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Timmy Failure: the book you're not supposed to have **by Stephan Pastis**

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$19.99

Readers can't help but feel sympathy for Timmy Failure, the young detective with the unfortunate ability to come to all the wrong conclusions. At the same time, it's impossible not to laugh at his bumbling mistakes.

Timmy's endearing quality is his unfailing determination to persist in the search for answers, regardless of humiliation and adversity. Timmy is joined in his investigations by his unreliable assistant, Total the polar bear, and his tangerine-scented classmate, Molly Moskins.

The young detective's work must go undercover in response to his mother's ban on his sleuthing. To complicate matters, the private space of his bedroom has been invaded by two live-in cousins, sour-faced Merry and homicidal maniac Larry. Timmy decides to set up his detective agency in a display shed in a department store, which leads to several awkward situations.

Amusing black-and-white illustrations by the author accompany the investigators' antics. The characters' comical expressions and odd physical appearance add to the humorous storyline.

This is the fifth title in the popular *Timmy Failure* series aimed at primary to intermediate-aged readers who enjoy graphic novels. The hard-back publication is a bonus for libraries where the books are in hot demand.

Timmy Failure's website:

www.timmyfailure.com

Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett

