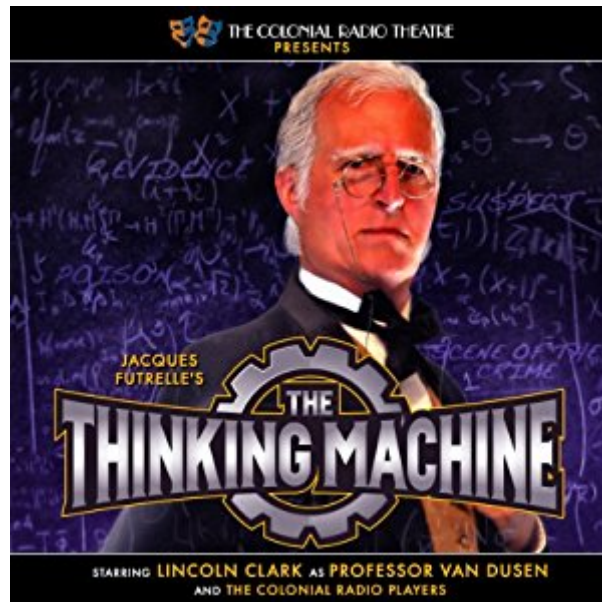


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The Thinking Machine



Synopsis

Professor Augustus Van Dusen, the 'Thinking Machine,' is an eccentric scientist with superior mental powers, who insists that logic will solve any problem. He has an assistant, the clever newspaper reporter Hutchinson Hatch, who brings him cases. The escapades of Professor Van Dusen provide a splendid romp for all lovers of traditional mysteries. Produced by the award winning Colonial Radio Theatre on the Air, these two classic mysteries are presented with a full cast, sound effects, and music. Includes: The Problem of Dressing Room "A" The Phantom Motor

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 46 minutes

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Customer Reviews

Can logic solve any problem? Professor Van Dusen thinks so. In this collection of stories, he sets out to prove the infallibility of logic in some most extraordinary ways. Each story features the classic elements of an apparently unsolvable problem. Yet, Professor Van Dusen remains calm and collected as he puts his thinking skills to work. Readers will enjoy the variety of dilemmas he encounters, and will marvel at the solutions! Whether he is finding something that is stolen or escaping from a prison cell, each tale takes some unexpected turns before arriving at a perfectly logical conclusion. The journey of this book from the author to its current publication is just as interesting as the stories. Jacques Futrelle developed the character of Van Dusen, "The Thinking Machine," during the early 1900's. Many of these stories appeared in serial form in magazines. In 1912, Futrelle traveled to Europe to seek a wider audience for his work. His return trip to America was on board the Titanic. Although Futrelle perished, these wonderful tales remain available for today's readers. The target audience is young adult, but anyone who loves a good mystery will enjoy

this book. The writing is clear and direct, and the predicaments are cleverly constructed. Each story features a different set of circumstances, but all have the principle of logic at its center. The character of Professor Van Dusen is both annoyingly ill-tempered and amazingly intelligent. This unique combination creates a different type of hero, but one that will certainly gain the admiration of readers. -- Joyce Handzo, Christian Book Previews.com

At first, I was put off by the fervent use of adverbs, and a general style of writing that felt stilted. Then I was charmed. The Thinking Man and his greatly-able friend Hutchinson Hatch work logically through a series of mysteries that seemed impossible to solve. "Nothing is impossible," the Thinking Man again and again says, and I happen to believe him right. He also believes that "two plus two equal four, not sometimes, but always." (On one occasion, he does allow except when it equals three or five.)These stories are little gems. Written more than a century ago, they come alive to the willing reader. Imagination, as The Thinking Man says, is required; with it, one is amply rewarded.

Great stories, but why on earth didn't this collection contain "The Silver Box," one of the greatest of all Thinking Machine stories? Inexplicable.

I remembered one story in this book from childhood, and decided to buy it to bring that memory back to life and share it with my children and grandchildren. The history behind this author and his stories brought me more than I expected and the tales hold up even in light of the greater technology available to us today - in fact, maybe even more so since they focus on the creativity of the human mind.

I remember reading these stories as a child and for the most part they are as I remembered them. The main character is Augustus F. S. X. van Dusen, a brilliant polymath who solves difficult mysteries by the application of cold logic. Although brilliant, van Dusen is so lacking in warmth and social skills that he never became a beloved fictional character like Sherlock Holmes or Charlie Chan, characters who are roughly contemporary. The stories were written in the early 20th century, so are dated in many ways, but the clues are still there for readers to challenge themselves.

I don't know when these stories were done, but, generally speaking, they don't seem as old as they must be (public domain). They are nicely done in reference to scanner mistakes and the like, and they play well with text-to-speech. One story in particular didn't show disabilities well, but I'm

guessing that was probably a sign of the times. The most of the rest of the stories have been good, and there are many; the book is 17565 locations. I call this one MOST highly recommended!

Good way to kill time but not really good writing. As I read it I was trying to remember where I had heard this style of writing. He is much older than Bob Newhart but the 2 styles are alike. Both use the stuttering repeat style but whether it is for dramatic effect or emphasis...who knows? It adds nothing to the story and is used so often it becomes silly and distracting. The stories were ok, but I cannot say I liked the book.

The stories are a little dated, but they're as entertaining as they were 45 years ago when I first read them. I downloaded six Thinking Machine books to my kindle, and I'm glad I did.

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