



# Bull Catcher

*By Alden R. Carter*

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## **Bull Catcher** By Alden R. Carter Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1717360 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Scholastic Paperbacks
- Published on: 2000-03-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .85" h x 4.18" w x 6.70" l,
- Binding: Paperback
- 288 pages



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## Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7 Up. "On the seventh day God made baseball." For Neil "Bull" Larsen and his best friend, Jeff Hanson, baseball has been their life for as long as they can remember, hence their pet saying. For his senior project, Bull decides to chronicle his high school baseball career by filling in the details of the diary he has been keeping. The teen, by choice, lives with his widowed grandfather while his business-executive single mom imparts advice from her home in California. While baseball is the major focus of this story, Bull also faces the challenges common to adolescents including dealings with family, friends, the opposite sex, and school. He comes to grips with the death of a friend who became a rival due to their interest in the same girl, and with the fact that despite his talent, a life-long dream of professional baseball might be in reach for Jeff but not for him. Carter pens a sure hit for baseball fans as plenty of riveting game action is detailed. Though a few fairly mild curse words are present, all-in-all this is a gentle coming-of-age story that, while not a gripping page-turner, results in an enjoyable read. ?Tom S. Hurlburt, La Crosse Public Library, WI  
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7<sup>+</sup>-10. Unlike many sports novels, *Bull Catcher* does more than pump up its readers for a do-or-die game against the crosstown rivals. Carter takes a deeper look at sports, competition, and what it takes to succeed. Neil "Bull" Larsen and his best friend, Jeff Hanson, see everything through the prism of baseball. They play the game almost year-round, constantly pushing themselves to play at a higher level. In high school, Jeff single-mindedly pursues the college scholarship he hopes will lead to a pro career, while Bull begins to realize the game doesn't give him everything he wants and starts to explore life off the field. In the end, although Jeff wins a scholarship and Bull doesn't, it is clear which boy has the brighter future. Jeff's characterization is a little flat and the author's hand is a bit heavy when it comes to describing Jeff's passion for baseball. But in Bull, Carter has created a likable (though far from perfect) young man whose experiences on and off the field have readied him for the real world. *Randy Meyer*

From Kirkus Reviews

The rise of Neil "Bull" Larsen, from fledgling freshman ballplayer to starting catcher on his senior championship team, is captured against a background of adolescent love, sweaty afternoons on the baseball diamond, and nights of summer-camp fun: in other words, a soap opera for pre-teen boys and a fantasy for budding baseball players. Bull is a burly guy who can't clear the bases as fast as he'd like, but his smarts, wry sense of humor, and commendable devotion quickly dispel the dumb-jock stereotype. As Bull recounts for a senior project, baseball is all that he and his best friend, Jeff Hanson, ever think about. Carter (*Between a Rock and a Hard Place*, 1995, etc.) packs his narrative with action on the field and also shows the young athletes off-season: lifting weights, running sprints, and dreaming about spring training. Off the field, Bull and Jeff bridge cultural differences when they transform a Vietnamese transfer student into a star pitcher; moon over pretty, unattainable girls; and help their teammate Billy escape from an abusive father. At the end of senior year, Bull is unchanged by Billy's accidental death, his break-up with a girlfriend, and the realization that he will never play pro ball. In fact, the story ends without any sign that he's going to take even tentative steps toward maturity. Good as far as it goes, but incomplete. (Fiction. 12+) -- *Copyright* ©1997, *Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

## Users Review

From reader reviews:

**Brent Cook:**

Do you have favorite book? In case you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to learn everything in the world. Each book has different aim or maybe goal; it means that book has different type. Some people really feel enjoy to spend their time for you to read a book. They can be reading whatever they get because their hobby is actually reading a book. How about the person who don't like looking at a book? Sometime, particular person feel need book after they found difficult problem or perhaps exercise. Well, probably you will want this Bull Catcher.

**Robert Reynolds:**

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in most way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make all of them survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. That's why, by reading a guide your ability to survive increase then having chance to stand than other is high. To suit your needs who want to start reading any book, we give you that Bull Catcher book as beginner and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

**Alice Wilkerson:**

People live in this new moment of lifestyle always attempt to and must have the extra time or they will get great deal of stress from both everyday life and work. So , once we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not just a robot. Then we question again, what kind of activity do you have when the spare time coming to you actually of course your answer will probably unlimited right. Then do you ever try this one, reading textbooks. It can be your alternative inside spending your spare time, the particular book you have read will be Bull Catcher.

**Barbara Jackson:**

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