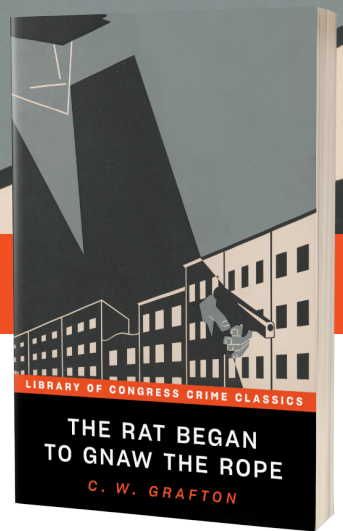


THE RAT BEGAN TO GNAW THE ROPE

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READING GROUP GUIDE

1. Why do you think Ruth McClure decided to get help from a lawyer from outside Harpersville?
2. Why do you think Gil Henry decided to take the case?
3. How does Gil's behavior with Ruth compare to what you'd expect from someone in the current year?
4. Is Tim McClure praiseworthy for his behavior?
5. What do you think about the behavior of Miss Katie? Nurse Knight?
6. Do you think William Harper's conduct over the years was morally correct? What about John McClure's?
7. How do you think Janet Harper should have behaved in the circumstances of her father's death?
8. Was Alice Holt Harper blameworthy for what she did over the years? Or did she behave morally?
9. What's your ultimate assessment of Gil Henry? A commendable guy? Too smart for his own good? Out for himself?
10. Did you deduce who was the murderer? How did you know?