

BY MARY ROBERTS RINEHART ILLUSTRATIONS BY RAY WALTERS

SYNOPSIS.

SYNOPSIS. Miss Innes, spinster and guardian of Gertrude and Haisey, established sum-mer headquarters at Sunnyside. Arnold Armstrong was found shot to death in the hall. Gertrude and her flance. Jack Balley, had conversed in the billiard for shorily before the murder. Detec-tive Jamieson accused Miss Innes of bold-ing back evidence. Cashier Balley of Paul Armstrong's bank, defunct, was arrested for embezzlement. Paul Armstrong's death was announced. Halsey's flances have still loved him, she was to marry an-other. It developed that br. Walker was be still loved him, she was to marry an-other. It developed that br. Walker was be be ach on the stairway and she fainted. Balley is suspected of Arm-for embezzle was found unconscious at the bottom of the circular staircase. If the dark on the stairway and she fainted. Balley is suspected of Arm-fore, "A ladder found out of place deep-net," A ladder found out of place deep-net, and in the dark Miss Innes shot urned, and in the dark Miss Innes shot are in intruder. Halsey mysteriously disap-peared. His auto was found wrecked by a freight train. It developed Halsey had ne argument in the library with a woman before his disappearance. New cook dis-appears. Miss Innes learned Halsey was let mention of the name of Nina Carring-ton. Evidence was secured from a tramp-bound and gagged and thrown into an empty box car.

CHAPTER XXVIII.-Continued.

Mr. Winters and Alex disposed of the tramp with a warning. It was evident he had told us all he knew. We had occasion, within a day or two, to be doubly thankful that we had given him his freedom When Mr. Jamieson telephoned that night we had news for him; he told me what I had not realized before-that it would not be possible to find Halsey at once, even with this clew. The cars by this time, three days, might be scattered over the union. But he said to keep on hoping, but I managed to gasp out, "Ger-; that it was the best news we had had. And in the meantime, consumed with anxiety as we were, things were happening at the house in rapid succession.

We had one peaceful day-then Liddy took sick in the night. I went in when I heard her groaning, and found lying on the bed in Louise's room, her with a hot-water bottle to her face, and her right cheek swollen until it was glassy.

ly. "You deserve it. A woman of your age, who would rather go around | foot of the circhlar staircase Mr. Win- | questions. Did any one come out here with an exposed nerve in her head than have the tooth pulled! It would stand, I crept back to my room. The be over in a moment."

"So would hanging," Liddy protested, from behind the hot-water bottle

I was hunting around for cotton and laudanum.

"You have a tooth just like it yourself, Miss Rachel," she whimpered. thickly. "And I'm sure Dr. Boyle's been trying

to take it out for years."



When I Came To It Was Dawn.

trude!

"Good Lord!" a man's voice exo'clock Mr. Jamieson telephoned from claimed, just beside me. And then I the Casanova station and Warner be excited, and he said Miss Armcollapsed. I felt myself going, felt went down to meet him. I got up and dressed hastily, and the detective was some one catch me, a horrible nausea -that was all 1 remembered.

shown up to my sitting room. When I came to it was dawn. I was with the cherub on the ceiling staring down at me, and there was a blanket

from my own bed thrown over me. I "Toothache?" I asked, not too gent- felt weak and dizzy, but I managed to peculiar errand, which I will tell you get up and totter to the door. At the door into Gertrude's room was no longer locked; she was sleeping like a

Liddy hugged a cold hot-water bottle and mumbled in her sleep. "There's some things you can't hold

with hand-cuffs," she was muttering

CHAPTER XXIX.



Riggs came into the room diffident ly, but Mr. Jamleson put him at his ease. He kept a careful eye on me, however, and slid into a chair by the door when he was asked to sit down. "Now, Riggs," began Mr. Jamieson kindly. "You are to say what you

have to say before this lady." "You promised you'd keep it quiet, Mr. Jamieson." Riggs plainly did not trust me. There was nothing friendly

in the glance he turned on me. "Yes, yes. You will be protected. But, first of all, did you bring what you promised?"

Riggs produced a roll of papers from under his coat, and handed them over. Mr. Jamieson examined them with lively satisfaction, and passed them to me. "The blue-prints of Sunnyside," he said. "What did I tell you? Now, Riggs, we are ready." "I'd never have come to you, Mr.

Jamieson," he began, "if it hadn't been for Miss Armstrong. When Mr. Innes was spirited away, like, and Miss Louise got sick because of it, I thought things had gone far enough. I'd done some things for the doctor before that wouldn't just bear looking into, but I turned a bit squeamish." "Did you help with that?" I asked, leaning forward.

"No, ma'm. I didn't even know of it until the next day, when it came out in the Casanova Weekly Ledger. But I know who did it, all right. I'd better start at the beginning. "When Dr. Walker went away to

California with the Armstrong family, there was talk in the town that when he came back he would be married to Miss Armstrong, and we all expected it. First thing I knew, I got a letter from him in the west. He seemed to

strong had taken a sudden notion to go home and he sent me some money. was to watch for her, to see if she went to Sunnyside, and wherever she was, not to lose sight of her until he got home. I traced her to the lodge, and I guess I scared you on the drive one night, Miss Innes." "And Rosie!" I ejaculated.

Riggs grinned sheepishly. "I only wanted to make sure Miss

Louise was there. Rosie started to run, and I tried to stop her and tell her some sort of a story to account for my being there. But she wouldn't wait.

"And the broken china-in the basket?"

"Well, broken china's death to rubber tires," he said. "I hadn't any

NEBRASKA IN BRIEF.

News Notes of Interest From Various Sections.

York is to have an up-to-date hospital managed by Mrs. Laura Atkinson. Mrs. Atkinson has had years of experience in hospital work.

Mrs. J. Swan, of David City, attempted suicide by pouring a half a gallon of oil over her body and clothing, setting them on fire. She is not expected to live.

The Webster county fair held at Bladen was a grand success from start to finish. The free entertainments were the best obtainable and kept the people from getting restless. J. H. Behrends and wife celebrated their golden wedding at their home, three miles southwest of Nebraska City. There were over 300 guests present and the festivities lasted two davs.

Mrs. Martha Taylor, of Lyons, received word that her son, Frank Taylor, a conductor on the Chicago & Northwestern, was killed at Beaver Crossing. He lived at Linwood, Neb., and leaves a wife and child. His brother, P. E. Taylor, is a consul at Stavanger, Norway.

In the course of the next few days the officers of the Fremont Auto club will put up sign posts on the roads north and west of Fremont to guide tourists to and from that city. The signs which the club put in the spring between there and Omaha have been a great help to autoists during the summer months.

A head-on collision occurred at Blair between two freight trains in the south part of the city. The train from the south had not pulled all of its cars onto another track, and the train bound south struck it and damaged its engine, besides pushing two cars off into the ditch. The track was cleared after a night's work.

Lightning struck the barn of Charles Tieple, seven miles southeast of Creighton, causing a fire which consumed the entire structure, together with its contents, consisting of two horses valued at \$500, harness, machinery and considerable hay. A granary adjoining the barn, in which 3,000 bushels of small grain was stored, was also destroyed.

The three-year-old son of Charles Graha of Saline county wandered away from home and was lost for several days. A searching party was formed and the child was found about a mile from home, caught in a wire fence. The family dog was with him. It was the dog's barking that attracted the attention of the searchers. The boy was unharmed except for slight scratches.

The fire that destroyed the \$85,000 plant of the Granite Brick company will be the subject of a fight in the courts of Dodge county. The insurance companies that paid the losses filed an action against the Union Pacific Railroad company, charging that sparks from a Union Pacific engine started the blaze. The insurance amounted to \$5,000 and the fire loss was appraised at \$15,000.

So Rosie's highwayman was ex- The session this year will be of but

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Little kidney troubles gradually grow more serious and pave the way

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Anamosa, Iowa says: "I suffered such awful pain] could not lie down I was perfectly helpless for six months. My ankles were so badly swollen I could

not wear my shoes. Soon after using Doan's Kidney Pills I was able to walk without crutches. I gradually improved until I ceased to bloat and the kidneys became normal."

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IGNORANT OF ART.



The Kid-Mister, Johnnie says that purple thing in front of the picture's a windmill an' I say it's a tree; which is right?

The Impressionist-That's a cow.

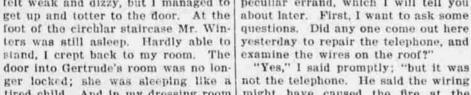
Anticipated.

Margaret-Did you tell the girls at the tea that secret I confided to you and Josephine?

Katherine-No, truly I didn't. Josephine got there first .-- Harper's Bazar.

I hold it indeed to be a sure sign of a mind not poised as it ought to be if it be insensible to the pleasures of home.-Lex.





wear rubber gloves.

examine the wires on the roof?"

but he only looked around."

"Good for you!" he applauded. 'Don't allow any one in the house complaint against you people here, that you don't trust, and don't trust and the Dragon Fly was a good car." County Farmers' institute are out. anybody. All are not electricians who

"No news?" I asked, as he entered. He tried to look encouraging, without SUCCESS "It won't be long now, Miss Innes," he said. "I have come out here on a about later. First, I want to ask some

There were several things that day

that bewildered me. About three

"Yes," I said promptly; "but it was not the telephone. He said the wiring tired child. And in my dressing room might have caused the fire at the stable. I went up with him myself,

Mr. Jamieson smiled.

There was no laudanum, and Liddy made a terrible fuss when I proposed carbolic acid, just because I had put on liquid diet had been a splendid rest surprise it was locked.

room next, but Gertrude was not there. She had not undressed.

there. Through the door I could hear Liddy grumbling, with a squeal now and then when the pain stabbed harder. Then, automatically, I got the laudanum and went back to her.

It was fully a half-hour before Lidlooked out, but I saw and heard nothhad dropped into a doze, I even ven- sult. tured as far as the head of the circular staircase, but there floated up to me after luncheon, and asked for me. only the even breathing of Winters, the night detective, sleeping just in-

my head, and very faint-three or four man." short muffled taps, a pause, and then again, stealthily repeated.

The sound of Mr. Winters' breaththat there was help within call, somenot move for a moment; ridiculous ing" things Liddy had said about a ghost-I am not at all superstitious, except, perhaps, in the middle of the night. with everything dark-things like that to have Louise come up here with us came back to me. Almost beside me He looked daggers at me. And he was the clothes chute. I could feel it, but I could see nothing. As I stood, Then it ceased; there was an uneasy the way he put it." movement and a grunt from the foot of the circular staircase, and silence again. I stood perfectly still, hardly daring to breathe.

Then I knew I had been right. Some onc was stealthily passing the head of the staircase and coming toward me in the dark. I leaned against the wall guine." for support-my knees were giving way. The steps were close now, and suddenly I thought of Gertrude. Of course it was Gertrude. I put out one hand in front of me, but I touched could put his finger on him, if he nothing. My voice almost refused me. | wanted to "

A Scrap of Paper. For the first time in 20 years I kept too much on the cotton once and my bed that day. Liddy was alarmed pocket-book and opened it carefully. burned her mouth. I'm sure it never to the point of hysteria, and sent for did her any permanent harm; indeed, Dr. Stewart just after breakfast. Gerthe doctor said afterward that living trude spent the morning with me, reading something-I forget what. I for her stomach. But she would have was too busy with my thought to lis- Miss Innes. Just as surely as I sit rington, and the doctor made things none of the acid, and she kept me ten. I had said nothing to the two here, there is something in this house pretty strong. If I found any such awake groaning, so at last I got up detectives. If Mr. Jamieson had been and went to Gertrude's door. To my there I should have told him everything, but I could not go to these ing up, Miss Innes."

I went around by the hall and into strange men and tell them my niece her bedroom that way. The bed was had been missing in the middle of the among Arnold Armstrong's effects, turned down, and her dressing gown night; that she had not gone to bed and I recall it again: and night-dress lay ready in the little at all: that while I was searching for her through the house I had met a stranger who, when I fainted, had car-I don't know what terrible thoughts ried me into a room and left me there, came to me in the minute I stood to get better or not, as it might happen

And there was something else: The man I had met in the darkness had been even more startled than I, and about his voice, when he muttered his his-

mufiled exclamation, there was somedy's groans subsided. At intervals I thing vaguely familiar. All that mornwent to the door into the hall and ing, while Gertrude read aloud, and Liddy watched for the doctor, 1 was ing suspicious. Finally, when Liddy puzzling over that voice, without re-

Dr. Walker came up, some time just "Go down and see him," I instructed Gertrude. "Tell him I am out-for side the entry. And then, far off, I mercy's sake don't say I'm sick. Find his effort to reinstall Mrs. Armstrong heard the rapping noise that had lured out what he wants, and from this time and her daughter here, he, or a con-Louise down the staircase that other on, instruct the servants that he is federate, has tried to break into the a correspondent, it seems that the night, two weeks before. It was over not to be admitted. I loathe that

Gertrude came back very soon, her face rather flushed.

"He came to ask us to get out." she ing was comforting; with the thought | said, picking up her book with a jerk. "He says Louise Armstrong wants to thing kept me from waking him. I did come here, now that she is recover.

"And what did you say?"

"I said we were very sorry we could not leave, but we would be delighted wanted to know if we would recommend Eliza as a cook. He has brought listening intently, I heard a sound a patient, a man, out from town, and here as Mattie Bliss, what did she you?" near me. It was vague, indefinite. is increasing his establishment-that's

> "I wish him joy of Eliza," I said tartly. "Did he ask for Halsey?" "Yes. I told him that we were on the track last night, and that it was only a question of time. He said he died a natural death?" was glad, although he didn't appear to be, but he said not to be too san-

"Do you know what I believe?" I asked. "I believe, as firmly as I believe anything, that Dr. Walker knows something about Halsey, and that he Riggs come up? He has left Dr.

He refused to explain further, but he got a slip of paper out of his "Listen," he said. "You heard this before and scoffed. In the light of re- another letter, telling me to watch cent developments I want you to read for a woman who had been pitted it again. You are a clever woman. that is wanted very anxiously by a number of people. The lines are clos-

The paper was the one he had found -by altering the plans forrooms, may be possible. The best way, -in one of the----rooms---nev "I think I understand," I said slowly. "Some one is searching for

the secret room, and the invaders-"And the holes in the plaster-" "Have been in the progress of

"Or her-investigations." "Her?" I asked.

"Miss Innes," the detective said, getting up, "I believe that somewhere in the walls of this house is hidden and when he didn't appear, she called some of the money, at least, from the Traders' bank. 1 believe, just as surely, that young Walker brought home she would see him swing for it. from California the knowledge of something of the sort, and, failing in

house. On two occasions I think he succeeded." "On three, at least," I corrected.

And then I told him about the night before. "I have been thinking hard," hind the counters of our suburban I concluded, "and I do not believe the man at the head of the circular staircase was Dr. Walker. I don't think he many, it became necessary for the could have got in, and the voice was not his."

Mr. Jamieson got up and paced the floor, his hands behind him.

"There is something else that puzzles me," he said, stepping before me. pire, where she was looking. "Not Who and what is the woman Nina Carrington? If it was she who came ously. tell Halsey that sent him racing to Dr. Walker's, and then to Miss Arm-

strong? If we could find that woman we would have the whole thing."

Gertrude came in, announcing a man | grace," said the old lady; "but he will below to see Mr. Jamieson.

Walker and he has something he dam; the Greek grammar. Good wants to tell us."

plained "Well, I telegraphed the doctor where Miss Louise was and I kept an eye on her. Just a day or so before they came home with the body I got with smallpox. Her name was Car-

woman loafing around, I was not to lose sight of her for a minute until the doctor got back.

"Well, I would have had my hands full, but the other woman didn't show up for a good while, and when she did the doctor was home.'

"Riggs," I asked suddenly, "did you get into this house a day or two after I took it, at night?"

"I did not, Miss Innes. I have never been in the house before. Well, the Carrington woman didn't show up un til the night Mr. Halsey disappeared. She came to the office late, and the doctor was out. She waited around. walking the floor and working herself into a passion. When the doctor didn't come back, she was in an awful way. She wanted me to hunt him, him names; said he couldn't fool her.

There was murder being done, and (TO BE CONTINUED.)

Dresden China.

Judging by your recent note, writes geographical knowledge possessed by girl typists is about on a level with

that possessed by the damsels who represent the postmaster general bepost offices. Having occasion recently to telegraph funds to a town in Gerclerk to consult the post office guide. After a long and fruitless search 1 ventured to suggest that she was not likely to find the town I wanted in the section devoted to the celestial emunder China" she retorted supercili-

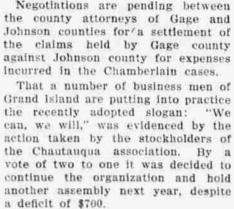
"You said Dresden, didn't

The Consoling Volume,

There was a backward student at Balllol who, for failure to pass an ex "Mr. Jamieson, did you ever think amination in Greek, was "sent down. that Paul Armstrong might not have His mother went to see the master Dr. Jowett, and explained to him what "That is the thing we are going to an excellent lad her son was. "It is a try to find out," he replied. And then hard experience for him, this dis have the consolation of religion, and "I want you present at this inter- there is always one book to which he view, Miss Innes," he said. May can turn." Jowett eyed her for a mo ment and then answered: "Yes, ma

morning "

one day's duration and is set for October 13. The principal lectures will be given by Prof. C. W. Pugsley and R. H. Searle of Lincoln and Anna East of Fremont. An important matter in connection with this year's institute is the boys' and girls' short course in agriculture and domestic science, which will be held for five days from October 10 to 14 inclusive. After many years of patient endurance of the indifference of the Northwestern railroad to the "excuse" for a walk leaing up town in Arlington from the station, the citizens and traveling public at last have assurance that the condition will be speedily remedied. Contractor W. H. Crane of that place was awarded the contract for the construction of a wide, permanent, cement walk from the station platform to the foot of the steps..



The police of Wymore are looking for two strangers who deliberately killed a horse belonging to a boy named Herbert Brannon, the sole support of a widowed mother. It seems that the lad rode the horse to the river, tied the anima; and made preparations to fish. Two fellows came along and asked the boy why he did not kill the animal, to which the lad remarked ... at it was his only means of support. When some time later the lad came for the horse he found it dead, having been beaten to death with a club.

The formers' institute, boys' corn and potato growing and girls' cooking and sewing contests for Red Willow county, will be held in McCook October 27. The McCook Commercial club has hung up a special corn prize of \$10.

An epidemic of diphiheria is reported at Cortland, Gage county. Two deaths occurred from the disease in one day and ten cases have been reported to the board of health. The leven-year-old daughter of Union Palife Agent C. A. Gardner and the nine-year-old daugater of Mrs. Parrish passed away.

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