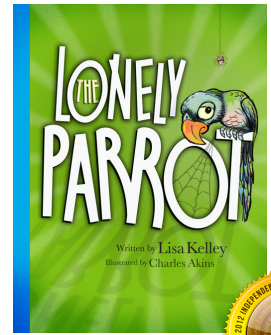


“The Lonely Parrot” by Lisa Kelley

Book Reviews and Letters | www.thelonelyparrot.net



The Lonely Parrot is a lovely and touching story about the all too familiar flow of life that often leaves companion animals without the attention they need. With empathy in both word and illustrations, Lisa and Charles reveal in *The Lonely Parrot* an important message about commitment and resilience, reminding us that sometimes the worst thing we can do is nothing at all.

~ **Susan G. Friedman, Ph.D.** | Department of Psychology | Utah State University

The Lonely Parrot tells the story of JoJo a Moustached parakeet. Like many parrots, JoJo found himself in a wonderful home. But as time passed, things changed and JoJo no longer received the kind of attention he craved. This led to a few behavior problems and a neglected parrot. JoJo's life takes a turn for the better when a new family comes into his life. This colorful book provides a good lesson for young children on responsible pet ownership. It also shows the wonderful bond humans and birds can share.

~ **Barbara Heidenreich, Editor, Author, Animal Behaviorist** | *Good Bird Magazine* | July 2011

The Lonely Parrot is a vibrant, engaging story told with fun, bold graphics that will absorb the young mind (particularly the animal-loving one) while delivering a moral lesson for young and old alike. JoJo, a young companion parrot, is brought into a family and showered with attention, toys, and love for the first couple of years . . . until life moves on for his human keepers. This is a common occurrence with companion parrots and one that is rarely viewed from the bird's perspective. JoJo's loss of companionship and subsequent loneliness are palpable.

Our youth contributor, Torianna (age 10) still loves a good picture book. She enjoyed this one because of the immediate empathy she felt for JoJo. She was worried about him and anxious to find out what happened. She also liked that "the author showed up in the book." This is a story with a lesson that has rarely been explored in this format – the responsibilities of bringing a potentially long-lived pet animal into the home and the consequences of not being able to provide for all of its needs. Fortunately for our little hero, there is a happy ending. All in all, a fine book for both the ethical lesson and the sweet charming story.

~ **Desi Milpacher, Editor** | Review in *PsittaScene Magazine* from *The World Parrot Trust* | August 2011

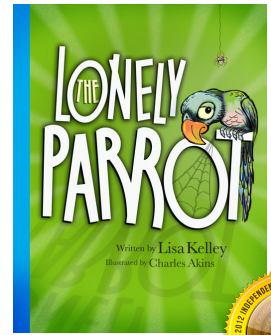
A new children's book is available: *The Lonely Parrot*, a vibrant, engaging story told with bold graphics that will absorb the young mind (particularly the animal-loving one) while delivering a moral lesson for young and old alike. JoJo, a young companion parrot, is brought into a family at the beginning of the book, getting plenty of attention, toys, and love for the first couple of years . . . until the novelty of his presence wears off and life moves on for his human keepers. Here's where the moral comes in, as JoJo suffers the pain of loss of companionship and subsequent loneliness.

It's an important tale to be told, a story with a lesson that probably hasn't been much explored, if at all – the responsibilities of bringing a potentially long-lived pet into the home, and the consequences of mentally neglecting it. Fortunately for our hero there is a happy ending. All in all, a fine book for times when a child is receptive to learning an ethical lesson, and a fine book for times when he or she just wants a good story.

~ Review in *Flock Talk eNewsletter* from *The World Parrot Trust* | August 2011

“The Lonely Parrot” by Lisa Kelley

Book Reviews and Letters | www.thelonelyparrot.net



If you have kids who are interested in animals and pets of any type, *The Lonely Parrot* would be wonderful for them. But it is a "must have" if your kids want a parrot – and adults will love it as well. Author Lisa Kelley tells a heart-wrenching – and, in the end, heart-warming – true story about a wonderful but neglected bird she adopted, who was left behind when his original owner grew up and went off to college. Charles Akins' wonderful illustrations are very expressive and charming; they add so much to this well-written book. It is written at a level children can understand, learn from, and enjoy; but the story runs so much deeper that it is a wonderful addition to the library of any parrot-lover.

I have this book in my own library and really enjoy looking at it and reading through it from time to time. Even though I've read it many times before, I never get tired of reading it, and it charms me every time. I've also given it to a young nephew, in hopes of instilling respect for pets – especially something so challenging as a parrot. (As a parrot owner myself, I am very familiar with the "challenging" part of parrot ownership!)

Lisa recently won a coveted award from the Independent Publishers Association, which tells you something about the quality of this book. (The competition is very stiff for the IPPY award, but Lisa's book deserved the accolades!) Let's hope that Lisa and Charles team up some time on another book about parrots; I'll be first in line to buy it.

~ Teresa Marrone | Award-Winning Author and Parrot Owner | Minneapolis, Minnesota

As a longtime parrot owner, I'm very much aware of parrots and their need for social interaction. My parrot is in my office all day while I work, and then she comes to the family room with me in the evening. She doesn't need constant attention, but she is far happier when she is with me for most of the day. I love *The Lonely Parrot*! It has such an important lesson for potential parrot owners and gets the point across to children in a sweet story. I bought the book for my six-year-old grandson, the animal lover. He was charmed and very interested in the back page with the photo of the writer and the real JoJo. He loved that it was a real story. He reads the story himself now. This is exactly how we should be teaching children how to treat parrots well: no lecture, but a pleasing story with a happy ending.

~ Virginia Lawrence, Ph.D. | Parrot Owner

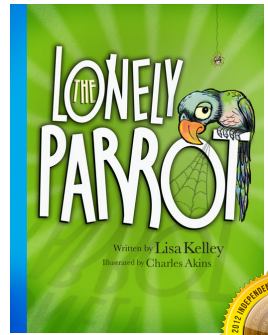
The Lonely Parrot mirrors the life of some parrots. It's unfortunate that people move on in their lives and forget their feathered friends. And while the story is sad, it ends on a positive note. I loved how the storeowner described to Sammy the responsibilities that come with owning a pet, specifically a pet parrot. She tells him what to feed JoJo and even mentions fruit and vegetables. She also mentions showers, toys, and taking him out to play every day – all very important aspects of having a parrot as a pet. I also liked that JoJo only spoke when he was desperate for attention. Not all parrots speak, and too many people only want a bird that speaks. Sammy loved him regardless of that until he grew up and moved on.

The author also writes about the bird biting and the woman ignoring and covering the parrot. These are all things that can happen, but I liked the fact that she really had no judgment about the neglect. Instead the Momma found other people to give JoJo a good home and the love he needed. It's a simple story but definitely shows in a simple way that kids can understand how to be responsible when caring for a pet bird. I enjoyed the story and was very happy that JoJo found a new and happy home! It's really nice to see a positive book for kids and one with such a beautiful bird.

~ Sheryl Robinson, Illinois State Coordinator | American Federation of Aviculture

“The Lonely Parrot” by Lisa Kelley

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Pet owners are typically well informed when it comes to the physical needs of being a “Pet Parent,” yet whether or not your pet will become lonely is not one of them. In her newly released children’s book, *The Lonely Parrot*, children’s author and “pet Momma,” Lisa Kelley tells the true-life story of JoJo, a parrot who did, indeed, become very lonely. In this book targeted to children from five to ten years of age, Kelley takes us through the changes that JoJo goes through as he deals with his loneliness and missing his best friend. He goes from being a happy parrot to a rather naughty one in his desperation for attention. But don’t worry, it has a happy ending.

~ Review in *Aroundabout Cumming Magazine* | Cumming, Georgia | May 2011

I received my book yesterday, and it's wonderful, Lisa! I had my granddaughters with me as we stopped at the mailbox, found the book had arrived, then drove along while the oldest, Livvy, read it out loud to us all. Then later, I looked at the wonderful illustrations of JoJo and his life and re-read it again. Thank you so much Lisa for sharing such a nice story with me and my granddaughters! The best part of the book for me is that it helped my granddaughters understand Mali better. Mali is not the most friendly parrot and she needed some good press!! My granddaughters love it so much that they took it home with them.

~ Marjie Castile | Parrot Owner | Dallas, Oregon

I love the book. It made me cry! Your book should be required reading for anyone buying or adopting a bird. I have a cockatiel whose life was similar to your JoJo's (she's on my shoulder right now and has been off but mostly on for the last 2 hours). I'm also glad that you have the Wilson Parrot Foundation on your site. My husband and I volunteer there. It's a very nice place and the birds are very happy. Keep up the good work!

~ Vicky Kellerman | Parkville, Maryland

As a kid I loved stories with animal characters. As an adult, psychologist, and parrot enthusiast, I see extraordinary value in stories that are accessible to people of all ages, that encourage people to take an animal’s perspective and develop empathy for animals, and that provide accurate information about animals while demonstrating practical humane approaches to negotiating animal-human relationships. I LOVE that you took your book from real life experience with a real life JoJo, and that JoJo’s story can be known to continue through your website.

~ Lanette Raymond, PhD | President | Long Island Parrot Society

I just got the book! I love it :-)) I cried a little. I am glad to have met you and your JoJo.

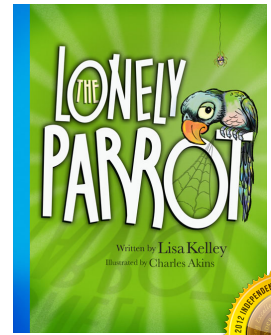
~ Kelly Matthews | Animal Lover

I just received my copy of *The Lonely Parrot*, and it's just delightful. The illustrations are big and colorful, the story is a good length to hold childrens’ sometimes, limited attention spans, and the story gets to the point of what parrots need – love, toys, nutrition and most of all, a forever loving home. I wish you much success with the book and hope to see more stories related to the many difficulties parrots have when their lives change. It's such an important message. Your book has all the right ingredients to help foster and understand how important a forever, loving home really is for a 'rescue' bird! Beautiful illustrations and an easy to understand story with a lasting message. This is for all parrot lovers, no matter what species interests you... the story and message cannot be understated. (And a secret spider for more interest!)

~ Andrea | Parrot Owner

“The Lonely Parrot” by Lisa Kelley

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Hi Lisa and JoJo,

We are Mark and Betty Schmidt in Castle Rock, Colorado. We own a male mustached parakeet. His name is Rocky. At the time that we got Rocky, I was doing bird rescue and a private customer from my alternative health care business asked if I might be interested in a parrot rescue. Their neighbors bought Rocky, but then the children decided he wasn't active enough, so they bought a large dog. He kept trying to eat Rocky, so they were looking for a new home. Rocky was born in April 1997 and we became his owners in 1999, I think. We hear he can live to 35 years and we are hoping we all run out of time together. Mark and I are 75 and 76.

Rocky is special to us and he is a happy birdie. I sing to him each morning “I Love You A Bushel and A Peck” as I change his cage and he loves it. He is in our kitchen next to the table, but we are careful with treats. He has a good birdie diet.

All I asked for Christmas this year was your book. It still hasn't arrived yet, and I am anxiously awaiting it. In the meantime, I printed and hung a picture of JoJo by Rocky's cage. He has his own birdie calendar, too. We saw a flock of M. Parakeets on TV once, but have yet seen another one, so were glad to see the article about JoJo.

Rocky says, “Hello, Rocky” and “Hello, Sweetheart,” gives kisses and coughs when we cough or laugh, and says “Love you.” We have trained him to not screech, so he taps his bell, or dish when he wants a treat.

We are a couple who are perfectly happy with our family (we do have 20 grandchildren, but Rocky only comes out with me attending), but are especially happy with Rocky. I help the children hold him for a brief time. Thanks for bringing attention to the Mustache Parakeet.

~ **Mark and Betty Schmidt and Rocky | Parrot Owners | Castle Rock, Colorado**

Sammy's mom bought JoJo, the parrot, at a pet store, because he was so beautiful. JoJo was very happy with his best friend, Sammy, because Sammy would take him out of his cage and play with him every day; it was so much fun! But as the days, months and years passed by, Sammy got busy with other things in his life and no longer had time for JoJo. He would have to stay in his cage alone all of the time and was so very sad and lonely. Do you think JoJo can be happy again? What do you think will make him happy?

This is an adorable story about JoJo, the parrot, with outstanding illustrations throughout the book. The cover is adorable and the shades of green and blue are really pretty. The colors used inside the book are beautiful; I just love how well they blend together, and I love the lettering used. The parrot is precious and even the little spider is cute! The story emphasizes the care involved in taking care of a parrot and especially the need to show love and affection to them. I loved what happened at the end, because it shows that Sammy was responsible enough to do what was best for his friend JoJo after all. I think this sweet loveable story would be perfect on any child's bookshelf, as well as any public or school library.

~ **Joy H. for Readers Favorite.com | <http://readersfavorite.com/review/4345> | 5 Stars**

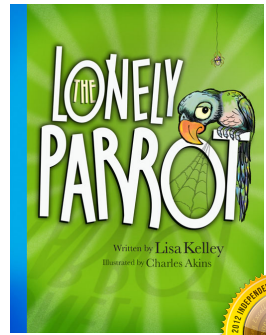
Comments From Miss Julie's Elementary School Class, Columbia, South Carolina

The Story

- “I liked it because the parrot plays.” – Luke
- “I loved it!” – Margaret
- “I liked the part where he shrieked.” – Izzy
- “I liked it when he had a new Momma.” – Rodriguez
- “You really should always take care of your pets.” – Newton

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The Illustrations

- “I liked the picture where he said, “Hi Momma.” – Kashaunah
- “I liked it when he flipped.” – Izzy
- “I liked it when his Momma gave him the kiss.” – Rodriguez
- “I think the bird is cool.” – Luke
- “The parrot is so beautiful!” – Bailey
- “I like the picture on page 11, because he looks all happy.” – Newton

Hello Lisa and congratulations on the IPPY Award! I wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed your book. The parrot community will definitely benefit from it. I am so happy for your success! *The Lonely Parrot* is such a sweet book with a thoughtful message about the great responsibility and immense joy of caring for a bird. Both young and old are sure to enjoy this little treasure.

~ *Kendra McDermott | Parrot Owner | Seattle, Washington*

Amazon Book Reviews

About bird responsibilities! | February 4, 2012 | By J. Payeur "joyce p" (New Jersey, USA) | 5.0 out of 5 stars

If you are considering getting a pet bird, an important lesson is learned through reading this book. Highly recommended! Adorable and important book for a young person and their parents.

Great Illustrations | July 5, 2011 | By Lyn | 5.0 out of 5 stars

Have given a copy to our church library. Librarian who was a former publisher was very impressed with story and illustrations. Large and colorful – just right for children. My friends and family who are grandparents were thrilled to have copies of *The Lonely Parrot* for their grandchildren. Hope Lisa Kelley and Charles Akins will have many more children's books in the future.

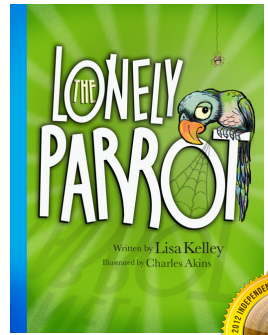
Wonderful Children's Book That Made Me Teary-Eyed | February 8, 2012 | By eagletwo | 5.0 out of 5 stars

We share our home with a flock of four wonderful parrots, and for a short while there was the possibility that we would be adopting another parrot in need of a new home. This parrot happened to be a Moustache parrot (parakeet) and so I was doing as much research as I could to prepare for and educate myself about the species. During that process, I stumbled across the JoJo videos online, and followed the link to his website. Subsequently, I bought the book written about him: *The Lonely Parrot*.

If anyone has ever had a pet of any variety that they've cared about, I think this story will touch them. I got teary-eyed and almost cried when I read of JoJo being so lonely when he was ignored in his cage all day, and how he missed spending time with his best friend Sammy... who grew up to forget him, leaving for college. But of course this children's book has a very happy ending, and even better, the real-life JoJo had his happy ending! I was so glad for him at the end of the book, and when my husband came home last night (yes, the book arrived yesterday) I showed it to him. We sat on the couch with our Grey parrot as I "read" the book aloud (I summarized the action on the pages, considering I wasn't sure if his attention span would last for the entire text). Our boy was quite captivated and kept mumbling little comments, and then he was very happy to watch one of the JoJo videos online afterward. ("See? He's happy with a new family who loves him, just like you!")

“The Lonely Parrot” by Lisa Kelley

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So considering that I loved the book, my husband enjoyed the book, our Grey enjoyed the book--I just bought another copy to give to my young nephew when I see him later this month. I hope he ends up enjoying it, too, and as he grows older learns a little more from it about proper animal husbandry and respect for other creatures in the process of reading it.

Great book! | July 5, 2011 | By [CAA](#) | 5.0 out of 5 stars

This is a great book for teaching small children, in a fun way, the importance of keeping pet birds in a loving home. Parrots can live a long time and the owners can get so caught up in "life" that they don't give the birds the attention they desperately want and need. Great illustrations, also!

Wonderful Book for Both Children and Adults Alike | May 11, 2011 | By [ParrotMomAtI](#) | 5.0 out of 5 stars

I gave this book to my little four-year-old niece, and she absolutely loved it! Not only for the gorgeous illustrations, but for the touching story, as well. It's about a sweet little parrot named, JoJo, whose best friend, Sammy, grows up. As a result, JoJo gets very lonely. But, don't worry, it has a happy ending. The book also teaches the reader what a pet parrot needs to be healthy and happy. A very good read for children 4-10.
