



Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made

By Stephan Pastis



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Want to aspire to greatness? Check out this new edition of Timmy Failure's first adventure—featuring the bonus section “How to Draw Timmy and Total.”

He may be clueless, but the comically self-confident Timmy Failure is CEO of the best detective agency in town, perhaps even the nation. Now Timmy's legion of fans are invited to set off on their own path to mastery with the help from Stephan Pastis. Added material includes step-by-step instructions on how to draw Timmy and his impressively lazy business partner, the polar bear Total—including a trick to making them both look a *tiny* bit nuts (hint: the secret is in the eyes). Even better, kids are invited to share the spotlight with Timmy by sending their drawings to his website, for a chance to be featured in the Timmy Failure Gallery of Greatness.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made By Stephan Pastis Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 3-8-Timmy Failure's new surname is completely apt. His original family name was "Fayleure," he explains, "but somebody changed it." And that bit of shallow self-assessment is just about the only accurate thing Timmy relates about himself for the rest of this highly illustrated comic novel as he unreliably narrates a boastful "historical record" of his adventures as the self-described founder, president, and CEO of the best detective agency in town, probably the state, perhaps the nation, Total Failure, Inc. Total is actually the name of Timmy's partner, a 1500-pound polar bear whose main talent seems to be eating trash. He's also "assisted," at times, by a sheepish and studious sidekick, Rollo Tookus, who often picks up on clues that soar completely past Timmy's selective attention as he, instead, focuses on demeaning Rollo for his supposed incompetence at every turn. And, of course, every master Investigator needs an evil nemesis, and Timmy's is Corrina Corrina, who looks like she might have been collaboratively created by Charles Schulz and Edward Gorey. While the book is not quite a graphic novel, Pastis, creator of the syndicated comic strip *Pearls Before Swine*, peppers nearly every page of this comic romp with at least one intentionally amateurish black-and-white illustration, enhancing the laughs along the way as Timmy misses even the most obvious clues in Clouseauesque fashion. Middle grade readers will appreciate all the silly sleuthing and absurd details, and older readers—including parents who come along for the ride—will find a satisfying layer of more sophisticated humor, too.—Jeffrey Hastings, Highlander Way Middle School, Howell, MI(c) Copyright 2013. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Eleven-year-old Timmy Failure would have you believe that he is the best detective in town, destined to head a multibillion-dollar agency. But he is no Encyclopedia Brown. The fact that his partner is an imaginary 1,200-pound polar bear named Total—hence the agency's moniker "Total Failure"—is an indication of Timmy's rich inner life. In reality, Timmy is bored at school by teachers who don't get him and is in a whole heap of trouble for using his mother's Segway, which was then stolen. Cartoonist Pastis' book is in the same vein as *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* (2007), but his brand of humor is less slapstick and much darker. Timmy's delusional self-confidence seems almost pathetic at times, as the reader realizes that he is very socially inept. Fortunately for Timmy, there are some adults in his life who really do care for him, and with the right balance of indulgence and firmness, they keep him on track. Younger readers attracted by the cartoons might not connect with Timmy's offbeat humor, but older readers should be simultaneously amused and touched by this quirky antihero. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: This may be Pastis' first book for young people, but he is a New York Times best-selling adult author. Impressive promotional plans include an author tour, promotional items, and extensive consumer advertising. Grades 4-7. --Kara Dean

Review

Timmy Failure is a winner!

—Jeff Kinney, author of *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*

Timmy Failure is a fabulously fun read and the line drawings are a treat. It's original and quirky, with real heart.

—Philipp Ardagh

Pastis crafts a great story starring an unforgettable protagonist whose unorthodox approach to detective work (and world domination) will have readers in stitches. For *Timmy Failure*, success is the only option!

—Lincoln Peirce, creator of the Big Nate series

Pastis has assembled an eccentric and funny cast (running gags revolve around Total's voracious appetite and a librarian who looks like one of the Hells Angels), yet there are also touching interactions to be found...
—Publishers Weekly

...Readers should be simultaneously amused and touched by this quirky antihero.
—Booklist

The Pearls Before Swine cartoonist's frequent black-and-white illustrations help to cast Timmy's adventure in an appropriately ironic light. Timmy... has greatness in him. Just like all of us.
—Kirkus Reviews

Pastis ... peppers nearly every page of this comic romp with at least one intentionally amateurish black-and-white illustration, enhancing the laughs along the way as Timmy misses even the most obvious clues in Clouseauesque fashion. Middle grade readers will appreciate all the silly sleuthing and absurd details, and older readers—including parents who come along for the ride—will find a satisfying layer of more sophisticated humor, too.
—School Library Journal

Seldom has failure been so likable—or so funny.
—The Wall Street Journal

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sharon Rowe:

Typically the book Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of help. The book was published by the very famous author. This articles author makes some research just before write this book. This particular book very easy to read you will get the point easily after scanning this book.

Beverly Hummell:

Why? Because this Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made is an unordinary book that the inside of the publication waiting for you to snap it but latter it will jolt you with the secret that inside. Reading this book alongside it was fantastic author who have write the book in such remarkable way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book get such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking technique. So , still want to hesitate having that book? If I had been you I will go to the e-book store hurriedly.

Nathan Weaver:

Playing with family in a park, coming to see the marine world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. 1 activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster

you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Timmy Failure: Mistakes Were Made, you are able to enjoy both. It is great combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its referred to as reading friends.

Faye Springer:

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