated.

"No," she said finally. "I—I am not nervous, and after I had extinguished the light, I remembered something I had left in the billiard room, and I felt my way back there through the darkness."

"Will you tell me what it was you had forgotten?"

"I cannot tell you," she said slowly. "I—I did not leave the billiard room at once—"

"Why?" The detective's tone was golf stick with a metal end might have been the object that had scratched the stairs near the cardroom. I took it from her, and sent her up for dry garments. Her daylight courage and self-importance, and her shuddering delight in the mystery, irritated me beyond words. After I left her I made a circuit of the building. Nothing seemed to be disturbed; the house looked as calm and peaceful in the morning sun as it had the day I had been coerced into taking it. There was nothing to show that inside had been mystery and violence and sudden death.

In one of the tulip beds back of the house an early blackbird was pecking viciously at something that glittered in the light. I picked my way gingerly over through the dew and stooped down; almost buried in the soft ground was a revolver! I scraped the earth off it with the tip of my shoe, and, picking it up, slipped it into my pocket. Not until I had got into my bedroom and double-locked the door did I venture to take it out and examine it. One look was all I needed. It was Halsey's revolver. I had unpacked it the day before and put it on

J. W. Jordan, the well known dentist of Hopkinsville, Ky., writes: "I used to have terrific pains across my back, but since taking Foley Kidney Pills I have had no pain. I gladly recommend Foley Kidney Pills." Shugars and Tanner.



"One Look Was All I Needed."

his shaving stand, and there could be no mistake. His name was on a small silver plate on the handle.

I seemed to see a network closing around my boy, innocent as I knew he was. The revolver—I am afraid of them, but anxiety gave me courage to look through the barrel—the revolver had still two bullets in it. I could only breathe a prayer of thankfulness that I had found the revolver before any sharp-eyed detective had come around.

I decided to keep what clues I had, the cufflink, the golf stick and the revolver, in a secure place until I could see some reason for displaying them. The cufflink had been dropped into a little filigree box on my toilet table. I opened the box and felt around for it. The box was empty—the cufflink had disappeared!

(Continued next Friday)

VOTE FOR NEW SCHOOL

Carries in Lancaster Saturday by Large Majority.

Lancaster, April 10.

The election held Saturday to decide in regard to the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$23,000 for the purpose of erecting a new graded school building resulted in a vote for 256 for the issuance of the bonds and only 5 opposing the measure.

Mrs. Nancy Ray, aged 76, died after several months of general decline, at the home of her daughter in north-east Garrard. She leaves three sons: the Reverend Browson Ray, of Virginia, John Ray of Michigan, Raymond Ray, of this county, and one daughter, Mrs. John Dickerson. She was an aunt of Mrs. R. S. Brown, of this city, and belonged to wide and influential relationships of the Buckeye section of the county.

The Fiscal Court at its recent session, appointed Mr. Cleveland Rose to be Supervisor of Roads for a term of two years.

V. A. Lear is buying swine for shipment the latter part of the week having already made the following purchases: 21 140-pound hogs from Floyd Curtis at \$7 per hundred; 28 100-pound shoats from Joe Turner at \$6; 16 125-pound hogs from J. P. Tuggle and son at 6 1-2 cents; 11 100-pound porkers from Pat Sutton at 6 cents per pound.

The Circle girls held an exchange Saturday in the Storms' guilding. W. S. Embury sold Mr. Robinson of Mercer a 2-year-old mare for \$245.

The Chautauque Circle met Saturday afternoon at the home of Misses Helen and Martha Gill.

A telegram was received here reporting the death of Mrs. J. Irvine, of Louisville. The deceased died of heart disease, and was the widow of the late Professor Irvine, who taught school here a number of years ago. Two sons and a daughter survive her.

The children of the Presbyterian church rendered a most interesting Easter program Sunday morning, and the members of the Junior Christian Endeavor Society had a similar service at the Christian church Sunday evening.

Miss Jennie Laekey was in Stanford Wednesday for the Embury-McRoberts wedding. Miss Bessie Prather is at home from a visit to relatives in Richmond. Miss Bettie West has been in Danville for a stay with her sister Mrs. George

Robinson, Miss Margaret Hoeler, of Stanford, visited her aunt Mrs. Mattie D. Duncan. Elder F. M. Tindler has returned from Cincinnati where he attended the Missionary Convention. Reverend Bronston Ray, of Virginia and John Ray of Michigan were called here by the death of their mother Mrs. Nancy Ray. Miss Mary Rankin, of the Madison Female Institute was at home for Easter with her parents Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Rankin.

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Hamm left the latter part of the week, to reside in California. Miss Annie Davis McRoberts, Stanford was the guest of her cousins Miss Margaret Joan Mount. Mrs. S. L. Barke has been in Lexington to see her daughter, who is a student at Hamilton college.

The A. T. Scott sale held near Buena Vista in north Garrard drew large crowds, the following being a partial report of the exchange: A three-year-old harness gelding sold for \$146; a good saddle horse was taken down at \$152; a 2-year-old filly brought \$101.50, a pair of mare mules was bought by Jerome Ruble for \$290; a pair of horse mules to same for \$254, and a -mule colt to same for \$162; a bunch of Jersey heifers sold at from \$24 to \$40 per head; milk cows brought from \$30 to \$45; 40 head of black (beef) ewes with about as many lambs was sold to D. F. Rankin at \$7.10; another bunch of sheep was sold to Jerome Ruble at \$7.15; 36 180-pound hogs was bought by V. A. Lear at 7.08 1-2; another bunch of hogs to same at \$6.19 per hundred; three other bunches of swine to same at from about \$6.20 to \$7.50; a bunch of 90-pound shoats was sold to Mr. Soetman, of Boyle county; a sow and 6 pigs were sold to Pence Bros., for \$22.50; a sow and 8 pigs to same at \$25.50; a sow and 8 pigs to Colby Jenkins at \$24.

AN ITEM OF HOME INTEREST
Charles Gormley, 307 Maxwell St. Lexington, Ky., has lately been cured of kidney and bladder trouble. He says: "I heard of Foley Kidney Pills and the good they were doing, and after taking them a few days the pain left my back, the tired feeling pressed away, and I am glad to recommend them." Shugars and Tanner.

The Kentucky Court of Appeals in the case of the Commonwealth against the International Harvester Co. of America for violating certain sections of the Kentucky Statutes by selling its products throughout the state at a price greater than their real value, last week rendered an opinion to the effect that the Harvester Company is a trust and is selling its products too high in the State. The court holds that there are no antitrust laws in Kentucky and that company, whether considered a trust or not, may do business in Kentucky as long as it does not sell its products at a price greater than its real value or depreciate the prices of its products below the real value. This will be good news to all who use farming machinery, as a result of the ruling the company must hereafter sell its tractors for \$12 less, mowers \$4 less and hay rakes \$2 less than the price heretofore in effect. The case was taken to the Court of Appeals from Bell county and the Commonwealth was represented by Prosecuting Attorney Frank Daugherty, of Bardstown.

WHAT SAVED HER LIFE
Mrs. Martin Tells About a Painful Experience that Might Have Ended Seriously.

Rivesville, W. Va.—Mrs. Dora Martin, in a letter from Rivesville, writes: "For three years, I suffered with womanly troubles, and had pains in my back and side. I was nervous and could not sleep at night.

The doctor could not help me. He said I would have to be operated on before I could get better. I thought I would try using Cardui.

Now, I am entirely well. I am sure Cardui saved my life. I will never be without Cardui in my home. I recommend it to my friends."

For fifty years, Cardui has been relieving pain and distress caused by womanly trouble. It will surely help you. It goes to the spot—reaches the trouble—relieves the symptoms, and drives away the cause.

If you suffer from any symptoms of womanly trouble, take Cardui. Your druggist sells and recommends it. Get a bottle from him today.

N. B.—Write for Ladies' Advisory Dept., Chastanooga Medicine Co., Chattanooga, Tenn., for Special Instructions, and 64-page Book, "Home Treatment for Women," sent in plain wrapper, on request.

NERVOUS DESPONDENT WOMEN

Find Relief in Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound—Their Own Statements So Testify.

Plata, Pa.—"When I wrote to you first I was troubled with female weakness and backache, and was so nervous that I would cry at the least noise, it would startle me so. I began to take Lydia E. Pinkham's remedies, and I don't have any more crying spells. I sleep sound and my nervousness is better. I will recommend your medicines to all suffering women."

—Mrs. MARY HALSTEAD, Plata, Pa., Box 98.

Here is the report of another genuine case, which still further shows that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound may be relied upon.

Walcott, N. Dakota.—"I had inflammation which caused pain in my side, and my back ached all the time. I was so blue that I felt like crying if any one even spoke to me. I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and I began to gain right away. I continued its use and now I am a well woman."

—Mrs. AMELIA DAHL, Walcott, N. Dakota.

If you want special advice write to Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co. (confidential) Lynn, Mass. Your letter will be opened, read and answered by a woman and held in strict confidence.

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HOME-COMING TO KENTUCKY
At Disciples International Convention in Louisville, Oct. 15-22

Louisville, Ky., April 5. The catchy slogan, "Meet us in our old Kentucky home," adopted by the Disciples of Christ for their International Convention in Louisville, Oct. 15-22 has started a movement among ex-Kentuckians for the denomination for a big home coming in connection with the event.

Kentucky is known as the "Pioneer Battle Ground" of the Disciples for the reason that many of the famous debates between their early leaders and those of other denominations were held in its principal cities and towns.

Aside from nearly 150,000 members of the denomination in the state now, it is estimated that more than that number of native converts have migrated to other states; mostly to Missouri, where the Disciples are 175,000 strong; Indiana with 100,000; Illinois 125,000; Ohio 100,000; Tennessee 80,000, to say nothing of other nearby states and in the far west.

With this home-coming feature, and the effect that Louisville is in the geographical center of more than one million of their membership, the Disciples have planned for the largest gathering at any Convention in their history.

The local committee has already engaged the big Louisville Armory, with its seating capacity of 20,000 and all side-rooms and convention halls for the event.

George A. Jones, Secretary of the Committee states, however, that the home-coming feature will not be restricted to ex-Kentucky members of the denomination. Any former resident and all others, regardless of creed, he declares, will be welcomed in the good old-fashioned Kentucky way.

THE POWER OF GREAT KIDNEY REMEDY IS SOON REALIZED

According to my experience I do not consider that there is anything to equal Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root for kidney affection. It relieved me when I was perfectly helpless.

The last time I was traveling in Texas when my kidneys became affected and for ten days I suffered excruciating pain, accompanied with severe chills. Several years previous, having been relieved of a similar attack, I naturally sought relief as before, from Swamp-Root.

After using four of the large sized bottles, I was completely restored and went on my way rejoicing and praising Dr. Kilmer's Swamp-Root. This was three years ago, and I have had no indication of the return of the affliction.

Yours very truly,
J. C. SMITH, JR.
108 Johnson St. Jackson, Tenn.
State of Tennessee County of Madison ss:—

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of July, 1909.
P. C. STOVALL,
Notary Public.

Letter to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

Prove What Swamp Root Will Do For You

Send to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample bottle. It will convince anyone. You will also receive a book of valuable information, telling all about kidneys and bladder. When writing, be sure and mention the Stanford Interior Journal. Regular fifty-cent and one dollar size bottles for sale at all drug stores.

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ASHLAND BROOK
(No. 41756.)

Vol. 17 A. T. H. R., bred by Eugene Rucker, Georgetown, Ky. Ashland Brook was foaled 1903, solid bay with left hind foot white, 15 3-4 hands high.

PEDIGREE.—Sired by Silent Brook, No. 19769, record 2:16 1-2, the sire of Margaret Bathgate, 2:11 1-4, Bettie Brook (3) 2:17 1/4; Lady Bellbrooks, 2:17 1-4, Jennie Brook, (4) 2:17 1-4, Elliott Stone 2-18 1-4, Lady Brook, 2:30 and Running Brook 2:30, Silent Brook by Darknight, No. 2858, the sire of Searchlight 2:02 1-4, Brightlight, 2:08 1-4 and Valpo, 2:09 1-2, Darknight sired by Aleyone No. 232 record 2:27. Ashland Brook's 1st dam Buna Wren by Ashland Wilkes, 2291; record 2:17 1-4, the sire of John R. Gentry, 2:00 1-2, Sally Toler 2:06 1-4; Ashland Wilkes sired by Red Wilkes 1749, he by George Wilkes, second dam, Lide Lilly, by Pretender, 1453, 3d dam by Jim Monroe 835.

Note.—Ashland Brook is a handsome horse with lots of substance and we feel sure in offering to the public the service of him that there are very few his equal, for he has already proven himself to be a breeder unsurpassed, for he is a sire of the kind of horses the public are looking for today. His colts all have good color and have that nice way of going with the speed of trotters. They all possess the looks of a fine saddle horse in fact they meet with few defeats in the show ring. They have perfect manners. Ashland Brook will make the present season at \$15 to insure a living colt.

King Eagle
No. 2556.

Vol. 6, A. S. H. R. King Eagle is 16 hands high, dark bay with flowing mane and tail, goes all the gait with plenty of speed, style and action.

Pedigree.—Sired by Royal King 2555 he by On Time, 745, he by Stonewall Jackson 72, Royal King's first dam Mollie Mount, 3584, was by the noted sire Cabell's Lexington F. S. King Eagle's first dam Hip 3579, she by Eagle Bird 1014, he by Old King Eagle, 750, second dam by Red Lion 3rd dam by Harris Denmark, he by Miller's Denmark, 45, fourth dam by Jim Bell (thoroughbred.)

Note.—King Eagle is a combined stallion, a breeder of combined horses his colts all have good colors, with size, high style and action. He is also a sire of the most looked for horse today; that is the plantation horse. They all have a nice running walk and their canter is perfect. His get are in demand and always bring the highest prices. King Eagle will make the present season at the low price of \$15 to insure a living colt.

We will also stand the great young Jack War Trace at \$10 for mares and \$20 for jennets to insure a living colt. War Trace is black with white points 15 1-2 hands high. He was sired by Great Eastern II he by imp. Tax Payer that sold for \$3,200. His dam was by the imp. Great Eastern. War Trace's dam by Bedford Star, he by Ezell Stallight.

Note.—This jack has proven himself to be a great breeder for mules for his colts sold last fall as high as \$110 horse mule colts to \$125 for mare mules, so you see in offering the service of this great jack, we are offering one that is second to none. This jack has also proven himself to be a great jennett jack, for he has the finest head and ear, and as much foot and bone as any jack living and as like hegets like, he has departed the same to his jack and jennet colts.

EQUITY.
We will also offer for public service this great 16-hand Jack. He is black with white points. His head and ear, foot and bone are second to none, with style and action like a mule. He is sired by Yelberton, Jr., first dam by Dr. Wood, second dam by imported jack, Yelbeton, Jr.,