
GREAT ILLUSTRATED CLASSICS

**BLACK
BEAUTY**

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adapted by
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**BARONET
BOOKS**

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In the Shade of the Trees

Chapter 1

My First Home

When I look back, my first memories are of a large rolling meadow with a small pond. Green, shady trees leaned over the pond, and water lilies grew in the deep end.

As a colt, I was too young to eat grass so I lived on my mother's milk. In the daytime I ran at her side and at night I slept beside her. During the warm weather we used to stand by the pond in the shade of the trees. In the winter we went to a warm shed near an apple orchard.

There were six colts in the meadow besides

BLACK BEAUTY

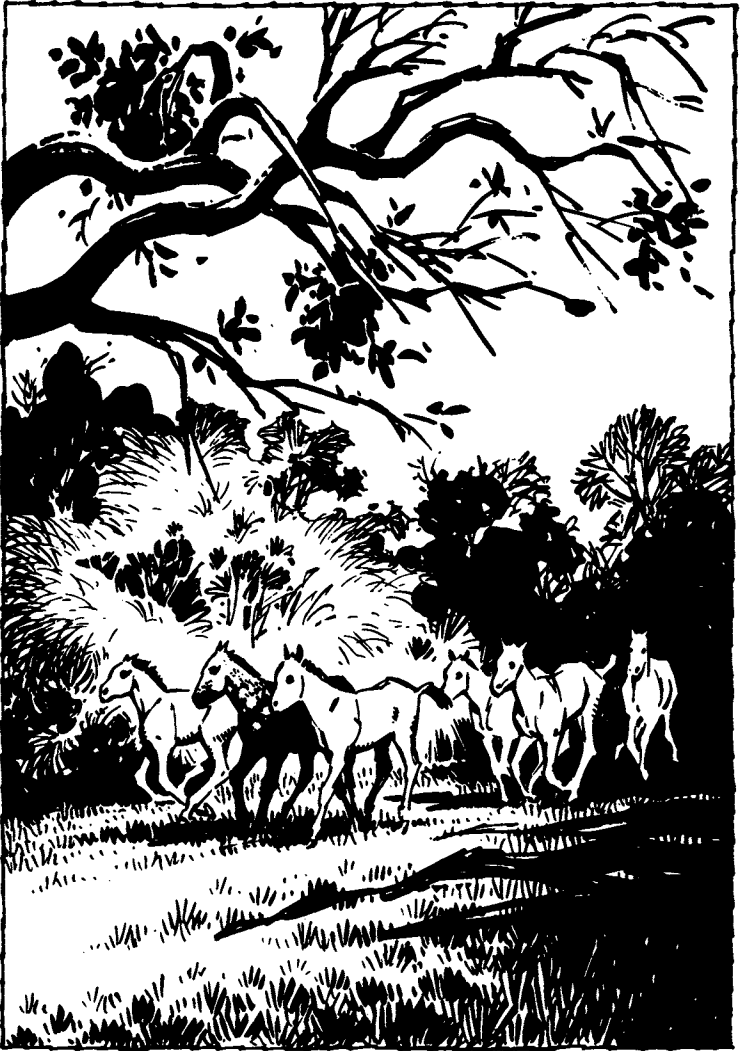
me. They were all older than I was. Some were almost as large as grown-up horses. I used to have great fun running with them. Sometimes we would bite and kick as well as run.

One day when there was a lot of kicking my mother whinnied to me to come to her, and she said:

“I hope you will grow up gentle and good and never learn bad ways. Do your work well, lift up your feet when you trot, and never bite or kick, even when you are just playing.”

I never forgot my mother’s advice. I knew she was a wise horse, and our master loved her very much. Her name was Duchess, but he often called her Pet.

Our master was a good man. He gave us good food, a good home, and kind words. He talked to us as if we were his children. We all loved him very much. When my mother



Colts in the Meadow