



## GILL LEWIS

### Vet turned best-selling children's author and nature writer

Rapidly becoming one of the most exciting children's authors in the UK, Gill Lewis's passion for wildlife emerged at an early age when she established her own zoo and hospital for small animals and insects in her back garden. After a successful career as a vet – taking her from the wilds of Africa to the frozen lands of the Arctic – Gill decided to use her love of animals in the stories she was writing.

The award-winning author of four nature-inspired books for children, Gill's first three books – *Sky Hawk*, *White Dolphin* and *Moon Bear* - published to worldwide critical acclaim and have been translated into many languages. Gill has been shortlisted for many awards including the Red House Children's Book Award, the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the CILIP Carnegie Medal.

**Gill has broad-ranging experience of broadcast, print and online media and is an excellent spokesperson on environmental matters, Nature Deficit Disorder, rural & urban wildlife and children and nature.**

**She has previously appeared on national and local broadcast and extensively in print and online including The Guardian, Daily Telegraph, BBC Wildlife and National Geographic Kids magazine.**

Gill's latest book, *Scarlet Ibis*, a moving story of a young girl – Scarlet - struggling to hold her family together against the odds is published by Oxford University Press in May 2014 and is already garnering rave reviews from the likes of The Bookseller.

Known for setting her hugely popular stories in a wildlife context, Gill centres the action of *Scarlet Ibis* in a city, examining the importance of urban wildlife for the first time. She explains: **"In our increasingly urban lives, creating space for wildlife in our towns and cities is not only essential to provide a home for nature, but it's essential for us too. We need to give our children the opportunity to connect with the natural world from an early age to ensure that we can all protect it for future generations."**

## About the author

Gill Lewis started writing novels after winning the prize for 'Most Promising Writer' on the Bath Spa University MA course in Creative Writing. She lives in Somerset with her husband, their three daughters and their collection of pets: guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, dogs and a rescued Shetland pony. She writes from a treehouse in her garden surrounded by local squirrels.



### Praise for Gill Lewis's work:

"Another moving and inspirational tale which is also a gripping action thriller...gracefully written and intense" *The Daily Telegraph*

"Opens your eyes, touches your heart, and is so engaging it almost turns the pages for you" **Michael Morpurgo**