

Gilbert Parker's New Novel

== The Right of Way ==

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This story has a strange plot with deep complications. The hero—a young Canadian lawyer—is a complex character, possessed of extraordinary ability; but unsettled in his religious beliefs, and intemperate. Unsympathetically married, he is absorbed in his profession.

One day, after brilliantly defending a murderer in Court, he goes to an inn to drink, and, while there, haughtily antagonizes the crowd, who become enraged, attack him, and leave him apparently dead. He is carried away by the man whom he defended on the charge of murder to the little village of Chaudière, and is resuscitated. But his memory for some months is entirely gone.

On recovery, he cannot return to his home, for by so doing he would ruin his wife, who, believing him dead, has married again. Faced by this terrible situation, the hero renounces his former life, adopts another name, and resolves to spend the remainder of his life in Chaudière.

There he meets Rosalie Evanturel, the postmaster's daughter, a deeply religious and beautiful girl, who materially influences his destiny, and whom he would like to marry. Which woman has the right of way? The development of this situation is a powerful piece of writing. The spiritual struggle is profoundly indicated, the love is exquisitely described, and the ending of the story perhaps the most interesting *dénouement* in current fiction.

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