THE CIRCULAR STAIRCASE

BY MARY ROBERTS RINEHART ILLUSTRATIONS BY ROYWALTERS

SYNOPSIS.

Miss Innes, spinster and guardian of Gertrude and Halsey, established summer headquarters at Sunnyside. Amidst nu-merous difficulties the servants deserted. As Miss Innes locked up for the night, she was startled by a dark figure on the veranda. Sile passed a terrible night, which was filled with unseemly noises. In the morning Miss Innes found a strange link cuff button in a clothes hamper. Gertrude and Halsey arrived with Jack Balley. The house was awak-ened by a revolver shot. A strange man was found shot to death in the hall. It proved to be the body of Arnold Arm-strong, whose banker father owned the country house. Miss Innes found Hal-sey's revolver and he and Jack Bailey had disappeared. The link cuff button mysteriously disappeared. De-tective Jamieson and the coroner arrived, gertrude revealed that she was engaged tective Jamieson and the coroner arrived, Gertrude revealed that she was engaged to Jack Balley, with whom she had talked in the billiard room a few mo-ments before the murder. Jamieson told Miss Innes that she was hiding evidence from him. He imprisoned an intruder in an empty room. The prisoner escaped down a laundry chute. It developed that from him. He imprisoned an intruder in an empty room. The prisoner escaped down a hamdry chute. It developed that the intruder was probably a woman. Ger-trude was suspected, for the intruder left a prist of a bare foot. Gertrude re-turned home with her right ankle sprained. A negro found the other half of what proved to be Jack Bailey's cuff button.

CHAPTER VIII .- Continued.

"Undoubtedly. Why, what could it be but flight? Miss Innes, let me re- this house as he could. Go up to bed construct that evening, as I see it. now; and mind, if I hear of this story Bailey and Armstrong had quarreled being repeated to the other maids, I Your nephew brought Bailey over. Prompted by jealous, insane fury, Armstrong followed, coming across by the path. He entered the billiard room wing-perhaps rapping, and being admitted by your nephew. Just inside he was shot, by some one on the circular staircase. The shot fired, your nephew and Balley left the house leave that china dotted along the road at once, going toward the automobile house. They left by the lower road, which prevented them being heard. and when you and Miss Gertrude got downstairs everything was quiet." "But-Gertrude's story," I stam-

mered.

"Miss Gertrude only brought formorning. I do not believe it, Miss Innes. It is the story of a loving and ingenious woman."

"And-this thing to-night?" "May upset my whole view of the drive. case. We must give the benefit of every doubt after all. We may, for

up and tell me the whole thing." Roste sat up then, and sniffled. "I was coming up the drive-" she began.

"You must start with when you in, "Very well. You were coming up the drive-'

"I had a basket of-of silver and dishes on my arm, and I was carrying ly wiped my eyes on Beulah in the the plate, because-because I was excitement. afraid I'd break it. Part-way up the road a man stepped out of the bushes, and held his arm like this, spread out, so I couldn't get past. He said-he said-'Not so fast, young lady; I want you to let me see what's in that

basket." She got up in her excitement and

took hold of my arm. "It was like this, Miss Innes," she

said, "and say you was the man. When he said that, I screamed and where have you been?" ducked under his arm like this. He caught at the basket and I dropped it. I ran as fast as I could, and he came and the basket out of my arms in a after as far as the trees. Then he stopped. Oh, Miss Innes, it must have been the man that killed that Mr. Armstrong!"

"Don't be foolish," I said. "Whoever killed Mr. Armstrong would put and we went slowly and painfully up as much space between himself and to the house. at the club. I learned this to-day, shall deduct from your wages for of coaxing from both men to get the every broken dish I find in the drive." I could fancy Liddy's face when she missed the extra pieces of china-she and stood facing each other in the had opposed Rosie from the start. If hall did Halsey say anything. He Liddy once finds a prophecy fulfilled, slipped his strong young arm around especially an unpleasant one, she my shoulders and turned -me so I never allows me to forget it. It seemed to me that it was absurd to for her to spy the next morning; so see Gertrude, too; we will have a with a sudden resolution, I opened the door again and stepped out into the darkness. As the door closed behind me I half regretted my impulse; then I shut my teeth and went on.

I have never been a nervous woman, as I said before. Moreover, a minward her explanation the following ute or two in the darkness enabled me to see things fairly well. Beulah Mr. Jamieson had said the woman gave me rather a start by rubbing unexpectedly against my feet; then we two, side by side, went down the

The meeting between brother and this last mysterious occurrence. There were no fragments of china, but where the grove began I picked sister was tense, but without tears. "There is something else," I said instance, come back to the figure on up a silver spoon. So far Rosie's Halsey kissed her tenderly, and I nothe porch; if it was a woman you saw story was borne out; I began to wonticed evidences of strain and anxiety have never told this even to Gertrude. that night through the window, we der if it were not indiscreet, to say in both young faces. but the morning after the crime I might start with other premises. Or the least, this midnight prowling in "Is everything-right?" she asked. found, in a tulip bed, a revolver. It-Mr. Innes' explanation may turn us a neighborhood with such a deserved-"Right as can be," with forced it was yours, Halsey." in a new direction. It is possible that by bad reputation. Then I saw somecheerfulness. For an appreciable moment Haisey he shot Arnold Armstrong as a burg- thing gleaming, which proved to be I lighted the living room and we stared at me. Then he turned to Gerthe handle of a cup, and a step or went in there. Only a half-hour be- trude he had done. In any case, however, two farther on I found a V-shaped bit fore I had sat with Mr. Jamieson in I feel confident that the body was of plate. But the most surprising that very room, listening while he here when he left. Mr. Armstrong thing of all was to find the basket sit. overtly accused both Gertrude and him, didn't he?" left the club ostensibly for a moon- ting comfortably beside the road, with Halsey of at least a knowledge of the light saunter, about half after eleven the rest of the broken crockery piled death of Arnold Armstrong. Now Hal- that," I implored. "The detective o'clock. It was three when the shot neatly within, and a handful of small sey was here to speak for himself: 1 thinks possibly Jack Bailey came back, should learn everything that had puz- and-and the thing happened then." silver, spoons, forks and the like, on I leaned back bewildered, it seemed top! I could only stand and stare. zied me. to me that the evening had been full Then Rosle's story was true. But "I saw it in the paper to-night for of significant happenings, had I only where had Rosle carried her basket? the first time," he was saying. "It held the key. Had Gertrude been the And why had the thief, if he were a knocked me dumb. When I think of fugitive in the clothes chute? Who thief, picked up the broken china out this houseful of women, and a thing bring? Mine?" was the man on the drive near the of the road and left it, with his like that occurring!" Gertrude's face was still set and It was with my nearest approach to white. "That isn't all, Halsey," she

"What in the world is the matter a nervous collapse that I heard the fa-with you?" I snapped. "Has the day miliar throbhing of an automobile enof good common sense gone by! Sit gine. As it came closer I recognized the outline of the Dragon Fly, and knew that Halsey had come back. Strange enough it must have seemed to Halsey, too, to come across

me in the middle of the night, with went down the drive, with my dishes the skirt of my gray slik gown over said. "You and-and Jack left almost and my silver," I interrupted, but, my shoulders to keep off the dew, at the time it happened. The detective here thinks that you-that we-know seeing more signs of hysteria, I gave holding a red and green basket under something about it." one arm and a black cat under the other. What with rellef and joy, I be-

were fairly starting from his head. "I gan to cry, right there, and very nearbeg your pardon, Aunt Ray, but-the fellow's a lunatic." "Tell me everything, won't you, Hal-

CHAPTER IX.

Just Like a Girl.

has been a terrible 48 hours for all "Aunt Ray!" Halsey said from the gloom behind the lamps. "What in of us. the world are you doing here?" see the horror of the situation dawn-

"Taking a walk." I said, trying to ing in his face. be composed. I don't think the answer struck either of us as being right Ray," he said after a moment. "As to diculous at the time. "Oh, Halsey,

But Gertrude knows that Jack and I "Let me take you up to the house. left the house before this thing-this He was in the road, and had Beulah horrible murder-occurred. moment. I could see the car plainly Gertrude said drearily. "Halsey, if now, and Warner was at the wheelthe worst comes, if they should arrest Warner in an ulster and a pair of you, you must-tell." slippers, over heaven knows what, Jack Bailey was not there. I got in, a new sternness in his voice. "Aunt Ray, it was necessary for Jack and

me to leave that night. I cannot tell We did not talk. What we had to you why-just yet. As to where we say was too important to commence went, if I have to depend on that as there, and, besides, it took all kinds an alibi, I shall not tell. The whole thing is an absurdity, a trumped-up Dragon Fly up the last grade. Only charge that cannot possibly be seriwhen we had closed the front door ous city," I demanded, "or to the club?" moment I do not know where he is." faced the light.

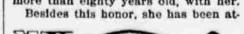
"Poor Aunt Ray!" he said gently. And I nearly wept again. "I-I must three-cornered talk."

from within, and that he was shot And then Gertrude herself came down down from above, by some one on the the stairs. She had not been to bed circular staircase. evidently; she still wore the white negligee she had worn earlier in the tained; but I fancied I caught a sudevening, and she limped somewhat. den glance at Gertrude, a flash of During her slow progress down the something that died as it came. stairs I had time to notice one thing: went over the whole story, from the who escaped from the cellar had night Liddy and I had been alone up worn no shoe on her right foot. Ger- to the strange experience of Rosie trude's right ankle was the one she and her pursuer. The basket still had sprained! stood on the table, a mute witness to

HONOR FOR WOMAN DOCTOR

Bertha von Hoosen of Chicago Writes Paper Which is Read in Medical Congress.

Chicago .- Out of several hundred papers submitted to the international congress, the one of a woman doctor of Chicago, Dr. Bertha von Hoosen, was chosen to be read before the association at its meeting in Budapest. It was one of two written in the Engglish language that were chosen, the other being the production of an eastern doctor of distinction. Just as soon as she was informed of her honor, Dr. von Hoosen hastened abroad, taking her mother, who is more than eighty years old, with her, "The devil he does!" Halsey's eyes





Dr. Bertha von Hoosen.

tending clinics in Paris, which are said to have been closed to women until just a few years ago, and she has performed a number of operations. She is acknowledged by the men of her profession to be a surgeon of great skill. St. Luke's operating room is the place where she does much of her work, and she has been known to perform five operations in a morning and maintain her steadiness of hand throughout.

In appearance Dr. von Hoosen is not what the professional woman has erstwhile been considered to be. She is small and plump and she has quantities of golden hair. Her face is youthful and her eyes are bright and sympathetic. She dresses with style and taste.

RICH "COP" STILL ON BEAT

hesitatingly, at the last. "Halsey, I Policeman Neely of Pittsburg Has \$100 Dally Income, But Holds His Job.

> Pittsburg, Pa .- Despite the fact that an oleaginous stream of wealth is flowing into his coffers at the rate

An Almost Universal Prayer.

'Among the late Bishop Foss' anec dotes about prayer," said a Philadelphia Methodist, "there was one concerning a very original Norristown preacher.

"This preacher, in the course of a long prayer one Sunday night, recounted the many misfortunes and evils that had befallen him in the course of his long life. Then, sighing heavily, he prayed:

"Thou hast tried me with affliction, with bereavement, and with terrow of many kinds. If thou are obliged to try me again, Lord, try me with the burden of wealth."

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Not Prepared to See.

Marjorie-Didn't you see the mouse? Madge-Why, dear, 1 just couldn't see it. 1 had my old stockings on.

Constipution causes and seriously aggravates many diseases. It is thoroughly cored by Dr. Pierce's Pellets. Tiny sugar-coated granules.

My thoughts are my own possession, my acts may be limited by my country's laws .-- G. Forster.

Lewis' Single Binder gives a man what he wants, a rich, mellow-tasting cigar.

Search others for their virtues, and thyself for thy vices .-- Fuller.

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WESTERN CANAD What J. J. Hill, the Great Railroad Magnate, Says About its Wheat-Producing Powers

lar and then fied, frightened at what was fired."

lodge, and whose gold-mounted dress- booty? ing-bag had I seen in the lodge sitting room?

It was late when Mr. Jamieson finally got up to go. I went with him to the door, and together we stood looking out over the valley. Below lay the village of Casanova, with its Old World houses, its blossoming trees and its peace. Above on the hill across the valley were the lights of the Greenwood club. It was even possible to see the curving row of parallel lights that marked the carriage road. Rumors that I had heard about the club came back-of drinking, of high play, and once, a year ago, of a suicide under those very lights.

Mr. Jamieson left, taking a short cut to the village, and I still stood there. It must have been after 11, and the monotonous tick of the big clock on the stairs behind me was the only sound. Then I was conscious that some one was running up the drive. In a minute a woman darted into the area of light made by the open door, and caught me by the arm. It was Rosle-Rosle in a state of collapse from terror, and, not the least important, clutching one of my Coalport plates and a silver spoon.

She stood staring into the darkness behind, still holding the plate. I got her into the house and secured the plate; then I stood and looked down at her where she crouched tremblingly against the doorway.

"Well," I asked, "didn't your young man enjoy his meal?"

She couldn't speak. She looked at the spoon she still held-I wasn't so anxious about it; thank Heaven, it wouldn't chip-and then she stared at

"I appreciate your desire to have everything nice for him," I went on. "but the next time, you might take the Limoges china. It's more easily duplicated and less expensive."

"I haven't a young man-not here." She had got her breath now, as I had guessed she would. "I-I have been chased by a thief, Miss Innes.' "Did he chase you out of the house

and back again?" I asked. Then Rosie began to cry-not si lently, but noisily, hysterically, 1 stopped her by giving her a good

shake.



"My revolver, Trude!" he exclaimed. "Why, Jack took my revolver with

sey?" I begged. "Tell me where you

went that night, or rather morning.

and why you went as you did. This

He stood staring at me, and I could

"I can't tell you where I went, Aunt

why, you will learn that soon enough.

'Mr. Jamieson does not believe.'

"I shall tell nothing." he said with

"Has Mr. Bailey gone back to the

"Neither," defiantly; "at the present

"Halsey," I asked gravely, leaning

forward. "have you the slightest sus-

picion who killed Arnold Armstrong?

The police think he was admitted

"I know nothing of it," he main-

As quietly, as calmly as I could, I

"Oh, for heaven's sake don't say "He didn't come back," Halsey said

sternly. "Gertrude, when you brought to take with him, what one did you stumps.

Gertrude was defiant now.

"No. Yours was loaded, and I was afraid of what Jack-might do. I gave him one I have had for a year or two. It was empty."

Halsey threw up both hands de spairingly.

"If that isn't like a girl!" he said. Why didn't you do what I asked you to, Gertrude? You send Bailey off with an empty gun, and throw mine in a tulip bed, of all places on earth! Mine was a 38 caliber. The inquest will show, of course, that the bullet that killed Armstrong was a 38. Then where shall I be?"

"You forget," I broke in, "that I have the revolver, and that no one knows about it." But Gertrude had risen angrily.

"I cannot stand it; it is always with me," she cried. "Halsey, I did not throw your revolver into the tulip bed. 1-think - you - did-it-yourself!'

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

A Burglar's Text Book,

The police of New York found upon a burglar, arrested by them, a treatise on safe-cracking that is said to be the most remarkable document that has ever fallen into their hands. The contents are so well compiled that the police unhesitatingly declare the author a past grand master in his profession, and, according to Popular Mechanics, are somewhat anxious to find out just how many copies are in circulation throughout the country.

For the most part the manuscript is in the yegg code, a lingo freely used by thieves the country over. It describes the two kinds of safes recognized by the profession, namely, the fireproof and the burglar-proof, asserting, however, that there is no genuine burglar-proof safe, and that kind that are drill-proof are only called so by courtesy. Minute directions for cracking a safe are given, together with diagrams to illustrate the treat-Ise.

Guilt Revealede "Johnny, do you smoke cigarettes?" "I d-d-do a l-l-little, sir," stammered Johnny, paling beneath the tan of the

baseball field. The boss fixed him with his eagle eye.

"Then gimme me one," he said. left mine on the bureau."

of \$100 a day, Harry Neely of the Pittsburg police force is content to continue swinging his nightstick and 'pounding a beat.' Neely, who is 35 years old and a pa-

trolman attached to the Allegheny police station, had as his heritage a small sandy farm, in Sandy Creek, Pine township, 15 miles from Pittsburg, which until recently was prodown a revolver that night for Jack ductive of little besides rocks and

> Then an agent of John D. Rockefeller came along and scented oil underlying the bleak acres. Today four "gushers" are pouring forth a united stream of wealth and semi-annually there comes to Patrolman Neely a check drawn on the Standard Oil company and approximating \$100 a day as Neely's share of the proceeds. The field is being further developed and Neely bids fair to become a very



Harry Neely.

rich man. He is investing his money in brewery stock as fast as the checks come in.

"Meanwhile," says Neely, "three dollars a day merely for swinging a club and wagging an occasional sleeper still looks good to me."

A Fashionable Malady. "Yes, Mrs. Gayleigh has found it necessary to go west and remain there for some time." "Pulmonitis?"

Renoltis."-Cleveland Plain "No. Dealer.

His Little Weight. "That chap used to be a champion lightweight." "What! A boxer?" "No. A grocer."-London Opinion.



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I Was Conscious That Some One Was Running Up the Drive.