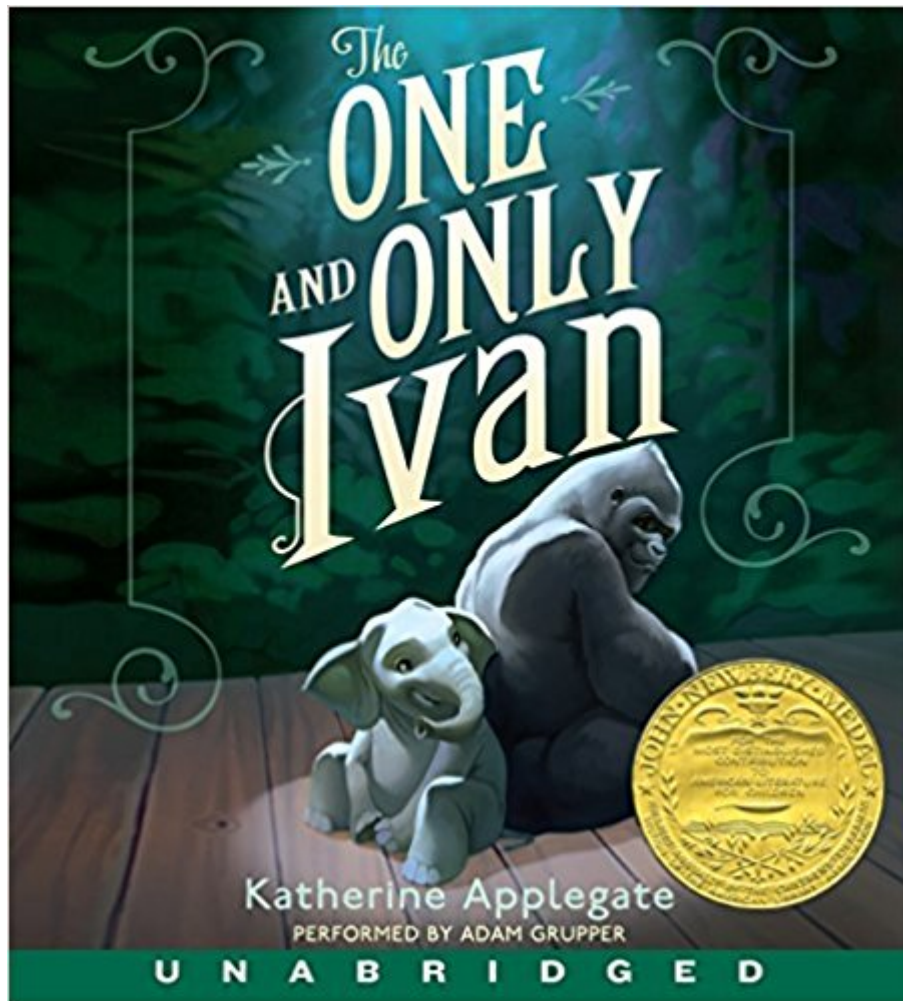




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## The One And Only Ivan CD



## 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 heâ€™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 homeâ€™ and his own artâ€™ through new eyes. When Ruby arrives, change comes with her, and itâ€™s up to Ivan to make it a change for the better. Katherine Applegate blends humor and poignancy to create Ivanâ€™s unforgettable first-person narration in a story of friendship, art, and hope.

## Book Information

Audio CD: 3 pages

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 5.8 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 2,245 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #130,258 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Books on CD >](#)

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Gr 4â€“6â€™ Budding fans and die-hard Ivanites alike will appreciate this sumptuous, oversize edition of Applegate's spare yet resonant Newbery Awardâ€™winning work, inspired by actual events, about a gorilla put on display at a mall and his journey to freedom. Castela's gentle spot-art illustrations, originally printed in black-and-white, are presented in full color, bringing to life with tenderness Ivan; his friends Stella, Ruby, and Bob; and the artwork Ivan creates, which eventually casts a spotlight on his plight. Bonus materials add appeal and context: Applegate's Newbery acceptance speech; a

copy of the real Ivan's "autograph" (fingerprint); a letter from Jodi Carrigan, the zookeeper who helped care for Ivan at Zoo Atlanta (where he lived after leaving the mall); and sketches and illustrations that were considered for the original edition.â "Mahnaz Dar, School Library Journal  
--This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

â œNarrator Adam Grupper is gruff in his portrayal of Ivan, capturing the apeâ s voice and unique perspective....his approach will delight young listeners.â • (Publishers Weekly)

When my 11-year-old finished reading this novel, his first statement was, "I LOVED that book!" With an endorsement like that and because it was the first instance where he "stopped time," I had to read the book too. A copy of the author's Newbery Medal acceptance speech is at the back of my copy of *The One and Only Ivan*. In it, the author says, "We live in a world where children are bullied into despair and even suicide; where armed guards in a school hallway are considered desirable; where libraries are padlocked because of budget cuts; where breakfast and backpacks, for too many children are unaffordable luxuries. "What makes children better than the rest of us is that they are buoyant, unrepentant optimists. "As a writer, reader, and lover of words, I make it a habit to "stop time" whenever I come across sparkling phrases that deserve homage. A "stop time" is where we stop whatever we are doing to read out loud and to listen; we listen to both the author's words and to what made that phrase so meaningful to the reader. Although my son and I read the same book, our reactions to it were as different as a carefree stroll through the park and being caught in a traffic snarl in the city at rush hour. Where my son delighted in the animal conversations, I sobbed. Pixar uses humor with double meaning brilliantly in their storytelling. Katherine Applegate uses the same technique, but in a more realistic vein. I sobbed because the adult world my son will live in doesn't have easy answers. It isn't colorful, silly, and happy all the time. The innocence of his childhood is beginning to seep away. While Ivan and Ruby soothe each other and tell stories to help them sleep, the author communicates the ache of loneliness, coping skills, feeling boxed in, and the power that is found when helping a friend or your own child. The first "stop time" that my son called happened when Ivan makes an impossible promise to Ruby, the baby elephant. "I've been waiting and watching for this moment. A maturity level that notices deeper concepts. An opportunity to share family ideals and values. An easing into the world of adulthood " or at least into the turbulent teens. "Children know all about sadness," comments Applegate in her speech.

~ç~ œWe can~ç~ t hide it from them. We can only teach them how to cope with its inevitably and to harness their imaginations in search for joy and wonder.~ç~ •

First, my daughter is a reluctant reader. I am not sure she has ever completely read a novel from front to back in her life. She was required to read a book for a book report in school. I told her to read 50 pages each day; on the second day, she came out of her room after an hour to get a drink and said, "Mom, this book is great! I am on page 150!" After another hour, she came out with a huge smile on her face and said it was the best story she has ever read! As an avid reader myself, I have never understood why she hates to read. Now I know she has just never read the RIGHT book to get her hooked! In addition, I am a 5th grade teacher. In my school, we have daily Book Clubs. I have been reading *The One and Only Ivan* with my students for 3 years and their reactions are exactly like my daughter's. Katherine Applegate is an amazing author! I love how Ivan, the gorilla, is the narrator; this gives the reader a great inside look into his thoughts and feelings. You easily fall in love with each of the characters and build compassion for each one. I highly recommend this book for any elementary student!

Loved this book. Read it with my 8 year old son. In addition to introducing ideas about how humans treat animals, I thought it was also effective at just considering the world from a different perspective. And the way Ivan helps and cares for the baby elephant, the way the little girl cares for Ivan, and the way the father cares for his little girl, is inspiring.

This book snuck up on me, the writing feels simplistic at first until you understand and see the beauty in reading from Ivan's perspective. I read it aloud to my children (using voices) and I think that hearing it aloud made the voice of Ivan a little more tangible for my boys. My oldest son had picked it up and didn't really get into it, however after reading reviews I decided to try reading it aloud. Best decision, we were all anxious every bedtime to read the next bit and became emotionally attached to Ivan, Stella, Ruby and Bob. It paints a realistic portrait of captivity for animals that is easy for children to understand, without some of the more gruesome elements. It led to some really wonderful discussions with my boys, questions about zoos and circuses, what it is like for animals in the wild and how we view the lives of an animal. I am especially glad now that we read it at bedtime together so I could be part of the dialogue, especially for my younger son who had lots of questions and lots of input. I think that for older independent readers there would be no issues whatsoever.

This would make a fantastic read-aloud for kids, and would prompt some wonderful discussions. The fact that it is based on a real story is only a bonus! I wish that I taught elementary-age children, so that I could use it in the classroom. It was somewhat of a struggle how to rate this. For me, it was 3.5-4 stars. A simple story, but beautiful, and I loved the characterizations. Bob the dog was an especial favorite: how intelligent he was, yet purposefully nonchalant about it, and how he pretended to be rough and uncaring but utterly failed. That's a lot for an author to show about a character that doesn't have that many lines and isn't really part of the action, and also happens to be a dog. Back to the point, though, as a read-aloud to 6-10 year old, I would give it five stars, so I went for the middle and gave it four. I also enjoyed the illustrations, and went on to look up the paintings of the real Ivan (who just died in August of this year, by the way, at the Atlanta Zoo!). The ones available through Google images are much more abstract than what is portrayed in this book, but have a lovely sense of composition :) In any case, an all around good read. It's a children's book that is actually intended for children (unlike the current spate of YA fantasy that is bought by more As than YAs), though it can be enjoyed by adults as well.

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