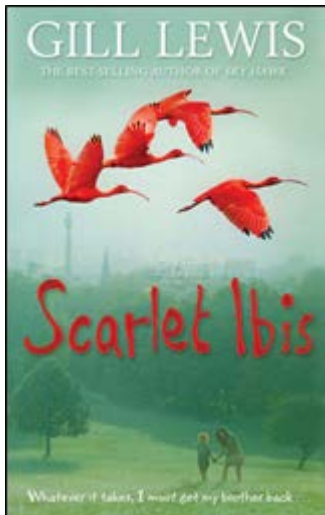


1st May 2014 • Ages 9+



SCARLET IBIS

Written by GILL LEWIS

PB • £8.99 • AGES 9+
eBook also available

*"I absolutely loved this: a deeply moving account of two siblings sent to live with different foster families" **The Bookseller***

About the story

Award-winning children's author and nature writer Gill Lewis is back with her eagerly anticipated fourth novel, *Scarlet Ibis*. Beautifully written, *Scarlet Ibis* is the moving story of a young girl – Scarlet – struggling to hold her family together against the odds.

Crammed into their small tower block apartment in London, Scarlet and her autistic half-brother Red are fascinated by the baby pigeon that hatches on their balcony. When the bird's parents abandon it, Red takes the chick into his care but when their own mum has a breakdown, the siblings are split up and sent to live apart in foster care. As Scarlet struggles to adjust to life with her well-meaning foster family, she determines to do everything she can to find her beloved brother and keep his little pigeon alive for him.

Known for setting her hugely popular stories in a wildlife context, Lewis centres the action of this novel in a city, examining the importance of urban wildlife for the first time.

Lewis 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."

The former vet, who is based in Somerset, goes on: "I have seen how the care of animals, whether domestic or wild helps to bridge a connection between people. In *Scarlet Ibis*, the care of a wild bird helps to bring the people in Scarlet's world together."

About the author

As a child, Gill Lewis spent many days in the garden where she ran a small zoo and hospital for insects, mice and birds. After realising her childhood dream of becoming a vet, Gill worked in the UK and overseas, travelling everywhere from Africa to the Arctic for her job.

Lewis's first three books for children – *Sky Hawk*, *White Dolphin* and *Moon Bear* - published to worldwide critical acclaim and have been translated into many languages. She 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.

Lewis 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 tree house in her garden.



Previous praise for Gill Lewis's best-selling books:

Praise for *Moon Bear*

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

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