

THE RICH LITTLE POOR GIRL

"The Golden Cocoon" is a good book to read when you are feeling satisfied with life in general and do not wish to be disturbed by any doubts as to the justification of such a feeling. This novel by Ruth Cross is entertaining and interesting but not gripping or disturbing. The story of Molly Shannon, one of "the shiftless Shannons," will certainly seem very realistic to you, partly because you are more than likely to sympathize with her and admire her brave fight to face facts squarely and do something about them, and partly because Miss Cross tells the story convincingly. Nevertheless, "The Golden Cocoon" is not the sort of book that disturbs one's philosophy or leaves one asking himself questions about the scheme of things. In other words, it is not strongly impressive.

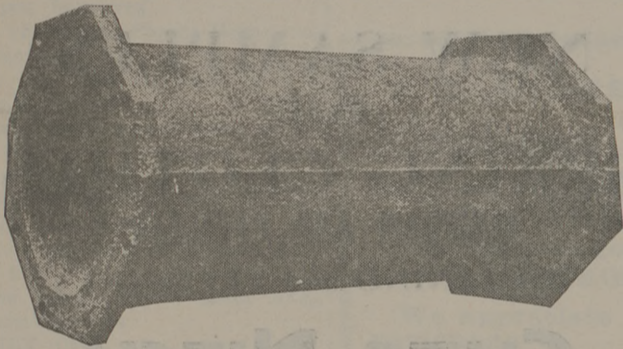
Molly was the eldest girl in the large family of "shiftless Shannons." The poverty in which her family eked out its existence and the cruelly hard work caused her to hate their way of living with all the bitterness a young girl could hate it. Molly had an unusual kind of beauty together with brains, imagination, and the desire for a fuller life. Her winning a scholarship to the state university was a turning point in her life. At the university she met that "charming cad," Stephen Renfro, and became engaged to him, and her bitter disillusionment caused by Stephen's marrying a rich girl and suddenly leaving town without telling any one caused

Molly to attempt suicide. Quite fortunately, however (for all this happened before the book is half done) Molly was rescued by the man she afterwards marries, a man who is a silent power in the state and who later becomes governor. For some unexplainable reason, Miss Cross is not satisfied to let Molly stop and enjoy the happiness which Molly deserved. As the charming mistress of the governor's mansion she seems to have reached all that a poor little country girl could ever have desired, but she had not yet realized her ambition to have her writing published. A ghost of the past rises up to confront Molly and jeopardize her husband's future success, but she rises very superbly to the demands of the occasion, and after a melodramatic flight to New York and a stay of two years there, during which her play is published; she returns to the state capital as suddenly as she left. The reunion of Molly and her husband is a very happy ending to the story.

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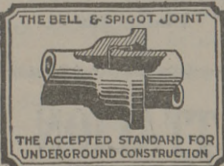
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