WHERE THERE'S A WILL

By MARY ROBERTS RINEHART

AUTHOR OF *The* CIRCULAR STAIRCASE, *The* MAN *in* LOWER TEN, WHEN A MAN MARRIES

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SYNOPSIS.

Miranda, spring house girl at Hope sanatorium, is left a fortune by a patient who is accused of having poisoned her husband, supported to be engaged to marry a prince. Dr. Thorburn, head of the institution, and the sanatorium, the estate is left to the management, Dicky Carter, who is in love with Miranda, and Dr. Stone, a young physician who has been employed for months or further the inheritance. A case of murder follows Dick's arrival. The doctors in learning about in hopes of escaping the jail for a number hotel.

CHAPTER III—Continued.

At last past five I just about gave up. It was dark outside, and nothing fooled me. Sunlight. Suddenly I seemed to feel somebody looking at the back of my neck and I turned around. There was a man standing outside one of the windows, staring in. My first thought, of course, was that it was Mr. Dick, but just as the face vanished I saw that it wasn't. It was older by three or four years than Mr. Dick's and a bit fuller.

I'm not nervous. I've had to hold down a chronic choreboy because he'd long to have nerves, so I went to the door and looked out. The man came around the corner just then and I could see him plainly in the firelight. He was covered with snow, and he wore a sweater and an overcoat, but he looked like a gentleman.

I beg your pardon for spying," he said, "but the fire looked so snug. I've been trying to get to the hotel over there, but in the dark I've lost the path."

"That's not a hotel," I snapped, for that touched me on the raw. "That's Hope Springs Sanatorium, and this is one of the springs. You'd better keep in and get warm."

He shut the door behind him and came over to the fire.

"I'm pretty well frozen," he said. "Don't be astonished if I melt before your eyes; I've been walking for hours."

Now I had a better chance to see him. I'd sized up that dress shirt around his mouth.

"Missed your luncheon, I suppose," I said, poking the fire log. He grinned rather sheepishly.

"Well, I haven't had any, and I've certainly missed it," he said. "That's Ingle's knaffy, you know."

"Nothing so healthy that isn't nat ural," I declared. "If you'd care for a dish of buttered and salted popcorn, there's some on the mantel. It's pretty salty; the idea is to make folks thirsty so they'll enjoy the mineral water."

"Think of making a thirst only to drown it with spring water!" he said. But he got the popcorn and he ate it all. If he hadn't had any luncheon he hadn't had much breakfast. The queer part was—he was a gentleman—his clothes were the right sort, but he had on patent leather shoes in all that snow and an automobile cap.

I put away the glass while he ate. Pretty soon he looked up and the drawn lines were gone. He wasn't like Mr. Dick, but he was the same type, only taller and heavier built.

"And so it isn't a hotel," he remarked. "Well, I'm sorry. The ravenousness in the village is not to my liking, and I had thought of engaging a warm up here. My secretary usually attends to those things, but—don't take away all the glasses, do—I beg your pardon —but the thirst is coming."

He filled the glass himself and then he leaned back and stood in front of me with the glass held up in the air.

"To the best woman I have met in many days," he said, not looking but serious at me. "