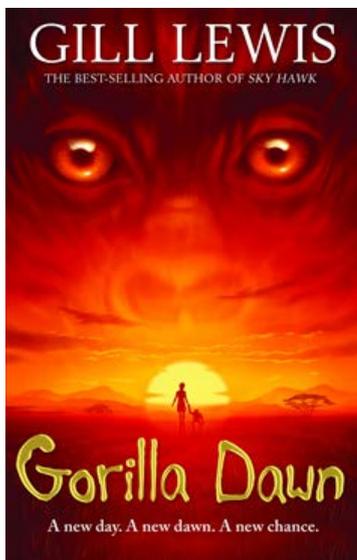


3<sup>rd</sup> September • Ages 9+



## GORILLA DAWN

Written by GILL LEWIS

PB • £8.99 • AGES 9+

**A powerful and inspiring story by vet turned best-selling author Gill Lewis about the plight of child soldiers and endangered gorillas in the war-ravaged Democratic Republic of Congo**

*"Gill Lewis has established herself as the principal contemporary writer of animal stories"* **Daily Telegraph**

*"I love Gill Lewis's books..."* **Daily Mail**

### About the story

With her award-winning books, including *Sky Hawk* and *Scarlet Ibis*, Gill Lewis is well-known for exploring the life-changing relationships which people and animals can foster. Her latest, the heart-breaking and stirring *Gorilla Dawn*, is Lewis' most urgent and provocative novel to date.

*Gorilla Dawn* tells the story of Imara, a young girl abducted from her village home, and Bobo, the son of a wildlife ranger, who are imprisoned by a group of rebel soldiers deep in the heart of the African jungle. When the rebels capture a baby gorilla, intending to sell him into captivity, the children vow to return him to his family in the wild before it's too late. The consequences of getting caught are too terrible to think about, but the children are brave and determined. Will the bond between the gorilla and the children finally give them the courage they need to escape the rebels and can they ever find true safety?

This gripping new book explores the difficulties of life in war-torn areas, the reality of illegal and unethical coltan mining – a rare mineral used in everything from mobile phones to laptops and computers – the devastating exploitation of children and the environment, and the demands of Western consumerism which casts a dark shadow over the precious and unique wildlife of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Yet, the overarching message of *Gorilla Dawn* is one of hope. Lewis is determined to raise awareness of the situation, highlight those risking their lives to combat the problems and outline the simple steps we can all take to promote change.

Lewis says: *"The world is at our fingertips...or so it seems. We use our mobile phones and computers to connect with people far across the globe. And yet, they also connect our fate to that of the gorilla. The electronic devices we use every day contain rare minerals, many of which are sourced within the forests of the war-torn Democratic Republic of Congo, home of the eastern lowland gorilla. I wanted to tell a story, through the eyes of two children who have been swept into the conflict, that questions our responsibility as consumers of electronic goods; responsibility to insist on fair trade and conflict free minerals, and to actively protect our natural world."*

## About the author

After realising her childhood dream of becoming a vet, Gill worked in the UK and overseas, everywhere from Africa to the Arctic.

Lewis's previous books for children – *Sky Hawk*, *White Dolphin*, *Moon Bear* and *Scarlet Ibis* all published to critical acclaim and have been translated into many languages. Lewis won the Little Rebels Award in 2015 for *Scarlet Ibis*, won the prestigious Environmental Prize for Children's Literature in Germany for *Moon Bear* and has twice won the US Green Earth Book Award. She has also been shortlisted and longlisted for numerous other awards including the Red House Children's Book Award, the Waterstones Children's Book Prize and the CILIP Carnegie Medal. In early 2015, she launched a series for younger readers, *Puppy Academy*, inspired by real-life working dogs.



Lewis lives in Somerset with her family and their collection of pets including two dogs, four chickens and a rescued Shetland pony. She writes from a tree house in her garden, surrounded by squirrels.

### Praise for Gill Lewis's previous books:

#### Praise for *Scarlet Ibis*:

"Emotional but ultimately uplifting" **Mail on Sunday**

"This heart-breaking story about the power of sibling love and nature's medicinal qualities elevates Gill Lewis [...] to Hines and Durrell's status" **The Times**

"Perhaps the most uplifting novel I have read this year." **Daily Telegraph**

"A highly original narrative." **Daily Mail**

#### Praise for *Moon Bear*:

"A moving and inspirational tale" 4 stars **Daily Telegraph**

"An utterly convincing story of ursine – and human – behaviour... this reader was very satisfied..."

**Guardian**

"It is so gripping that I could hardly put it down... I wonder what Gill Lewis is going to write about next? I can't wait!" **Guardian - Children's books**

#### Praise for *White Dolphin*:

"A lyrical, emotive, engrossing adventure" **The Sunday Times**

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

"An addictive page-turner" **Bliss**

"Like the author's debut, this wonderfully written and unforgettable novel will pull at the heart-strings" **Love Reading 4 Kids**

"Uplifting" **Evening Standard**

#### Praise for *Sky Hawk*:

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

"A moving wildlife story about survival and friendship" **Julia Donaldson**

"An edge-of-your-seat wildlife adventure that tells a very human story of friendship, discovery and an

**For further information** or to arrange interviews please contact:

Keo Baxendine, Press Officer, Primary and Children's Books, Oxford University Press

**T** 01865 353245 **E** keo.baxendine@oup.com

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E

incredible journey. I loved it" **Kate Humble, BBC TV presenter and RSPB president**

"This beautifully written, captivating book should be on everyone's bookcase and in every library...Breathtaking. Poignant. Unforgettable" **Virginia McKenna, Founder of The Born Free Foundation**