

CHRISTOPHER AND COLUMBUS. By the author of *Elizabeth and Her German Garden*. 435 pages. Doubleday, Page.

The sophisticated fiction reader who finds himself quickly and completely captivated by the ingenuous charm of this gay little story will feel somewhat like a blase and indulgent parent who has consented to take his youngster to the circus and finds that he himself has dropped a score of weary years outside the big top. It's a rare misanthrope who will not surrender to the fascinations of these irresponsible seventeen-year-old Twinkler twins, who romp through the best of impossible worlds. Anna-Felicitas and Anna-Rose, have (for a reason) emigrated from England to America, with two hundred pounds and a blissful ignorance of the world and its ways. Event piles upon event in this unfamiliar land, and the spell of romance is upon all their adventures. But under the protection of the not too fatherly Mr. Twist, inventor and manufacturer of Twist's Non-Trickler Teapot, "well known on every breakfast table," the young explorers sail through the perils of sea-sickness and the rough winds of offended and offensive Madame Grundys, past treacherous shoals of philanderers young and old, into the good harbor of matrimony.

The style of this narrative is one of easy vivacity, and the gay make-believe is quite spontaneous and unforced. Surely Lady Russell must have enjoyed the writing of her book as much as her readers will enjoy the reading of it.