

EPIISODES IN THE LIFE OF JAMES MANAHAN

Chapter Four

Starting Over

By

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Starting Over

With his legal work on the Fitzgerald Estate largely concluded, Manahan and his family returned to Minnesota. They bought a house at 876 Laurel Avenue in St. Paul on December 28, 1904, and for the next 83 years, until Kathryn's death in 1987, that was the family homestead.

He was a lawyer with few professional accomplishments. His political ambitions had waned. He had no desire to ascend to the bench, nor was making money a high priority. With the Fitzgerald family connections, he might have landed a position with a railroad. Instead he chose to open his own shop in St. Paul. In 1905, at the age of 39, he was starting over.

He, of course, could not imagine what lay ahead. The next decade and a half would bring triumphs and disappointments. They would be tumultuous and exhilarating, as full a life as a lawyer could lead. Within two years he would be one of the most recognized lawyers in the state. Within six years, he would be the subject of idolatrous articles in the national press. In eight years, he would be serving in congress. In thirteen years he would be prosecuted for instigating a riot in his hometown. There would be changes in his clientele. For almost a decade he had one client. Soon he would have many: James Manahan would represent "the people."

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