



Carolyn of the Corners - BY RUTH BELMORE ENDICOTT

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CAROLYN LEARNS WHY HER UNCLE AND AMANDA PARLOW DO NOT SPEAK AS THEY PASS.

Synopsis.—Her father and mother reported lost at sea when the Dunraven, on which they had sailed for Europe, was sunk. Carolyn May Cameron—Hannah's Carolyn—is sent from New York to her bachelor uncle, Joseph Stagg, at the Corners. The reception given her by her uncle is not very enthusiastic. Carolyn is also chilled by the stern demeanor of Aunt Rose, Uncle Joe's housekeeper. Stagg is dismayed when he learns from a lawyer friend of his brother-in-law that Carolyn has been left practically penniless and consigned to his care as guardian.

CHAPTER IV—Continued.

"So?" said the carpenter, pushing his big spectacles up to his forehead. "I read about it. Too bad—too mighty bad! I remember Hannah Stagg," he added, winking his eyes. Carolyn May thought, a good deal as Prince did. "You look like her."

"Do it?" Carolyn May returned, drawing nearer. "I'm glad I do. And I'm glad I sleep in what used to be her bed, too. It doesn't seem so lonesome."

"No?" I reckoned you'd be lonesome up there at The Corners," said the carpenter. Mr. Parlow stripped another shaving from the edge of the board he was plumbing. Carolyn May's eager eyes followed that curling ribbon and her lips parted.

The carpenter paused before pushing the plane a second time the length of the board. "Don't you want a drink of water, little girl?" he asked. "Oh, yes, sir—I would. And I know Prince would like a drink," she told him quickly.

"Go right around to the well in the back yard," said Mr. Parlow. "You'll find a glass there—and Mandy keeps a pan on the well curb for the dogs and cats."

May. "Do you know, he's very liberal." "Liberal?" repeated Mrs. Gormley. "I never heard of old Jed Parlow being accused of that before. Did you, Mrs. Maine?"

Mrs. Maine was the dressmaker; and she bit off her words when she spoke, much as she bit off her threads. "No, I never—heard Jed Parlow—called that—no!" declared Mrs. Maine emphatically.

"Why, yes," little Carolyn May said quite eagerly. "He gives me all the shavings I want. I—I guess folks don't just understand about Mr. Parlow," she added, remembering what her uncle had first said about the carpenter. "He is real liberal."

"It's a wonder to me," drawled Mrs. Gormley, "that he has a thing to do with a certain party. Mrs. Maine, consider how his daughter feels toward that certain party's relation. What d'you think?"

"I guess—there's sumpin'—to be said—on both sides of 'at' controversy," responded the dressmaker. "Meanin' that maybe a certain party's relative feels just as cross as Mandy Parlow?" suggested Mrs. Gormley.

triffin' critters there at the Stagg place before she took hold." Carolyn May looked at Mrs. Gormley encouragingly. She was very much interested in Uncle Joe and Miss Amanda Parlow's love affair.

"Why didn't they get married—like my papa and mamma?" she asked. "Oh, goodness knows!" exclaimed Mrs. Gormley. "Some says 'twas his fault and some says 'twas hers. And maybe 'twas a third party's that I might mention at that," added Mrs. Gormley, pursing up her lips in a very knowing way.

"One day," she said, growing confidential, "it was in camp-meeting time—one day somebody seen Joe Stagg drivin' out with another girl—Charlotte Lenny, that was. She was married to a man over in Springdale long ago. Mr. Stagg took Charlotte to Faith camp meeting."

"Then, the very next week, Mandy went with Evan Peckham to a barn dance at Crockett's, and nobody ain't ever seen your uncle and Mandy Parlow speak since, much less ever walk together."

One particularly muddy day Prince met the returning hardware merchant at the gate with vociferous barking and a plain desire to implant a welcoming tongue on the man's cheek. He succeeded in muddying Mr. Stagg's suit with his front paws, and almost cast the angry man full length into a mud puddle.

"Irat the beast!" ejaculated Mr. Stagg. "I'd rather have an epileptic fit loose around here than him. Now, look at these claws! I declare, Carolyn, you've just got to tie that mongrel up—and keep him tied!"

"All the time, Uncle Joe!" whispered the little girl. "Yes, ma'am, all the time! If I find him loose again, I'll tie a bag of rocks to his neck and drop him in the deepest hole in the brook."

After this awful threat Prince lived a precarious existence, and his mistress was much worried for him. Aunt Rose said nothing, but she saw that both the little girl and her canine friend were very unhappy.

Mrs. Kennedy, however, had watched Mr. Joseph Stagg for years. Indeed, she had known him as a boy, long before she had closed up her own little cottage around on the other road and come to the Stagg place to save the hardware merchant from the continued reign of those "trifling creatures" of whom Mrs. Gormley had spoken.

As a bachelor Joseph Stagg had been preyed upon by certain female harpies so prevalent in a country community. Some had families whom they partly supported out of Mr. Stagg's larder; some were widows who looked upon the well-to-do merchant as a marrying proposition.

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"The worst man I have ever seen," said an American aviator, "was Lieutenant Meinkopf, the star Boche flyer, when he was tipped by Lieutenant Avery. Meinkopf was Baron Richtofen's successor and the best flyer that Germany had left."

When Avery tackled him, he abandoned all set principles of air strategy, simply sailed in and opened fire without indulging in preliminary maneuvers. He brought his man down in about three seconds, and this was his first Boche battle.

When Meinkopf landed, he was purple with rage, and as far as I could make out his main complaint could be translated in this fashion: "What kind of flying is this, anyhow?"—Paris Stars and Stripes.

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Results Count. The American—What happened to you? The Tommy—To tell you the truth, I ain't quite certain. About ten minutes ago I was 'avin' a tete-a-tete with a German sapper. He was a nice-lookin' boy—had a face like a murderer. We was crawlin' on our stomachs, when we come face to face. He says somethin' to me in German, an' I answers him in just as bad language.

"What happened then?" "Well, I aites to brag; but I'm 'ere an' 'e ain't."—Exchange.



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"I Reckoned You'd Be Lonesome Up There at the Corners," said the Carpenter.

lay seemed to change the subject of conversation. "Don't your uncle, Mr. Stagg, ever speak to you about Mandy Parlow?" she asked the little girl.

Carolyn May had to think about this before answering. Then she remembered. "Oh, yes," she said brightly. "He does? Do tell!" exclaimed Mrs. Gormley eagerly. "What does he say?"

"Why, he says her name is Miss Amanda Parlow." Mrs. Gormley flushed rather oddly and glanced at the child with suspicion. But little Carolyn May was perfectly frank and ingenuous. "Humph!" ejaculated Chet's mother. "He never says nothing about bein' in love with Mandy, does he? They was goin' with each other steady once."

Carolyn is heartbroken and decides upon drastic action when Uncle Joe passes sentences on Prince. Read about it in the next installment. (TO BE CONTINUED.)