

ANNA SEWELL'S

BLACK BEAUTY



A GRAPHIC NOVEL



BY OWENS & TANNER

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ABOUT HORSES

Anna Sewell was born in 1820 in England. Around the age of 14, Sewell fell and injured her ankles. They didn't heal properly. From then on, she had trouble walking and relied on horses to take her wherever she needed to go. She loved horses and was grateful for them. Sewell was shocked to see how cruelly some people treated her favorite animal.

In 1871, Sewell was told she had only a short time to live. She decided to write a book that would show the kind and loving nature of horses. That book, the only one she ever wrote, was *Black Beauty*. It has been considered a classic since it was first published in 1877.

Black Beauty takes place in the mid-1800s, at a time when people used horses for transportation. Cars were not yet invented, and roads were often rough dirt trails. The nicest roads were made of stones, so horses wore horseshoes to protect their hooves. They usually wore a saddle on their backs and headgear called a bridle. The bridle has a bit that goes into the horse's mouth, and it is attached to the reins. The rider pulls on the reins to give signals to the horse. In the story, *Black Beauty* had to wear a checkrein. This is a short rein that keeps the horse's head high. *Black Beauty* also wore leather flaps called blinders on his bridle. Blinders were used to shield horses from distractions so they could focus on moving forward exclusively.

There are different titles for people who handle horses. The groom takes care of the horse in its stable. For fine carriages, which hold a few people, a coachman steers the horses. For a quick, short ride, people might ride in a cab, a small and less fancy carriage driven by a cabbie.

CAST OF CHARACTERS



Duchess
Black Beauty's Mother

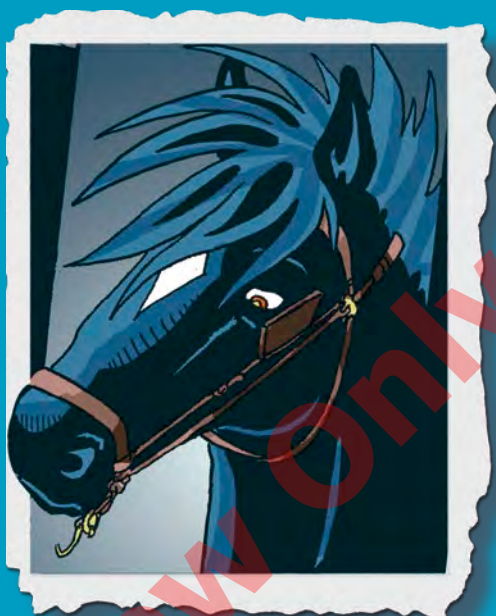
Ginger
Black Beauty's carriage partner
and friend at Birtwick Park



Jerry
A cabbie who owns Black Beauty



BLACK BEAUTY



Merrylegs

Black Beauty's stable mate
and friend at Birtwick Park.



Joe Green

A stable boy



CHAPTER 1

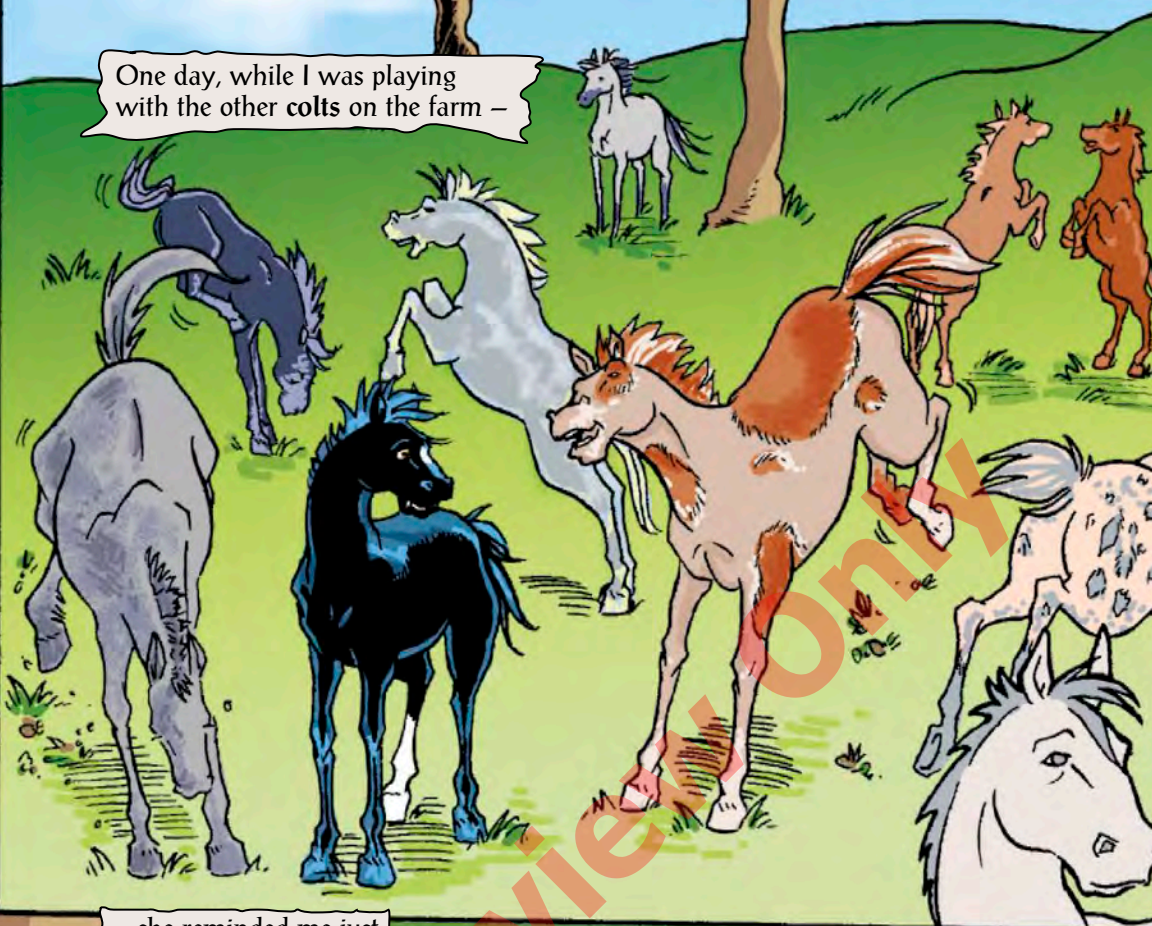
My Early Home

My name is Black Beauty.

My first home was with Farmer Grey. I can still picture his pleasant meadow and the pond of clear water.

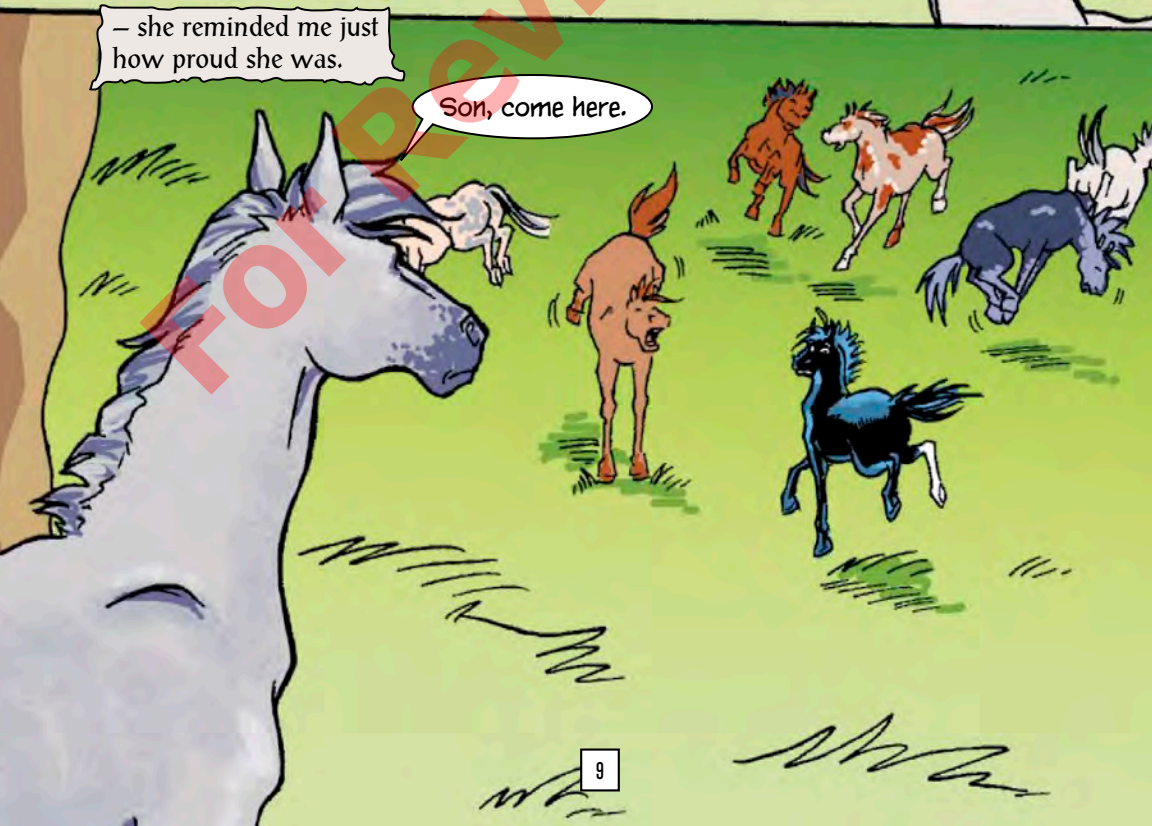
I lived there with my mother, Duchess. She was proud that we came from a long line of fine horses.

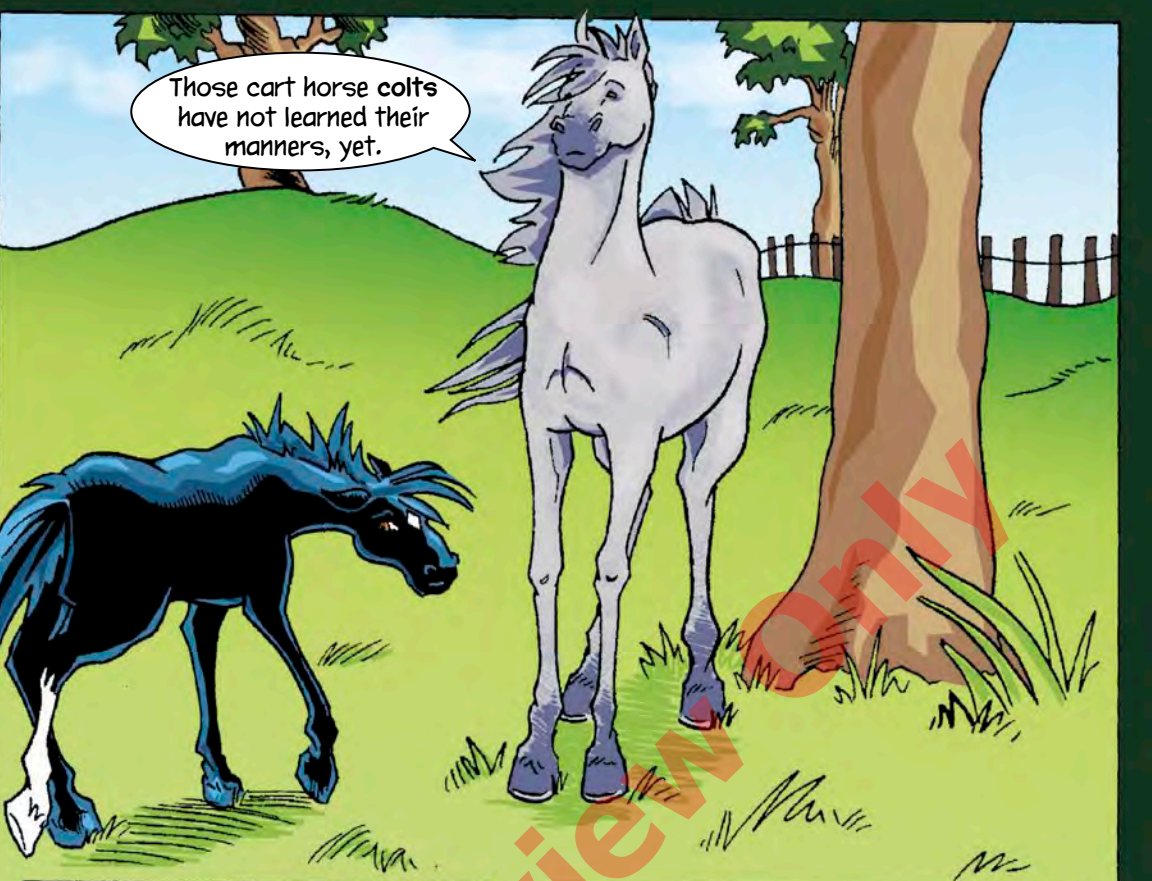
One day, while I was playing
with the other colts on the farm –



– she reminded me just
how proud she was.

Son, come here.





Those cart horse colts
have not learned their
manners, yet.



You **have** good
breeding.



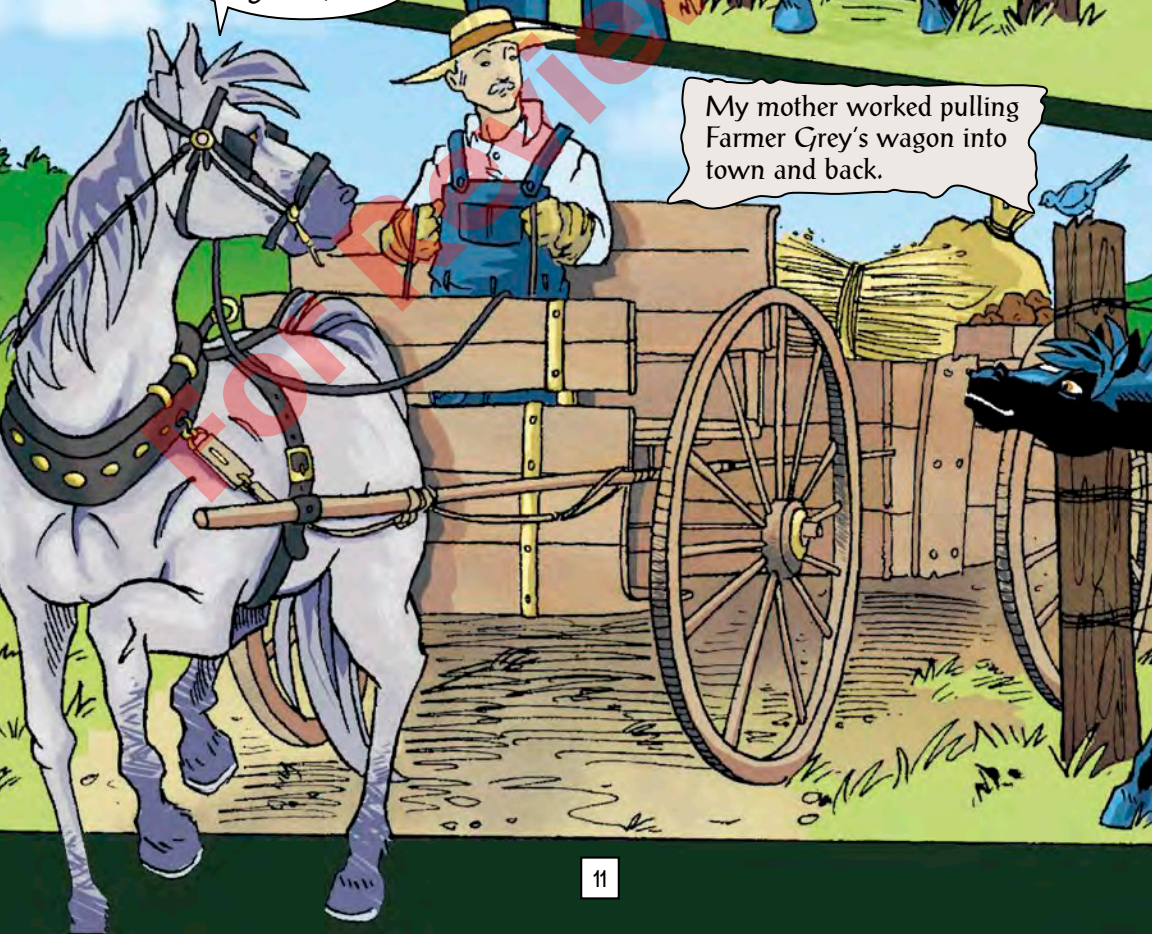
Lift your feet up when
you trot, and never bite or
kick, even in play.



Mother also taught me that if I worked hard and behaved well, my master would be kind to me like Farmer Grey was to her.

Well, old pet, how is your little one?

I'll be back by nightfall, son.



My mother worked pulling Farmer Grey's wagon into town and back.

After I had turned four years old, Farmer Grey told Squire Gordon it was time to sell me.

I'll break him
in myself, Squire
Gordon.

When he has
been broken in, he
will do very well.

Farmer Grey began by putting a bit
into my mouth. I didn't like it, but all
grown horses wore one.

The bit's in.

Let's fix
the bridle.

After that came the saddle.

There,
there, fella.



Soon I wore horseshoes, blinders, and all kinds of new things.

