

A GOOD START

Hello!

Look at this young black horse:
it's me!



And this is Duchess,
my mother.

And this is my master.
His name is Farmer Grey.



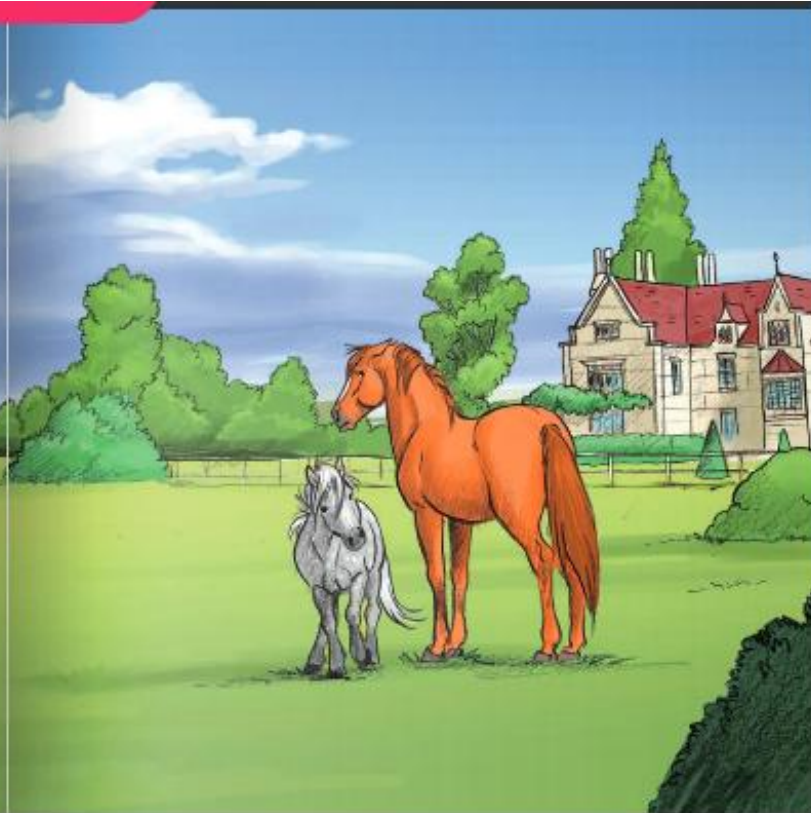
I live in the countryside* in England.
The grass* is good. And my master
is a good man. People like to ride* on my back.
“You’re a good horse,” my master says.
And I’m happy.





One day, Farmer Grey sells* me to Mr and Mrs Gordon.
They're very rich. They live in Birtwick Park.
My new home is big and beautiful.
I have new friends: Ginger and Merrylegs.

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"What a good horse!" Mrs Gordon says.
"Very intelligent! And very beautiful!
Let's call this horse Black Beauty!"

Now, I have a name, too!

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FIRE! FIRE!

Today, Mr Gordon wants to visit a friend.
Joe, the groom*, prepares Ginger and me.
Let's go!



In the evening, we stop at a hotel. Joe puts
Ginger and me in the stable*. He gives food*
to me and to my friend. I am tired* so I sleep*.
Suddenly, I wake up*.
“Look, Ginger!” I say. “Smoke*!”
“Fire*! Fire!” Ginger cries.

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All the horses panic.
Suddenly, Joe arrives. He's very calm.
"Come, Black Beauty!" he says. "Good horse!"

Soon, I'm outside. I'm fine.
But Ginger is in the stable. She's terrified.
"Ginger!" I cry.
Finally, Joe finds my friend. The firemen arrive.
But two horses die* in the fire.

