



# Carolyn of the Corners

BY RUTH BELMORE ENDICOTT

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## CAROLYN AND PRINCE HAVE ANOTHER ADVENTURE WHICH BRINGS THEM NEW LAURELS.

**Synopsis.**—Her father and mother reported lost at sea when the Dunraven, on which they had sailed for Europe, was sunk, Carolyn May Cameron—Hanna's Carlyn—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. Carolyn learns of the estrangement between her uncle and his one-time sweetheart, Amanda Parlow, and the cause of the bitterness between the two families. Prince, the mongrel dog that Carolyn brought with her, and the boon companion of the lonesome girl, is in disfavor with Uncle Joe, who threatens to dispose of him, but Prince becomes a hero and wins the approval of the Corners by routing a tramp in the act of robbing the schoolteacher. The following Sunday, while Carolyn and her uncle, accompanied by Prince, are taking a walk in the woods they encounter Amanda Parlow. Prince kills a snake about to strike Amanda, and Stagg and Amanda speak to each other for the first time in years. Carolyn is dismayed when she learns from Chet Gornley, her uncle's clerk, that she was left practically penniless and is a "charity" orphan.

### CHAPTER VIII—Continued.

"So, you see," added the child, "I am charity. I'm not like other girls that get papas and mammas. Course I knowed that before, but it didn't seem—seem so hard as it does now," she confessed with a sob.

"My dear! my dear!" cried Miss Amanda, dropping on her knees beside the little girl, "don't talk so! I know your uncle must love you."

"Oh, Miss Mandy!" gasped Carolyn May, "don't you s'pose he loves other folks, too? You know—folks he'd begun to love ever so long ago?"

The woman's smooth cheeks burned suddenly and she stood up.

"I'm most sure he'd never stop loving a person if he'd once begun to love 'em," said Carolyn May, with a high opinion of the faithfulness of Uncle Joe's character.

"Do you want to know if your Uncle Joe loves you?" she asked Carolyn May at last. "Do you?"

"Oh, I do!" cried the little girl.

"Then ask him," advised Miss Amanda. "That's the only way to do with Joe Stagg, if you want to get at the truth. Out with it, square, and ask him."

"I will do it," Carolyn May said seriously.

After the child had gone the woman went back into the little cottage and her countenance did not wear the farewell smile that Carolyn May had looked back to see.

Gripping at her heart was the old pain she had suffered years before and the conflict that had seared her mind so long ago was roused again.

"Oh, Joe! Oh, Joe! How could you?" she moaned, rocking herself to and fro. "How could you?"

That very night the first snow flurry of the season drove against the west window panes of the big kitchen at the Stagg homestead. It was at supper time.

"I declare for't," said Mr. Stagg, "I guess winter's onto us, Aunt Rose."

This snow did not amount to much; it was little more than a hoar frost, as Mr. Stagg said. This might be, however, the last chance for a Sunday walk in the woods for some time and Carolyn May did not propose to miss it.

On this day she earnestly desired to get him off by himself, for her heart was filled with a great purpose. She felt that they must come to an understanding.

On this particular occasion Uncle Joe sat down upon the log by the brook where Miss Amanda had once sat. Carolyn May stood before him.

"Am I just a charity orphan? Didn't my papa leave any money at all for me? Did you take me just out of charity?"

"Bliss me!" gasped the hardware dealer.

"I—I wish you'd answer me, Uncle Joe," went on Carolyn May with a brave effort to keep from crying.

Joseph Stagg was too blunt a person to see his way to dodging the question.

"Hum! Well, I'll tell you, Carlyn May. There isn't much left, and that's a fact. It isn't your father's fault, he thought there was plenty. But a business he invested in got into bad hands and the little nest egg he'd laid up for his family was lost."

"Then—then I am just charity. And so's Prince," whispered Carolyn May. "I—I s'pose we could go to the poorhouse, Prince and me; but they mayn't like dogs there. You're real nice to me, Uncle Joe; but Prince and me—we really are a nuisance to you."

The man stared at her for a moment in silence, but the flush that dyed his cheeks was a flush of shame.

"Don't you like it any more here with Aunt Rose and—and me?" he demanded.

"Oh, yes! Only—only, Uncle Joe, I don't want to stay, if we're a nuisance, Prince and me. I don't want to stay, if you don't love me."

Joseph Stagg had become quite excited.

"Bliss me!" he finally cried once more. "How do you know I don't love you, Carolyn May?"

"Why—why— But, Uncle Joe! how do I know you do love me?" demanded the little girl. "You never told me so!"

The startled man sank upon the log again.

"Well, maybe that's so," he murmured. "I s'pose it isn't my way to be very—very—softlike. But listen here, Carlyn May."

"Yes, sir."

"I ain't likely to tell you very frequently how much I—I think of you. Ahem! But you'd better stop worrying about such things as money and the like. What I've got comes pretty near belonging to you. Anyway, unless I have to go to the poorhouse myself, I reckon you needn't worry about going," and he coughed again dryly.

"As far as loving you— Well, I'll admit, under cross-examination, that I love you."

"Dear Uncle Joe!" she sighed ecstatically. "I don't mind if I am charity. If you love me, it takes all the sting out. And I'll help to make you happy, too!"

### CHAPTER IX.

#### A Find in the Drifts.

Before the week was over, winter had come to Sunrise Cove and The Corners in earnest. Snow fell and drifted, until there was scarcely anything to be seen one morning when Carolyn May awoke and looked out of her bedroom windows but a white, fleecy mantle.

This was more snow than the little girl had ever seen in New York. She came down to breakfast very much excited.

Uncle Joe had shoveled off the porch and steps, and Prince had beaten his own dooryard in the snow in front of his house. For he had a house of his own, now—a roomy, warm one—built by Mr. Parlow.

It must be confessed that, although Uncle Joe paid for the building of his doghouse, it never would have been built by Jedidiah Parlow had it not been for Carolyn May.

At noon Uncle Joe came home, dragging a sled—a big roomy one, glistening with red paint. Just the nicest sled Carolyn May had ever seen, and one of the best the hardware dealer carried in stock.

"Oh, my, that's lovely!" breathed the little girl in awed delight. "That's ever so much better than any sled I ever had before. And Prince could draw me on it, if I only had a harness for him. He used to drag me in the park. Of course, if he saw a cat, I had to get off and hold him."

Mr. Stagg, once started upon the path of good deeds, seemed to like it. At night he brought home certain straps and rivets, and in the kitchen, much to Aunt Rose's amazement, he fitted Prince to a harness which the next day Carolyn May used on the dog, and Prince drew her very nicely along the beaten paths.

By Saturday the roads were in splendid condition for sleighing.

So Carolyn May went sledding.

Out of sight of the houses grouped at The Corners the road to town seemed as lonely as though it were a veritable wilderness. Here and there the drifts had piled six feet deep, for the wind had a free sweep across the barrens.

"Now, there's somebody coming," said Carolyn May, seeing a moving object ahead between the clouds of drifting snow spray. "Is it a sleigh, Princey, or just a man?"

She lost sight of the object, then sighted it again.

"It must be a man. It can't be a bear, Princey."

The strange object had disappeared again.

It was just at the place where the spring spouted out of the rocky hillside and trickled across the road. There

was a sort of natural watering trough here in the rock where the horses stopped to drink. The dog drew the little girl closer to the spot.

"Where has that man gone to? If it was a man."

Prince stopped suddenly and whined and then looked around at his mistress, as though to say: "See there!"

Carolyn May tumbled off the sled in a hurry. When she did so she slipped on a patch of snow-covered ice and fell. But she was not hurt.

"There! that's where the water runs across the road. It's all slippery—Oh!"

It was the sleeve of a man's rough coat thrust out of the snowbank that brought this last cry to the child's lips.

"Oh, oh! It's a man!" burst from Carolyn May's trembling lips. "How cold he must be!"

She plumped down on her knees and began brushing the snow away. She uncovered his shoulder. She took hold of this with her mittened hands and tried to shake the prone figure.

"Oh, do wake up! Please wake up!" she cried, digging away the snow as fast as possible.

A shaggy head was revealed, with an old cap pulled down tightly over the ears. The man moved again and grunted something. He half turned over, and there was blood upon the snow, and a great frosted cake of it on the side of his face.

Carolyn May was dreadfully frightened. The man's head was cut and the blood was smeared over the front of his jacket. Now she could see a puddle of it, right where he had fallen on the ice—just as she had fallen herself. Only, he had struck his head on a rock and cut himself.

"You poor thing!" murmured Carolyn May. "Oh, you mustn't lie here! You must get up! You'll—you'll be frozen!"

"Easy, mate," muttered the man. "I ain't jest right in my top-hammer, I reckon. Hold hard, matey."

He tried to get up. He rose to his knees, but pitched forward again. Carolyn May was not afraid of him now—only troubled.

"I'll take you to Miss Amanda's," cried the little girl, pulling at his coat again. "She's a nurse, and she'll know just what to do for you. Come, Prince and I will take you."

Then she guided the half-blinded man to the sled, on which he managed to drop himself.

Prince pulled, and Carolyn May pulled, and together they got the sled, with



"If You Love Me It Takes All the Sting Out."

the old sailor upon it, to the Parlow carpenter shop.

Mr. Parlow slid back the front door of his shop to stare in wonder at the group.

"For the great land of Jehoshaphat!" he croaked. "Carlyn May! what you got there?"

"Oh, Mr. Parlow, do come and help us—quick!" gasped the little girl. "My friend has had a dreadful fall."

"Your friend?" repeated the carpenter. "I declare, it's that tramp that went by here just now!"

Mr. Parlow made a clucking noise in his throat when he saw the blood.

"Guess you're right, Carlyn May," he admitted. "Call Mandy. She must see this."

Miss Amanda's attention had already been attracted to the strange arrival. She ran out and helped her father raise the injured man from the sled. Together they led him into the cottage.

He was not at all a bad-looking man, although his clothing was rough and coarse.

Miss Amanda brought warm water and bathed the wound, removing the congealed blood from his face and neck.

When the last bandage was adjusted and the injured man's eyes were closed, Mr. Parlow offered him a wine-glass of a home-made cordial. The sailor gulped it down, and the color began to return to his cheeks.

"Where was you goin', anyway?" demanded the carpenter.

"Lookin' for a job, mate," said the sailor. "There's them in town that tells me I'd find work at Adams' camp."

"Ha! didn't tell you 'twas ten mile away from here, did they?"

Miss Amanda gets some surprising information from the old sailor and she, in turn, gives Joseph Stagg a shock. Read about how it happened in the next installment.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Steel that will resist corrosion is being made; it contains 12 per cent of chromium.

## PLAUSIBLE PLAN TO PLANT TREES

Selection of Cheap Stock Is Poor Economy for It Often Results in Failure.

### PLANTS SHOULD BE WATERED

Cuttings May Be Successfully Used for Willows and Cottonwoods—Bury in Cool, Moist, Well-Drained Sand Until Spring.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A tree plantation established with poor stock always is handicapped. The purchase of cheap stock, simply because it is cheap, is poor economy, for often it results in failure.

Fortunately, most of the hardwoods may be grown easily from seed, and the possibility of buying stock which is not true to name or of having it injured in transit avoided. If the farm maintains a garden plot, the hardwood seedlings may be grown there and planted out in the field when one year old. The seed of the desired species may be purchased or collected locally, sown in rows, and handled much the same as vegetable seed. The plants should be watered and cultivated, so that they will become as large as possible during the season. After the first of September water should be applied only to keep the ground from drying out completely. This is necessary in order to harden the tender wood to withstand frost.

Cuttings may be used successfully for growing the planting stock for such trees as willows and cottonwoods. These cuttings, which are best made in the fall or early winter after the leaves have fallen, should be about ten inches in length and taken from one-year-old or two-year-old twigs of vigorous, healthy trees. Cuttings should be made always with slanting strokes of a very sharp knife, so as to avoid bruising the bark. If trees free from seed, or "bloom," as it is sometimes called, are desired, cuttings should be taken from trees which observation has shown do not produce seed. As soon as the cuttings are made they should be tied in bundles of about 50 and buried in cool, moist, well-drained sand until spring. As soon as possible in the spring, and always before the soil dries out, the cuttings should be set out, with the buds pointing upward, leaving two or three inches above ground. The soil should be pressed firmly about the stems, and if it is not soft it is better to make holes for the cuttings with a round bar or dibble.

**Growing From Nuts.**

Trees grown from large nuts, such as walnut and oak, are best propagated by planting the nut where the

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**ANNUAL INVENTORY OF FARM**

It is Absolutely Essential, as Upon It is Based Division of One Year's Business.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

At the close of the business year on the farm, or before a new season begins, every farmer should make an inventory of his belongings. In a system of accounting the inventory is absolutely essential, as upon it is based the division of one year's business with another. A farm inventory is simply a statement showing what the land, buildings, equipment, live stock, supplies and produce on hand are worth at the time the inventory is made, together with amount of cash on hand and money owing to and owed by the farmer. It is a list of farm property and farm debts. It corresponds to the "stock taking" which every merchant does periodically.

The uses of the inventory are important and varied. As previously stated, it is the basis upon which is built the superstructure of accounting systems. Taken alone it will show a farmer exactly what he is worth and will be a guarantee of solvency and an aid in securing credits and loans from the bank in time of need. The inventories for two dates a year apart show whether progress or retrogression has occurred during the year, and definitely measure the degree of the change.

Taken in conjunction with a cash account for the year, the inventory shows how much has been made by farming and to what extent the personal and household expenses have offset profits. It also gives a much better insight into the income produced by each farm department, as a decrease in inventory value of hogs, for instance, may offset to some extent what, from the cash account, looks like a very large income from that source, or vice versa.

**WAYS OF INCREASING HUMUS**

Barnyard Manure and Turning Under Green Crops Will Be Found Quite Efficient.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Close, clammy soils will never yield as they should till the per cent of humus is increased. Barnyard manure and turning under green crops are common ways of increasing the humus. By breaking early enough or stalks and weeds to decay more humus may be added.

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## WOOD BURNING WILL AID FUEL SHORTAGE

Country Districts and Small Villages Can Help Greatly.

Government Officials Urge All Farmers to Use Wood During War or Emergency Periods—Save Coal and Transportation.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The coal shortage for next winter, estimated by the fuel administration at about 14,000,000 tons, makes it necessary that wood should be used to save both coal and transportation. Country districts and small villages are in position to greatly help coal conservation by burning wood.

Farmers now use on their farms 83,000,000 cords of fuel wood annually. All farms should use it during the war or emergency periods, officials urge.

Any kind of coal stove or furnace can be used for burning wood in a pinch. With a careful attention to drafts and grates the change can be made with little trouble.

On the average, a cord of wood is about equal to seven-tenths of a ton of coal. Two cords of soft wood are required to equal a ton of coal, but a cord of wood from a number of well-known kinds of trees will equal a ton of coal in heating value, and for three varieties—osage orange, canyon, live oak and black locust—a cord has a higher heating value than a ton of coal. Most of the oaks and hickories as well as western yew, honey locust, blue gum, sweet birch and a number of others are the equivalent of nine-tenths of one ton of coal.

The following have a low-heating value but are approximately equal to

one-half ton of coal: Yellow buckeye, black cottonwood, basswood, western red cedar, Alpine fir and Englemann spruce, black willow, balsam fir, Sitka spruce, aspen and white spruce.

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