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Amy Goes Army

Charlene Gan

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Kelly, Tim. *Amy Goes Army*. Pioneer Drama Service, 1982. Contact publisher regarding price. 18 pp.

Reviewer: Charlene Gan

Reading Level: All;

Rating: Outstanding;

Genre: Humorous Plays;

Subject: Drama--Reviews; Army; High schools--Juvenile drama; Dreams--Hollywood--Juvenile drama;

Theme: Some accidents are for the best. Rank doesn't always matter

Production Requirements: One set and easy costumes. All are listed in the book.

Acts: 1

Run Time: 20 Min

Characters: 12 F

Cast: 5 teenagers, 7 adult F. Some of the students and some of the adults may be changed to male.

Time Period: When the army used typewriters.

Lucille is in the army and is the office clerk for the day. Unfortunately, she can't leave her post to go and see the famous rock star who is visiting for the day to give autographs and does a news report for the Army. Lucille has to stay at her post and greet visitors for the high school recruiters. One of the visitors is an old friend, Amy, who is still in high school. Lucille convinces Amy to hold her post so she can go and get the rock star's autograph. Amy agrees to this. While Lucille is away, the reporters go to the Office and find Amy. They tell Amy they need to interview her on the air to help with their report. Amy agrees to this. They do the report and Amy is a huge success. The captain then recruits Amy to continue to do recruiting for the army. Lucille is forgiven for leaving her post and everything ends happily.

The play is fun and quick paced. The set is easy and this play can be produced anywhere. It is good for all ages. The dialogue is entertaining and interesting. Many jokes are said and the characters' personalities add a lot to the comicality of the play. Amy is a high school student on tour of an army compound. She is a typical 'blond.' She says what she wants without thinking of the consequences and this gets her into some trouble but it also saves her in the end with the success of the news report. Sergeant Grimm, who lives up to her name, only lives for the Army and expects everyone else to, too. This plays a big role when she finds out that Lucille has left her post. She is furious. Mrs. Mollasseskeg is very snobbish and hot headed because she is the wife of the commanding general. She demands everything to be her way and if something goes wrong, like when Amy insults her, she throws a huge tantrum. The play is a farce and therefore contains no overt message to the play. The play has a lot of mix-ups in it with the switching of Lucille and Amy. The play is light because of the farcical nature and therefore doesn't require a lot of concentration on the part of the audience. Also, because it is a farce, there is no growth in character. The play is enjoyable because of the creative use of words and the action of the play builds nicely. There is a lot of tension because of the confusion that is caused by Lucille and Amy switching places that builds each incident that keeps the play going.