



Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla

By Katherine Applegate

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In a spare, powerful text and evocative illustrations, the Newbery medalist Katherine Applegate and the artist G. Brian Karas present the extraordinary real story of a special gorilla.

Captured as a baby, Ivan was brought to a Tacoma, Washington, mall to attract shoppers. Gradually, public pressure built until a better way of life for Ivan was found at Zoo Atlanta. From the Congo to America, and from a local business attraction to a national symbol of animal welfare, Ivan the Shopping Mall Gorilla traveled an astonishing distance in miles and in impact.

This is his true story and includes photographs of Ivan in the back matter.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

K-Gr 2—Ivan was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1962. When he was about six months old, he and another baby gorilla were kidnapped by poachers. They were sold to a mall in Tacoma, WA, that also had other animals. The other baby gorilla, however, died shortly after they arrived in the United States. This is the story of how Ivan went from a lonely existence in a shopping mall to living with other gorillas once more. Narrator Xe Sands complements Applegate's masterfully crafted picture book. Although her narration is a little slow, younger readers will appreciate the extra time to fully take in the captivating, colorful illustrations. The chimes for page turning are timed correctly and do not distract listeners. VERDICT Young children who are interested in gorillas or enjoy the read-along experience will love this. ["Convey[s] the sense of loneliness and isolation that marked the gorilla's existence": SLJ 7/14 review of the Clarion book.]—Kira Moody, Whitmore Public Library, Salt Lake City

From [Booklist](#)

For those who loved the Newbery Award-winning *The One and Only Ivan* (2012), Applegate has created a picture-book adaptation of the true story. A baby gorilla from central Africa is captured and taken to Tacoma, Washington. At first he lives with a human family, and children will see themselves in the happy gorilla that sleeps in a bed, goes to baseball games, and licks ice-cream cones. But when Ivan grows too big, he is sold, and for 27 years, the adult silverback lives in a cage at a shopping mall. After protesting citizens write petitions, Ivan goes to a better environment at Zoo Atlanta. Back matter has more facts and photos of Ivan and websites for further information, as well as one of Ivan's finger paintings signed with his thumbprint. Using pencil-line drawing and washes of pastel, Karas feelingly depicts Ivan's gentle and loving personality conveying how this gentle gorilla won the hearts of thousands of people—and readers. Preschool-Grade 3. --Lolly Gepson

Review

"Gently paced, with moving but reassuring images, this is an age-appropriate introduction to the issues of captivity and animal welfare."

—*Kirkus*

"Using pencilline drawing and washes of pastel, Karas feelingly depicts Ivan's gentle and loving personality conveying how this gentle gorilla won the hearts of thousands of people—and readers."

—*Booklist*

"Karas's darkly hued, smudgy illustrations complement the tone of the narrative and convey the sense of loneliness and isolation that marked the gorilla's existence."

—*School Library Journal*

"The sparseness of both text and pictures invites readers to find their own meaning in the moving story."

—*Horn Book Magazine*

"Karas's muted illustrations capably reflect the contrasts between Ivan's happy early life in Africa, his gloomy years in captivity, and his eventual transfer to a new home."

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Applegate's spare text gives readers just enough grounding to follow Ivan's journey, while Karas's artwork fills in Ivan's emotional life through the gorilla's engaged expressions and body language--no image more triumphant than Ivan's release into Zoo Atlanta. A heartfelt tribute to a magnificent animal.”

—**Shelf Awareness, starred review**

"The text is streamlined but powerful, and younger kids who aren't up for the linguistic and emotional challenges of Applegate's fictional account of Ivan will find this a thoughtful and intriguing introduction; older readers who have read *The One and Only Ivan* may enjoy it as well."

—***Bulletin***

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Malcolm Lee:

The guide with title *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla* includes a lot of information that you can study it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This kind of book exist new know-how the information that exist in this reserve represented the condition of the world today. That is important to you to know how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you within new era of the global growth. You can read the e-book on your smart phone, so you can read that anywhere you want.

Micheal McDonough:

Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Most of us recommend that straight away because this book has good vocabulary that may increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The author giving his/her effort to get every word into enjoyment arrangement in writing *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla* although doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest in addition to based confirm resource information that maybe you can be one among it. This great information could drawn you into completely new stage of crucial thinking.

Maria Gray:

Are you kind of stressful person, only have 10 or maybe 15 minute in your moment to upgrading your mind skill or thinking skill possibly analytical thinking? Then you are having problem with the book than can satisfy your short time to read it because all of this time you only find book that need more time to be learn. *Ivan: The Remarkable True Story of the Shopping Mall Gorilla* can be your answer as it can be read by you who have those short extra time problems.

Brooke Fisher:

Many people spending their moment by playing outside having friends, fun activity with family or just watching TV 24 hours a day. You can have new activity to shell out your whole day by looking at a book. Ugh, you think reading a book can actually hard because you have to take the book everywhere? It okay you

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