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## Minimum Competency: A Novel about Education, Testing, Life, and Death in Upstate New York (Paperback)

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By Jim Mortensen

iUniverse, United States, 2009. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 228 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.In Snyder s Corners, a small dot on the western rim of New York s Catskill Mountains, life is tough. Jobs are scarce, money is tight, and the best part of education is the state-ranked basketball team. Jimmy Kalid, a ninth-grade English teacher at Kaaterskill Central School in the area s centralized district, realizes something s amiss. Despite impressive test scores, his students can barely read. Then his new girlfriend, Phyllis Nielsen, while substituting for the eighth-grade English teacher, makes a discovery that causes everything to make sense. When Joseph Scalani, the nephew of a mob boss-and paper pusher in the State Department of Education-comes to town with evidence of test tampering, he s hoping to shake down the perpetrators. Instead he meets a pair of incompetents: the bumbling Chief School Officer and his lackey. These two must scramble to cover their tracks, confounding a county sheriff, who rarely sees anything beyond petty theft. As the mob, the school s leadership, and the sheriff collide, each player rises to his true level of incompetence. Their only hope to...



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