



Carolyn of the Corners

—BY—
RUTH BELMORE ENDICOTT

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CHAPTER IX—Continued.

"Is it? Well, no, they didn't tell me that," admitted the sailor, "or I'd not started so late. You see I came up on a schooner. This here lake boatin' isn't in my line. The deape-water, I am."

"So I should 'spose," said Mr. Parlow, "I should you get up here, any way?"

"The war," said the visitor, "The war done it. Couldn't get a good berth in any deape-water bottom. So I thought I'd try freshwater boatin'. I tell you, mates, I been workin' as quartermaster mate on the old Cross and Crescent line, sailin' 'cross to Naples from New York, there and back, and so on."

"What did you leave your boat for?" asked the carpenter curiously.

"Well, you shud, there's things happenin' over to the other side of the ocean, mate, and the natural man, naturally, 'thinks you wouldn't believe some of 'em. The Cross and Crescent line's over up business till after the war's over, I reckon."

"You'd better not encourage him to talk any more, father," interposed Miss Amanda, coming into the room again. "The best thing he can do for himself is to go for a while."

"Thank you, mam," said the sailor humbly. "I'll try."

Darkness came on apace. The sky had become overcast, and there was promise of a stormy night—more storm, perhaps. But Miss Amanda would not allow Carolyn May and Prince to start for home at once.

"Watch for your uncle, Carolyn May, out of the front window, and be all ready to go with him when he comes along," said Miss Amanda. "When Uncle Joe comes along, Carolyn May can run out and bait him from the porch."

"Wait for me, Uncle Joe! Wait for me and Prince, please! Just let me get my mittens and Prince's harness and kiss Miss Mandy."

That last she did most soundly, and in full view of the man waiting in the white room.

"Old Uncle Joe, I've got just the wonderment story to tell you. Shall we harness Prince up again, or will you?"

"I can't wait for the dog, Carolyn May. I'm in a hurry. You oughtn't to be out in this wind, either. Get aboard your sled, now, and I'll drag you myself," Mr. Stagg interrupted.

CHAPTER X.

A Salt-Sea Flavor.

Swiftly Joseph Stagg trudged toward him, dragging Carolyn May behind him.

"Oh, dear me," exclaimed the little girl with excitement, "we're all so excited, Uncle Joe!"

"I can see you're all of a twitter," he returned absent-mindedly. "What's the matter?"

"Oh, you never could guess," was Carolyn May's introduction, and forthwith, in breathless sentences, went on

to tell of her discovery in the snow and about the old sailor now lying asleep on the Parlow couch.

Of course, when Carolyn May arrived at home, the story had to be told all over again to Aunt Rose Kennedy.

"A mighty plucky youngster, this Carolyn May of ours," Uncle Joe remarked. "What do you say, Aunt Rose?"

"She is, indeed, Joseph Stagg," agreed the woman.

Carolyn May insisted on going to the Parlow house herself after school the next afternoon to inquire about her "savior man."

When she had been kissed by Miss Amanda, and Prince had lain down by the kitchen range, the little girl demanded:

"And do tell me how my sailor man is, Miss Mandy. He got such a bump on his head?"

"Yes, the man's wound is really serious. The living him in bed. But you can go up to see him. He's talked a lot about you, Carolyn May."

The sailor lay in the warm bedroom over the kitchen.

Carolyn May peeped on early and soon had the sailor man looking up at the sea and ships, and "they that go down therein."

"For you, son," explained Carolyn May. "My papa and mamma were lost at sea."

"You don't say so, little miss?" asked the old sailor. "That's true, that's true."

Miss Amanda had appeared early about some household matter, and had left the girl and the sailor were alone together.

"Yes?" Carolyn May asked, and it was indeed hard to feel that it was "lost."

"And that's what's the little miss?" asked the man in bed.

"That the sailor and mamma are really drowned," said the little girl with quivering lips. "Some of the folks on their boat were saved. The papers said so."

"Yes, yes," exclaimed the sailor, his brows puckered into a frown. "Yes, yes, mated, that's all the way. Why, I was saved myself from a wreck. I was in the first officer's boat, and we in that boat was saved. There was another boat, the purser's boat. It was wrecked about all night with me. I came one time near smashin' into each other and wreckin' both boats. There was a heavy swell on."

"Yes," pursued the sailor, "come daylight, and the fog split in, we never could find the purser's boat. She had just as good a chance as we after the steamship sunk. But there it was! We got separated from her, and we was saved, whilst the purser's boat wasn't never heard on again."

"That was dreadful!" signed the little girl.

"Yes, little miss. And the poor passengers! Purser had twenty or more in his boat. Women mostly. But there was a sick man, too. Why, I helped lower his wife and him into the boat. I was called to go with the first officer in his boat. We was the last to cast off. The purser had just as good a chance as we did."

"I guess I won't never forget that time little miss," went on the sailor, seeing the blue eyes fixed on his face, round with interest. "No! And I've seen some tough times, too."

"The ship was riddled. She had to sink, and it was night."

"There was a man, I said I was a wonder, that fellow! Cheerful—brave—didn't often see a feller like him. Jokin' to the last, he was. He didn't want to go in the purser's boat, if there was more women or children to go."

"We told him all the women folk had left the ship. So, then, he let me lower him down into the purser's boat after his wife. And that boat had as good a chance as we had, I tell you," repeated the sailor in quite an excited manner.

"Oh, dear me," exclaimed Carolyn May. "My papa and mamma might have been just like that," she added.

"Of course, we don't know whether they got off the steamship at all."

"Yes, yes," the sailor said. "Pretty tough on you, little miss."

Miss Amanda had come back into the room, and she stood listening to the old man's talk. She said:

"Carolyn May, I think you had better go downstairs now. We mustn't let our patient talk too much. It won't be good for him."

So Carolyn May shook hands with the old sailor and started downstairs ahead of Miss Amanda. The latter lingered a moment to ask a question.

"What was the name of the steamship you were wrecked on?" she asked.

"The one you were just telling about," she said.

"She was the Dunraven—the Dunraven, of the Cross and Crescent line," replied the sailor. "Didn't I tell you that before, little miss?"

CHAPTER XI.

Will Wonders Never Cease?

Again it snowed all night.

It was on the next day, and at noon when Mr. Stagg was returning to the store, that a most astounding thing happened.

Mr. Stagg was walking briskly toward Sunrise Cove in his big felt snow-boots, such as all men wore in that locality, and was abreast of the Parlow shop and cottage, when he always sought to avoid looking at—when he heard a door open and close.

He tried not to look that way. But his ear told him instantly that the person who had come out was Miss Amanda.

He rather than his father. Knowing this, how could he help darting a glance at her?

Miss Amanda stood on the porch, looking directly at him.

"Mr. Stagg," she called earnestly, "I must speak to you."

Save on the Sunday when Prince had killed the blacksnake, Miss Amanda had not spoken directly to the hard State merchant in all these hungry years. It rather shocked Joseph Stagg now that she should do so.

"Will you come in?" she urged him, her voice rather tremulous.

There was a moment of absolute silence.

"Bless me! Yes!" ejaculated the hardware man finally.

"I assure you, Mr. Stagg," Miss Amanda said hurriedly, "it is no personal matter that causes me to stop you in this fashion."

"No, ma'am?" responded the man stifle.

"I want you to come in and speak with this sailor who was hurt," he finally said. "There is something he can tell you, Mr. Stagg, that I think you should know."

The big knock-knave by the window, in which Miss Amanda's mother had for several years before her death spent her waking hours, was now occupied by the sailor.

"This is the little girl's niece, Ben-jamin," Miss Amanda said quietly. "He will be interested in what you have to say. He's been through the loss of the Dunraven. Will you please repeat it all?"

"The Dunraven?" asked Mr. Stagg, sitting down in a broken chair, and looking at the sailor.

"That's the name of the ship," said the sailor, "and the name of the man who was with me when she was wrecked."

"You don't say so, little miss?" asked the old sailor. "That's true, that's true."

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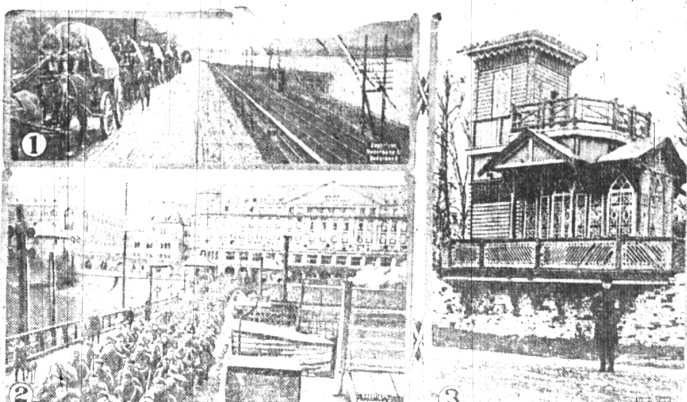
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1. American army trucks on the road between Coblenz and Bonn on the left bank of the Rhine. 2. A view of the American army trucks on the road between Coblenz and Bonn on the left bank of the Rhine. 3. A view of the American army trucks on the road between Coblenz and Bonn on the left bank of the Rhine.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Russ in Fashions Are Invited to Confer With Commission From the Allies.

ON SEA OF MARMORA ISLAND

Must First Clear Military Operations—Majority Socialists Victory in German Elections—British Plan for League of Nations—Presented—Irish Parliament Meets

BY EDWARD W. PICKARD

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