



2013

Cheetah Can't Loose by Bob Shea

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Wadham, Rachel (2013) "Cheetah Can't Loose by Bob Shea," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 33 : Iss. 2 , Article 2.

Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol33/iss2/2>

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Author: Shea, Bob

Title: *Cheetah Can't Lose*

Year of Publication: 2013

Publisher: Balzer & Bray

ISBN: 9780061730832

of pages: 32

Rating: Excellent

Reading/Interest Level: Preschool; Primary

Keywords: Cats; Cheetahs; Winning; Friendship; Picture Book

Review:

Cheetah always wins the big race because he is big and fast. Filled with arrogance Cheetah brags to his little cat friends that there is no doubt what the outcome will be for this year's race. Finding out that things will be different with lots of races instead of just one Cheetah still knows he will win every time. The little cats have other ideas, however so each successive race conspires to set Cheetah up to lose the big race. As expected Cheetah does lose in spectacular fashion but when they feel guilty for their role in the games the little cats make up for their mischief by sharing their big win with Cheetah.

Known for his larger than life characters (such as Shark from *I'm a Shark* and Dinosaur in his many adventures) Shea adds another high-spirited eccentric to his collection. Because of his hubris readers will root for Cheetah's downfall while at the same time coming to love this quirky character so much that they will rejoice in his acceptance at the end. The bold yet simple illustrations made up of very few colors and lots of white space perfectly conveys the lively interactions between Cheetah and the cats. The text contains only dialogue which can be confusing but here Shea expertly uses color to indicate who is speaking making the conversations absolutely comprehensible. Accessible from preschool on up the humor and exuberance of Cheetah's adventures make us forget we are learning things about friendship and empathy.

Reviewers Name: Rachel Wadham

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