



2019

### Lucky Strikes

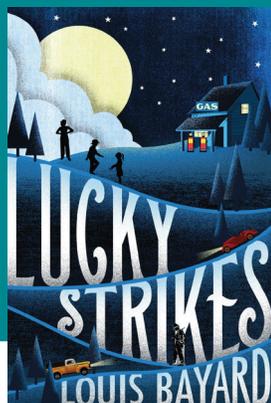
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## Book Review

# Lucky Strikes

### Author

Louis Bayard

### Reviewer

Emma Patton

### Rating

Dependable

### Level

Young Adult

### Pages

320

### Year

2016

### ISBN

9781627793902

### Publisher

Henry Holt and Co.

Melia's mother has just died. Melia doesn't know who her father is, but she has two siblings to support and a gas station to run. If anyone finds out that the kids are alone, they could get split up and the gas station that their mother worked so hard to build would be lost. But then Hiram drops into their lives. He's certainly down on his luck and most likely unreliable, but they need someone who can pretend to be their dad, and he needs somewhere to sleep. At first, they keep Hiram around out of desperation, but he gradually becomes part of the family. Hiram has a lot of life experience and knows things about running a business that Melia has only guessed at. With Hiram's help, the business becomes more successful than it ever has been. But it still might not be enough to keep the family together.

Lucky Strikes is a thoroughly enjoyable read that manages to communicate the ever-present anxiety of the Great Depression without making poverty the focal point of the story. Instead, the story focuses on flawed characters just trying to make it work. The protagonist, Amelia, is an especially impressive character in that she defies the stereotypes of a teenage girl, but still holds some secret longings for romance and beauty. The push and pull between what she would like to be and what she feels she needs to be makes her a complex and highly relatable character. Though Lucky Strikes takes many twists and turns throughout, the ending lacks the originality that the rest of the story has. So many conflicts are introduced throughout the plot, and the way that everything has a perfect resolution in the end without much compromise makes the events of the story seem simplistic and almost juvenile. However, for readers who appreciate happy endings without any unanswered questions, the conclusion may feel rewarding.

\*Contains moderate language, mild violence, mild sexual content, and mild substance abuse.