

## Timmy Tinker opens The Hill

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Presentation of characters inside the cover

Mummy  
Mum  
Timmy Tinker  
Nimbus  
Pierrot  
The Dragon  
Flipper  
Nimbusina  
Auto-Allan

Bakken (*the Danish word for hill*) is the world's oldest amusement park and is situated north of Copenhagen. Every year the opening of the park is celebrated by a motorcycle parade from Copenhagen to the park.

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Page 1

It is finally spring, and Mum has fetched Nimbus from the garage. He has been slumbering there all winter. Mum is getting Nimbus ready for his first ride this year. She is lubricating the cables, changing the oil and inflating the tyres. Timmy Tinker really wants to help.

“Do not tinker with anything, Timmy”, Mum says.

“I am just looking ...”, Timmy says and fishes a pipe wrench out of Mum's toolbox.

“Tiiiiimmy!”, Mummy calls, “have you seen the cable for my flat iron?”

Timmy Tinker quickly hides the cable.

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Page 2

Just then, they hear motorcycles accelerating on the road. Vroom Vroom!

All their motorcycle friends stop in front of the house.

“Hello, Timmy”, Auto-Allan shouts from his motorcycle, Nimbusina, “are you old enough to come and open The Hill this year?”

“Yeah!”, Timmy shouts with joy, “come, Mummy and Mum!”

“You better hurry up and get some clothes on, honey”, Mum laughs.

“But my hair is still all wet”, Mummy sighs.

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Page 3

Timmy pictures how huge and heavy the hill’s door must be, since they have to be so many to open it.

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Page 4

“Where is the hill?”, Timmy asks, as they park the motorcycles.  
“It is hidden behind the trees”, Auto-Allan says.

“But ... how are we supposed to open it, if we cannot find it?”, Timmy asks.

“The Hill is not a real hill”, Mum says.

“No. The Hill is a sort of playground, which is fun for both children and grown-ups. There are rollercoasters and bumper cars”, Auto-Allan explains.

“And you can buy fries, hotdogs and ice cream”, Mummy chirps.

Timmy cannot wait to find the fun fair.

(Honk Honk)

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Page 5

Finally, they arrive at The Hill. Timmy is jumping up and down. He spotted a big, floating dragon balloon.

“Oops. Nature call’s”, Auto-Allan says, “I will catch you later.”

“Do you also need to pee, Timmy?”, Mum asks.

“Nope!”, Timmy says.

“Please come and pee anyway”, Mummy says.

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Page 6

Timmy is angry now. He doesn’t want to pee! He thinks there’s a farty smell in the loo.

“You can stay out here in the fresh air”, Mummy says, “if you promise not to fiddle with anything...”

Timmy looks up.

“You wait here while we pee, Timmy! Is that understood?”, Mum says.

Timmy promises not to budge. But ...

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Page 7

... Timmy quickly forgets that he is waiting for Mummy and Mum.  
He just discovered where the dragon balloon came from.

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Page 8

“Hello. May I have the dragon up there?”, Timmy asks the balloon lady.

“You have to ask your mum and dad first. Balloons cost money”, the lady says.

“I don’t have a dad”, Timmy says.

“Oh, God! You poor child”, the balloon lady says.

“I’m not a poor child”, Timmy says, “I have two Mums instead”.

“I see. And now you have a real dragon to look out for you”, the balloon lady says and winks to Timmy.

Timmy barely has time to thank her before the dragon drags him along.

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Page 9

The dragon must have a very sweet tooth. It is dragging Timmy to the candy store, where the girl Amina and her dad just ordered a slush-ice and a small pint. Timmy Tinker suddenly spots an exciting, flashing red button.

“What is that button for”, Timmy wonders.

(Candy-Hansel & Beer-Gretel)

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Page 10

Oh no. Timmy’s fingers are itching to push the button, and suddenly he pushes the speed button for the candyfloss machine.

Everything goes fast.

Candyfloss is flying everywhere like a huge sticky, pink cloud. The dragon tries to snap some of it, and Amina’s bald dad gets candyfloss on his head.

“Did you get a wig, dad?”, Amina laughs, “you look super cool with pink hair!”

Timmy is afraid to get blamed, so he hurries on.

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Page 11

What a fun Christmas sleigh!

Timmy fiddles with the box where coins are inserted and pushes the button again and again. Suddenly, coins pour out of the box.

(The Penguin Express – Pierrot – Fishballs)

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Page 12

“Hello, Santa Claus. I thought you were on the North Pole now”, Timmy says.

“Ho-ho-ho”, the mechanical Santa Claus says when Timmy reinserts one of the coins into the box.

The sleigh starts rocking back and forth while playing a Christmas jingle.

Timmy is having the best time. He wishes that Mum and Mummy could see him right now.

Timmy and the dragon keep on going on rides.

Until Timmy doesn't have any coins left.

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Page 13

Wonderful sounds of coin clinks, engine rattles and loud music flow from the arcade.

Wow, Timmy really wants to try the gigantic motorcycle.

He turns the throttle and pushes all the buttons.

But it doesn't budge at all.

(Monkey Boy – Do you want to race?)

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Page 14

“You need to insert coins”, the big boy, who is named Flipper, says.

“I don't have anymore”, Timmy says.

“Then try and beg your parents to give you more coins. I always do that. You just have to badger them long enough, and eventually they will say yes!”  
“But I don’t know where Mummy and Mum are right now”, Timmy says.  
“Where did you see them last?”, Flipper asks.  
And then Timmy runs as fast as he can with the dragon trailing him.

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Page 15

Timmy remembered that he had to wait for Mummy and Mum by the toilets. He grabs the handle. The door is locked. He calls for them, but nobody answers.

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Page 16

Timmy pulls the handle and fiddles with the lock. Suddenly, the door for the other lady’s room opens.  
“Hello, you. Are you lost?”, Pierrot asks.  
“Well, no”, Timmy says, “I am right here. But Mummy and Mum are not.”  
“So you can’t find them?”, Pierrot asks.  
“No, and now I am hungry”, Timmy says.  
“Look, boy”, Pierrot says, and hey, presto, Pierrot conjures up a coin ...  
  
“Now go on and buy a hot dog. With that dragon, your parents will find you before it gets dark.”

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Page 17

Oops! Timmy accidentally fiddles with the ketchup tube.  
Now, it is pouring with loads of red hot dog sauce.

(The Family Sausage)

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Page 18

“I would like a hot dog with all my ketchup”, Timmy says and gives Pierrot’s coin to the hot dog lady.  
“Oh, golly!”, the hot dog lady exclaims, “with this magic coin you can get 14 hot dogs and a medium box of fries. And look what I have got for you – a

multi-ride ticket. With this, you can try all the attractions at The Hill for free!”

“Wow! Thank you very much”, Timmy says.

While Timmy and the dragon are stuffing themselves, Timmy is wondering where Mummy and Mum have gone.

The Hill, which is not a real hill, is a very big place.

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Page 19

“Dragon, can you see Mummy and Mum?”, Timmy asks.

The dragon flies high up on its line to keep a lookout.

“Maybe they are trying all the attractions?”, Timmy thinks to himself, “Auto-Allan did say that The Hill is a playground for grown-ups too.”

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Page 20

Timmy and the dragon run about trying to find Mummy and Mum.

Weee, it is so much fun at Bakken!

Timmy almost forgets how much he misses his Mums.

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Page 21

Suddenly, the dragon brings Timmy into the haunted house. Maybe Mummy and Mum are hiding in the dark? No, they weren't there either, and without grown-ups, the ghost train is way too scary. Even if the dragon sits next to Timmy.

(I want to get out)

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Page 22

“Mummy-Muuum!”, Timmy calls.

Flipper comes to comfort Timmy. “So you still haven't found your parents?”

“No”, Timmy sobs.

“I know what you should do”, Flipper says, “you just have to go to the parking lot and wait. They will come when everything closes. And it will close any minute now because it is late.”

“Do you really think it will work?”, Timmy asks.

“Yes, cross my heart”, Flipper says.

“Do you want my dragon?”, Timmy asks. He wants to go home now.  
“Wow, that is sweet! Thank you”, Flipper says.

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Page 23

There are a lot of colourful lamps in the trees, which lighten up the road.  
Timmy easily finds Nimbus, who is slumbering next to Nimbusina.  
Timmy tiredly pushes the horn.  
“Come on, Mummy and Mum”, he whispers. And he gets into the sidecar  
with his sleepy blanket and falls asleep.  
“Honk-honk-hoonk”, it echoes in the forest.

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Page 24

Mummy and Mum do not hear Nimbus’ horn because of all the noise from  
the fun fair, but Auto-Allan does. Fortunately! He gets Mummy and Mum,  
and they hurry to the parking lot.  
“Where have you been, Timmy? We have looked for you everywhere!”,  
Mum cries out.  
“Look at his big ketchup smile”, Mummy says and dries her eyes.  
“Hey, who gave you a multi-ride ticket, Timmy?” Auto-Allan asks.  
But Timmy doesn’t hear anything. He is far away in dreamland.

What do you think Timmy is dreaming about?

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Epilogue

On a daily basis, we at Stork Fertility Clinic, experience that expectant  
parents have a need for nuanced children’s books reflecting the diverse ways  
of having and raising children. The book, *Timmy Tinker opens The Hill*, is  
both a story that captures and plays with us. Within the story, prevailing  
gender roles are inverted. Does it seem provocative at first sight? Maybe ...  
Illustrations and text can provoke us a bit and show us how our prejudiced  
mind-set is bubbling underneath the surface of our liberal varnish.

When we experience that the book turns everything upside down, it is also a  
reflection of the massive impact of the general family conception as being  
father and mother with their children. Generally, a dominant conception in

children's books, even if the reality has changed. Our traditional family culture has been transforming itself for a long time. But does our traditional family notion match reality?

I hope that the series about the boy Timmy Tinker and his two mothers will be found besides the Alfie Atkins books in many children rooms and kindergartens. The books change how both children and adults conceive the roles we take and give each other as mothers, fathers and children. We get to ask ourselves what "the good childhood" and "the nuclear family" actually consist of.

The educational material imbedded in the Timmy Tinker books is informative and necessary. We know that homosexual families occasionally experience hesitation and reluctance from their surroundings when it comes to talking about family diversities. For educators and parents, the educational material encourages openness and dialogue about these insecurities and the many ways to form families.

Midwife, Nina Stork