

Children's Literature Reviews

Item 18 of 130

Chet Gecko's detective handbook (and cookbook) : tips for private eyes and snack food lovers

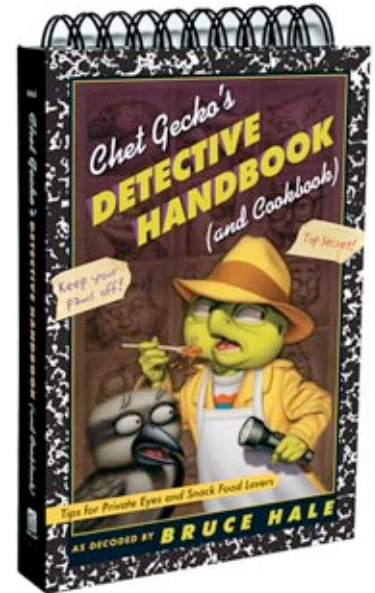
as decoded by Bruce Hale ; recipes by Shirley Chameleon's dad with help from Nancy Oster.

[Contributor biographical information](#)

[Publisher description](#)

Orlando : Harcourt, 2005.

124 p. : ill. ; 22 cm.



Reviews:

Gwynne Spencer (Children's Literature)

For comic relief, I read Chet Gecko's Detective Handbook (and cookbook) *Tips for Private Eyes and Snack Food Lovers* as decoded by Bruce Hale, who is a very good friend of Chet Gecko, the lizard equivalent of Guy Noir. The recipes are interspersed with private-eye tactics like "Interrogation Techniques," "Gathering Evidence," "Undercover Work," and other vital parts of the job. Never mind the dreadful puns. If you are a mystery fan, these will make you laugh out loud as you discover the joys of snappy dialogue, wisecracks and earnest sleuthing. I would start with *Hamster of the Baskervilles* or *The Malted Falcon*, but hey, any day with Chet Gecko in it is a good day for reading, a bad day for crime. 2005, Harcourt, \$9.95. Ages 8 to 12.

Kirkus (Kirkus Reviews, August 15, 2005 (Vol. 73, No. 16))

Any aspiring sleuth or fan of the Chet Gecko mystery series (starring the "finest lizard detective at Emerson Hicky Elementary") will appreciate the tips, activities and recipes outlined in this irreverent, illustrated handbook to detective work. A mix of amusing misinformation, such as, "Surveillance comes from the French word surveiller (meaning 'hiding behind a fake schnozzola!'); questionable advice such as, "Use a bribe that motivates your suspect. Strangely enough, not everyone goes for chocolate"; and sound suggestions like "Never take on a wacko for a client," this goofy, oft-frivolous guide is also valuable for a child genuinely interested in espionage. Easy-to-learn tricks of the trade, such as the intriguing "shopping list" code and old stand-bys like the spy-hole newspaper, pepper the handbook that covers everything from obtaining clients to evidence gathering. A boilerplate detective license, search warrant and office sign ("Private Eye: No case too small, no snack too big") are included in the back. Bonus: Practicing private investigators can flip the top-bound handbook over and write notes on the conveniently lined sheets-tricky for libraries, but the entertainment of the rest far outweighs this issue. 2005, Harcourt, 288p, \$9.95. Category: Nonfiction. Ages 8 to 12. © 2005 Kirkus Reviews/VNU eMedia, Inc. All rights reserved.

Subjects:

[Hale, Bruce--Characters--Chet Gecko Juvenile literature.](#)

[Detective and mystery stories--Appreciation Juvenile literature.](#)

[Private investigators Juvenile literature.](#)

[Cookery Juvenile literature.](#)

Link to a Web Feature or Search for Other Works by:



[Hale, Bruce.](#)

Search for other reviews by:

[Gwynne Spencer](#)
[Kirkus](#)

Language	Call Number	LCCN	Dewey Decimal	ISBN/ISSN
English (eng)	PS3558.A35625 C47 2005	2004028492	813/.54	0152052887 (alk. paper) 9780152052881

View the [MARC Record](#) for this item.

