# THE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE

ROBERTS RINEHART ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROYWHITELY

Bertrade and Halsey, established summer bendquarters at Summyside. Arnold Armeirang was found rhot to death in the hall. Gertrade and her finnes, Jack Railey, had conversed in the billingd from sherrly before the morder Detertive Jamieson accused Mise limes of holding hard evidence. Cashier Halley of Paul Armetrong's house, defined, was arrested for embezziement. Paul Armetrong's death was autosineed. Halsey's finness. Louise Armetrong, told Halsey's finness. Louise Armetrong, told Halsey that withe also still found him, she was to nierry another. It developed that fir, Walker was the sum. Louise was found unconscious at the bottom of the circular staircase. She said something had brushed by her in the dark on the stairway and she fainted Halley is suspected of Armetrong's number. Thesiuns, the lodgekeeper, was found dead with a node in his jecket learing the matte "Lucien Walker, and in the durk Miss Innes shot introder. Halsey mysderiously divappented, and in the durk Miss Innes nied an argument in the library with a weeken learned in the library with a weeken learned in the library with a weeken learned and angenteed in the library with a weeken learned and empty had an argument in the library with a weeken learned for his disappears. Miss Innes hearned Halsey had an argument in the library with a weeken leave his disappears was searned from a traing that a man, supposedly Halsey, had been leave my feet had the mystery. He stated that the Carrington was mosting. Hunding for lev. Miss Innes rate into a mass and fainted A confederate of Ir. Walker confessed his part in the mystery and the walker. He stated that the Carrington was made to the Walker. Helsey was found in a distant hought. Paul Armetrong had been killed that Walker feared bet walker. Helsey was found in a distant hought. Paul Armetrong had been killed that Walker feared bet. mer headquarters at Sunsyside Armeirang was found shot to a the half. Gertrude and her fire

### CHAPTER XXXI.-Continued.

The slip had said "chimney." It was the only clue, and a house as large as Sunnyside was full of them. There was an open fireplace in my dressing room, but none in the bedroson, and as I lay there, looking support of her story she carried in Finally, however, she realized that Richfield, and imploring her to recogmade me sit up suddenly. The trunkroom, just over my head, had an open fireplace and a brick chimney, and yet there was nothing of the kind in dramatically. 'Look at 'em. They're strongs. There she found Lucien's with letters from the dead man that amined the opposite wall closely. There was apparently no flue, and I knew there was none in the hall just beneath. The house was heated by team, as I have said before. In the living room was a huge open fireplace, but it was on the other side.

Why did the trunkroom have both a radiator and an open fireplace? night, and sitting on the graves!"

I could bold a lighted candle in the ty hospital, and was at once taken position of housekeeper and secured it. children have only an allowance of opening I saw precisely what I had to a ward. There, in a gray-walled seen on the other side of the chimney room in a high iron bed, lay Mrs. Wata space between the true wall and son. She was very weak, and she Thomas sent for Mrs. Watson and so they began to be careful. Gradualthe false one, possibly seven feet long only opened her eyes and looked at then went for Arnold Armstrong at ly the whole family mended their and about three feet wide. It was in me when I sat down beside her. I the Greenwood club. Anne had been ways, and now my fine box is generalto sense of the word a secret cham- was conscience-stricken. We had been fond of Louise-she reminded her of ly empty, and the house is as tidy as her, and it was evident it had not so engrossed that I had left this poor Lucy. She did not know what the you please." been disturbed since the house was creature to die without even a word trouble was, but Louise had been in built. It was a supreme disappoint of sympathy.

he had been right, when my eyes fell a step from death. ted had evidently never been used; story was this: it was closed with a metal fire from: | She was almost 40 years old, and and gave it to her. and only when the front refused to had been the sister-mother of a large move, and investigation showed that tamily of children. One by one they it was not intended to be moved, did had died, and been buried beside their some reason was determined to get dered kitchen a source of deep and enmy spirits revive.

sure enough, there was a similar man- the baby, Lucy. On her the older girl tel and fireplace there, similarly had lavished all the love of an impulclosed. In both rooms the chimney sive and emotional nature. When five extended well out from the wall. Anne, the elder, was 32 and Lucy 19, I measured with the tape-line, my a young man had come to the town. kands trembling so that I could He was going east, after spending the scarcely hold it. They extended two summer at a celebrated ranch in Wyfeet and a half into each room, which oming-one of those places where with the three feet of space between wealthy men send worthless and disthe two partitions, made eight feet to sipated sons for a season of temperbe accounted for. Eight feet in one ance, fresh air and hunting. The direction and almost seven in the oth- sisters, of course, knew nothing of er-what a chimney it was!

But I had only located the hidden room. I was not in it, and no amount of pressing on the carving of the wooden mantels, no search or the floors for loose boards, none of the and probably a simple one, I could be went fairly well. Aubrey took his ive right, and were the bonds and cation that had charmed him in Valhis booty with him? If he had not, he disappeared Anne was almost and if Dr. Walker was in the secret, thankful. It was different with the he would have known how to enter, young wife, however. She drooped the chimney room. Then-who had and fretted, and on the birth of her dug the other hole in the false parti- baby boy she had died. Anne took the

### CHAPTER XXXII.

Anne Watson's Story



"I Heard a Sad and Pitiful Narrative."

my wet and muddy boots, that I had her only training had been domestic, nize him. She was dying; the boy

yours, Miss Rachel-and covered with father, this time under his own name. mud and soaked to the tops. I tell It was Arnold Armstrong. you can scoff all you like; some- I gathered that there was no par-As sure as you sit there, there's the mind. She told him of the boy, and

It was not 15 minutes before I was up- death. "I wouldn't be at all surprised the child was hidden, and threatened been Gertrude, after all! stairs, armed with a tape-measure in if they were doing that very thing, to take him away. Anne was frantic. lieu of a foot-rule, eager to justify Mr. Liddy." he said, when he got his The positions became reversed. though it was, the very telling of it

theory to go on. The hole in the was meant to be a coup. But things son instead until sac was around the sat with her until the intervals of contrunkroom wall still yawned there, be went so fast there was no time to scale, the heavier his demands be sciousness grew shorter and finally tween the chimney and the outer wall. carry it into effect. The first thing came. With the rupture between him ceased altogether. She died that night. I examened it again, with no new re- that occurred was a message from and his family things were worse. The space between the brick the Charity hospital that Mrs. Wat- Anne took the child from the home wall and the plaster and lath one, son was dying and had asked for me. Anne took the child from the many wall and hid him in a farmhouse near bowever, had a new significance. The I did not care much about going. Casanova, on the Claysburg road. There is a cort of molancholy plea. hole showed only one side of the chim- There is a sort of melancholy plea- There she went sometimes to see the ney, and I determined to investigate sure to be had out of a funeral, with boy, and there he had taken fever. what lay in the space on the other its pomp and ceremony, but I shrank The people were Germans, and he from a death-bed. However, Liddy called the farmer's wife grossmutter. I had a blister on my palm when got out the black things and the crepe. He had grown into a beautiful boy, at last the hatchet went through and veil I keep for such occasions, and I and he was all Anne had to live for. fell with what sounded like the report of went. I left Mr. Jamieson and the a gun to my overstrained nerves. I sat day detective going over every inch and Arnold's persecutions began anew. on a trunk waiting to hear Liddy fly of the circular staircase, pounding. He was furious over the child's disup the stairs, with the household be- probing and measuring. I was inwardhind her, like the tail of a comet. But ly elated to think of the surprise I was appearance and she was arraid he what—that I found lying around in nothing happened, and with a growing going to give them that night; as it big house and went down to the lodge. the way. And to get his or her prop-

the circular staircase. In fact, I knew tell it in my own way. In an hour came out again very soon. Something ties. that he had once investigated the en- from the time I entered the Charity had occurred, she didn't know what: tire length of the clothes chute, hang- hospital I had heard a sad and pitiful but very soon Mr. Innes and another is commanding great and mysterious ing to a rope, with this in view. I narrative, and had seen a woman slip gentleman left, using the car, was rejuctantly about to concede that into the unconsciousness that is only

parents in a little town in the middle into the house. He had a golf-stick during interest and pleasure. I hurried into the next room. Yes, west. There was only one sister left. this, and the young man's ardor rather carried them away. In a word, seven years before, Lucy Haswell had

given as Aubrey Wallace. Anne Haswell had married a carustomary methods availed at all penter in her native town and was a That there was a means of entrance, widow. For three months everything certain. But what? What would I bride to Chicago, where they lived at find if I did get in? Was the detect. a hotel. Perhaps the very unsophistimoney from the Traders' bank there? ley Mill jarred on him in the city. He. hours over a few small tomatoes, lated by Dr. Abernethy turns on the was our whole theory wrong? had been far from a model husband. Would not Paul Armstrong have taken even for the three months, and when child and named him Lucien.

own, and on Lucien she had lavished all the surrounding country, and it stairs."-London Chronicle, all her aborted maternal instinct. On is the time when cock-fights are alone thing she was determined, how- lowed. Men spend a good share of Liddy discovered the fresh break ever: That was that Aubrey Wallace their time during the week in training in the trunkroom wall while we were should educate his boy. It was a part their pet roosters, and on Sunday, at luncheon, and ran shricking down of her devotion to the child that she early and late, they can be seen going the stairs. She mantained that, as should be ambitious for him; he to and from the pit, carrying their stance of the tooth. Leave oreosote the entered, unseen hands had been must have every opportunity. And so game-cocks under their arms.

digging at the plaster; that they had she came east. She drifted around, ing worse she had written to Mrs. stopped when she went in, and she doing plain sewing and keeping a Armstrong, telling her nothing but had felt a gust of cold damp air. In home somewhere always for the boy, that Arnold's legitimate child was at unluckily forgotten to hide, and held and she put the boy in an Episcothem out to the detective and myself. plalian home, and secured the posi-"What did I tell you?" she said tion of housekeeper to the Arm- pers were in her trunk at Sunnyside,

smell of the graveyard on them. How threatened exposure if he did not prodo we know they weren't tramping vide for him. Indeed, for a time, he door she came to. She had fallen through the Casanova churchyard last did so. Then he realized that Lucien down the clothes chute, and been was the ruling passion in this lonely saved by the basket beneath. I could Mr. Jamieson almost choked to woman's life. He found out where have cried with relief; then it had not Jamileson's opinion of my intelligence, breath. "They certainly look like it." Where Arnold had given money for seemed to relieve the dying woman. and firmly resolved not to tell him of I think the detective had a plan on he forced money from Anne Wat-Lucien's support, as the years went She did not know that Thomas was my suspicion until I had more than on which he was working, but which son instead until she was always pen-

The Armstrongs left for California, feeling of uncanniness I set to work turned out, I did surprise them-al- When I had rented Sunnyside, how- erty the owner had to pay a penny-The result was absolutely nil. When I drove from the train to the Chari-

> a state of terrible excitement. Mrs. The nurse gave her a stimulant, Watson tried to hide from Arnold, but

Thomas and she had got Louise quiet, and a little before three Mrs. food constituents that are indigestible. on the mantel and fireplace. The lat- Briefly, then, the housekeeper's Watson started up to the house unpalatable and even poisonous, are Thomas had a key to the east entry, subjected to chemical changes that

in his hand, that he had picked up somewhere, and on her refusal he had struck her with it. One hand had been badly cut, and it was that, poisoning having set in, which was killing her. She broke away in a frenzy of rage and fear, and got into the house while Gertrude and Jack Bailey were at the front door. She went upstairs, hardly knowing what she was doing. Gertrude's door was open, and Halsey's revolver lay there on the ted. She picked it up and turning ran part way down the circular staircase. She could hear Arnold fumbling at the lock outside. She slipped down quietly and opened the door; he was inside before she had got back to the stairs. It was quite dark, but she could see his white shirt-bosom. From the fourth step she fired. As he fell somebody in the billiard room screamed and ran. When the alarm was raised, she had had no time to get upstairs; she hid in the west wing until every one was down on the lower floor. Then she slipped upstairs and thew the revolver out of an upper window, going down again in time to admit the men from the Greenwood

If Thomas had suspected, he had never told. When she found the hand Arnold had injured was growing worse, she gave the address of Lucien at Richfield to the old man and almost board until she recovered. She had sent for me to ask me if I would try to interest the Armstrongs in the child. When she found herself growwas an Armstrong, and entitled to his father's share of the estate. The pawould prove what she said. It was she who had crept down the circular staircase, drawn by a magnet, that thing has been wearing your shoes. ticular enmity at that time in Anne's night Mr. Jamieson had heard some one there. Pursued, she had fled madly, anywhere-through the first

> That was the story. Sad and tragic (TO BE CONTINUED.)

"My children were becoming dreadthings around," said an original mother, "and the older members of the family weren't any too tidy. So I made up my mind that I wasn't going to be a 'pick-up' drudge for the rest of the household. I set up a big fine box, a box with an oblong hole in the top, into which I put every single thing-hat, coat, toy, pipe, no matter ever, she had thought the persecutions if it was one of the children: ten That had been on Saturday. That ten cents a week each, they didn't

Intelligence in the Kitchen. The higher the intelligence and the it had been Mr. Jamieson's idea and in a little while she was able to he was ugly. He left the lodge and broader the education of the woman that the hidden room, if there was talk. So broken and half-coherent, went up to the house about 2:30, was in the kitchen, the greater the pleasone would be found somewhere near however, was her story that I shall admitted at the east entrance and ure and satisfaction in household du-

> forces of nature. She is an alchemist behind an apron. At her command render them an epicurean delight. The On the way across the lawn she woman of real intelligence and powers was confronted by Arnold, who for of imagination finds in her well or-

### Day of Rest and Pleasure

Filipinos of Both Sexes Make Sunday a Time of Enjoyment-The

seen striding along the narrow trails their quiet, uneventful lives. toward the capital city where market married a young man whose name was is held, says a Manila correspondent. Strong and happy, they wade through the streams and the mud, happen to have, and toward noon they wares.

Excitement runs high and their joyous shouts can be heard for a long way. Some women attend the fights, but most of them do the double duty It is the women who market the of attending mass and then patronizproduce. Early each morning long ing the market, which is just across lines of these farmer wives, with great the street from the church. All day cigars in their mouths and large bas- Sunday they are active and excitable kets of wares on their heads, can be but the next day they settle back into

Cheering Her Up.

Islington, which is no longer rural. calling out to one another as they go, was once so esteemed by medical men and only stopping to get a fresh light that they sent their patients there for their cigars from some one of after severe illness. Many also went their number or some one whom they there in the last stages in the forlors chance to meet. Once at market they hope that the invigorating air might chat, smoke, laugh and barter for restore them to health. A story resome green squash, a live chicken, latter class of visitors. One of his eggs, fruit, sugar or anything they patients engaged some rooms in Islington, and casually remarked to the straggle home, having had a good landlady that the banisters on the visit and sold or exchanged their staircase were very much broken. "Lor' bless you, mam," said the land-Sunday is the one really strenuous lady, "it's no use to mend them, for day for the Filipino. It is the big they always get broken when the un-Anne had had no children of her market day when people come from dertaker's men bring the coffins down-

> Do Not Use Creosote Creosote should never be put into a hollow tooth for toothache. It relieves

to expert use.

the pain, but in time destroys the sub-

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A little girl had been so very naughty that her mother found it necessary to shut her up in a dark closet-in that family the direst punishment for the worst offense For 15 minutes the door had been locked without a sound coming from behind it. Not a whimper, not a sniffle At last the stern but anxious parent unlocked the closet door and peered into the darkness. She could see nothing.

"What are you doing in there?" she

And then a little voice piped from the blackness:

"I thpit on your new dress and I thnit on your new hat and I'm waiting for more thpit to come to thpit on your new parasol!"

### HIS HANDS CRACKED OPEN

"I am a man seventy years old. My hands were very sore and cracked open on the insides for over a year with large sores. They would crack open and bleed, itch, burn and ache so that I could not sleep and could do but little work. They were so bad that I could not dress myself in the morning. They would bleed and the blood dropped on the floor. I called on two doctors, but they did me no good. I could get nothing to do any good till I got the Cuticura Soap and Cuticura Ointment. About a year ago my daughter got a cake of Cuticura Soap and one box of Cuticura Ointment and in one week from the time I began to use them my hands were all healed up and they have not been a mite sore since. I would not be without the Cuticura Remedies.

"They also cured a bad sore on the \$100. The money was for Lucien's hand of one of my neighbor's children, and they think very highly of the Cuticura Remedies. John W. Hasty, So. Effingham, N. H., Mar. 5, and Apr. 11, '09."



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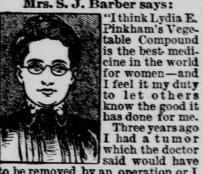
Money makes the mare go, but we are never quite sure of her destina-

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to be removed by an operation or I could not live more than a year, or two, at most. I wrote Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass., for advice, and took 14 bottles of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and today the tumor is gone and I am a perfectly well woman. I hope my testimonial will be of benefit to oth-"-Mrs. S. J. BARBER, Scott,

Mrs. E. F. Hayes says:



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— Mrs. W. K.

Housh, 7 Eastview Ave., Cin
cinnati, Ohio. mend it to all suf-Because your case is a difficult

one, doctors having done you no good, do not continue to suffer without giving Lydia E. Pinkham's Veg-etable Compound a trial. It surely has cured many cases of female ills, try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Such as inflammation, ulceration, discompound." — Mrs. E. F. HAYES, 1890 Washington St., Boston, Mass. larities, periodic pains, backache, etc.

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table Compound, and the pain soon

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and am now in perfect health.

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