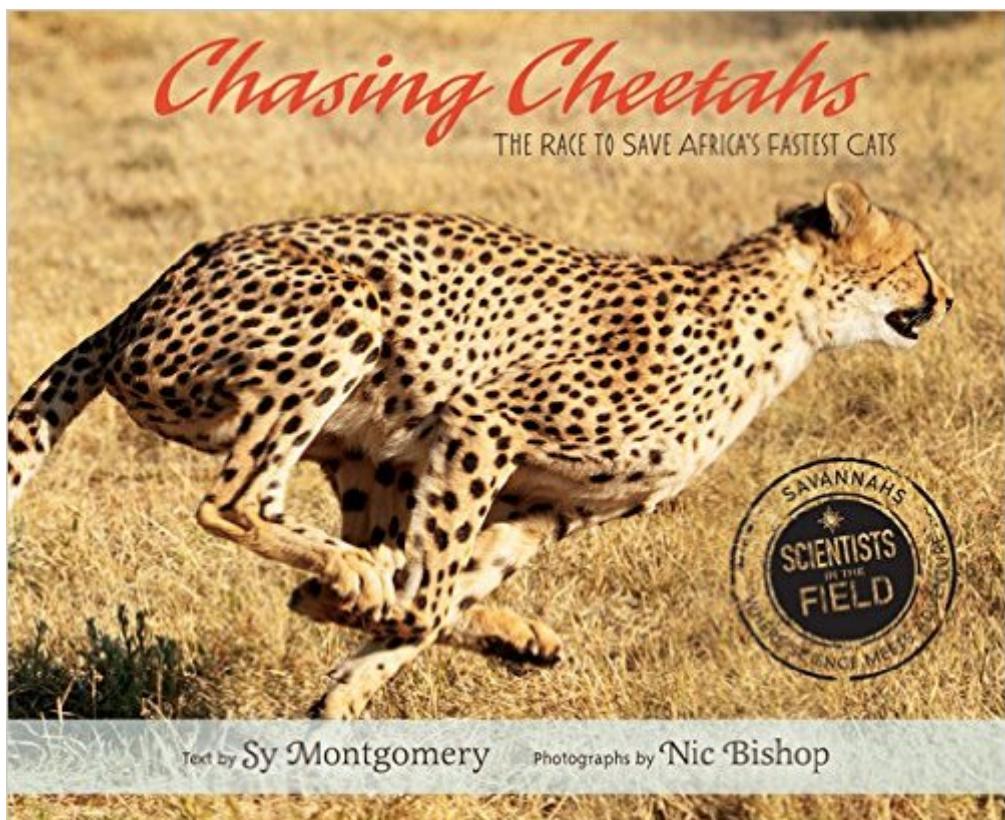


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# Chasing Cheetahs: The Race To Save Africa's Fastest Cat (Scientists In The Field Series)



## Synopsis

Since the year 1900, cheetah footprints quickly dwindled in African dirt as the species plummeted from more than 100,000 to fewer than 10,000. At the Cheetah Conservation Fund's (CCF) African headquarters in Namibia, Laurie Marker and her team save these stunning, swift, and slender creatures from extinction. Since the organization's start in 1990, they've rescued more than 900 cheetahs, most of whom have been returned to the wild. But this arduous challenge continues. For most African livestock farmers, cheetahs are the last thing they want to see on their properties. In the 1980s, as many as 19 cheetahs per farmer died each year. Cheetahs were considered vermin--but, in learning more about this magnificent species, we know this is far from true. Today, CCF acts as a liaison between the farmers and the cheetahs, in order to promote cohabitation in an ecosystem that cannot thrive without the existence of the precious and predatory cheetah. On a wild ride through the African wilderness--sometimes sniffing out scents left in the dirt--Sy Montgomery and Nic Bishop join CCF in studying the cheetah's ecological, genetic, and behavioral patterns in order to chase down the fastest animal on land and save the species--before it is too late.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1000L (What's this?)

Series: Scientists in the Field Series

Hardcover: 80 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (April 1, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547815492

ISBN-13: 978-0547815497

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 11 x 9.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #290,398 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Africa #158 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Africa #175 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Lions, Tigers & Leopards

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

## Customer Reviews

I am a huge fan of the Scientists in the Field series by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. They are not only fascinating but well designed with gorgeous photographs. Chasing Cheetahs did not disappoint, it's as high in quality as its predecessors. With the growing emphasis on STEM (Science, technology, engineering, and math) in the education field, these books are a great help in that endeavor. This book takes a look at the work of the Cheetah Conservation Fund's work in Namibia, Africa in saving cheetahs. The work done by Laurie Marker and her associates has clearly made a difference, but like all conservation stories there is still much to be done as Montgomery clearly shows. I found it absolutely intriguing to read about the things the CCF is doing to help the species. The strategies they are using are clearly explained and demonstrated in the book which shows the power of science in action. I for one found the stories about different cheetahs and the way the scientists study them and share what they've learned with local farmers and school children as well as with colleagues worldwide makes for a great story. This book is very readable with lots of gorgeous photographs to highlight the text. A wonderful addition to a great series.

Chasing Cheetahs is an excellent book written in an appealing, easy style, and it tells the story of Laurie Marker and her inspired work to save cheetahs in Africa. Wow. But then maybe I'm prejudiced, since I love cheetahs. I've seen them hunt cooperatively in Africa, and I used to have a friend in Africa who kept a three-legged cheetah as a house cat. A cat the size of a big German Shepherd who would come up to you, rub against your leg, and purr. Loudly. The book gives some facts about cheetahs. Their eyesight is good enough that they can see close detail at 2 miles. They can run up to 70 miles an hour. They can go from 0 to 40 in three strides, with each stride covering 25 feet. As with virtually all other charismatic wild animal taxa in this world, cheetah numbers have been decimated by human activity during the twentieth century. By "human activity" I mean in this case killed as vermin. By "decimated" I mean decimated. Their numbers have been cut by around 90%, from over 100,000 in 1900 to fewer than 10,000 now. Laurie Marker discovered a passion for cheetahs while working in a veterinary clinic at an American wild animal park, and I can understand the passion. What I didn't know is that cheetahs are famous for not breeding in captivity; no zoo had ever done it significantly. But Marker figured out what the problems were and made herself one of the world's best experts on getting cheetahs to reproduce. She realized, meanwhile, that cheetahs were being rapidly wiped out in Africa and passionately hoped that someday soon some inspired person would step up to help change that tragic trend. Then she looked in a mirror and saw who that someone would be. . . . Terrific

book.

I sent this book to a 13 year old girl who had met the author and read many of Sy Montgomery's other nature books. Her note to me said how great it was and in the short time between receiving it and writing my note she had reread it seven times! Quite a review I'd say!

Have you ever wondered what Africa's fastest cat is? Well, wonder no more! Everything you need to know about Africa's fastest cats is in Chasing Cheetahs: The Chase to Save Africa's Fastest Cats by Sy Montgomery and photographs by Nic Bishop. Chasing Cheetahs is about how people are trying to teach others about cheetahs and how to save them from going extinct. Cheetahs are the fastest predator in Africa, and a group called Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) has been trying to help cheetahs in Africa since 1990. So far, they have saved over nine hundred cheetahs by having cheetah ambassadors. They catch cheetahs and put radio collars on them (they don't hurt them), then they let them go. They follow the ambassadors to learn how cheetahs live in the wild to make sure they are doing everything they can to help them and keep them safe. They also study their poop and hair to find out what they eat. In the 1980s one farmer would kill almost nineteen cheetahs in one year because farmers considered cheetahs vermin (like rats). Now since people know more about cheetahs, Africans know that cheetahs are needed to help other animals live and to be part of the African ecosystem. The main characters are cheetahs, Africans, and the CCF. Laurie Marker is the main person helping cheetahs with CCF, and Africans call her "lady in black" because she was wearing black the first time the African farmers saw her. She helps the cheetahs the most, but the author of the book and the photographer also help her track the cheetahs to learn more about them and so do a lot of others. The theme of the book is to raise awareness about the endangered cheetah. I know this is the theme because the book is all about helping keep cheetahs from going extinct and how Laurie Marker and CCF help keep cheetahs safe. The book shows a picture of Laurie Marker and her cheetah Tiger Lily. Laurie adopted Tiger Lily when she was just a cub because she was orphaned. I think all people should help save cheetahs because cheetahs can help us in different ways. I would give the book five stars. I think it is a good book because it's interesting how Laurie Marker has a pet cheetah and can share her feelings with it because she's had it since it was a cub. Cheetahs are pretty and can run really fast. I would recommend the book to anyone who would like to learn how to help cheetahs.

Great book, but I purchased it for my Granddaughter who is 5 that loves Cheetah and it was a little more detailed than I thought. It is a great book and talks a lot about Cheetahs, but just to deep for a 5 year old to keep interested. But she loved the pictures and their captions. And when she gets older I am sure she will like reading all of it.

Great book about the hard work of creating and maintaining a Cheetah Refuge. Beautiful pictures of the Cheetahs and their new environment. A terrific book on conservation that is good for adults and young adults. we need more of these places. You see the passion of the conservators. I love Cheetahs and it was perfect or purrfect for me.. Hope to visit one soon.

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