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Lucky Hudson

Mark Bell

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Steve Jenkins decides to write a detective story for a writing competition. While he is writing, his characters come alive and bring Steve into their world. Steve becomes the protagonist in his story to discover the underground movements of several crime families. During his investigation Steve is arrested and imprisoned. But thanks to the character of Lucky Hudson, Steve escapes his execution and is rescued from other dilemmas.

Kelley is successful at composing an entertaining plot, enjoyable characters, and clever dialogue. Kelley also does a good job at mimicking the film noir style for his settings while Steve is inside his story. In spite of their stock nature, the characters are still interesting and their treatment is appropriate for a play that is trying for a film noir feel. The dialogue is pithy and does not overstate things. There is humor in some word choices, but they may occur too quickly for people who aren't paying close attention.

The cast size is large, but production notes do give examples of characters that can be cut. Interestingly, some scene changes take place while the action is still taking place in the scene, which helps to keep the play moving. Included with the script is a sample set design that shows how simply the show can be performed with a limited space.

Although the play is primarily for entertainment, one problem with the show is the weak theme. The theme only calls for people to follow their dreams and to use their imagination. This problem might put off directors who would prefer shows with more complicated themes.