

Zelda Finds a Way to Win!



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Zelda grew up in a big family. She had three big brothers.
Zelda loved her brothers, but sometimes she got mad at them.



Her brothers would sometimes come home with prizes or
big shiny trophies for winning their ball games or races.

Zelda's mother always looked so happy when her brothers won. Her mother would take everyone out for ice-cream to celebrate. Zelda hoped that one day she would make her mother happy like that, too.



Zelda really enjoyed going to school. She always worked hard and followed the rules. She had good friends and got along with most everyone. But Zelda's friends would always run faster, throw the ball further and jump rope longer than she could

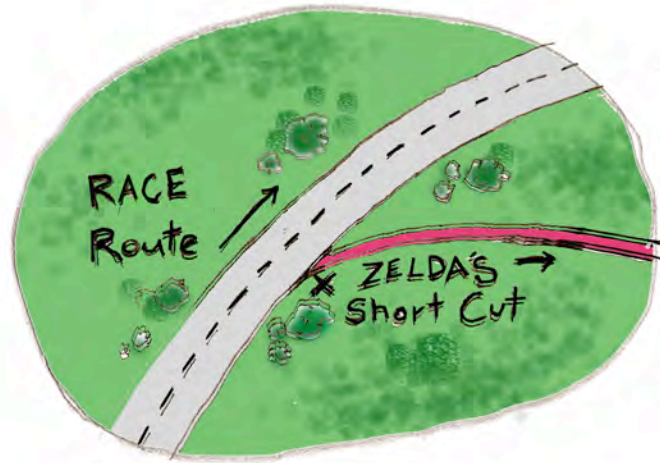


One day at school, Zelda saw a sign taped on the wall outside of the school cafeteria about a school race. Zelda wondered "How could I win this race?" Then Zelda thought, "Yes, I will find a way to win this race." I will make my mom happy just like my brothers do.

Zelda skipped all the way home from school that day. She locked herself inside her bedroom and taped on her door a "do not enter" sign. Zelda began to think of how she would win the school race. She thought and thought and thought but could not come up with a race plan.

Then Zelda told herself a secret. The secret was "I will have to bend the rules so that I can win." Zelda has always followed the rules, but for this one time, "the rules must be broken." Zelda decided that she would try three things to help her win the school race.





1

The first thing Zelda would do is take a short cut during the race which would put her ahead of all the runners.



2

The second thing that Zelda would do is hide her bicycle in the bushes one day before the race and ride it for a few blocks to help her lead in the race.



3

The last thing that Zelda would do is jump on the bus and ride it almost to the finish line.

This plan would surely help her win this race.

Zelda woke up excited the next morning and told her family about the race at breakfast. Her family was happy and told Zelda "you can do it." Zelda went to school and signed up for the race. Zelda found out that many of her friends were also signed up for the school race.



Every night before the race she went to bed and dreamed about winning.

Race day finally came. Zelda got up extra early because she did not want to be late for the race. She wore her favorite red shorts and matching red and blue running shoes. Zelda pulled her hair back with a rubber band and pinned on her good luck charm that her mother gave her.



Zelda looked over her plan one last time before she left her bedroom. Yes, Zelda said, "I have everything in place. My bicycle is waiting for me. I will remember to take the short-cut, and I know which bus to take that will get me to the finish line faster."

Zelda and her parents made it to the race on time. "Good luck honey." Zelda's parents said, "We will be here waiting and watching for you to cross over the finish line."





The next thing Zelda heard was, "Racers, on your mark, get ready, and go." Zelda could not believe that the race had started. Zelda saw all of her friends start out fast. She fell quickly behind.

Zelda started to feel sad and discouraged but then she remembered about her plan to change the rules. She looked ahead and saw her bicycle behind the bush and felt excited.

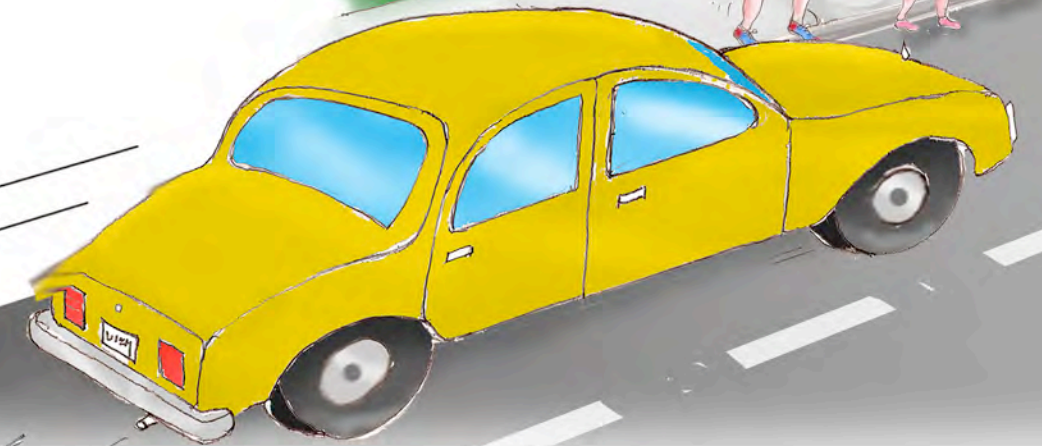


Zelda began to run a little faster to get to her bicycle but something stopped her.

Zelda said to herself, "I will soon be ahead of all of my friends once I get on my bike and take my secret short-cut."



ZOOM



Oh no.....! Stop.....! don't do it.....! Zelda saw a little girl who was walking out in front of a car on the side street. Zelda reached out and took her by the arm just in time to pull her to safety.

The mother of the little girl was so happy that Zelda had saved her little girl's life. But before she could thank her, Zelda had run to get back in the race.



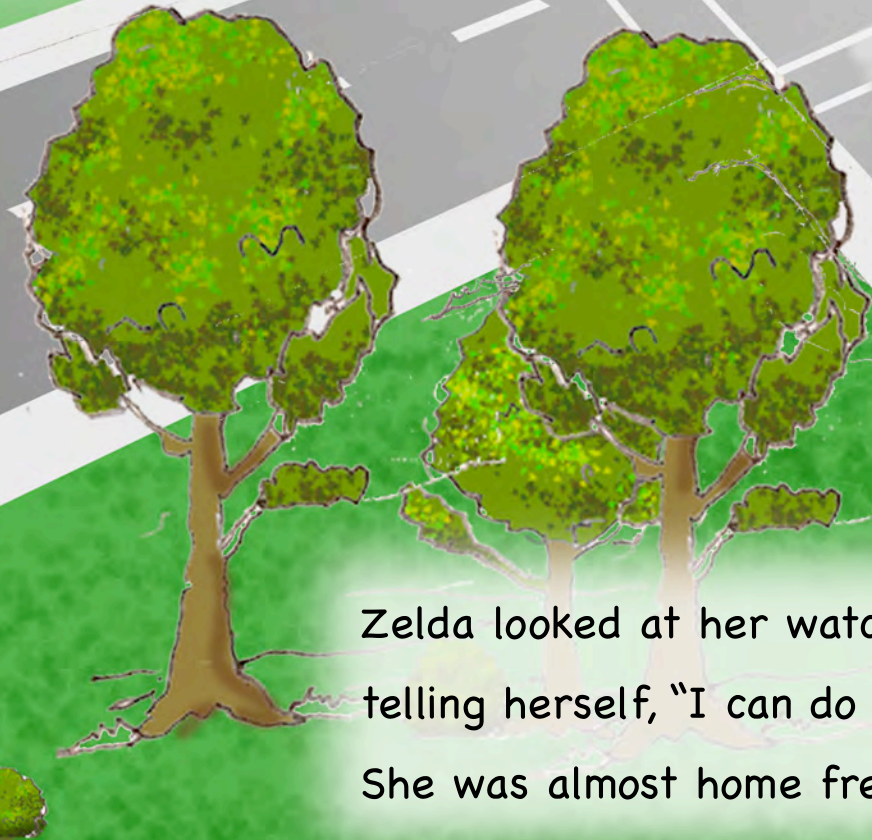
Zelda knew that it was too late to get her bicycle because as she looked over at the bushes, there were some other children looking at her bicycle. Zelda knew she had to keep going because not too far away would be the short-cut that she would take to put her ahead of the runners.

Zelda could see the short-cut; it was only about 25 feet ahead. Just as she started to turn, an older woman cried out, "help me, I am falling... my wheelchair is broken!"

Zelda reached out with one hand to keep the woman from falling and then picked up her walking cane that she had dropped. The woman settled back into her wheelchair and thanked her.

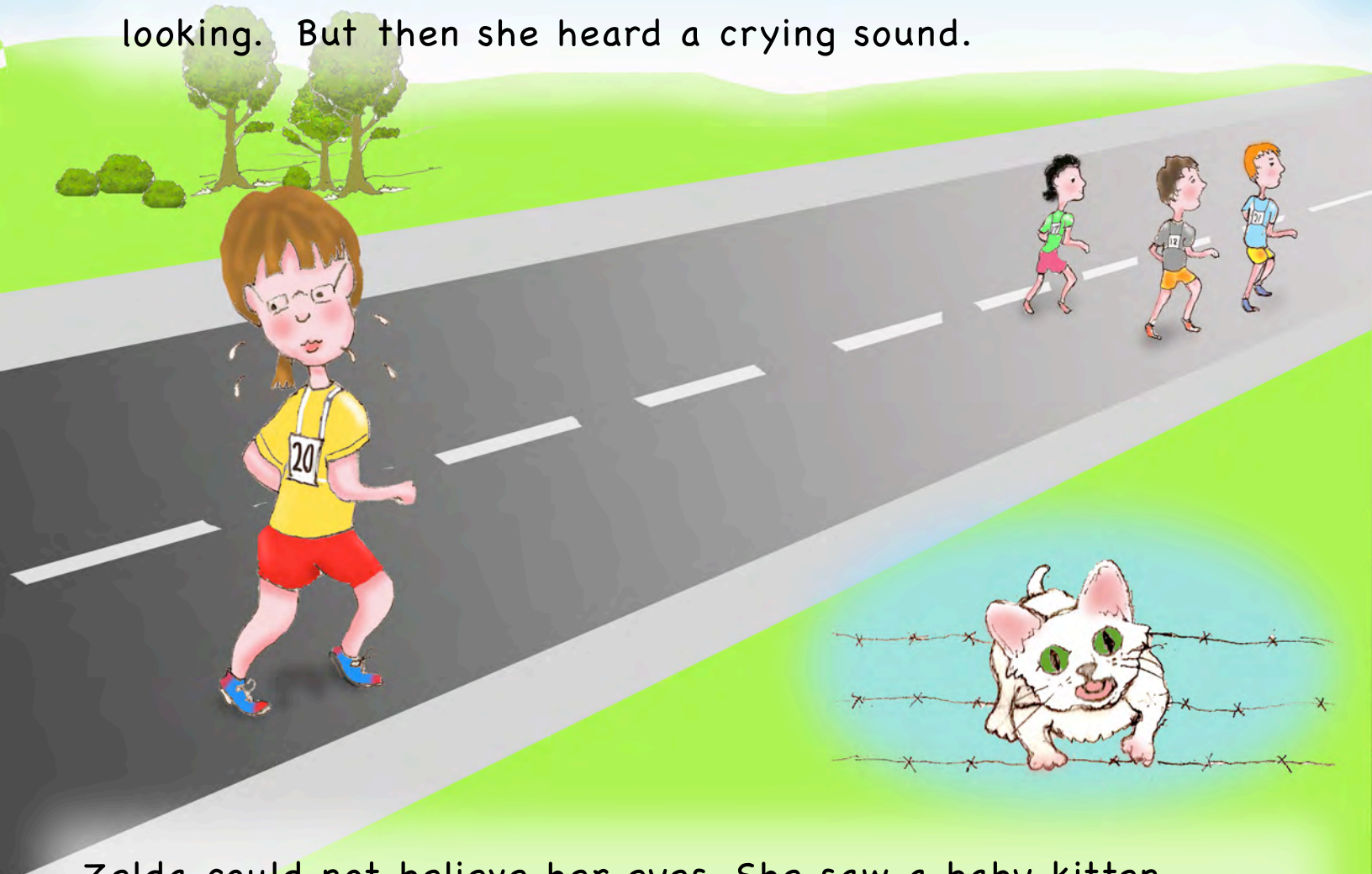


Zelda started to run to her short-cut but saw that it was blocked off by people who watched her help the old woman. She had to get back on the race path. Zelda knew that she had only one chance left. Her only way to win this race was to get on the bus. Zelda looked down at her watch and saw that she had 10 minutes to catch the bus.

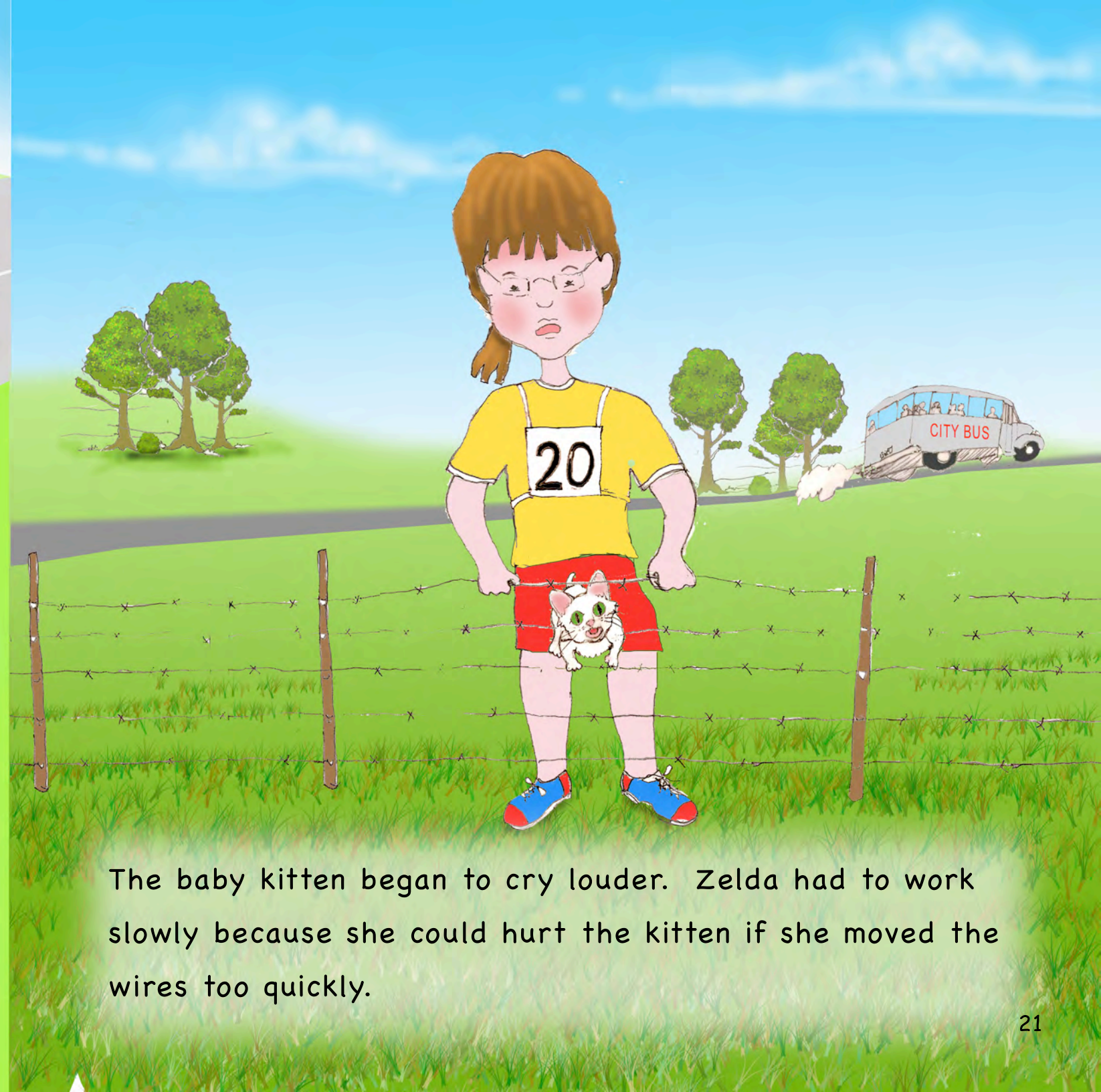


Zelda looked at her watch as she ran. Only 5 minutes left. She kept telling herself, "I can do this." Zelda heard the sound of the bus. She was almost home free. There it was -- right in front of her.

Zelda kept looking back to make sure there were no runners looking. But then she heard a crying sound.



Zelda could not believe her eyes. She saw a baby kitten trapped in a wire fence. Zelda turned away from the bus and ran as fast as she could to rescue this baby kitten. Zelda had to be careful because the wires were sharp and tight.



The baby kitten began to cry louder. Zelda had to work slowly because she could hurt the kitten if she moved the wires too quickly.

Zelda finally rescued the baby kitten. The baby kitten was o.k. Zelda looked up and saw the bus leaving. Zelda felt a little sad. She decided that she would try and finish the race anyway. Zelda knew that her parents would be waiting for her. She didn't want to let them down.



Zelda was almost at the finish line. The closer she got, she noticed lots of colorful flashing lights, loud music and balloons going up in the air. Zelda was thinking that everyone at the race finish line was having a big party without her and celebrating the winners. She became very sad because everyone would be there to see her come in last place.



But wait...Zelda heard people singing out, "Zelda, Zelda, Zelda, and hooray for Zelda!" As she turned the corner, Zelda could see her parents, brothers, friends, strangers and teachers all holding up signs and cheering for her to cross the finish line. She also saw men with cameras and videos set-up. Zelda could not believe her eyes and did not understand what this all meant.





Zelda crossed the finished line and was hugged by her parents. Next, Zelda was given an "Honorary First-Place" Award for this race. Zelda did not understand why she was given this award. She also didn't feel that she earned this award.



The TV newsmen told her they saw and took pictures of her helping the girl, the woman in the wheel chair and the kitten. Her good deeds and unselfish behaviors earned her this "First Place" award.

Zelda also found out that her decisions to help others and to be honest really do make her a special and number one person.

Zelda found her way to win!

About the Author

Lauren Beale Bridges is a practicing Psychotherapist who co-owns The Storytellers Book Store of Wake Forest with her husband Drew. She is a veteran of many races and marathons, and although never finishing in first place, is a winner in the important parts of life. She dedicates this book to her beloved pet named Bumper, a cat who won Raleigh's Adorable Pet Contest in 2011. Lauren rescued Bumper from danger when he was a kitten. Lauren was inspired to write this book by her own experiences in overcoming adversity and by the many clients she has seen beat the odds against them to be winners.



About Zelda

Zelda always found herself in the shadow of her award winning older brothers, but now she had a plan... to bend the rules and finally win at something. Things didn't quite go her way with this, but in the end, she still found a way to win!

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