

travelling carriage. A distaste for the too romantic stories of Kentucky, which developed as she grew older, Kentucky seeming romantic enough to her as it actually is and has been without any distortion of fact, made her want to write a novel of Kentucky as she knew it. That she has admirably succeeded in doing so is borne out by the acclaim the novel has received from such southern writers as Alice Hegan Rice, George Madden Martin, Hugh McNair Kahler and others.

"Miss Fox's family have lived in Kentucky since 1790. She was born in Gap-in-the-Knobs, near Shepherdsville in Bullitt County, lived there and in Louisville until 1928 when she moved to New York City. She is a sister of Fontaine Fox, the cartoonist of 'Toonerville' fame and her father was Judge Fontaine T. Fox of Louisville. All her life she has been writing, but she insists she has had no education. The fine art of house-and home-keeping interests her. She is famous among her friends for the delicious concoctions turned out on a New York grill from recipes which come from everywhere else, though chiefly from Kentucky, and for the good talk served with them. She is one of the few people on earth who can take a Vogue pattern and make it and wear it so that it looks like its own picture. She tells a story better than most men, has a sharp tongue, a keen wit, an inconvenient memory for books, people and events that would be a curse to any community smaller than New York. She says she gets on best with old people, children and cats, but her friends know that she can enjoy the friendship of anyone from a member of the English nobility to her Italian iceman."

According to the Christian Science Monitor of April 4, 1934: "Miss Renard, in her first novel, Ridgeways, has compressed a chronicle covering five generations within the confines of a single volume, but so skillfully that the reader is never disturbed by a lack of unity, by gaps of time hastily slurred over or by a profusion of characters-- all pitfalls into which a number of writers of family histories have fallen. Native to Kentucky, Miss Renard has wisely chosen the background with which she is familiar for the setting of her story, following the fortunes of the Hardison family and their Kentucky estate, Ridgeways. Although the story begins a decade or so before the Civil War and continues to 1927, there are but two main characters round whom the story revolves: Ben Hardison and the girl he marries, the waif Ellen. As the story of their lives unfolds, a picture of Kentucky is revealed in almost microscopic detail, with a faithful, homely veracity.

"Miss Renard writes in plain, honest, matter-of-fact fashion, though her subject matter would have been peculiarly adapted to a treatment of more beauty and depth. Yet Miss Renard maintains a generally high level in her own style of candid, straightforward prose, and she has produced a book of which the South may be proud."

