

## The One and Only Ivan Triptych

**“I like colorful tales with black beginnings and stormy middles and cloudless blue-sky endings.”**

**– Ivan**

The black beginning started in the jungle when Ivan’s family was killed. The poachers came and chopped off their hands. Ivan’s twin sister Tag died of grief because she couldn’t let go of her past. In the painting, Ivan is in mud imagining the reflection of his dad and sister. Tag is represented with a flower in her hair Ruby is seen falling in a hole and Stella is seen in the clouds with her family.

The stormy middle takes place at the Big Top Mall. The animals are in captivity and are treated poorly by Mack. They spend their days wondering when they can go somewhere safe. After years of abuse, Stella dies. In the painting, Mack is holding a claw stick while he trains Ruby in the ring. Stella’s empty cage with rain falling above is a symbol of her death. You can see Ivan reaching back towards his dead sister, but he is also looking towards a hopeful future.

The cloudless, blue-sky ending occurs at the zoo. Ivan has his own family and forms a romance with Kinyani. Ruby gets a family too, and Ivan can see her from his enclosure. George, who now works at the zoo, comes to visit with Julia and Bob, who now lives with them, to see their friends. In the painting, you can see all the characters have found their place in the world.