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## Disaster Chef – Meredith Costain

**Publisher: Walker Books**

**RRP \$15.99**

Ollie and Julian are identical twins with vastly different personalities, likes and dislikes. Ollie is footy-mad while Julian is a quiet boy who enjoys cooking in his spare time. Ollie basks in his Dad's attention. His father is always at his footy games, encouraging him from the sidelines and helping the team.

This comfortable routine changes when older sister, Carly, sees a TV advertisement for *Junior Maestro Chef* auditions. The family's focus turns to encouraging Julian, especially when he's chosen as a contestant in the television show.

Ollie is miffed at losing his spot in the limelight. He's dragged along to be part of the studio audience to support his brother. Even though he's pleased that Julian is doing well, he has no interest in recipes and fancy food. However, drastic action is needed when things go horribly wrong for Julian.

Funny, realistic dialogue and a tight plot make this junior novel a cracking good read. The characters are believable with their straight talk, family loyalty and competitive behaviour.

Readers will cheer on the brave contestants and jeer at those who use underhand tactics. The competition turns nasty – and messy.

An excellent addition to the popular *Lightning Strikes* series.

**Reviewed by children's book author Jean Bennett.**

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