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A Tiny Bit Lucky Tom Gates – Liz Pichon

Publisher: Scholastic Australia

RRP \$25.97

I'm new to Tom Gates and his mates, but was quickly won over by Liz Pichon's art work, the cartoon element to this book and the storyline.

Tom is a likeable character who faces many of the same problems (or perceived problems!) of Intermediate age children: parents who have differing ideas on TV viewing, etc, older sisters, girls in general, friendships, facing challenges ...

School life is fun to read about – Tom describes his friends and class mates, the teachers and the school inspectors so well. Likewise family life – even (or especially?) the occasions Tom does not enjoy are told in such a way as to keep the reader smiling.

The good, the bad and the ugly are emphasised through fun use of different fonts and the many line drawings. Yes, Tom's first love is doodling.

For those who have enjoyed earlier Tom Gates books, this is a must. And to those who have not yet encountered this friendly young man, or who do not really enjoy reading, this may just be a start of a new interest.

Reviewed by Chris Wright

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