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My Best Friend is Twelve Feet High

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Bolt, Carol. *My Best Friend is Twelve Feet High*.

B+ K-3

This play revolves around five children who wrestle for control of their club and pursue several adventures through creative play. Much of the conflict among the children revolves around whether Alice, the youngest child, can be accepted as a full member of the group. Relegated to the role of "Mope the Dog," she soon discovers the dramatic possibilities of her supposedly subordinate character.

Creative play is naturally dramatic, and the basis of many published scripts. These scripts succeed best when the creative play of the children rings true and when the characters and relationships change as a result of the stories the children enact. In this play, the children are well drawn, and their efforts to control the club and the storylines are very believable. However, while Alice's struggle for acceptance resonates in the beginning of the play, it culminates in a fairly trite and unsatisfying resolution. The songs in the play do not advance the plot, but clash with the more realistic style of the club scenes. The interaction between the children is generally more interesting than the stories the children create.

This play demonstrates the playwright's sensitivity and insight into the lives of children and their creative play. The characters are convincing, but the plot does not quite measure up to the characters who play it out.

This play is found in:

Hamill, Tony, ed. *CLASS ACTS: Six Plays for Children*. Playwrights Canada, 1992. ISBN 0-88754-487-8. 376 pp.

A Various Reviewed by John D. Newman