

The Alleyway

Steve enjoyed being a dogcatcher...until tonight. His trusty "catching net" displayed scratches from hundreds of dogs who had tried to bite at him during capture, but Steve always managed to go home unharmed. The alley that lay before him tonight, however, seemed more dangerous than any he had ever seen. Dented garbage cans lined the alley walls like soldiers, perhaps armed and ready to harm him. The alley's walls—bright red in daylight—turned puce on this overcast night. Steve stepped forward, his huge hands gripping his net, and he moved towards the one garbage can that was trembling at the back of the alley. Was the dog he was looking for hiding behind it?

This paragraph was influenced by the four pieces of advice given in the book Nothing Ever Happens on 90th Street. Look closely at the sentences and phrases in the seven sentences above. Whose advice from the book seems to have influenced this piece of writing, and where do you see their influence?

Could this paragraph become part of a longer story? What could the longer story be about?