

CHERRY SQUARE

A NEIGHBOURLY NOVEL BY GRACE S. RICHMOND

To their surprise it was bright with the soft flaming of candles from top to bottom.

Bradley Sturgis' car stood in the driveway, backed by that of Doctor Fiske.

"I'm glad they're all here," said Jo. "They must have been delayed, too."

"They must have just got back," Mackay surmised. "Yet it seems rather strange the whole house should be lighted. I hope nothing's wrong. Perhaps I'd better come in with you and see—if I may. And I'd rather like to hear Hunt's explanations," he added, somewhat grimly.

"They went in together, for the front door was open, and they met Doctor Fiske coming through the hall. He looked so grave that Jo asked quickly: 'Has anything happened?'"

"I hope not." But his look didn't lighten. "We can't find Doctor Chase in the house."

"Oh—I oughtn't to have gone!" Jo cried remorsefully, under her breath.

"That's the way we're all feeling, of course. But we can't imagine what he could have done. Mrs. O'Grady says she went to bed at half-past 10, after a talk with her, and that his light was out a few minutes after. Her window at the back all look toward his in the upright."

"Perhaps he couldn't sleep, and went for a walk," Mackay suggested. "He told me sleeping is difficult for him just now."

"Always has been. But he wouldn't have been able to go far, and the storm should have driven him back. Anybody on a country road would have seen him coming."

Evidently Richard Fiske was genuinely worried, though his manner changed quickly enough as Sally Chase came out into the hall.

"Two more rescuers arrived," he said cheerfully. "It's a matter of a little looking. We'll all go in different directions, and we'll soon find him. He may have gone in somewhere out of the storm, and a lighted window'll tell us so."

It was at this juncture that Dallas Hunt came dashing into the house. Evidently he had driven into the dooryard but a moment after Mackay and Jo. As a matter of fact, it wasn't 10 minutes since the others of the party had reached the place, and the discovery of Schuyler's absence had but just been made. Hunt noted nobody's face except Jo's as he made straight for her.

"Can you possibly forgive me, Miss Jenney?" he cried. "I can never tell you how sorry I am—or you either, Mr. Mackay." His look swung for an instant to Mackay but returned to Jo as he scanned her sober face. "The whole story will take an hour. But the honest fact is I couldn't help it, and I feel confoundedly chagrined about it. How did you get home? Did the others come across you?"

"Mr. Mackay brought me home by train," Jo explained. "Never mind, Mr. Hunt—you're excused, entirely. We're thinking of something else now. Doctor Chase isn't here."

"Isn't here!"

"He was told quickly of the missing invalid, and eagerly expressed his concern. He would take his car and scour the countryside, he said."

But before anybody could leave the house, the second and severe storm of the night struck with fury. The weather had been aridly dry for a fortnight, with excessive heat the week, now that it had come, was as if Nature had broken out in blind anger and would give no warning of her blows.

There was nothing to do but to wait till the tempest was past.

Sally Chase went upstairs again, and Jo followed her. Adelaide Sturgis had gone to her room, but came to its open door as Sally and Jo passed it.

"You're imagining things, Sally," she said. "What could have happened to Schuy, in a dead little place like this at midnight? It's just as Rich Fiske says: he went for a walk and got caught, and they've put him to bed and he'll come home in the morning."

"I can't believe that explanation!" Sally said, under her breath. "He might have gone for a walk, though I doubt it. But he wouldn't have left us to be anxious about him—he'd have sent some word."

It did look strange, Jo thought. She went to her own room and took off the clothes of the evening, putting on a cotton frock and stout shoes in which she could tramp. Full of remorse that she hadn't insisted on remaining at home, she meant to do her part in the search, no matter where or how far it led.

The moment the storm was over—and it ceased for the second time as it had begun and ceased before, as if some mighty stoopcock had been turned on and off—the searchers left the house, urged to remain behind lest her husband come in and need her care, Sally reluctantly yielded to the harder task of enduring her suspense unoccupied. Even Norah O'Grady was ready with a lantern, her son Jimmy beside her, for she and he, she insisted, knew every nook and byway of the village and country, as the others did not.

"You don't need a lantern—the moon's out again, gorgeously," Bradley Sturgis reported. He was eager for the hunt—it was an excitement to be welcomed. But he asserted that he was sure old Schuyler couldn't be sick—couldn't have met with things—not in this rustic neighborhood—couldn't have done away with himself—

Richard Fiske's hand came heavily upon Bradley's arm as he gave careless voice to these assertions, for Sally was close by, seeing them off. She was very pale, though she kept her head. Doctor Fiske knew she was blaming herself mercilessly for having left her husband behind, alone except for a servant. In her mind, as in Fiske's own, the knowledge of Schuyler's unsteady spiritual balance in this illness, with its threatened hopeless outcome, was reason enough for anxiety.

Though of late he had seemed to have himself better in hand, not to be brooding on his prospects unduly, both wife and physician understood that it took little to upset him and bring on an attack of nervous depression. A morbid chapter in a book, a newspaper account of a crime, even for so susceptible he was—the very approach of a severe electrical storm, such as the two which had passed this night, might have sent his mercurial temperament down to a point of danger to his impulses.

The party set off. Bradley Sturgis went with Jo—she couldn't prevent him. "Think I'm going to let you dash off alone down dark lanes?" he demanded.

"They won't be dark in this moonlight."

"If you should find him, you'd need a man's help," he insisted, and she couldn't deny this. As for village gossip, that wasn't to be thought of, no matter whom they met. No matter how silently the search was made, the whole town would know of it, in some way, by morning.

"One does—in that house," Mackay glanced back toward it. "I know the people well, and know what you found there. I lose track of time, too, whenever I go."

Schuyler was silent for a minute, as the two walked along. Then he said in a tone which showed that he had been somewhat shaken by his recent experience: "They wanted the wealth to make large gifts comparable to the one just announced by Mrs. Joslyn. Judged by eastern standards, where fortunes run into the hundreds of millions, Mrs. Joslyn is not a rich woman, so her decision to build a \$3,000,000 art center for Omaha is all the more impressive.

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XII. It was Gordon Mackay who found Schuyler Chase. The others scattered to date and pond, tragedy in the minds of all, even Bradley's, though he denied it. Mackay tried to reconstruct the plan in the mind of a man who came out of the house, unable to sleep on a fine moonlight night. He decided that in his physical weakness Doctor Chase would simply start down the road. In what direction? Very likely it would occur to him that he might meet the returning party from the distant city by walking toward them, so that they might pick him up. If he went into any house, driven by the sudden storm, it would be one on that main highway, and that was the place, Mackay thought, to look for lights. Schuyler's strength might conceivably have failed, he might even be lying unconscious somewhere beside the road. Anyhow, Mackay's instinct was that this was the direction to take, and he followed it.

A quarter mile down the road he saw the lighted windows of a small house, but they didn't make him pause, for these same windows were lighted every night. Mortal illness lay within, as he well knew, for he had been making daily calls at the place since he came to the town, more than a month ago. His sympathies had been strongly aroused, for an aged pair were nearing separation, after 60 years of life together, and the wife who was soon to be left behind was pitifully frail. Even in his quest, the sight of that light, burning in the outer room from which the small bedroom opened, called to him to stop. But his anxiety for Doctor Chase was too keen, and he was striding rapidly by when the door opened and two figures came into view, silhouetted against the light.

One was that of the little old woman—Mackay knew that tiny stooped figure in every line. The other was the one he sought. He knew that figure, too. The tall man was clasping the hand of the little old woman, and saying something to her, very low. Then he was coming down the two steps of the little porch, slowly, his hat still in his hand. As the door closed behind him he stood still for a minute, looking up at the moonlit sky. Then he began to walk, with the step of a weary man, toward the road where Mackay, in the shadow of a great elm, stood watching him.

Was it best to join him, or to let him walk alone, in comfortable ignorance of the fact that the whole household had been anxious about him? For a minute Mackay considered the latter the wiser course. But Chase was likely to be met by others of the searching party, less discreet; and anyhow, Mackay was eager to know just what it meant that he found Chase coming out of that particular house. Had it been only the chance of the storm that sent him there?

He came up behind the slowly moving figure, with a quiet hail. Chase turned, startled.

"I didn't expect to see you here, Doctor Chase. You see, when Mrs. Chase reached home and found you out, she was afraid you might have been caught in the storm. So I came along down the road, having a notion you'd gone for a walk."

"I see. Yes, I suppose I've aroused everybody's fears, if they're back. I thought I'd be home long before they were. I—have rather lost track of the time, I believe."

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A. United States highway numbers 40, 11, 60, 31, 70, 67, and 80. The route is—Atlantic City, Baltimore, Hagerstown, Staunton, White Sulphur Spring, Charleston, (W. Va.) Lexington, (Ky.) Louisville, Nashville, Memphis, Little Rock, Dallas, Fort Worth El Paso, Phoenix, San Diego, and Los Angeles.

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You see—the old man died while I was there."

It was Mackay's turn to be startled. "He did?" He turned again to look back at the house. "Why, I—"

"You ought to go back."

"I will—but I'm going to walk home with you first. If you've been through that, you've a right to be leaning on the arm of a friend. You're not so strong yet as you're going to be. Please!"

He offered his arm, and Schuyler Chase willingly accepted it. Since he had left the small house he was realizing how shaky were both his nerves and his sinews—if he had any sinews, after his illness. It gave him a pang to be leaning on the arm of a young man only a few years his junior, but there was no doubt he needed that sturdy strength.

"I couldn't sleep," he said. "I went around the Square first. Every light was out, though it was only 11 o'clock. These little country towns! . . . I came by your house—the manse my wife had pointed out to me. I met a boy who'd just come away. He asked me if I knew where you were. He said one of your people was dying. Of course, I thought I ought to go in your place. The boy said the only other minister was away."

"It was my job." Regret was sharp in Gordon Mackay's voice. "I ought to have been on call. But poor old Jonathan Cutler has been at low ebb so often, I'd no possible expectation the tide would really carry him out tonight. I'm mighty sorry."

"You may be sorry for yourself," said Schuyler Chase. "But you needn't be sorry for me."

The other looked at him keenly in the bright moonlight, which at the moment was undimmed by any passing cloud. Mackay could see the fine profile clearly outlined, could even almost see, could fully guess at, the quiver of the delicately cut lips. He wanted the explanation of that last statement, though he thought he knew what it was.

"I've always felt," Mackay said gently, "that it is one of the greatest privileges of a minister's life to be allowed to be with people in hours like that. I've never come away from such a place without being sure of that all over again."

"You see," Chase answered after a little, "for some years now I've had an assistant minister in my church. He's done the calling on the bereaved—mostly. Unless—an odd smile touched his lips—"they were very important people. Then I've gone myself."

All Mackay found to say to this was, in his turn, "I see." And he thought he did see.

"So—I've been spared a good deal of—the sort of thing I've seen tonight—especially among the poor. I think, perhaps, that wasn't wholly a good thing."

Well! The man was honest with himself, Mackay thought. To tell the truth, much as he had admired Doctor Chase—he had heard him preach at various times, and had envied him his amazing ability—the thought of that assistant minister getting most of the real contacts with the lowlier parishioners had bothered him. It was an undoubted fact that the head of a great church like Chase's couldn't possibly do all the work alone, he must have help. Yet—wasn't the result of it that something vital was lost by it? Chase seemed to be owning up to that very thing.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

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OF INTEREST TO FARMERS

PRODUCE CLEAN EGGS

The production and sale of clean eggs will net the producer more money than the production and sale of dirty eggs. This is seen in the difference of 12 cents per dozen in quotations recently sent out by a leading wholesale produce firm. Their grades being noted as "fresh firsts" and "dirties." Fresh firsts were quoted on this date at 33 and 33 1/2 cents and dirties at 20 and 23 1/2 cents. Clean nesting material is an important point in the production of clean eggs. As soon as the nesting material gives indication of becoming dirty, replace it with clean material; wood shavings make a good material for this purpose, or straw may be used. A dry house and clean, dry litter are also factors of importance in producing clean eggs, since hens will track in dirt on the eggs if the floor of the house is damp and dirty.

If there are not sufficient nests, eggs are apt to be laid on the floor and will get dirty. An allowance of five birds to each nest will provide enough nesting space. Frequent collection of eggs every two or three times a day, particularly during a period of heavy production, will also help to keep down the number of dirties. Birds that spend the night in the nests are undoubtedly responsible for more dirty eggs than is any other cause. This can be prevented by having a hinged board that runs the full length of the nests—in front if the birds enter the nests from the front, or in the rear if birds enter from the rear. This board can be so arranged as to bar the entrance to the nests at night and removed after the birds have gone to roost or in the early morning. Hinge the board so that when raised it will close the nest, and when lowered it will leave the nest open and serve at a walk which the birds can use when looking for a nest to enter.

GARDENERS FIRST TASK

Building up the soil and keeping it fertile is the first task of a general gardener. Gardeners are now dependent to a great extent for stable manure upon the prepared material from the stockyards and great packing plants of the country which supply pulverized sheep manure and shredded cow manure which are retailed by seed houses.

They have the advantage of being dry and more agreeable to handle than the wet straw manure hauled directly from the stable and are more easily distributed over the garden. In being almost free of straw manure there is more fertilizing value and less waste than in the stable product and also a ton of the dry prepared manure goes much farther than a ton of the wet material as it is usually delivered.

Shredded cow manure may be spread over the garden now to be used in the spring. It is an excellent idea to give the hardy perennials and shrubbery a coating at this time and it is particularly valuable as a dressing for the lawn distributed lightly to be washed down when the ground is workable in the spring. It may be used much more advantageously than stable manure, as it is comparatively free of weed seeds.

The pulverized sheep manure is the stronger fertilizer of the two, but as it has less substance, it is better to save it until the plants have started into growth. Pulverized poultry manure is now available at times. It is the most powerful fertilizer of all and must be used sparingly when plants are in growth, or it may burn them. It may be sprinkled on the garden now to good advantage so that its strength will be diluted and distributed.

If the soil is inclined to be acid or is of heavy clay texture, it may be limed at any time now. Lime is useful in helping to break up the heavy texture of clay soils.

WORTH WHILE EFFORT

It costs little or no more to bring a 200-egg strain hen to maturity than it does to raise a dung-hill fowl, but the difference in the productive capacity of the pure-bred and the mongrel bird is certain to measure one's degree of success with poultry. The original cost and expense of maintaining a cow that will produce 300 or 400 pounds of butterfat per year is little more than the investment required to purchase or raise and feed a cow that will produce only 140 or 150 pounds of butterfat per year. That difference in productive capacity is the measure of success in dairying. It costs no more in cash or labor to follow a system of permanent rotation than it does to follow antiquated cropping methods, yet the return in improved soil and larger yields is a handsome reward for intelligent effort. The same thing holds true with fruit, berries, swine, sheep, beef cattle or any branch of agriculture. Success is measured by the amount of brain work employed rather than the physical labor involved. Brain work is effort worth while. Neither physical exertion nor legislation can be made substitutes for cold reason.

CARE IN DRENCHING

It is a hard job for the amateur to drench a hog and not kill the animal. It is preferable to give a hog medicine in the feed rather than by mouth. However, when the animal will not eat, it is sometimes necessary to resort to other methods. Medicine can either be given in liquid, powder or capsule form. If the drug is a powder, the mouth of the hog can be held open with a stout piece of wood and the powder deposited on the back part of the tongue. Methods used in drenching the horse or cow should not be tried on the hog. If the hog must be drenched, use a small-dose syringe. Prop the jaws open and place

measure up to the highest standards in America.

Q. What is the coast to coast highway that passes through the beautiful Blue Grass Region of Kentucky? L. M.

A. United States highway numbers 40, 11, 60, 31, 70, 67, and 80. The route is—Atlantic City, Baltimore, Hagerstown, Staunton, White Sulphur Spring, Charleston, (W. Va.) Lexington, (Ky.) Louisville, Nashville, Memphis, Little Rock, Dallas, Fort Worth El Paso, Phoenix, San Diego, and Los Angeles.

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the nozzle or pipe of the syringe well back in the mouth. Force the liquid out of the syringe very slowly, a small amount at a time. Be patient, and don't attempt to finish the job too quick. Capsules are given with a mouth speculum and a so called balling gun, but as this method of medication requires considerable practice before it can be used with safety, it is not recommended that the unskilled person attempt it. The throat of a hog, unlike the throat of other animals, is very peculiarly formed, in that there is a blind pouch or cul-de-sac directly over the opening of the esophagus or gullet. When liquids are given to a hog too hurriedly, there is danger that they will be caught by this pouch and in turn be thrown down the windpipe, the opening of which is also adjacent. Result, dead hog.

SETTING PRICES

The statement is frequently made that the person or firm who buys the farmer's product sets the price to the producer and to the consumer. If this were true, it would be difficult for any distributor to fail in business. It has also been pointed out that the spread between what the farmer receives and what the consumer pays is too large. The cost of getting farm products from the producer to the consumer is too great and there is opportunity to lessen this cost. This is a problem not easily solved. Effort and careful planning are required to lower the expense of our present system of distribution which has grown up because of the demands of the consumer. The failure of several milk distributors in Chicago last year well illustrates that the purchaser of farm products does not have the control over farm prices as some people think, or that he arbitrarily fixes prices to the consumer. The business of one of these firms, that failed in Chicago was sold in the United States district court for \$422,000. The assets of the company were \$500,000 and the liabilities \$800,000. The failure of these several milk distributors shows that this industry, as well as the farmers, has its problems.

BURN DISEASED CARCASS

The best rule to follow, when an animal dies of disease, is to burn the carcass. If not disposed of in wise fashion, the carcass is quite likely to be a hotbed of disease.

Take blackleg—a calf dead of blackleg is a dangerous thing, threatening to infect the pastures for years to come if it is not wholly destroyed. Burning is the most thorough and least-expensive method. An old hay-rake which an old harrow, or anything that will make a rude grating when supported on rocks, will keep the calf off the ground and allow a draft underneath. Put the calf on this grating and place plenty of brush and wood underneath. Slash the body thoroughly with a knife, drench with a gallon or so of kerosene, and it will burn.

The carcass should be burned where it lies, if possible. If it has to be moved, load it on a stone-boat wagon or sled, provided with a mat of straw to absorb any infectious discharges. Dragging the carcass across the fields is the most certain method of infecting the whole route with blackleg for future generations of cattle. If the carcass can not be burned, it should be buried at least four feet down and covered with unslaked lime.

SHREDDING VS. HUSKING

In these days when so much attention is being paid to lowering production costs on the farm, it is interesting to note that a considerable saving in the cost of producing corn may be effected by husking corn with a shredder as compared with husking by hand. According to records secured, three bushels of corn were husked in 12 minutes by a man, per hour, while 6.7 bushels were husked and cribbed per man, per hour by means of the shredder. This figure was arrived at after deducting time chargeable to hauling the stover to the barn, which was done when the corn was husked by the shredder.

On the acre basis, husking and cribbing by hand required 16 man hours per acre; and by the shredder method, 12 hours. Hauling the stover to the barn, however, consumed six hours of man labor; hence by adding six hours to 12 we have 22 hours as compared with 12 hours, the time required when the shredder was used. The shredding was done by exchanging work with neighbors which resulted in a large saving of hired labor that is usually employed for husking by hand.

SUDAN GRASS FOR SOIL EROSION

Sudan grass is just the thing to keep small ditches from becoming larger, says a hill farmer who has tried it with satisfactory results. He puts sudan grass in a furrow drill and runs the drill wheel down the center of the ditch, seeding sudan as he goes. He then comes back on one side and down on the other side of the ditch, so that sudan grass will be sown on both sides of the ditch. It is sowed about corn-planting time, when the ground is warm, the sudan grass makes rapid growth. If rains come and soil covers the young plants, they will come on up through the washed soil and keep growing.

"That is why sudan is better than any other grass for sowing along the ditches—it has recuperative powers that other plants do not seem to possess," he says. In case ditches are deep and narrow, plowing up and down the side of the ditch and throwing dirt into and toward the ditch helps to level it up for sowing sudan. Sometimes an ordinary scraper is used to good advantage in filling up the deeper depressions. Sudan, with its vigorous root system, helps to bind the soil particles and prevent further washing of the topsoil.

FOUL SOIL TO BLAME

Outbreaks of hog cholera and new corn are often associated, although there does not appear to be any direct connection between new corn and the disease. Nevertheless, reports of hog cholera outbreaks begin to come in usually about the time the hogs get access to the new crop of corn. Possibly this is because farmers relax their vigilance at this season, and by turning their hogs into the grain fields to clean up the loose grain, and into the corn fields to hog down corn, expose them to the germs of the disease latent in the soil.

Notable Gift to Omaha.

From the Lincoln Star. Mrs. Sarah Joslyn's splendid gift of a \$3,000,000 memorial art center to the people of Omaha, and of Nebraska, is the most conspicuous contribution of this character in the region which lies between the Missouri river and the Rocky mountains.

Along the Atlantic seaboard, and in the large industrial centers of Illinois, Indiana and Ohio, where great wealth has been accumulated, it has not been unusual for men and women of large means to extend their wealth where they have made their homes. But Nebraska is a new

state. Organized as a territory in 1854, its last territorial governor, Alvin Saunders, completed his term of office in 1897, when the first state government was perfected. From 1897 to 1929 presents a lapse of 61 years, during which time the people of this state have been engaged in the task of conquering the prairie, building towns, and cities, churches and schools, and in establishing the business and industrial fabric, which, along with its farms, is the source of its wealth.

Because of its youth, it is not strange Nebraska should possess only a few men and women possessing

the wealth to make large gifts comparable to the one just announced by Mrs. Joslyn. Judged by eastern standards, where fortunes run into the hundreds of millions, Mrs. Joslyn is not a rich woman, so her decision to build a \$3,000,000 art center for Omaha is all the more impressive.

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