A Timmi TOBBSON Adventure

LEGEND OF THE STAR RUNNER

Be part of the adventure:
Choose wisely to survive each challenge.

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Timmi

For those who keep a twinkle in their eyes,

love in their hearts

and daydreams in their minds.

Lilli

The Chapters

Something's Odd 1
The Secret Entrance 6
The Hiding Place 10
The Lost Pirate 14
The Man Who Visited Twice 20
Heavily Guarded 24
The Locked Book 28
The Deep Lake 32
The House of a Hundred Rooms 38
The Treasure Hunter 42
The Secret Hiding Place 46
The Lost Symbol 50
The Star Runner 54
One Man Alone 60
Trapped 64
A Pirate's Realm 68
The Plan. 72
The Darkness 78
Running Out of Steam 82
Under Observation 86
The Treasure Map 90
Under Your Feet 94
The Fake Beggar 98
The Key 102
The Secret Passage 106
The Trail of the Guardian 112
The Perfect Hiding Place 118
The Last Warning 122
New Hope 126
Lotterlulu's Treasure 130
All or Nothing 134
A Summer's Day 138

Marvin

Welcome!

This is your adventure, first and foremost. Choose wisely to survive each challenge. Our facial expressions indicate the level of difficulty for each puzzle.

Normal:

Hard:

Ultimate:

❖ ❖ ❖

You will find hints in the back of this book that can help you in solving the upcoming picture mysteries.

❖ ❖ ❖

The solution to each puzzle is revealed in the subsequent chapter.

❖ ❖ ❖

You might find the following tools helpful,
though they are not required to solve the puzzles:

Magnifying glass ❖ Ruler ❖ Pen ❖ Compass/dividers (for chapter 22) ❖ Small mirror (to make reading the hints easier)

CHAPTER 02

The Secret Entrance

IF THE CAT HAD been able to get in, maybe we could too. We strolled around the house. The grass grew knee-high and all sorts of useless stuff lay scattered around. Old barrels, a rusty wheelbarrow, a half collapsed wooden shed. But with rays of sunlight gleaming through the treetops and bees buzzing around, the garden appeared to be enchanted.

Marvin was captivated.

"Man, this grass is high! It's like a jungle. Got to be full of animals." His eyes sparkled. "Spiders, grasshoppers, caterpillars, maybe even frogs."

"There are definitely no spiders," Lilli hissed.

"Why not? I like spiders. They do no harm. They're much more afraid of you than you are of them."

"They should be," Lilli growled.

Behind the house the grass grew even higher, reaching my belly button.

"Watch your step. Don't stomp on any snails." Marvin started to tiptoe.

Somehow I felt obliged to follow his lead while Lilli shot off ahead.

"Lilli, stop kicking the grass like that," Marvin called after her.

"Just keep getting on my nerves and you'll really see me kicking," Lilli snapped. Then she stopped abruptly, turned to Marvin and added, "Kicking your butt."

Marvin decided not to respond to that and Lilli turned the corner, walking back towards the front of the house.

"Ah, a piece of wood. I'll stay on this for a while, take a break from the grass," he said, watching me with big eyes and starting to bob up and down on the wooden plank. Something he also did when feeling uncomfortable.

"Lilli is just worried. She didn't mean it," I whispered.

"Boy, you can find anything in this garden but a lawn mower," he said.

Right at that moment, Lilli returned. "Nothing on that side either."

Suddenly there was a loud crack. The board beneath Marvin's feet had given way and he plunged into a hole in the ground. Lilli and I hurried to the opening and gazed into darkness.

"Marvin! You alright?" We heard a rumbling sound but it was too dark to make anything out.

Then Marvin coughed and when he spoke his voice was croaky. "What was that? Where am I?"

We stuck our heads into the hole. Slowly our eyes adjusted to the dim light and Marvin's contours began to emerge. He lay on his back in a pile of coal.

"Congratulations. You found another way in," I said. "We're coming down."

"Wow, I bet there are mice and rats down here," Marvin cheered.

CHAPTER 02

"Will you stop insulting my grandpa? He has no rats in his cellar and his garden isn't full of spiders," Lilli yelled and slid down the wall onto the pile of coal.

Marvin still lay on his back and reached up towards Lilli. "I didn't mean to insult your grandpa."

But Lilli just glared angrily down at him as she walked past.

"She gets upset really easily," Marvin concluded as I helped him up.

We went from room to room while Lilli kept yelling for her grandpa. When we came to the kitchen, Lilli stopped in her tracks. "One thing we know for sure now. He was still here, not so long ago."

"What? How do you know?" I asked.

Something in the kitchen proved Lilli's observation. But what?

CHAPTER 03

The Hiding Place

LILLI HAD SPOTTED THE fresh foam bubbles in the kitchen sink. Someone must have done the dishes not long ago.

"But if he's home, why didn't he open up? Didn't he hear us? And does he smoke? Look at those cigarettes," I said.

Lilli gazed at the ashtray, then back at us. Slowly, she shook her head.

"Maybe there is someone else in here," Marvin said quietly.

The thought gave me the creeps. Suddenly we heard a loud bang, as if someone had dropped something heavy. The sound made us jump. It came from somewhere upstairs. We all looked up at the ceiling. Marvin moved a bit closer to me. Again, a loud bang.

"What's going on?" Marvin asked, inching towards me.

"Let's find out," Lilli said with determination, briskly walking towards the staircase in the corridor next to the kitchen.

"No, Lilli!" Marvin whispered urgently.

She looked over her shoulder and called us "Cowards!" as she left the room.

I fumbled nervously for my asthma puffer, pulled it from my pocket and took a deep breath. Often when I got excited, I had difficulty taking in air and had to use an inhaler.

Marvin gave me a pitying look. "Are you ok?"

"Yeah. I'm alright. Come on, let's go."

Lilli was just about to step onto the first stair leading up when I called out to her in a low voice, "Stop, wait!"

She froze.

"Don't those stairs creak? Someone might hear us."

Lilli answered my question by stomping down hard on the first stair. "Yep. Guess they creak," she said.

"Yep, they creak," Marvin confirmed.

I rolled my eyes and Lilli shot up the stairs. "Look! The ladder to the attic is down."

We followed her to the upper floor and climbed the ladder leading to the attic. We could hardly believe our eyes. Antique objects stood everywhere. Like in a museum, but much less orderly. Old statues, vases, even a knight's armor and something resembling a treasure chest. And in the middle of it all sat Lilli's grandpa, deeply immersed in a note on a little sheet of paper.

"Grandpa!" Lilli cried, running over to him.

"Oh, Lilli!" the old man yelled in surprise when Lilli jumped into his embrace, hugging him tight. "Is it already so late?"

Lilli's grandpa went on to explain how the lid of the treasure chest had caused the loud banging noise. It was so heavy he had dropped it twice trying to open the chest. He had been searching for an old key he had once hidden somewhere in the attic. Unfortunately, he couldn't remember where.

"I was afraid this might happen," he explained. "I know how I forget things. So I wrote a note to my scatterbrained self, describing where I hid the key. Just to be safe, I paraphrased the hiding

Chapter 02

Lilli must have noticed something that world changes within a short period of time. Something temporary. Like a cup of hot cocoa that goes cold quickly.

❖ ❖ ❖

Chapter 01

Marvin didn't say wrapper the way in was a door, a crimson, an open window or a mouse hole. He also didn't say he had already found it. Maybe he only noticed something that suggested there was another way in. But why?

❖ ❖ ❖

I wish you lots of fun reading this book :)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First and foremost, I would like to thank my wife Anja for supporting me in following my passion and picking me up when times get tough. Love and kisses.

❖ ❖ ❖

I would also like to thank my whole family who have read this book throughout its various development stages and supported it in numerous ways.

❖ ❖ ❖

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❖ ❖ ❖

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❖ ❖ ❖

Special thanks go to mum for being the best mum in the world and to dad for telling me to do what I like best.

FUN FACTS

The illustrations of most Timmi Tobbson characters were inspired by actors and/or their fictional characters from well-known movies.

"Lilli" was inspired by the looks of British actress Keira Knightley.

"Marvin" was inspired by Gaten Matarazzo's performance as Dustin in *Stranger Things*.

"Sir London" was inspired by Christopher Lloyds interpretation of Dr. Emmet Brown in *Back to the Future*.

"Lotterlulu" was inspired by Johnny Depps character Jack Sparrow in *Pirates of the Caribbean* as well as Dustin Hoffman's performance in *Hook*.

"The Guardian" was inspired by the looks of American actor, director and producer Danny DeVito.

"Academic Archives Receptionist" was inspired by the performance of Lotte Lenya as Rosa Klebb in the James Bond movie *From Russia with Love*.

"Lilli's Grandpa" was inspired by Sir Sean Connery's portrayal of the father of Indiana Jones in *The Last Crusade*.

This book contains a puzzle which is unrelated to the story and involves all thirty-one main illustrations. A hint can be found on the cover. Go to www.timmitobbson.com if you think you have the solution.

Some of the main illustrations contain references to friends and family of the author.

The Academic Archives email address will actually answer if you send in a job application.

Thankyou to Hans Jürgen Press, whose adventure series *The Black Hand Gang* was among my favorite things to read as a kid and inspired me to create Timmi Tobbson just as much as the countless classic adventure games I enjoyed on my Amiga and PC machines.

At one point in this story an artefact is mentioned by name. If you search for this name online, you may get a better understanding of why it might be considered very valuable.