

## LoveReading4kids Reader reviews of Scarlet Ibis by Gill Lewis

**Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading4kids members.**

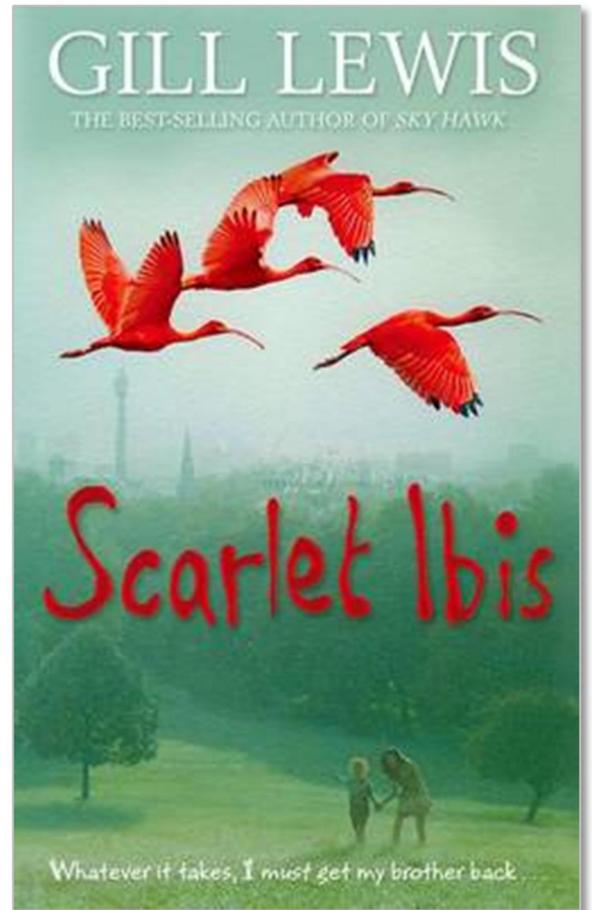
**Heather Greenan, age 10**

***A brilliant read, especially if you are a fan of Jacqueline Wilson.***

*I think 'Scarlet Ibis' is a very good book because is it realistic and believable. Scarlet is desperate to get her brother back from hospital, as she and Red have a dream to fly across the ocean to Trinidad, to see were hundreds of Scarlet Ibis fly, because Red collects bird feathers and he really wants to have a Scarlet Ibis feather.*

*My favourite character in the book is Scarlet because she is a very caring character and loves her family and friends. I also like Red because he is quite strange and adds to the story. The book wouldn't be the same without Red.*

*I think the book is like a Jacqueline Wilson one because it is about real life issues, I loved the book and I would recommend it for girls who are good readers and over 9. I would give It 9.5 out of 10.*



**Hayley Davies, age 9**

***An exciting story about the bond between a brother and sister.***

*'Scarlet Ibis' is a brilliant book that explores the bond between Scarlet and Red, her younger brother, who are separated by a tragedy. I really enjoyed reading this book because it's really exciting and emotional.*

*I liked the character of Renée, who looks after Scarlet, because she works very hard to make Scarlet happy. I felt like I would want to carry Renée around in my pocket to cheer me up!*

*My favourite part of the book was when Red and Scarlet go to the zoo together and find the Scarlet Ibis feather.*

*This book is to be enjoyed by all adventurous readers.*

**Rohan Delamere, age 8**

***This is an adventure story about a girl who is trying to get her brother back and dreams of seeing a Scarlet Ibis.***

*This is an adventure story about a girl called Scarlet with a step brother called Red who has disabilities but one day a fire badly hurts Scarlets mum and Red so Scarlet has to go and live at somebody else's house for a bit. So she runs away to try and find Red because they have a dream to go to Trinidad to see the Scarlet Ibis. I liked the author's descriptions of the Scarlet Ibis because it was very real. I recommend this book or ages 8+ boys and girls.*

**Emma Stephenson, age 11**

***A very interesting family story with a sad theme but a happy ending. I love this book and found it as inspiring as 'Sky Hawk', another Gill Lewis book I have read and enjoyed.***

*I love 'Scarlet Ibis'. It is a very interesting life like story. Gill Lewis has described her characters very well. My favourite is Red who has problems with things but has a big wish. I recommend this book to any child my age who likes family stories and nature.*

**Amie Coffman, age 10**

***I absolutely loved this book and would highly recommend it for readers 10 and older. It is exciting and scary in parts but I couldn't put it down despite being told off by my Mum!***

*This story is about a 12 year old girl called Scarlet whose brother, Red, has issues which make him special and different. Scarlet's home burns down and she is sent to live with another family whilst Red is in a care home. Scarlet desperately tries to get Red back to live with her and will do whatever it takes to reunite them. I couldn't wait to read to the end of the book to discover their fate!*

**Adiella Norridge, age 10**

***A real tear-jerker with unexpected turns and emotional tension.***

*Scarlet lives with her mum and brother Red in a council flat. Then one day Scarlet comes back from school only to find the flat has burnt to cinders. With her mum recovering in hospital, Scarlet is sent to live with a foster family but Red is sent elsewhere. Where is Red? Will Scarlet ever meet him again?*

*This heartwarming book is a real tear-jerker. It has unexpected turns, which give real personality to the book. I love this book because it has lots of emotional tension and a satisfying ending.*

**Liam, age 11**

***Moving, emotional and very touching. If you feel as emotional as I did just keep on reading. There is one part of the book which made me cry but after that it isn't quite so sad. Keep going!***

*This book is amazingly well written and had a really really good storyline. Gill Lewis did an amazing job with this sad, but brilliant, book. You get pulled into the life of Scarlet and hope that she keeps on going and keeps her families hopes alive. Sometimes the characters remind you of friends and family but also make you think about people who struggle with things like this in real life.*

**Jasmine Harris-Hart, age 11 [www.jasminesblogonbooks.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.jasminesblogonbooks.blogspot.co.uk)**

***A heart warming story about a 12 year old girl called Scarlet, who is on a journey to get back her brother Red, from a care home.***

*Following a fire at home, Scarlet is fostered out to a family and her autistic brother Red is put in a care home. Their mum is in hospital after inhaling smoke in the fire and unable to care for them.*

*Scarlet and Red are checked on regularly by Mrs.Gideon who they call "the penguin", because their mother does not look after them properly. So Scarlet has a lot of responsibilities at home. I could feel how much she loved her brother and the bond between them was strong.*

*Scarlet and Red are split up because Red is autistic and needs special care. The author describes well how autism effects Red and their lives. This gave me a better understanding of autism and how it was for Scarlet caring for him.*

*Red loves birds and collects their feathers. He especially wants to see a Scarlet Ibis. At night time for a bedtime story he asks Scarlet to tell him an imaginary story about them travelling in a boat to Trinidad to see the Scarlet Ibis flying*

over Caroni swamp.

*The story was very descriptive and I felt as though I was with Scarlet all the way through it. A lot of the story was sad but still very enjoyable. It is about feelings, emotions and family love.*

*I would recommend this book to girls 9 and over and I rate it 10/10. I will definitely be reading more of Gill Lewis's books.*

### **Rosie Watch - Adult**

***This was a beautiful and very moving story. From the very start I associated with the characters and wanted to know how their problems would be resolved.***

*The bravery and the close bond between the two children made me want to give up the day job and start fostering. Their plight seemed so real and believable yet the story was told with a feeling of mystery and things untold or unexplained, Part of its appeal was in this simplicity. The message of friendship, kindness and understanding is quite powerful without giving the story a feeling of make believe or fantasy. It is lovely that a story can be told so effectively without a need for a 'baddy' or a sinister sub plot.*

*It is a story that is quite haunting and thought provoking, definitely one to keep on the shelf.*

### **Rachel Ilsley, age 11**

*Red and Scarlett dream of seeing a Scarlett Ibis but unfortunately one day their flat burns down and their Mum goes into hospital, separating the brother and sister. Scarlet knows her brother needs her but she can't find him, then she meets a women, Madame Popescu, who loves birds just like her brother and she becomes more desperate than ever to find him.*

*Having read Gill Lewis's previous books ('Moon Bear', 'White Dolphin' and 'Sky Hawk') I believe this is the best one yet because the first person narrator, **Scarlet is a really strong, thoughtful character that is clever and brave and I liked her.** There are some sad moments in the book but the story is mainly happy.*

### **Alice Brumwell, age 9**

*A touching story about relationships and how important it is to have someone there for you.*

*All the characters are well thought out and creative - especially Red, who is a young boy with a moving personality, and Scarlet, a strong girl with a stubborn attitude, though she is lovely with a kind heart.*

***This book is to be enjoyed by both enthusiastic and reluctant readers, because when you're reading you really feel as if you're really in Scarlet's shoes and you just can't put the book down.***

**Chloe Feltz, age 9**

***Wow! What an amazing book. I couldn't put it down and read it every day and night as it was so totally amazing.***

*This is an amazing book about a 12 year old girl, called Scarlet, her little brother Connor Mackenzie (Red) and their Mum, who is struggling to cope with life. In one part of the book there is a massive fire in the family's flat; Scarlet and Red are separated and end up being cared for in different places. Scarlet fights hard to get them back together again and that's when something exciting happens!*

*I hate it when sad stuff happens in stories, but then it wouldn't be a story if there were no sad things happening. It's a shame the story ended when it did because I wanted to find out more.*

*To sum up this wonderful book, I would say it is awesome! I hope people read it and like it as much as me. 'Scarlet Ibis' has left me wanting to read more of Gill Lewis's books.*

**Noel Wills, age 11**

***When Scarlet and Red are sent to live apart Scarlet has no idea what is around the corner.***

*Scarlet is a 12 year old child who lives in a flat with her mum and her brother. She is responsible for looking after everyone and putting food on the table.*

*But when red is sent away their lives will change forever.*

*Very moving but also sad. I recommend it to everyone.*

**Mason, age 11**

***This book is a story that will melt your heart, its about Scarlet and Connor Mackenzie. Their Flat caught fire and this caused a family***

**split up.**

*Scarlet Ibis really touched my heart it is like Tracey Beaker in a way with out mum problems. Scarlet Ibis is a very emotional heart shattering. Read and it will change the way you think of books.*

*One day when Scarlet was at school her mum fell asleep while smoking a cigarette, [Mrs Kanwar] who is the next door neighbour, of Scarlets mum she saved Scarlets mum and her brother who kept saying Red must fly, Red must fly.*

**Keaton Bromley, age 11**

***Scarlet Ibis is a very intriguing read and has many sad parts and many happy parts but it can really drag you in and make you want to help the main character Scarlet Mackenzie.***

*Scarlet Mackenzie really wants to help her brother but she can't because social workers are stopping her from seeing him. Scarlet's brother is called Connor Mackenzie and he has certain medication for his problems and he likes collecting bird feathers. This read has many problems and is very interesting things you could think of. There is also a very big page on a fire in a flat and Scarlet's mum and brother go into a hospital to be looked at.*

**Samantha Shearman, age 11**

***Scarlet Ibis, written by Gill Lewis, is an amazing, creative and loving story. It shows how if you believe in family and love, anything can happen even things you wouldn't have ever imagined!***

*It all begins when Scarlet (aged 12) and Connor (also known as Red) have a very strong bond as brother and sister. Scarlet is like the mum of the family and she tries to make Red as happy as he can...*

*But all of a sudden when Scarlet takes Red to the zoo...*

*Everything goes wrong!*

*I would recommend this book because it shows the unbreakable bond between a brother and sister. I would recommend this book to girls and boys but mainly girls.*

**Hayden John Knifton, age 11**

***"Scarlet Ibis" is a grate book that expressis the power of family love no matter what ever life throws at them.***

*This book is a heart warming tear foarming event turning and it wins a 10 out of 10 vote from me.*

*"Scarlet Ibis" is a book I would recomend to people over the age of 7.*

*This is a book about Scarlet and her autistic brother (Red) tring to regroup after a disaster.*

*Scarlet, Red, mum, Joe, Renee and little Red makes alot of trouble but alot of love.*

**Isaac Hickling, age 11**

***The book is a very moving novel. The characters take you on an adventure of highs and lows, happiness and sadness, rule breaking and excitement. A tear forming story that is impossible to put down.***

*The story starts with a girl and her brother, who live with their mum in a flat. Red, the brother in this thrilling read, has autism and is looked after solely by Scarlet, his loving, caring sister. Their mum can't look after them and is very ill tempered. But everything is made a whole lot worse when a fire blazes out from their flat windows....*

*Scarlet arrives home to find her flat on fire and her mum and brother being rushed out. She is sent to a foster home and Red is sent to a care home.*

*She's in a daze. She doesn't know what to do. All she knows is that she has to get her brother back, what ever it takes...*

**Suzani Rai, age 11**

***A book with real life situations...***

***This book relates to reality: school, family, childhood and friends. A heart-warming adventure through life.***

*'Scarlet Ibis' is about a 12 year old girl called Scarlet and her autistic brother. They go through life changing events and life changing decisions to keep their family together.*

*Not only theirs but millions of other families are experiencing tough times. This book helps others know that they aren't the only ones suffering.*

*Scarlet is a curious girl who continuously asks about her mother and brother after they are split apart by a dreadful flat fire.*

*While Scarlet meets lots of different people; classmates, foster parents, zookeepers and a mysterious bird lady her mum is recovering.*

*I recommend this book to readers who are experiencing the same thing. This is a serious book for serious people.*

**Alice Cox, age 11**

***This book is a very unputterdownable book because I think it's emotional. This book is plot twisting and shows how a bond between brothers and sisters can be.***

*The best part in this book I think is the end and really shows that you should love your brothers and sisters.*

*The main characters in the book are Red and Scarlet but also Renee.*

*Scarlet is a very loving character, this is shown when she rescues her brother. Conner/Red is disabled so he gets a lot of support from his sister.*

*Renee is a lovely mother of 2 and she shows her love when she lets Scarlet in her home.*

*This is a strange book but it's good for over 10's.*

*When Scarlet goes to school one day she comes home to her flat on fire and doesn't know where her mother or brother are then Scarlet goes to live with a foster family and has to go to school with her kinda new brother Jez.*

*Will Scarlet get Red and her mother back read the book to find out!*

**Lia Brooks, age 11**

***This story is a heart warming, emotional story. It is an amazing story sometimes it made me happy other times sad.***

*A twelve year old girl called Scarlet tries to get her little brother out of the care home because she really misses him.*

*Scarlet takes Red to the zoo and Red falls in the pond. She thinks they are going to take Red away. Connor McKensie (Red) is not very well, so Scarlet leaves Red*

*with her mum who is very irresponsible. The flat gets set on fire and Mrs Mckensie and Red are in the flat. I would recommend this book to girls and boys over the age of 8.*

**Chenelle Summerfield, age 11**

***A real eye watering and emotional book, with turns and twisted emotions. It is a fantastic book.***

*When Scarlet and Red get split up and taken away from each other things get a whole lot worse...*

*Living in a flat looking after her younger brother (Red aged: 8) but also looking after her mother (Mrs Mckenzie) is not the life that Scarlet has dreamed of. No friends at school, or anyone to rely on. This book covers illness, lies and secrets, but yet Scarlet knows nothing... nothing at all.*

*I would recommend this this book to children and adults both boy and girl aged 9 and over.*

**Kyle Mark Hughes, age 10**

***This book is very realistic. It may be upsetting for some readers. Plus some readers may be able to relate to what Scarlet goes through. So good luck at reading this book over all good book.***

*Scarlet is young but is like a mum to the rest of the family. She lives with her mum and her brother. It's especially hard because her brother has autism. She basically has a terrible childhood. Some readers may relate to that experience. Some might find it upsetting. But still it is a very good book.*