

# CHEETAH 57

## 57 號小豹

*The chubby Cheetah 57 wants so badly to be as muscular as all the other cheetahs in the zoo. "If you don't look fierce enough, you would be killed to make bags or rugs," say his strong companions. Scared and ashamed, Cheetah 57 digs himself a hole to hide in, but he never expects just how far it will take him.*

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Cheetah 57 lives in a zoo. He always feels bad because he looks so different from all the other cheetahs. They warn him, "Humans like cheetahs that look fierce. If you don't look that way, they'll turn you into a scarf..."

Afraid of seeming different, Cheetah 57 tries his best to imitate others but it is all in vain. He decides to dig a hole to hide in, but he goes too far, and the hole ends up leading him out of the zoo.

Everyone wants to fit in, but our differences will always stand in the way. This picture book explores how it feels to be different, and how to embrace your differences and make the best of them. The cartoonish lines and neutral colors of the illustrations invite young readers to engage their imaginations in this story of a chubby little cheetah who breaks stereotypes.

**Text by Tina Kuo 郭靜婷**

Tina Kuo is the author of 12 titles for children, including the middle-grade fiction series *Ding Xiaofei's Diary* and the YA novel *The Signal Detective Agency*. She also works as a screenwriter for children's television. Her dream is to create works that allow children to truly enjoy the wonders of childhood.

**Illustrated by Fu Hsinyi 傅馨逸**

Fu Hsinyi is an illustrator from Southern Taiwan. Her humorous and vivid illustration style makes it easy for readers to immerse themselves in the stories.



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Translated by Helen Wang

p.6-7

The first time Cheetah 57 went out in the cheetah pen to meet the public, he wasn't like the other cheetahs. When they showed how strong and fierce they were, Cheetah 57 ate quietly in a corner.

p.8-9

After a few days, the other cheetahs had a word with him. "Humans expect animals to behave in certain ways. They like to see cheetahs being fierce and strong. You need to try harder, to be more like us, because sometimes those humans have strange ideas."

p.10-11

They told him scary stories about hunters and tiger skin rugs, and the fashion for animal print. Cheetah 57 was terrified.

p.12-13

Cheetah 57 tried to change. He tried to roar like the other cheetahs. He tried to walk like the other cheetahs.

He tried to build up his muscles. But the other cheetahs grew impatient, which scared him even more.

p.14-15

One night, when the others were sleeping, Cheetah 57 started to dig a hole. His plan was to hide in the ground, where the humans couldn't find him.

Every day Cheetah 57 went into his hole and dug a little bit more. "I should be safe from the humans now!" he thought.

p.16-17

Cheetah 57 accidentally dug his way out of the zoo, and found himself face to face with a human! He turned around, and saw another human behind him. He was too frightened to move. "Look! It's a big tabby cat!" said the boy.

p.18-19

"Isn't he lovely!" said the girl. "He must be a stray! Let's take him home!"

At first Cheetah 57 refused to move. He was scared they might discover he wasn't like the other cheetahs.

p.20-21

The children read Cheetah 57 a story every day.

They washed him every day.

Cheetah 57 loved living with the humans.

But he couldn't stand the cat food!

p.22-23

So every day, when the humans went out,  
He sneaked back to the zoo for some real cheetah food.

By day he was a cheetah, and by night he was a tabby cat!

p.24-25

Cheetah 57 enjoyed his double life, until he learned that the children were going to summer camp at the zoo...

He was worried. What if they discovered he wasn't a tabby cat, but a cheetah? They'd catch him and take him back to the zoo, then the whole world would know that he wasn't like the other cheetahs.

p.26-27

For a few days Cheetah 57 stayed away from the zoo. He didn't want the children to see him there. But he grew so hungry that he had to go back. He hid in a corner hoping the humans wouldn't notice that he was different from the other cheetahs.

In their free time at summer camp, the girl and the boy passed the cheetah pen. They recognised Cheetah 57 from the special mark on his fur. "That's our tabby cat!"

p.28-29

"He doesn't look like the other cheetahs!"

"He's so sweet, I want to pick him up and cuddle him!"

"He's a very chubby cheetah! He must like his food!"

While the humans took lots of photos

Cheetah 57 trembled with fear.

p.30-31

“We brought a little cheetah home!”

“We’d better tell Mum and Dad.”

**SURPRISE AT THE ZOO!**

**CHEETAH BY DAY, TABBY CAT BY NIGHT!**

p.32-33

Cheetah 57 had to go back to the zoo. At first he was scared because everyone knew he wasn’t like the other cheetahs. But he needn’t have worried because the humans loved him!