

# The Ruby Necklace

"She Paid the Price"

By CLARISSA MACKIE

On the night of Edith Palmer's birthday ball her husband came home early and sought his wife in her own rooms. His handsome face was aglow with love and admiration as he took the lovely form in his arms and kissed her eager, red lips.

"Darling, you are more beautiful every time I see you," he murmured.

"And you grow more blind," she chided him playfully. "I have been waiting for you to come and tell me what jewels I shall wear tonight." She turned to the dressing table and threw back the lid of a jewel box and removed the trays. Diamonds, sapphires and emeralds blazed in the light.

"Wear your rubies, Edith," said Dick Palmer, with a mysterious smile.

"Rubies? Don't tease, Dick. Those are the only stones I really want and do not possess. Shall it be diamonds?"

"Rubies tonight," insisted Dick, and from an inner pocket of his coat he drew forth a flat leather case and placed it in her hands.

"Dick Palmer, you darling!" cried Edith, and she showered kisses upon him before she opened the box. When she finally threw back the lid she was awed by the beauty of the stones her husband had selected for her birthday gift.

On a bed of white velvet was coiled a magnificent necklace of flawless rubies, perfect in color and, each stone the size of a very large pea.

Dick lifted the necklace and clasped it around his wife's neck; then he stood back to admire the rich red circle of fire against the whiteness of her skin.

"You dear, extravagant boy!" murmured Edith as she turned to the mirror to feast her eyes on the jewel. "I suppose you paid an enormous price for it."

"I paid a pretty stiff price, but I guess it's worth it. I didn't buy it in Buffam's. It isn't a brand new necklace, neither is it reconstructed from an old one. It's a genuine antique said to have belonged to an Asiatic ruler."

"Where did you find it, Dick?"

"In Lequith's on Fourth avenue. I've had it a month now, and Buffam has been cleaning it up for me. Well, I must run away and dress." Dick kissed his wife again and left the room.

Edith stood long before the mirror watching the liquid flame of the ruby necklace as she slowly turned her neck. At last she unclasped it and replaced it within its case.

"I'll not wear it down to dinner. It will be a surprise for all of them when the ball begins," she said to herself and looked around for a place in which to secret the case. The large jewel box would just fit into the tiny steel safe sunk in the wall near the chimney. Before the inconspicuous door there was hung a heavily framed square painting, which could be moved aside only by pressing a knob on the other side of the room.

Now Edith selected a diamond bracelet—a dazzling serpent with ruby eyes—and slipped it on her arm. Then she closed and locked the large jewel box, pressed the knob that moved aside the square picture and placed the box in the little safe. There was room after all for the new jewel case containing the ruby necklace, and after another glimpse of the beautiful jewel Edith tucked that in the safe, closed the steel door, replaced the picture and went down to dinner just as the gong sounded.

The rooms were bowers of loveliness. A separate color scheme had been selected for each one, and the whole harmonized in one glorious arrangement of flowers and palms.

There were several people staying at the Palmers', and most of them were gathered in the drawing room when Edith entered—the Maxfields, husband and wife; Eugenia Card, an old school friend of Edith's, and Dick's father, Henry Palmer. The fifth guest, Mme. Geulot had not yet joined them.

Just as the last strokes of the hall clock died away there was a rustle of silk that hesitated outside the door, and then Mme. Geulot came swiftly in, her bright coloring enhanced by two vivid crimson poinsettias at her breast. Her rich blue-black hair was coiled in a soft knot at the back of her shapely head, and above her low, thoughtful brow was placed a coronet of diamonds. Mme. Geulot was a very beautiful woman.

"A thousand pardons, cherie," she cried penitently. "That so stupid Marie of mine has made what you call a muddle of my toilet." She threw out her hands with a graceful gesture of despair, and her long dark eyes darted from one smiling face to another.

Mrs. Palmer shook her charming head and looked at the vision in amber satin and diamonds. "Dear Mme. Geulot," she said sweetly, "if you want to part with Marie I shall be delighted to relieve you of your stupid treasure!"

"No, no!" And they all laughed at madame's dismay.

In spite of the forthcoming ball the dinner was as perfect as it always had been since Pierre Caron had ruled in the Palmer kitchen. When the meal was concluded Edith went upstairs to complete her toilet, leaving her guests

scattered about the sower decked rooms.

As she went up the stairway to the next floor two faces peered at her from a curtained alcove—two dark faces with cunning eyes—but so contrasting were their conditions in life that had you coupled their names the world would have laughed at you.

After dismissing her maid Edith locked the door of her room and hastened to open the wall safe, where her jewels were secreted. She started back with a little cry of dismay, for the box containing the ruby necklace had disappeared.

She recovered herself almost instantly. "Of course Dick had taken it out to show his father, but how did he know it was there? He guessed it, as I did not wear it at dinner," she said as she closed the safe, picked up her gloves and fan and went down to the drawing room, outwardly composed. Her brain was a chaos of doubt and perplexity. She dreaded to ask her husband about the necklace. She was afraid to hear his answer.

Dick met her at the door of the drawing room. "Where is the necklace?" he asked quickly.

She paled to the lips. "Then you did not take it from the safe?" she gasped.

"No, of course not. I didn't know it was there."

"Then it has been stolen!" And she related the circumstances.

He frowned. "Where is Jeanne?"

"She was in my room when I returned to it after dinner. I dismissed her then."

"It happened at dinner," he said convincingly. "I'll ring up a detective. He can come as a guest. Don't mention the matter to any one."

"No," said Edith, and went to receive the first arrivals.

In spite of the loss of the ruby necklace the birthday ball was a distinct success. No one would have surmised from the sweet composure of the hostess that she had suffered a great loss. Many complimented her on the loveliness of her appearance, and others added that she needed no jewels to enhance her beauty.

Dick Palmer introduced a slim, dark haired man in correct evening attire as the detective, Mr. Bleek, and in a few crisp questions he drew from Edith all the facts surrounding the theft of the ruby necklace.

"Bleek suggests a guest in the house," said Dick later to his wife as they stood alone together.

"Impossible!" said Edith. "The Maxfields are above suspicion. Eugenia could buy forty ruby necklaces. My father is dead. It must have been one of the extra servants."

"Jeanne?" asked her husband quietly.

"Oh, Jeanne is too much of a coward to attempt anything big like that. She might purloin a collar or a handkerchief, but not jewels."

"You have not mentioned our other guest, Edith," said Dick quietly.

She made a gesture of dismay and searched the room with her eyes.

"Mme. Geulot! Oh, Dick! I know you have warned me against my intimacy with her, when my acquaintance with her is so slight. But her letters from Paris were genuine, and she is so delightful! I wonder where she is. I have not seen her since dinner."

"I will search for her," said Dick quietly and was gone.

When he made his reappearance the last of the guests were taking departure, and when they were alone he placed his arm around his wife's slender form.

"Dear," he said, "be prepared for an unpleasant shock. The ruby necklace has been traced to Mme. Geulot. Detective Bleek found the jewel case on the person of our cook, Pierre Caron, who has confessed that the robbery was one of many that he and his wife, Celeste Geulot—none other, my dear—had planned. It seems she saw you trying on the necklace after I had left you, watched you hide it away and when you had left the room slipped in, secured the rubies, concealed them in her room and went down late to dinner."

"After dinner Pierre, her husband, went to her and demanded the necklace. She refused to give it to him then, and he took the empty case and went below, furious at her. She is now in her room or has escaped with the necklace. Will you go to her room and see if she is there? I want to avoid the servants knowing of the affair if possible."

Edith went to the door of Mme. Geulot's room and tapped lightly. There was no response to her summons or to louder knocking. Then Bleek set his shoulder to the door, and the lock gave way. He peered inside and then sprang within. The Palmers followed, gravely apprehensive.

Mme. Geulot was there. She was sitting before a cheval glass in all the regal splendor of her amber satin ball gown. About her throat was clasped the ruby necklace.

She was dead.

Bleek stepped forward and unclasped the necklace and examined it closely. "That's the way with many of these Asiatic baubles," he said thoughtfully. "I happen to have heard of this one before. There is a large reward out for it. There is a legend that if it is honestly bought or sold or presented as a gift it is quite harmless. If it is stolen the wearer pays the price, as Mme. Geulot has done, poor soul!"

He pointed to the throat of the dead woman, where a heavy black mark encircled the whiteness of her neck.

"It grew tighter and finally strangled her," he explained as they went away and closed the door behind them. "That's an Asiatic trick, too," he said.

But Edith and her husband were not listening. Edith was weeping bitterly. She was grieving for the friend who had proved false and who had paid the price.

## CLEMSON COLLEGE

### EXTENSION WORK

#### How To Grow High-Yielding Pedigreed Seed Corn.

No one knows the pedigree of most of the seed corn planted in South Carolina and with an average yield per acre of less than twenty bushels, it does not appear to have a very high yielding quality.

To have good seed one may start at the crib or in the field before the corn crop is gathered and, as it is best to start in the field, we will start there.

A number of characters indicate whether corn will yield well or not and also whether it will transmit its quantities to its of spring or not. Cylindrical ears are better than tapering ones. Deep wedge-shaped grains are preferred above shallow, wide grains and straight rows and well filled tips and butts are preferred. Pure bred corn will transmit better than corn of mixed breeding. Stalks that make good yields under normal conditions are preferred to stalks with similar yields, but with more space or other especially favorable environment. Good yields may be had both with one eared and with prolific varieties, but Southern growers are partial to a prolific sort, as an average of two ears to the stalk meets the demands for prolificacy. This paper will deal with a type of corn that will tend to produce two ears to the stalk under normal conditions.

The Field Work. When the corn is mature and shows fully what its characters are, go through the field selecting from two rows at a time. One may select from five to ten ears a day. Select only from stalks having a normal amount of space and other conditions that influence the yield. Select only from prolific, healthy stalks bearing the desired number of type of ears. Let the ears be the right height from the ground, as the height of the ear has economic value. In the same way consider all important qualities, that can only be observed in the field. The characters of the ears themselves can be further studied at the barn, but the stalk characters must be studied in the field before the ears are gathered. Select about two hundred of the very best ears from the very best stalks for a competitive ear test and about thirty ears for every acre that is to be planted next season. One hundred ears will be ample for the ear test and fifteen ears will furnish enough seed to plant an acre so that the field selected corn can be further studied and only the best half of it used for planting. Take the one hundred best ears and number each so that it may be identified at any time. Plant only one half of each ear in a test plot so managed as to give each ear an equal chance with normal conditions for all. Let every row have the same number of the ear from which it was planted in order that its yield may be credited to the right ear. If this test is properly made, it will show the relative yielding power of the one hundred ears used.

Carefully save and protect from all harm the one hundred half ears not planted. The ear test will show some of these half ears to be very valuable. If these half ears are lost, the test will practically be without value.

In managing the ear test plot, it is best to have two rows for each ear tested, one row being towards one side of the plot and the other row towards the opposite side. The object being to give every ear an equal chance and the irregularities of the soil and any plot may be better checked with two rows than with one.

So plow, harrow, cultivate and fertilize as to give the entire plot a good chance but nothing more than this. You want to know what these ears will do under normal conditions and whatever differences in yield that may appear should be due to the seed and not to any other factor.

From the germination of the seed to the matured crop note the behavior of the corn from each row, as the object of the test is to determine the best. Obtain the yields accurately. The wide differences in yield usually shown by ear tests will probably appear in each succeeding one if properly conducted.

Having given each ear an equal and a fair chance and determined the yields from each, it is easy to select the high yielding ones. Having learned which of the one hundred ears are best, we are through with the corn made on the plot and it may go to the barn.

The Two Ear Plot. We now begin to deal with the half ears that were saved and we now know which are good, which are not good, and which is the best one and which the next best. If pedigreed corn is wanted, we take the remainder of the two best ears and use one as a sire and the other as a dam. These two half ears must be planted away from other corn so that pollen from other corn will not reach this plot. Give this small plot a good chance. Plant the half ears side by side and only allow the stalks from one of the ears to develop tassels. Detassel all the stalks from the other ears before they shed any pollen. Save seed from detasseled stalks. Let the corn on the stalks with tassels go to the barn. We now have a small amount of High Yielding Pedigreed Seed Corn. We know the sire ear and the mother

ear and what their yielding power was. Records may be kept of the generation.

High Yielding Pedigreed Seed Plot. Plant the seed from the mother ear (the stalks were all detasseled) in a protected place where, no pollen from the tassels of inferior corn can reach it. Let it have favorable conditions for growing good corn. From this plot, seed is obtained for the field crop.

Twenty Half-Ear Plot. Only the best two half ears were used for the high yielding seed plot. The one hundred ear test would show other ears to be nearly as good as the two best ones, so that twenty of the next best ears could be used in a protected plot to produce seed for the field crop until enough pedigreed seed could be grown.

Repeat the Ear Test. The ear test should be made each year. After getting a start with the best seed, some of the ears used for the test may come from The Two Ear Plot, some from the best rows of the previous ear test.

Do not let the pedigreed seed mix with the inferior corn.

W. L. Mutchinson.

## SOUTHERN RAILWAY WILL FURNISH DRINKING CUPS

Company Has Ordered Large Supply of Collapsible Paper Cups.

Washington, D. C. April 26.—Arrangements have been made by the Southern Railway to furnish sanitary individual drinking cups to passengers on all trains and a large supply of cups of the collapsible paper type has been ordered. As soon as the cups have been received each conductor will be furnished with a supply and any passenger desiring a cup will receive one free of charge on application to the conductor. Notices to this effect will be posted in each coach.

Furnishing drinking cups to passengers on the large number of trains operated by the Southern Railway will involve a substantial expenditure which is being undertaken to provide for the convenience of patrons of the railway. All common drinking cups have been removed from trains in compliance with United States Government regulations and the statutes and ordinances of many states and municipalities.

Hereafter passengers on Southern Railway trains will be put to no inconvenience or expense in regard to drinking water and at the same time will not be subject to any possible infection through the use of the common drinking cup.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA,  
County of Barnwell

Court of Common Pleas

Ex Parte,  
L. O. Pender, J. F. Pender, Thomas Pender and Elizabeth Wilson, Petitioners.

Notice is hereby given, to whom it may concern, that a petition has been filed in this office by the aforesaid Petitioners, asking that a Homestead be set off to them out of the proceeds arising from the sale of the unencumbered property bequeathed to them by the last will of their father, the late Edward Pender.

H. L. O'Bannon,  
Master for Barnwell County,  
April 1st, 1913.

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are the leading makes of Children's footwear. A variety of styles to select from.

Barefoot Sandals, 50c to \$1.00  
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Some "close-outs" in good, serviceable Slippers at about half price.

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This is a prescription prepared especially for MALARIA or CHILLS & FEVER. Five or six doses will break any case, and if taken then as a tonic the Fever will not return. It acts on the liver better than Calomel and does not gripe or sicken. 25c

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To those who have not been customers of Hill Top Stables in the past, we say, "Turn over a new leaf and resolve that hereafter you will buy your horses and mules at the place where the square deal is the watch-word."

"I am selling more and better Horses, Mules, Buggies, Carriages, Wagons, Whips, etc. than ever before, and still have on hand quite a number of fresh stock—the cream of the Western markets—that I want you to see. With the New Year I am in a better position than ever before to supply your needs and my long experience makes me the best prepared dealer in this section to supply your every want in this line.

## Buggies, Wagons, Harness

My stock of High Grade Buggies, Wagons, Harness, Whips, Lap Robes, etc. was never better, and having used careful judgment in buying, I am enabled to offer you exceptional values. Come and see me. I know I can please you in both price and quality.

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IS fifty five minutes from Barnwell, and there comes a satisfaction from making this store YOUR HEADQUARTERS as you get the BEST. We take pride in the fact that only the purest drugs, of correct medicinal value are compounded in our prescription department. Personal attention, comforts, and facilities, make this DRUG STORE a "HOME" STORE. A modern SODA Fountain dispensing the most appetizing drinks awaits you. Your order by mail will be sent by Parcel Post PROMPTLY. There is satisfaction in being pleased.

Pure and Fresh candy for "your sweetheart"

THE OLAR PHARMACY, OLAR, S. C.

## Southern Railway PREMIER CARRIER OF THE SOUTH

Schedules Effective April 20, 1913.

ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURES BARNWELL, S. C.

7:00 a. m. No. 23 daily from Columbia to Jacksonville. Pullman sleeping car Cincinnati and Augusta to Jacksonville.  
4:20 a. m. No. 24 daily from Jacksonville to Columbia. Pullman sleeping cars Jacksonville to Cincinnati and Augusta.  
8:35 a. m. No. 134 daily from Allendale to Columbia.  
10:18 a. m. No. 31 daily The Southern's Southeastern Limited from New York to Jacksonville. Pullman sleeping cars, dining car service.  
12:06 p. m. No. 149 daily from Batesburg to Allendale.  
2:12 p. m. No. 148 daily from Allendale to Batesburg.  
4:30 p. m. No. 32 daily The Southern's Southeastern Limited from Jacksonville to New York. Pullman sleeping cars, dining car service.  
6:06 p. m. No. 133 daily from Columbia to Allendale.

For detailed information, sleeping car reservations call on nearest ticket agent, or,

W. H. Caffey, DPA    W. E. McGee, AGPA.    H. F. Cary, GPA.,  
Charleston, S. C.    Columbia, S. C.    Washington, D. C.  
S. H. Hardwick, PTM.,    E. H. Coapman, VP&GM  
Washington, D. C.

## HUSBAND RESCUED DESPAIRING WIFE

After Four Years of Discouraging Conditions, Mrs. Bullock Gave Up in Despair. Husband Came to Rescue.

Catron, Ky.—In an interesting letter from this place, Mrs. Bettie Bullock writes as follows: "I suffered for four years, with womanly troubles, and during this time, I could only sit up for a little while, and could not walk anywhere at all. At times, I would have severe pains in my left side.

The doctor was called in, and his treatment relieved me for a while, but I was soon confined to my bed again. After that, nothing seemed to do me any good.

I had gotten so weak I could not stand, and I gave up in despair.

At last, my husband got me a bottle of Cardui, the woman's tonic, and I commenced taking it. From the very first dose, I could tell it was helping me. I can now walk two miles without its tiring me, and am doing all my work."

If you are all run down from womanly troubles, don't give up in despair. Try Cardui, the woman's tonic. It has helped more than a million women, in its 50 years of continuous success, and should surely help you, too. Your druggist has sold Cardui for years. He knows what it will do. Ask him. He will recommend it. Begin taking Cardui today.

Write to: Chattanooga Medicine Co., Ledger Advertising Dept., Chattanooga, Tenn. for Special Instructions on your case and 64-page book, "Treatment for Women," sent in plain wrapper.