



## The One and Only Ivan

*Katherine Applegate , Patricia Castelao (Illustrations)*

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## **The One and Only Ivan** Katherine Applegate , Patricia Castelao (Illustrations)

Winner of the 2013 Newbery Medal and a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, this stirring and unforgettable novel from renowned author Katherine Applegate celebrates the transformative power of unexpected friendship. Inspired by the true story of a captive gorilla known as Ivan, this illustrated novel is told from the point of view of Ivan himself.

Having spent twenty-seven years behind the glass walls of his enclosure in a shopping mall, Ivan has grown accustomed to humans watching him. He hardly ever thinks about his life in the jungle. Instead, Ivan occupies himself with television, his friends Stella and Bob, and painting. But when he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from the wild, he is forced to see their home, and his art, through new eyes.

In the tradition of timeless stories like *Charlotte's Web* and *Stuart Little*, Katherine Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create an unforgettable story of friendship, art, and hope. This paperback edition includes an author's note highlighting the differences between the fictional story and true events, a version of the author's Newbery Medal acceptance speech, Ivan's "signature," discussion questions, and more.

*The One and Only Ivan* is a strong Common Core title that features these important strands and standards: first-person narrative; author's use of literary devices (personification, imagery); story elements (plot, character development, perspective).

## **The One and Only Ivan Details**

Date : Published January 6th 2015 by HarperCollins (first published January 17th 2012)

ISBN : 9780061992278

Author : Katherine Applegate , Patricia Castelao (Illustrations)

Format : Paperback 303 pages

Genre : Childrens, Middle Grade, Fiction, Animals, Young Adult

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## **From Reader Review The One and Only Ivan for online ebook**

### **Matt says**

A very touching story that will rip out your heart, stomp on it, then pick it back up and cradle it. Cause that's what Silverbacks do.

I appreciate all the things KA managed to work into this book - primarily, our misunderstanding of animals (and mistreat), while showing that we aren't all bad. Also Stella's character was awesome. I'LL MISS YOU STELLAPHANT.

Anyways, READ IT.

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### **Paul Hankins says**

Mr. Hankins is putting his readers on THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN for the beginning of 2012's reading season.

Think of all of the good stuff you loved about THE ART OF RACING IN THE RAIN and TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE and, instead of sitting with Enzo in a cozy living room watching the discovery channel or with Morrie in a study littered with books and notes, you'll be sitting in a cage with Ivan, "the Ape at Exit 8," a thoughtful gorilla tasked with one of the most difficult callings ever. . .caring for a new cast member in a broken down circus, a baby elephant.

Appelgate's prose is beautiful, and Ivan, her narrator, like Enzo, gets to saying some things about being "human" that we all need to hear. . .a lovely, lovely book that will prompt discussions about what it means to live within one's intended calling even when that calling is not made manifest in the day-to-day doings. The book could also foster conversations about what it means to dig deep for that one latent gift that is just waiting for us to tap into it for the greater good--not only of ourselves, but for those around us.

Mr. Hankins is coming out early to predict big things for Katherine Appelgate's THE ONE AND ONLY IVAN in 2012. I predict that this will become an instant classic that readers will return to again and again, sharing it with every friend they can.

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### **Elyse Walters says**

Oh my fricken bananas...

I knew 'nothing' about this book ...[ a children's book]...

based on a true story....

Only that it was suggested I read it. Thank you Mischenko and Lisa

I not only read this wonderful children's book... but the facts about the true story.

Damn... if this story didn't make me cry!!

Sometimes, life just pisses me off ... the selfish stupid insane things they do!

My anger and sadness buttons were pushed from the true story.

The children's book is written with dignity-moral consciousness - and some honest happy smiles too!!!!

Appropriate for

children's ears. There is still sadness- but handled with tenderness.

The illustrations compliment the story - wonderful!

Besides Ivan, the silverback gorilla, you'll meet Bob, the dog, and Ruby, the elephant - other animal friends

...

Enjoy this adventure fantasy story....

I'm not going to share more other than to say ... we all know animals never belong locked up in a mall.

Zoo's are questionable enough.

If you haven't read this ( I'm

probably the late banana-peel to party), — love animals at all —take the time to read it.

If you have little people in your life.... this is a great book choice to read and discuss.

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### **Sherry Philippus says**

Just when I think I'm too old, too mature, too hard-hearted, too sophisticated, too busy, or too "something" to allow a children's book to make me cry, along comes a story like this one.

Don't have enough of the right words to describe it...I definitely haven't mastered the craft of writing the way Ms. Applegate has. And the way she does it, with the sparest of prose, is impressive.

To me, "good" writing makes the reader view something with a fresh perspective, as if (s)he has never, ever experienced it before. Or, as if (s)he is suddenly living inside another's body, thinking thoughts that only the character could think, seeing the world as only that character would.

So, for the past couple of hours, I have lived life as a captive silverback gorilla in a filthy roadside circus. It was...poignant. Who knew. Never thought about being a gorilla before.

I can't WAIT to get a set of these and share this story with kids, both to showcase the fine writing AND for the remarkable lessons on friendship, humane treatment of animals, and the unexpected.

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### **\*TANYA\* says**

A re-read and yup it's still a Wow!!! What a wonderful story!!! I picked this out of the blue I didn't realize it was a "kids" book but it didn't feel like it. I loved it!!! This book is for everyone.

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### **Michelle says**

In a book called "The One and Only Ivan", it makes sense that Ivan is at the heart of the story. Not only does

his life take center stage, but he's also our one and only narrator. This book is all Ivan, all the time! In case you're having second thoughts about spending time in an ape's brain, worry not. Ivan is as articulate a narrator as they come, and a bit of a poet to boot! He recounts his life with honesty, humility, and major smarts.

A fun fact: there really was a gorilla named Ivan who lived in a mall for a long time after being captured. At a certain point, he actually did move to the zoo where he spent the rest of his days. Real life Ivan's story matches up with our Ivan's story, but Katherine Applegate wove her magic in telling the story in the first gorilla (I just can't help it!) POV and personified Ivan with an entire range of human thoughts, feelings and emotions.

In the entirety of the book, Ivan is always on display but it's not a one-way street. Ivan watches all the people watching him, and his observations about humans are among my greatest delights in the book. It's a lonely life, but he does have a few loyal friends, including a highly opinionated dog, an aging elephant and, eventually, a baby elephant named Ruby who sets his life on an entirely new course.

It is clear that Applegate has written the book for a younger audience, but I think even adults would appreciate it. Some of the growing up elements in it, particularly in Ruby and Ivan's journeys, are appealing because they explore issues of youth, maturity, and overcoming our past, which is something each and every one of us has to do in some way, at some point. The book also takes a good hard look at the human practice of capturing wild animals, digging deep into what this means for, well, the animals. What emerges is a clear sense that animals matter--you know, just like we do! "The One and Only Ivan" doesn't come right out and say that animals can't ever have happy lives in captivity. What it does say though, is that how we treat the animals we keep in captivity really matters. They might not be people, but that doesn't mean they don't deserve comfort and consideration. I bet everyone who has spent time with Ivan strongly agrees.

I couldn't shower enough accolades for this book. I have already considered it a classic, to be enjoyed by all generations. Who can resist Ivan's charms? The best part is, he is extraordinary just by being himself--The One and Only Ivan!

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### **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

OMG!! I finally read this book because of a book challenge and Omg!! This book is fiction but it is based on a real "IVAN". One of the sad things besides Ivan's life is that I probably already knew all about this but forgot things too easy now.

One of the OMG moments is that Ivan was at Zoo Atlanta when I went there years ago!! I need to see if I can find my old pictures of him! I can't believe I met the Ivan from the book!!

Here is a link telling about Ivan and his life and his death at 50 years old =(

<https://www.earthintransition.org/201...>

This book was wonderful and sad. I love you Ivan!

Sometimes I press my nose against the glass. My noseprint, like your fingerprint, is the first and last and only. The man wipes the glass and I am gone.

.....

Not so long ago, a little boy stood before my glass, tears streaming down his smooth red cheeks. "He must be the loneliest gorilla in the world," he said, clutching his mother's hand

At times like that, I wished humans could understand me the way I can understand them.

It's not so bad, I wanted to tell the little boy. With enough time, you can get used to almost anything.

I feel you Ivan!

Mel ????

MY BLOG

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### **Whitney Atkinson says**

This book is so real. It's almost too deep for a children's book. Even though it's about talking animals and Ivan's complexity of thought could be a little misleading, this book touches on so many great themes both superficial toward children, but also in general about humanity, if you're mature enough to understand it. This book was cute, sad, and something very new to me. I adored it and it is such a fast read that I highly recommend it!

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### **[Shai] Bibliophage says**

I came across this when I was checking out last year about the upcoming Disney movies. Based on the synopsis, it was based on the award-winning children's book written by Katherine Applegate and famous actors will be the voice of the characters in the story. I scheduled to read this on the very first day of 2019 and I was really delighted that I made this my first read of the year.

I didn't expect that this was quite good and hopefully the movie adaptation will be as great just like the book. I know that Ivan's story will make an impact on anyone who will either read this or those who will go watch the film because of how heartwarming and it is an eye-opener to wildlife animal preservation.

This is a light read and I'm pretty excited to see this in the big screen; I'll just need to be prepared once the sad parts are shown because I was teary-eyed when I've read those in the book. I want a lot of people to be aware to take care and be the voice of all animals, either domesticated or wildlife, hence, I highly recommend this to everyone.

## Ahmad Sharabiani says

## The One and Only Ivan, Katherine Applegate

The One and Only Ivan is a children's novel written by Katherine Applegate and illustrated by Patricia Castelao. The book is about a silverback gorilla named Ivan who lives in a cage at a mall. The novel is written in first person from the point of view of Ivan, a silverback gorilla. The story is placed at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade. Ivan, the silverback gorilla, has lived in captivity at the Big Top Mall for 9,855 days by his own tally. He lives in his domain, and is generally content with his life. He watches television, eats bananas and makes artwork that is sold by the owner. Along with Ivan, Stella the elephant and Bob a stray dog, live at the mall. Stella is an older elephant who has a chronic injury in one leg and regularly performs in the daily shows. Unlike Ivan, Stella has a long memory, and can remember living other places, like the circus where she was taught many of her tricks. However, Stella would like to live at a zoo, because they have much wider spaces for their domains. Stella believes that zoos are how humans make amends. ...

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**Carmen says**

*"Everyone has parents," Bob explains. "It's unavoidable."*

I started out this review with a funny quote - but this is NOT a funny book. It's one of those emotionally manipulative sad books about animals. A seven-year-old girl personally recommended this to me. Little kids LOVE emotionally manipulative sad books about animals. Charlotte's Web, Black Beauty, Old Yeller, Shiloh, Where the Red Fern Grows, The Cat Who Went to Heaven etc. etc. You can add this book to the list.

This is based (loosely) on a true story. Ivan is a gorilla who is kidnapped along with his sister in Africa when he was a baby. His parents were murdered. Both he and his sister were shipped to the U.S., but his sister died in transit.

Now Ivan lives in a cage in the mall, eking out his solitary and depressing existence. But at least he has company. An old wise elephant named Stella, who was bought from a circus, and a stray chihuahua-mix called Bob, who is "homeless by choice" but sleeps on Ivan's expansive stomach every night.

And even though you may be surprised, Ivan has a human friend, too - Julia, a 10 or 11-year-old who is the daughter of the night janitor. She sneaks Ivan drawing supplies - he is a proud artist, and loves creating pictures that are framed and sold in the gift shop for \$25.

But then one night Stella hears a noise. She knows it is the sound of a baby elephant in despair. The mall is going to get a new attraction, and she's going to change everything...

...

If you are sensitive to animal cruelty, do NOT read this book unless you want to cry. The book has a (relatively) happy ending, but tons of bad things happen along the way - to gorillas, elephants, and dogs.

I liked the book, I think it was well-written and perfect for children. Of course, as an adult you are going to have more of a critical eye - some parts really stretch credibility, the author is blatantly tearjerking you - but none of this will even occur to a child reader.

The book is, of course, doing good work by helping children sympathize with animals and raising awareness about animal cruelty and human responsibility to treat animals with compassion.

The book is saved from being a total sapfest mainly because Bob the dog is funny sometimes.

The book has little illustrations occasionally.

This book is very reminiscent of Charlotte's Web in more than one way. That's not a criticism, exactly, but you'd have to be blind not to notice the glaring similarities. That being said, Ivan stands on its own two feet, I didn't feel like the author was using White as a crutch.

Another thing that is good is the book's treatment of "villains." The "villain" in this book (barring the unseen and unheard humans of the past who slaughtered elephants, gorillas, and dogs respectively) would be the mall's owner, Mack. Especially when he takes to (view spoiler) But the book is careful to even out Mack's personality. He's not some sinister evil man who wakes up every day longing to cause animals pain. Instead, we see that he is tired, poor, depressed, and struggling to keep his mall in business. He even (view spoiler) I feel like this is a very good thing. As much as I can "love to hate" cackling villains like Count Olaf and Jiggy Nye, it's refreshing to see a more human and adult face on a villain once in a while.

Appropriate for ages 7-10. Again, I feel people (who tend to say 9-12) are underestimating kids. Obviously 7-year-olds love it. Not only did a seven-year-old recommend this to me, but her school is making this into the school play next year. Just my two cents. I would go as young as seven on this. Or even an advanced six.

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### **Brina says**

I have not read a middle grade children's book in a long time, and I am glad I picked up Ivan for my kids. Ivan is the fictionalized tale of Ivan the lowland gorilla who lived in wretched conditions in a shopping mall

for 27 years and then later moved to the Atlanta zoo. Kristina Applegate does a wonderful job giving Ivan and his friends their inner voices as they contemplate life in captivity and what it means to be a good or a bad human. I think this book is appropriate for elementary aged children. They will probably find both the animal and human characters enjoyable as they root for Ivan and his friends to get out of their cages and into the zoo. I even recommend it to adults who are looking for an easy read and I am looking forward to reading more of Applegate's work.

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### **Rick Riordan says**

I've had *The One and Only Ivan* on my 'to be read' list for several months, and I'm so glad I read it! A fabulous book for elementary and middle grades (and older), this is probably my favorite animal story since *Charlotte's Web* -- and I don't make that comparison lightly. Like E.B. White's classic, it is by turns tender, funny, sad and uplifting. It's a quick read -- I'm a slow reader, and I got through it in one day. Ivan the gorilla narrates, and he is a very fine fellow indeed. I loved it. More importantly, I think kids will love it too.

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### **Alberto Villarreal says**

3.5

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### **Mischenko says**

Please visit my blog [www.readrantrockandroll.com](http://www.readrantrockandroll.com) to see this review and learn more about Ivan the gorilla.

I really enjoyed this fictional story of Ivan the gorilla. The story made me think of the real Ivan and his life. What really went on in his head during those 27 years of being locked up at that dept. store?

The story is cute and great for all ages. I'd recommend reading the true story about Ivan and his life before reading this fictional one.

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