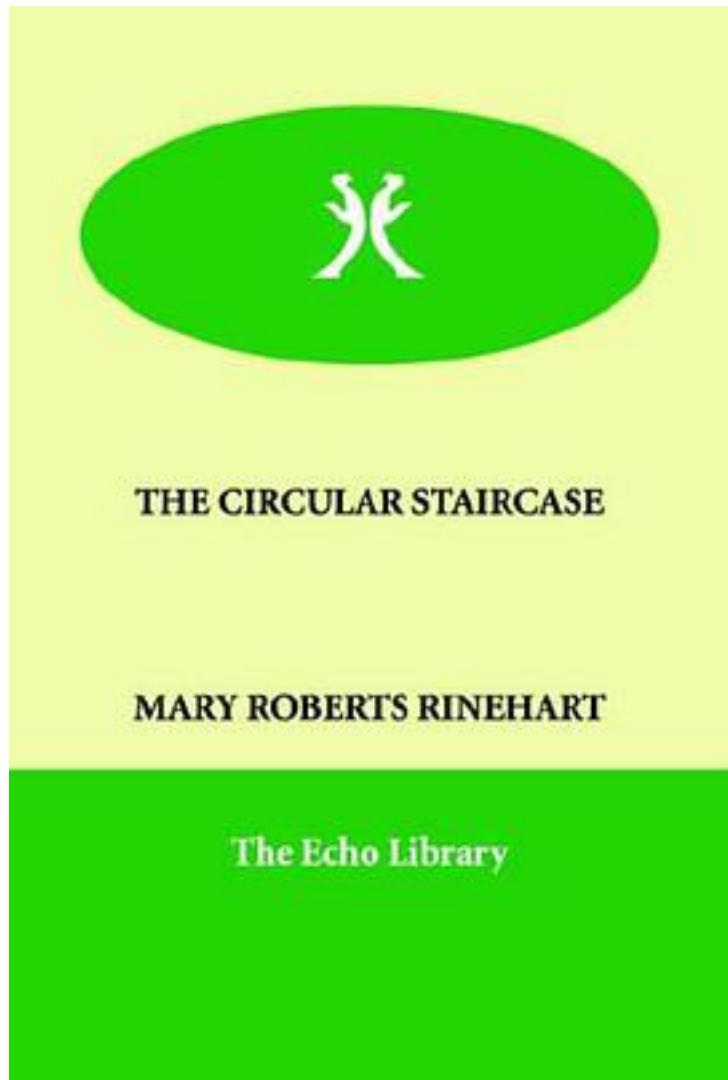


The Circular Staircase



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著者:The Circular Staircase

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An aging spinster and her young wards investigate the inexplicable evil presence that darkens the musty corridors of their Elizabethan mansion.

夏天，老处女瑞秋带着她的两个已成年的外甥（一男一女）来乡间度假。在他们租住的别墅里，有一座引人注目的螺旋楼梯。让人无法忽视的是，就在这座螺旋楼梯旁，发生了一桩又一桩的怪事。先是别墅主人（银行家）的儿子被射杀在楼梯旁，接着而来的每一个又一个的幽灵在出现。这幢别墅以前就有闹鬼的传闻，此时，更是将佣人一个个地吓跑了。

与此同时，别墅主人的银行破产了，银行家突发心脏病去世。警察专门驻守在这里，但该发生的事照样在发生。

坚持要留下来查清真相的瑞秋，这时，却受到了各种有形及无形的威胁，要求马上搬离。瑞秋疑心屋子里的每一个人，却又一次一次地被自己否决了。决意找出底里的瑞秋决定单独行动。她发现一个密室，独自走了进去。就在她暗自欢喜的那一刻，门被沉重地撞上了。她在里头被关了两天两夜，她却无法让他们知道。空气愈来愈稀薄，瑞秋几乎要绝望了。门打开了，来了一个人，全然是有备而来。真正的恐惧出现了。这就是“死去了”的银行家。

小结结构严谨，悬念重重。作为世界悬念小说第一部，有着当之无愧的传世价值。书名“螺旋楼梯”作为本书的一个重要场景及关键意象，自小说问世以来，就一直成了悬念小说的代名词了。

《螺旋楼梯》情节迥然，情趣盎然，文采斐然，不由你不喜欢。

作者介绍：

Mary Roberts Rinehart (1876-1958) was an American novelist and playwright best known for her mystery stories.

Rinehart's work is very different from the cliches of Rinehart criticism. It has a lot in common with hard-boiled school, in both style and subject. It also is part of the American school of "scientific" detection. In fact, all three groups, scientific, hard-boiled, and Rinehart show common features. They form an American school that mixes adventure and detection. There is an attempt at realism in the depiction of modern life, with many different classes, corruption high and low, and a great diversity of characters. Her most memorable tales combined murder, love, ingenuity, and humor in a style that was distinctly her own.

While her general novels were her best-selling books, she was most highly regarded by critics for her carefully plotted murder mysteries. It was one of her books that produced the phrase, "The butler did it," and in her prime, she was more famous than her chief rival, England's Agatha Christie.

Her autobiography, *My Story*, appeared in 1931 and was revised in 1948. At Rinehart's death her books had sold more than 10 million copies.

玛丽·莱茵哈特，美国著名作家。与阿嘉莎·克里斯蒂齐名，堪称“侦探小说天后”。一生著述六十多部，是当时世界稿酬最高的作家。

《螺旋楼梯》是她的处女作，也是代表作。它身负美国第一部畅销书的盛名，在当时家喻户晓，人人争而读之。

小说情节迥然，情赵盎然，文采斐然。极具经典原素，庶几代表了莱茵哈特的全部文学价值。

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