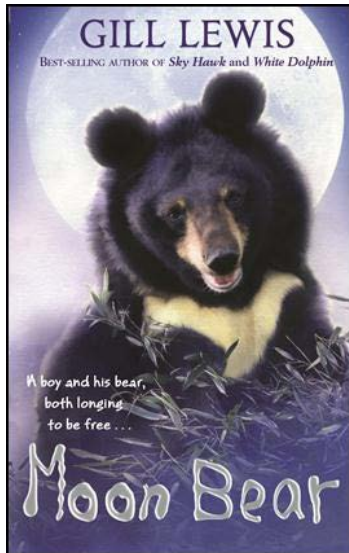


9<sup>th</sup> May 2013 • 11+



## MOON BEAR

Written by GILL LEWIS

PB • £8.99 • AGES 11+  
eBook also available

*'GILL LEWIS IS AN EXPERT STORYTELLER' – Red House Books*

### About the story

A powerful, deeply moving story of a boy and his bear both longing to be free, *Moon Bear* is an inspirational tale of courage and hope from bestselling children's author Gill Lewis.

12-year-old Tam is sent away from his family home in rural Laos to work at a cruel bear bile farm in the city. He hates seeing the brutal way the bears are treated at the hands of the Doctor, but speaking up will surely mean losing his job which isn't an option - Tam must send money home or his family will starve.

When a sick cub arrives at the bear farm, no one expects it to survive, but Tam refuses to give up hope and the pair develop an unbreakable bond. Tam promises to return his beloved bear to the wild – but against powerful and dangerous opponents, how will he ever be able to keep his promise?

Never afraid to tackle the big issues, Lewis says **'I want to shine a light on the threats facing our world. It is the children in my stories who confront the threats facing the natural world and have the courage, determination and belief to bring about change. Their voices need to be heard as they are the future custodians of our living planet.'** Lewis supports the work of Animals Asia Foundation, a charity that is devoted to the welfare of wild and urban animals in Asia. In *Moon Bear* Lewis describes bear farming in Laos where moon bears, or Asian black bears, are confined to painful cages and their bile is extracted for use in traditional medicines, causing the bears extreme physical and mental suffering.

Lewis has always had a passion for wild animals - she was discovered force-feeding bread to a sick hedgehog under the rose bushes before she could even walk. After realising her childhood dream of becoming a vet, Lewis worked both at home and abroad, travelling from Cornwall to the Arctic and Africa.

Lewis completed an MA in Writing for Young People in 2009. Her 2011 debut novel, *Sky Hawk*, has been nominated for a total of 23 awards to date, including the Waterstones Children's Book Prize, the Red House Book Award and the CILIP Carnegie Medal. Lewis's second novel *White Dolphin* published in 2012 to huge critical acclaim. *Moon Bear* is her third book.

Lewis lives in Somerset with her husband, their three girls, and their collection of pets: three guinea pigs, four hamsters, three gerbils, two dogs and a rescued Shetland pony.



## Praise for *Sky Hawk*

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

**Julia Donaldson, Children's Laureate:** 'A moving wildlife story about survival and friendship'

**Kate Humble, BBC TV presenter and RSPB president:** 'An edge-of-your-seat wildlife adventure that tells a very human story of friendship, discovery and an incredible journey. I loved it'

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

## Praise for *White Dolphin*

**The Sunday Times:** 'A lyrical, emotive, engrossing adventure'

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

**Bliss:** 'An addictive page-turner'

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