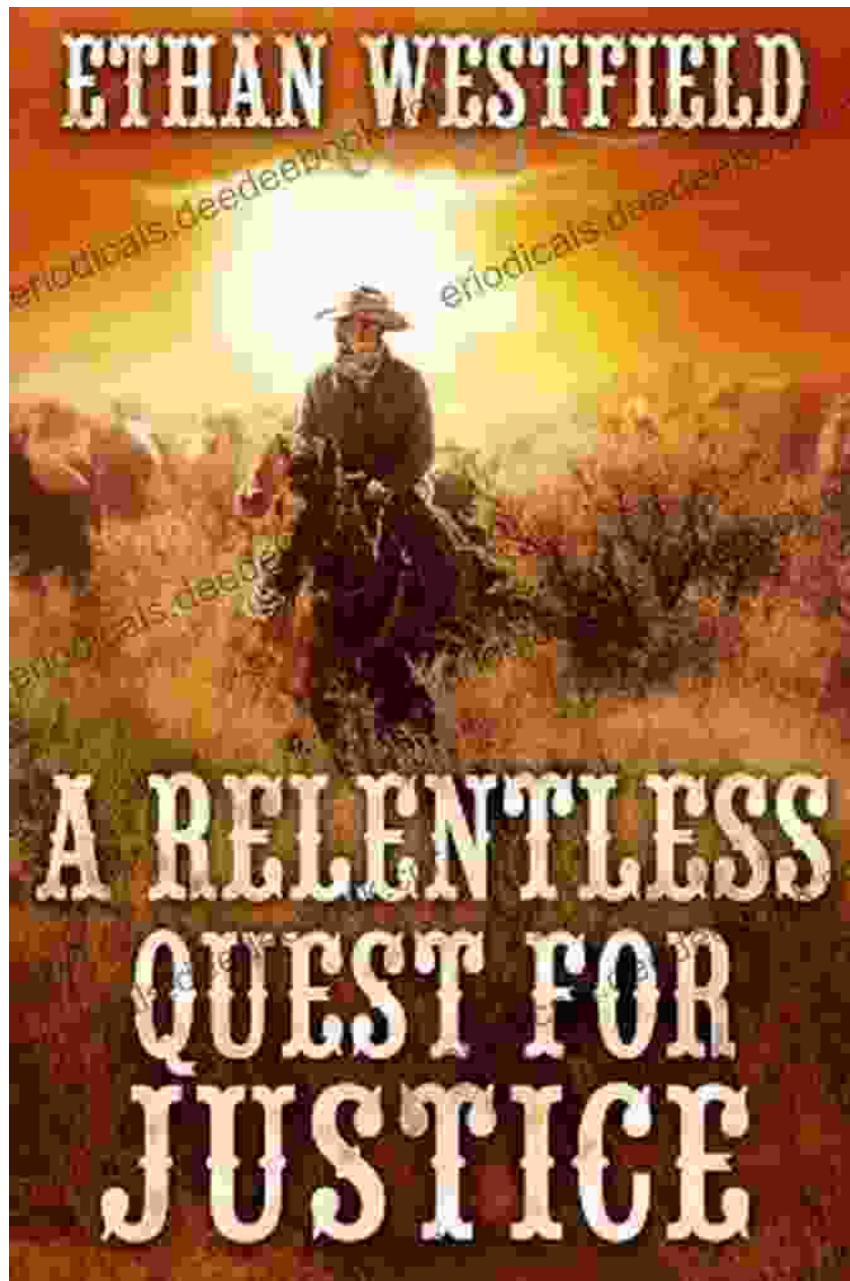
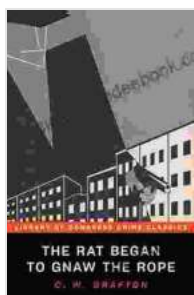


The Rat Began to Gnaw the Rope: A Spine-Tingling Masterpiece from the Library of Congress Crime Classics



In the labyrinthine stacks of the Library of Congress, amidst countless volumes of knowledge, lies a forgotten treasure that has captivated readers

for generations: "The Rat Began to Gnaw the Rope," a pulse-pounding masterpiece from the Library of Congress Crime Classics collection. Originally published in 1941, this riveting novel by Mary Roberts Rinehart has stood the test of time, weaving an intricate web of suspense, intrigue, and relentless pursuit.



The Rat Began to Gnaw the Rope (Library of Congress Crime Classics) by C.W. Grafton

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Language | : English |
| File size | : 1406 KB |
| Text-to-Speech | : Enabled |
| Screen Reader | : Supported |
| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled |
| X-Ray | : Enabled |
| Word Wise | : Enabled |
| Print length | : 306 pages |
| Paperback | : 233 pages |
| Item Weight | : 11.2 ounces |
| Dimensions | : 6 x 0.53 x 9 inches |



A Chilling Premise

The novel's haunting premise grips the reader from the outset. A young woman named Letitia "Letty" Lane receives a cryptic message from her father, a wealthy recluse who lives in a secluded mansion on the outskirts of New York City. Driven by a sense of unease, Letty sets out to visit her father, only to find him brutally murdered. Desperate for answers, she turns to private investigator Rufus Putney, a sharp-witted and resourceful detective who immediately senses the weight of the crime.

A Web of Suspects

As Putney delves into the investigation, he uncovers a tangled web of suspects with motives as varied as they are sinister. The sprawling mansion, filled with a cast of enigmatic characters, becomes a stage for suspicion and deception. Letty, shrouded in grief and fear, emerges as a prime target, her inheritance making her the object of both affection and greed. The list of suspects grows: a shifty butler, a secretive housekeeper, a charming but manipulative cousin, and a shadowy stranger who seems to lurk in the shadows.

The Rat's Insidious Presence

Throughout the novel, the image of a rat gnawing at a rope lurks in the background, a metaphor for the relentless pursuit of justice and the fragility of human existence. As the body count rises and the clues begin to unravel, the rat's sinister presence becomes a chilling reminder of the darkness that can consume even the most idyllic settings.

Unraveling the Enigma

With each twist and turn of the plot, Putney's determination to unravel the enigma only intensifies. He confronts the suspects, sifting through their lies and half-truths. As he digs deeper, he uncovers a twisted scheme involving hidden treasures, illicit affairs, and long-held secrets. The mansion, once a sanctuary, transforms into a haunted labyrinth where every step brings the detective closer to the truth but also closer to danger.

The Killer's Motive Revealed

In a heart-stopping climax, Putney confronts the killer, revealing a motive that is as shocking as it is heartbreaking. The killer's identity, once hidden

behind a veil of deception, is unmasked, exposing the twisted depths of human depravity. The confrontation erupts in a violent struggle that pits the detective's unwavering resolve against the killer's desperate grasp.

A Haunting Legacy

"The Rat Began to Gnaw the Rope" is not merely a captivating crime novel; it is a haunting meditation on the human condition. It explores the fragility of trust, the power of deception, and the relentless pursuit of justice. The novel's characters, both good and evil, are etched vividly into the reader's mind, leaving an enduring legacy of suspense and introspection.

Today, "The Rat Began to Gnaw the Rope" remains a timeless classic, a testament to the enduring power of crime fiction. Its sinister atmosphere, intricate plot, and unforgettable characters have captured the imagination of generations of readers. As the dust settles on the final page, the novel's haunting message lingers, reminding us that even in the darkest of shadows, justice can prevail.



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