

Black Beauty

ANNA SEWELL

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BLACK BEAUTY

Chapter 1

My Mother's Advice

I still remember my first place with a clear memory. It was a big meadow with a small pond and some tall trees in it. Colourful flowers grew all around the meadow. There was also a hedge on one side which looked into the fields and our master's house over the hedge.

I drank my mother's milk in the first months of my life because I could not eat grass. My mother was everything to me. I ran by her side and lay down close to her. We stood in the shade of the trees on hot days. We stayed in a warm stable near our master's house on cold days.



John came near us. He gave Ginger and me the last pat. He spoke to us for the last time. His voice sounded very sad. I held my face close to him and that was all I could do to say good-bye to him.



Chapter 16

The Horse Fair

In my new place I was rode by experienced drivers and that was good but I was a 'job horse', and all sorts of people hired me to do their jobs. Sometimes I had bad treatment from them. I was good-tempered and gentle so many people wanted to hire me.

There were some tight-rein drivers who never gave me the freedom of movement. There were some loose-rein drivers who were never in control. I did not have objection to loose-rein at all. There were also careless drivers who did not care about horses and other people.

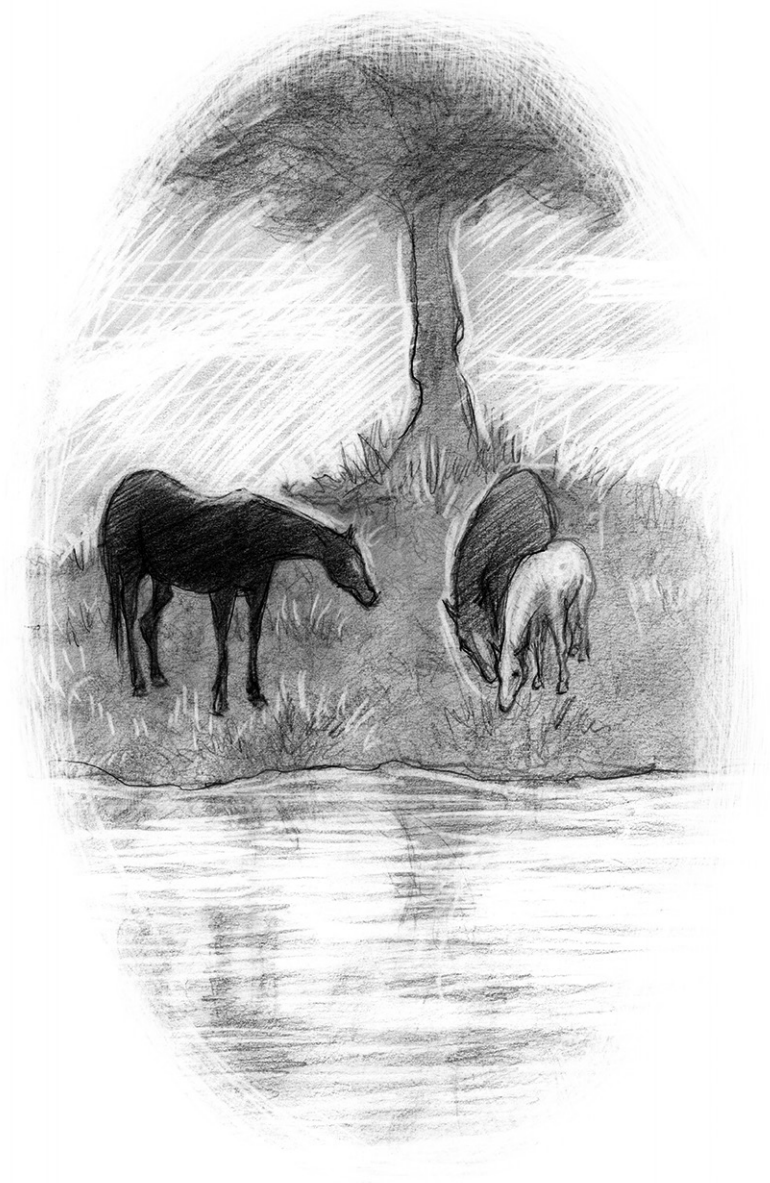
After Rory and Peggy, I felt very lonely and unhappy but I did not stay there long because I was sold again. My new master was an unmarried man who lived in Bath. He was a very busy man. He knew little about horses but he treated me well. I had the best hay with lots of oats and crushed beans. My stable was kept clean and airy. There was a nice groom who was very kind to horses. He always brushed my mane and coat with affection. I really wanted to stay in that place longer but I heard about a horse fair. I knew it was time to get ready for another place.

Chapter 17

My Last Home

My new master had a very nice family. Polly, his wife, was one of the best people in the world. She had a pretty face with smooth dark hair and dark eyes. Jerry Barker had two kids, one boy and one girl, named Harry and Dolly. I had never known such a happy family before. He had two horses; one of them was called Captain. He was quiet old but looked very proud. I saw the wide streets and the high houses of London with wonderful shops when I pulled the cab for the first time. During my first week in London I felt very tired because it was hard for me to become a cab horse. Besides I did not like the noise and the crowd. But Jerry was a very good driver so I was very happy for that. He understood a horse's feelings perfectly. He always did his best for my comfort. I never knew a better man than him. I enjoyed my freedom with Jerry. He often took off my harness and that was the best thing in my life. It was a great feeling to roll over on my back, eat grass, lie down and gallop across the meadow. I was extremely happy but I wanted him to be my last master but that was just a dream and I knew it.

One day before the New Year, Jerry and I took two men to a house in the West End of London. It was a cold and



BLACK BEAUTY

Activities

Chapters 1- 2- 3

Read Chapters 1- 2 and 3. Then circle the correct answer for each question.

- 1. Where did Black Beauty live?**
 - a) in a cave
 - b) in a meadow
- 2. What did Black Beauty drink in the first months?**
 - a) his mother's milk
 - b) hay
- 3. Who called Black Beauty 'Darkie'?**
 - a) his mother
 - b) his first owner
- 4. Who trained Black Beauty?**
 - a) his master
 - b) his friend
- 5. What did Black Beauty have to wear?**
 - a) his bridle and saddle
 - b) his bridle and glasses
- 6. What was the hardest part of the training?**
 - a) harness
 - b) bridle
- 7. Who bought Black Beauty?**
 - a) Gordon Squire
 - b) The Lord
- 8. Who did Black Beauty meet in the stable?**
 - a) Merrylegs and Storm
 - b) Merrylegs and Ginger

**How do you feel about these characters in the story?
Circle the best answer for each character.**

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Black Beauty | He is innocent and beautiful.
He is bad-tempered. |
| 2. Ginger | She has painful memories
She's bad-tempered. |
| 3. Merrylegs | He's brave.
He's lazy. |
| 4. John | He's kind and gentle.
He's cruel. |
| 5. Mr York | He's cruel.
He's helpful. |
| 6. Squire Gordon | He's friendly.
He is unfriendly. |
| 7. Jerry Barker | He has a loving family.
He has a strange family. |
| 8. Reuben | He has a bad habit.
He is perfect. |

Are these sentences True or False?

1. Black Beauty has only one master.
2. Black Beauty has a sweet temper.
3. Sir Oliver is a horse.
4. John is a groom.
5. Black Beauty follows his mother's advice.
6. Gordon Squire is a kind master.
7. Ginger has a sad ending.
8. Jerry Barker is cruel towards horses.
9. Peggy has short legs.
10. Black Beauty has a happy ending.

PUZZLE

Find the twelve words in the puzzle and write the words.

f	g	g	r	a	s	s	s	d	z
m	x	a	u	g	e	n	t	l	e
e	k	l	e	a	p	o	g	m	l
a	z	l	x	w	e	m	r	e	b
d	t	o	y	s	r	a	o	k	r
o	x	p	n	a	e	s	o	m	i
w	c	a	s	d	i	t	m	m	d
h	j	f	g	d	n	e	s	a	l
a	g	h	h	l	k	r	f	n	e
h	a	r	n	e	s	s	z	e	x

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Glossary

airy	with a lot of light and space * The hotel room was not very <i>airy</i> .
appearance	the way that someone looks * Personality is more important than <i>appearance</i> .
behave	act in a specified way * He <i>behaved</i> unkindly like always.
beside	next to * Who is that woman <i>beside</i> you?
bite	use the teeth to cut into * The baby wanted to <i>bite</i> his mother.
brave	fearless * I love <i>brave</i> men with kind manners.
bridge	a structure built over a river to allow people to cross * There was a small wooden <i>bridge</i> over the stream.
bridle	leather straps around a horse's head to allow the rider to control it * The horse did not feel comfortable with its <i>bridle</i> .
bury	put a dead body into the ground * He was <i>buried</i> in the churchyard
canter	an easy and a comfortable speed of a horse * The horse <i>cantered</i> first then galloped away.
carriage	a two-wheeled vehicle pulled by horses. * She wanted to go to the city centre in the <i>carriage</i> .
charming	pleasant and attractive * Your brother is such a <i>charming</i> boy.

treat	behave towards someone in a particular way * They did not <i>treat</i> the new comers well.
training	the process of learning skills * You need some <i>training</i> to do your job properly.
unlock	open * He did not have his key to <i>unlock</i> the door.
violent	using force to hurt someone * I do not like <i>violent</i> films.
wealthy	rich * He is <i>wealthy</i> and handsome.
whip	a piece of leather used for hitting animals * Most of the riders carried <i>whips</i> .
willing	happy to do something * I'm <i>willing</i> to help you to finish the project.
wise	experienced with deep understanding * We need a <i>wise</i> man to lead us.
wonderful	extremely good * We had a <i>wonderful</i> time in Italy.
wooden	made of wood * All the houses were <i>wooden</i> in the village.
worried	unhappy because of the problems * They are very <i>worried</i> about their daughter because she lives away.