



## The Scarlet Ibis: The Collection of Wonder

*James Hurst , Philippe Dumas (Illustrator)*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➞

# The Scarlet Ibis: The Collection of Wonder

*James Hurst , Philippe Dumas (Illustrator)*

**The Scarlet Ibis: The Collection of Wonder** James Hurst , Philippe Dumas (Illustrator)

Creative Education's short story collections are ideal introductions to some of the world's best-known authors. the short, timeless classics of Jack London, Rudyard Kipling, Ray Bradbury, and others are celebrated in these handsome volumes.

## The Scarlet Ibis: The Collection of Wonder Details

Date : Published September 1st 1987 by Creative Education (first published July 1st 1960)

ISBN : 9780886820008

Author : James Hurst , Philippe Dumas (Illustrator)

Format : Hardcover 128 pages

Genre : Short Stories, Classics, Academic, School, Fiction, Read For School

 [Download The Scarlet Ibis: The Collection of Wonder ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Scarlet Ibis: The Collection of Wonder ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online The Scarlet Ibis: The Collection of Wonder James Hurst , Philippe Dumas (Illustrator)**

---

## **From Reader Review The Scarlet Ibis: The Collection of Wonder for online ebook**

### **Amytiger says**

I wanted to review Scarlet Ibis, and when I searched for it I got this big old volume. I haven't read this whole book, haven't even known of its existence until minutes ago. But here is my review and amount of stars reserved for Scarlet Ibis.

A review for Scarlet Ibis:

People always see themselves as the victim until too late.

In this book, we have Brother. "Ohh, poor me! I longed and longed for a little brother to play and run around with. But he was disabled." So he works with him until he can walk. But Brother isn't done yet. He wants his little brother to be able to run and swim and do things more. More, more, more! Higher, higher, higher!

Brother was sure of his infallibility and knew no bounds. So when his little brother can't do what he wants him to do, Brother runs away when his little brother needed him. I don't think it was because his little brother couldn't do it. Brother was upset because HE couldn't make him do it. A story of pride, a story of limits, and though we always see the little brother as the victim, Brother's view sees himself as the victim in a well-played, refreshing way.

---

### **Enchantress debbicat ?~Traveling Sister says**

I read this around 1997. It was actually a short story in a high school lit book. I had never read it before and it brought me so much sadness. One of my book club friends here on GR has made a suggestion to read it....I am not sure I can read along. All I feel is sadness when I remember it. So, I guess I read it 20 years ago....would I feel differently today??? I doubt it. But...it is a great read. I highly recommend it.

---

### **Sarah Sheffield says**

This story was definately one I had to fight back tears with. I don't think it was just me who felt this way, I mean I looked over and saw half of my friends trying to do the same. This story was great! The deep symbolism that was embedded in it, made a much more complex meaning and made me ponder on it more than I would have. It got me thinking about life, and the value of each person. Having a special needs sister made this story even more close to home, for me. There were many things I connected with, and this sort reassured me I will never leave my sister behind. She will always be my best friend. I think this story shows great writing skills, and symbolism was definately the key to it. I rated this story 4 stars, because in a way, I think it was almost TOO brutally honest. Some of the things that the narrator says makes me more apprehensive than I am in other books or stories. But overall, this short story was excellent. Well written. You just have to read it if you haven't!!

---

### **Liz says**

I believe it is more than just a sob story or a tear jerker. It is about losing something important that you can

never get back, something we all have gone through. Brother wasn't as horrible as people think. He's just not the heroic, defender-of-the-little, perfect, prepackaged bubble gum type of fictional character that doesn't exist in real life: He is like a normal human being and I can especially relate since both of my brothers have mental disabilities and I know how it feels like to want to have normal brothers to play with. Yes, Brother went too far, but there are VERY few people who can say that they hadn't gone too far on certain things, as well.

Doodle's death wasn't meant to be just a tear jerker in my opinion, it was supposed to relate to the reader on many levels. Yes, it was a simple short story, but I think that was the thing that made it such a classic.

---

### **Andry says**

I cried, and i loved it, but it just shows how realistic the world is and not every innocent person can survive.

---

### **Alyazia says**

This was one of the few story we took in class that enjoyed, I was literally going to tear up. Had to keep it in.

I loved the way that the author had connected the Ibis to Doodle. Doodle is basically a helpless child who was a huge disappointment to the family but mostly to his brother. Although Doodle's brother was such an asshole, I sort of understand his twin personality.

One second he would be like

and after a moment

I hate doodle though, if I was his sister I'd kill him for no reason at all. Just because he gets on my nerves.

He IS a burden and should be placed in that coffin that his dad built him so just get on with it. One cannot deny that is a good short story, I was disappointed though. I was expecting more of symbolism, guess i shouldn't get my hopes up

---

### **Sara says**

I read this short story in an English class in high school, and it made a huge impression on me. I know this because some fifty years later I remembered it in amazing detail. It is perhaps the best example of symbolism and foreshadowing you will ever encounter. It is to symbolism what The Raven is to alliteration. But there is

more to it than a study in symbolism. It is a story about pride, about cruelty, and about selfishness that is self-destructive. It is about the complication of loving someone who is imperfect and the desire to reshape them into our own idea of what they should be, and it is about the elusive quality of beauty and its fragility.

In the first paragraph, James Hurst writes, "The last graveyard flowers were blooming, and their smell drifted across the cotton field and through every room of our house, speaking the names of our dead." I find that beautifully descriptive and strangely poignant. I can picture the setting and smell the pungent flower aromas that carry within them the promise of decay. That decay is evidenced in the person of Doodle, a little boy who was born with physical defects that might have taken him immediately, but instead left him weak and dependent, the sweetest and kindest of souls, with a brother who is anxious to have a friend and playmate who can run and swim and row and who tries, against all odds to make that happen.

There is an element of hope and determination about the story that I love. Doodle's life might have meant nothing at all if not for this boy who torments him into walking and running against the protests of his own body. Doodle sees all the beauty of the world, he is captured by it, but it is the brother who gives him that chance; the brother who believes.

This story is heartbreaking. Its ending screams of consequences, of the cost of pressing too hard for something that is forbidden, of failing to think beyond the present or realize the implications of loss. But, there is that hopeful side as well. Doodle was not supposed to live, but he did, he was not supposed to walk, but he did, and his life had meaning and purpose, brought joy and achievement. Our narrator did not smother his brother in his crib (a thought he claimed to have had), and his life was richer for knowing him, and mine was richer for reading this story. Thank you, Mr. Hurst.

---

### **Nick Polizzi says**

This is hauntingly beautiful in every single possible way. Compiled with characters that feel so incredibly real and excellent symbolism to instill a feeling of thorough captivation, this work of art is probably my favorite short story of the year. And I've read many; from *The Most Dangerous Game* to *A Sound of Thunder*. Excellent and I recommend it wholeheartedly.

---

### **Tweety says**

[sad endings. I don't want to read another book about someone learning the hard way! Being so darn selfish and the rest of the book being so beautiful. Talk about depressing! (hide spoiler)]

---

### **Anima says**

"It was in the clove of seasons, summer was dead but autumn had not yet been born, that the ibis lit in the bleeding tree.<sup>1</sup> The flower garden was strained with rotting brown magnolia petals and ironweeds grew rank amid the purple phlox."

purple phlox

ironweeds

"... "Doodle, don't you want to learn to walk?"

He'd nod his head, and I'd say, "Well, if you don't keep trying, you'll never learn." Then I'd paint for him a picture of us as old men, white-haired, him with a long white beard and me still pulling him around in the go-cart. This never failed to make him try again."

"Finally one day, after many weeks of practicing, he stood alone for a few seconds. When he fell, I grabbed him in my arms and hugged him, our laughter peeling through the swamp like a ringing bell. "

"...Sadly, we all looked back at the bird. A scarlet ibis! How many miles it had traveled to die like this, in our yard, beneath the bleeding tree"

---

### **Dana Salman says**

Although it was supposed to be incredibly depressing I didn't cry. I didn't even understand why Doodle died until the teacher explained. And while most readers (like my whole class) will agree that his death was all Brother's fault (I really wish the author had given us a proper name for the narrator) I was able to sympathize with him, and I think that in the end, he got off alot worse than Doodle. I think the bird symbolism was wonderful, especially at the end when Brother calls Doodle his "little scarlet ibis". I think the story could've done with an epilogue, but maybe it was better that it ended bluntly that way: "...sheilding my little scarlet ibis from the heresey of rain."

---

### **Idrissa says**

I read this book about 5years ago when I was in high school and I shed tears after reading it. It starts out so unimposing then delves into this deep, meaningful and profound narrative. I haven't been that moved since. The ibis is a metaphor, well, eventually it becomes a metaphor. It was a symbolic foreshadowing, quite excellently executed. It's a short story. I can't explain much more about it without revealing the entire story. Brother, I felt your pain. I felt your woe. I loved your narrative. I loved Doodle too. Everyone who is anyone needs to read this story.

---

### **Lydia Strobe says**

In my English class we just finished reading this and this short story was just absolutely amazing. Hurst describes everything in perfect, precise detail and he explains absolutely everything. At first, in the beginning when he talks about how he was going to smother his brother I was appalled and couldn't really fathom why we were reading something like this in class. But, throughout the story I could see why. Even though most of the things that he does to/for his brother, helping him walk, teaching him to row, run, etc were done for selfish reasons, I think that he still cared about and loved his brother. I have an autistic brother and yes, it is something that is hard to handle and it's different, but I wouldn't go to any extremes of being ashamed of him and trying to improve him so that I could look better.

Fortunately, I finished the short story on my own because to my surprise, I actually cried at the end. The way he describes how he leaves his small, helpless brother in the rain, devastated me. Even though I suspected

from about half way through the story that at the end something was going to happen, he was going to push him to hard, he might kill the boy, or the illness would eventually take his brother, but I predicted that Doodle was going to die. Regardless of having predicted it, reading it and finally getting to that part in the story was completely different from what I had expected. Just thinking of that poor little boy dying alone, in the rain, his illness that he had been struggling with for his entire life finally claiming him, and probably the worst for him was that his brother, the one person that he was always with and relied on, was disappointed in him because he couldn't meet their "goal". Just those facts broke my heart.

This short story not only is described in beautiful detail, but it tells the struggle of one boy and of his sweet handicapped brother. It shows how human pride, and arrogance can sometimes consume how they think and act, and sometimes, ending with dire consequences.

---

### **Debbie says**

Loved the symbolism in this book.

The message in the book was brilliant.

It was sad to think that the older brother did certain actions because of his pride, and how he did not want an "invalid" as a brother.

The way the scarlet Ibis and the little brother related to eachother...how the Ibis died even though it's come a long way...just brilliant.

Loved it.

---

### **Lilibeth Ceja says**

this is a short story that I read in my language arts class and I really liked it. Its a story about a young boy who is making his way through life only to have something horrible happen to him. Reads it to find out what it is. Reading this story will make you think of the world in a different way. Also it will change the way you see the ending of most books. This is a book I reccommend to people who want to have a different type of story to read.

---