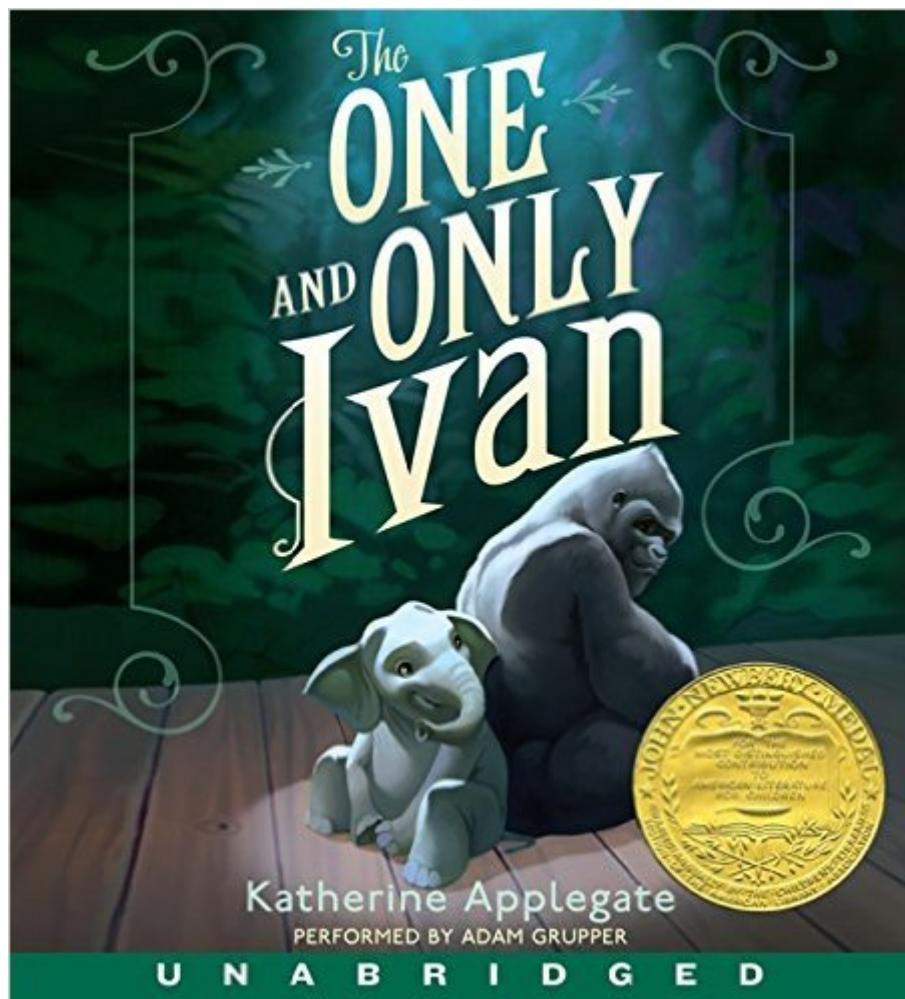


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# The One And Only Ivan CD



## **Synopsis**

Ivan is an easygoing gorilla. Living at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade, he has grown accustomed to humans watching him through the glass walls of his domain. He rarely misses his life in the jungle. In fact, he hardly ever thinks about it at all. Instead, Ivan thinks about TV shows he's seen and about his friends Stella, an elderly elephant, and Bob, a stray dog. But mostly Ivan thinks about art and how to capture the taste of a mango or the sound of leaves with color and a well-placed line. Then he meets Ruby, a baby elephant taken from her family, and she makes Ivan see their home and his own art through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and it's up to Ivan to make it a change for the better. Katherine Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create Ivan's unforgettable first-person narration in a story of friendship, art, and hope.

## **Book Information**

Audio CD: 3 pages

Publisher: HarperFestival; Unabridged edition (April 30, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0062285300

ISBN-13: 978-0062285300

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 5.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 3.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars (See all reviews) (2,012 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #229,851 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #39 in Books > Books on CD > Children's Fiction > Animals #175 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Zoos #259 in Books > Children's Books > Animals > Apes & Monkeys

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

Parents on the qui vive for deeper stories to share with their children need look no further than Katherine Applegate's tale, "The One and Only Ivan", written from the perspective of a Silverback gorilla living in a shopping mall. Too many children are sheltered from animals, left to draw their experiences from animated movies like Madagascar, Kung Fu Panda and Alvin and the Chipmunks. What's missing from those stories? Humanity and tenderness; qualities you will find in abundance in this book. Applegate's story should resonate with animal lovers, too. The gorilla lives a

simple, sad life with only a couple friends, including Bob, a stray dog, and Stella, an aging elephant. The years of living behind a glass wall at the Exit 8 Big Top Mall and Video Arcade has numbed Ivan to his own misery. He is barely self-aware of his suffering until the arrival of a baby elephant named Ruby arouses emotions long dormant in Ivan. I read the book to my sons as a bedtime story. The first-person narrative hooked them after only a few pages. The chapters are short, which makes it easy to reach a stopping point each night. A word of caution, only the cold-hearted will finish this book without feeling a pang or shedding a tear. My sons' enthusiasm has me consideringÂ The Yearling, a Pulitzer Prize winning classic, for our next bedtime book. In summary, I'm a bit tired of Harry Potterish fantasy novels.Â The One and Only IvanÂ is an emotionally satisfying tale. My advice for parents is to read the story to their children, especially those under age 10. Rating: Five stars. MAY 2013 Update:Â The One and Only IvanÂ by Katherine Applegate and Patricia Castelao is the 2013 winner of the John Newbery Medal, awarded annually by the American Library Association (ALA) to the author of the year's most distinguished contribution to American literature for children. Since my initial review, both of my sons (now ages 10 and 9) have taken this book off their bookshelf for private reading, following my bedtime narration. Ivan's story resonates with them still.

I was hesitant to chose this book thinking an animal book would be too silly or something . . . but Applegate's Home of the Brave is one of my favorite books ever so I decided to take a chance. And I am SO GLAD I DID. This book was wonderful--heartbreakingly wonderful. I just loved every character--both animal and human. Ivan the artistic gorilla, Stella the stoic mother elephant, Bob the tough on the outside but not so tough on the inside dog, and of course Ruby the baby elephant who just wants to be loved. And the humans: George the sympathetic caretaker and his daughter Julie, a bit like Fern in Charlotte's web because she can almost understand Ivan--or at least understand his art. Every character was real--even Mack the owner of the menagerie, though we hate what he's doing, there is more to him than just badness. The situation was just so sad but so well done--the minute I finished the book, I immediately passed it on to my daughter . . . maybe not the best idea to give it to her at bedtime though because I could not get her to turn out her light, she was so immediately drawn into the book. I highly recommend this moving book which teaches compassion towards animals.

I almost missed the joy of reading The One and Only Ivan because I thought that it was only for young readers, ages 8 to 12. Not so, this 54 year-old loved this book. The story was inspired by

Ivan, a silver back gorilla who was raised by humans, and then sold when he became too large to keep in a home. For 27 years he lived in a cage in a shopping mall until public pressure ultimately won him a home among his own kind in a zoo. But this not a story of despair, it is about love and the power of one individual to make monumental changes. Katherine Applegate's character Ivan was resigned to his sad fate, whiling away his days thinking about art and painting pictures on scraps of paper. That is until a baby elephant named Ruby arrives. He soon realizes he must do something to save her from a lifetime in captivity. Using art as his only tool, he creates a new and better reality for her, and unwittingly for himself too. Readers of any age will enjoy this tale and have much to learn from Ivan.

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