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BLACK BEAUTY The Autobiography of a Horse by Anna Sewell Part I 1 My Early Home The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it. Some shady trees leaned over It, and rushes and water-illies grew at the deep end. Over the hedge on one side risk the top of the meadow was a grove of lift rees, and at the obttom a running brook overhung by a steep bank. While I was young route in the meadow by the pond in the shade of the trees, and when it was cold we had a nice warm shed near the grove. As soon as I was old enough to eat grass my mother used to go out to work in the daylime, and come to the daylime, and come the custom that the part of the proposed of the property of the proposed of the pr
aning on the grass. One of the riders was getting out of the water covered with mud, the other lay quite still. "His neck that; but though I am an old horse, and have seen and heard a great deal, I never yet could make out why men are so fo her way; but we are only horses, and don't know." While my mother was saying this we stood and looked on. Many of t n, and every one looked very serious. There was no noise now; even the dogs were quiet, and seemed to know that so nd the pride of his family. There was now riding off in all directions to the doctor's, to the farrier's, and no doub t to Squ I over, and shook his head; one of his legs was broken. Then some one ran to our master's house and came bac k with a said she had known that horse for years, and that his name was "Rob Roy"; he was a good horse, and there was no vic gate we saw a long, strange black coach that was covered with black cloth and was drawn by black horses; after that c. He would never ride again. What they did with Rob Roy I never knew; but 'twas all for one little hare. 3 My Breaking In I was four years old; he said lads ought not to work like means the property of the said lads ought not to work like means the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not to work like means of the said lads ought not said the said lads ought not said lads ought not said lads ought not said the said lads ought not said the said lads ought not said the s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ten spoil good horses, and tear up the fields, and all for a hare or a fox, or a stag, that they could get more easily some ot my master, who had been watching what was going on, was the first to raise him. His head fell back and his arms hung dow im to our master's house. I heard afterward that it was young George Gordon, the squire's only son, a fine, tall young man, a m know about his son. When Mr. Bond, the farrier, came to look at the black horse that lay groaning on the grass, he felt him all loud ba ng and a dreadful shriek, and then all was still; the black horse moved no more. My mother seemed much troubled; she
                                                                                                                                                                                 nd of this sport; they often hurt themselves, of
                                                                                                                                                                                    he riders had gone to the young man; but
                                                                                                                                                                                      mething was wron g. They carried h
ire Gord o n's, to let hi
gun; presently there was a
e in him. She never would
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          go to t hat part of the field afterward. Not many days after we heard the church-bell tolling for a long time, and looking over the d anoth er, and all were black, while the bell kept tolling, tolling. They were carrying young Gordon to the churchyard to bury him and so me; my coat had grown fine and soft, and was bright black. I had one white foot and a pretty white star on my forehead. I
                                                                                                                                                                                             ame another and another an
All would never ride again. What they did with Rob Roy I never knew; but 'twas all for one little hare. 3 My Breaking In I was thought very handsome; my master would not sell me till I was four years old; he said lads ought not to work like my mouth, and my legs; he felt them all down; and then I had to walk and trot and gallop before him. He seemed to like my tr, and he lost no time about it, for the next day he began. Every one may not know what breaking in is, therefore I will y. Besides this he has to learn to wear a collar, a crupper, and a breeching, and to stand still while they are put on the must never start at what he sees, nor speak to other horses, nor bite, nor kick, nor have any will of his ow lie down for weariness. So you see this breaking in is a great hing. I had of course long been used to a hour aller and a headstar a good deal of coaxing he got the bit into my mouth, and the bridle fixed, but it was a nasty thing! Those who hing; it is very bad! yes, very bad! at least I thought so; but I knew my mother always wore one when she we now, s, I got to wear my bit and bridle. Next came the saddle, but that was not half so bad; my master put it on my back v d a few oats, then a little leading about; and this he did every day till I began to look for the oats and the saddle. At I tay I felt rather proud to carry my master, and as he continued to ride me a little every day I soon became accusto the force, that see were more new things to wear. Firsh a stiff theavy collar just on my neck, and a bridle with great side-piec e was a small saddle with a nasty stiff strap that went right under my tait; that was the crupper. I hated the cruppe uld not kick such a good master, and so in time I got used to everything, and could do my work as well as my mo night to a neighboring farmer's, who had a meadow which was skirted on one side by the railway. Here were so separated the meadow from the railway, when I heard a strange sound at a distance, and before I knew when ce i my breath. I turned and galloped to 
                                                                                                                                                                                          was now beginning to grow h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        andso me; my coat had grown fine and soft, and was bright black. I had one white foot and a pretty white star on my forehead. I like horses till they were quite grown up. When I was four years old Squire Gordon came to look at me. He examined my eyes, mell broken in he will do very well." My master said he would break me in himself, as he should not like me to be frightened or hurs e to wear a saddle and bridle, and to carry on his back a man, woman or child; to go just the way they wish, and to go quietly dehind, so that he cannot walk or trot without dragging it after him; and he must go fast or slow, just as his driver wishes. en though he may be very tirred or hungry; but the worst of all is, when his harness is once on, he may neither jump for joy nor ed about in the fields and lanes quietly, but now I was to have a bit and bridle; my master gave me some oats as usual, and after mouths cannot think how bad it feels; a great piece of cold hard steel as thick as a man's finger to be pushed into one's mouth, head, under your throat, round your nose, and under your chin; so that no way in the world can you get rid of the nasty hard to es did when they were grown up; and so, what with the nice oats, and what with my master's pats, kind words, and gentle way
                                                                                                                                                                   n; but always do his master's will, ev
                                                                                                                                                                     alter and a headstall, and to be I
                                                                                                                                                                 have never had a bit in their
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          mouths cannot think how bad it feels; a great piece of cold hard steel as thick as a man's finger to be pushed into one's mouth, head, under your throat, round your nose, and under your chin; so that no way in the world can you get rid of the nasty hard to estid when they were grown up; and so, what with the nice oats, and what with my master's pats, kind words, and gentle way y, while old Daniel held my head; he then made the girths fast under my body, patting and talking to me all the time; then I had ne morning, my master got on my back and rode me round the meadow on the soft grass. It certainly did feel queer; but I mush enext unpleasant business was putting on the iron shoes; that too was very hard at first. My master went with me to the smit y some of the hoof. It did not pain me, so I stood still on three legs till he had done them all. Then he took a piece of iron the set feet felt very stiff and heavy, but in time I got used to it. And now having got so far, my master went on to break me to harnes es called blinkers, and blinkers indeed they were, for I could not see on either side, but only straight in front of me; next, ther ng tail doubled up and poked through that strap was almost as bad as the bit. I never felt more like kicking, but of course I co orget to mention one part of my training, which I have always considered a very great advantage. My master sent me for a fort ws, and I was turned in among them. I shall never forget the first train that ran by. I was feeding quietly near the pales which and a clatter, and a puffling out of smoke—a long black train of something flew by, and was gone almost before I could draw tand a clatter, and a puffling out of smoke—a long black train of something flew by, and was gone almost before I could draw the fear. In the course of the day many other trains went by, some more slowly; these drew up at the station close by, and ty, and hardly raised their heads as the black frightful thing came puffing and grinding past. For the first few days I could not fe on
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my breath. I turned and galloped to the further side of the meadow as fast as I could go, and there I stood s no I d sometimes made an awful shriek and groan before they stopped. I thought it very dreadful, but the cows we din peace; but as I found that this terrible creature never came into the field, or did me any harm, I began to d and restive at the sight or sound of a steam engine, but thanks to my good master's care, I am as fearless at le harness with my mother, because she was steady and could teach me how to go better than a strange horse. Said she, "there are a great many kinds of men; there are good thoughtful men like our master, the at any ho reat many foolish men, vain, ignorant, and careless, who never trouble themselves to think; the se spoil men enever knows who may buy him, or who may drive him, it is all a chance for us; but still I saed to the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the province of the first lodge, and then you contain the first lodge, and then you contain the first lodge. The first lodge of the first lodge of t
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                                                                                                                                    m Squire Gordon's,
                                                                                                                                 st home. As I lived some years w
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                                                                                                                            tables. There was accomm
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         t was called a loose box, because the horse that was put into it was not tied up,
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ails th
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   as clean, sweet, and airy. I never was in a better
e some very nice oats, he patted me, spoke kindly, and then went away. Whe
                                                                                                                   n I had eat
                                                                                                                                                             en my
n the stall next to mine stood a little fat gray pony, with a thick mane
my head up to the iron rails at the top of my box, and said, "How
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ead, and a pert little nose. I put our name?" He turned round as far as his h
                                                                                                                                                              very
                                                                                                                 do vou d
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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ha ndsome; I carry the young ladies on my back, and some so d oes James. Are you going to live next door to me in the
alter would allow, held up his head, and said, "My name is Me
                                                                                                                rrylegs.
                                                                                                                                                                 am y
 imes I take our mistress out in the low chair. They think a
                                                                                                    great
                                                                                                               deal of
                                                                                                                                                                 e, an
box?" I said, "Yes." "Well, then," he said, "I hope you
                                                                                            are good-te mpere
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          t lik e any one next door who bites." Just then a horse's
                                                                                                                                                                  do n
nead looked over from the stall beyond; the ears
, with a long handsome neck. She
thing for a colt like
                                                                                       were laid back,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ed rather ill-tempered. This was a tall chestnut mare
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                                                                                                                                                                   ye lo
                                                                                                                                                                                          it is you who own home. "" I beg your par
                                                                                looked across to m
                                                                                                                                                       d said
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ave turned me out of my box; it is a very strange
                                                                          you to come and turn a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                on," I said, "I have turned no one out; the
                                                                                                                                                      dv out o
                                                                                                                                                                                  do with it; and as to m y being a c
                                                                rought me put me here, and I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   olt, I am turned four years old and a
                                                                                                                                                      d nothin
                                           m a grown-up horse. I never had words yet wi
                                                                                                                                                                    or mare, and it is my wish to live at pea ce
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             'Well
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       " she said, "we shall see. Of c
                                                                                                                                                     h horse
                                 ourse, I do not want to have words with a young thin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                           n the afte rnoon.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       when she went out, Mer
                                                                                                                                                     g like yo
                                                                                                                                                                    u." I said no more. I
                               rylegs told me all about it. "The thing is this," said Me
                                                                                                                                                     rrylegs.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       it of biting and snap
                                    ping; that is why they call her Ginger, and when s
nap very much. One day she bit James in the
                                                                                                                                                    he was in
                                                                                                                                                                    the loose
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ox she used to s
                                                                                                                                                    arm and m ade i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        leed, and so
                                              Miss Flora and Miss Jessie, who are very fo
                                                                                                                                                    nd of me.
                                                 ome into the stable. They used to bring
                                                                                                                                                    me nice thi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       o eat,
                                                     an apple or a carrot, or a piece of brea
                                                                                                                                                    d. but after
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                                                          tood in that box they dared not co
                                                                                                                                                    me, and I mi
                                                                                                                                                                       sse
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   , if you do not bite or snap." I told him I never bit anyt think what pleasure Ginger found it. "Well, I don't think she does fi nd plea
                                                              hem very much. I hope they wil
                                                                                                                                                    I now come
                                                                                                                                                                       aga
                                                                  hing but grass, hay, and co
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                                                                                                                                                                        ď no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ; she says no one was ever kind to her, and why should she not bite ? Of cour e says be true, she must have been very ill-used before she cam e here. John
                                                                      sure," says Merrylegs;
                                                                                                                                                    it is just a ba
                                                                                                                                                                        d ha
                                                                           se, it is a very bad h
                                                                                                                                                   abit; but I am
                                                                                                                                                                          sur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    Il she says be true, she must have been very ill-used before she cam
does all he can to please her, and
                                                                                James does all h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               s a whip if a horse acts right; so I think she might be good-tempere
                                                                                                                                                    e can, and o
                                                                                                                                                                        ur master
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ever u
" he said, with a wise look, "I am twelve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ou there is not a better place for a horse all round the country than
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   this. John is the b
                                                                                      years old; I
                                                                                                                                                    know a great
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     I c an te
est groom that ever was; he has been here f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       h a kind boy as James is; so that it is all Ginger's own fault that s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             he did not stay in that
                                                                                         ourteen v
                                                                                                                                                     ears; and yo u neve
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    rs aws
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       d one little child, and they lived in the coachman's cottage, ver
box." 5 A Fair Start The name of the coachman wa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          y near the stables. The ne
                                                                                             s John
                                                                                                                                                       Manly; he had a w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ife
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      o look at me, and seemed
xt morning he took me into the yard and gave me a goo
                                                                                                                                                       ooming, an d just as I w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       to my box, with my coat soft and bright, the squire came in t
leased. "John," he said, "I meant to have tried the new hors
                                                                                                                                                         e this mor ning, but I h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       usiness. You may as well take him around after breakfast;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   go by the common and the Hi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ave
ghwood, and back by the watermill and the river; that will show
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       hn. After breakfast he came and fitted me with a bridle.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               He was very particular in letting
                                                                                                                                                           his pace
                                                                                                                                                                          s."
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  sir." said
out and taking in the straps, to fit my head comfortably; then he b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       as not broad enough for my back; he saw it in a minut
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           e and went for another, which fitted
                                                                                                                                                            rought a
                                                                                                                                                                            saddle
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    , but
nicely. He rode me first slowly, then a trot, then a canter, and when w
he said, as he pulled me up, "you would like to follow the houn
ed off. "Well, John, how does he go?" "First-rate, s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       he gave me a light touch with his whip, and we ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      d a splendid gallop. "Ho, ho! my boy,"
                                                                                                                                                              e were o n the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      rough the park we met the Squire and Mrs. Gord
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   on walking; they stopped, and John jump
                                                                                                                                                                ds. I thin
                                                                                                                                                                                                     we came bac
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      deer, and has a fine spirit too; but the lightest
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  touch of the rein will guide him. Down at th
                                                                                                                                                                                             John: "he is as fleet
                                                                                                                                                                                  wer
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      , and such like; you know, sir, many horses
e end of the common we met one of those
                                                                                                                                                                                         rts hung all over with baskets,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              will not pass those carts quietly; he just tool
                                                                                                                                                                                           ant as could be. They wer
a good look at it, and then went o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    oting rabbits near the Highwood, and a g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         un went off close by; he pulled up a little and loo
                                                                                                                                                                           pleas
ked, but did not stir a step
                                                                    to right or left. I just held the
                                                                                                                                                                                                   steady and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             id n ot hurry him, and it's my opinion he ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      s not been frightened or ill-used while he was your
                                                                                                                                                                               rein
g." "That's well," sai
                                                       d the squire, "I will try him myself to-m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              The next day I was brought up for my m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   aster. I remembered my mother's counsel and my go
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                houghtful for his horse too. When he came home the la
od old master's,
                                              and I tried to do exactly what he wanted me to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           do. I f
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ound he was a very good rider, and t
                           he hall door as he rode up. "Well, my dear," she said, "
unt. What shall we call him?" "Would you like Ebony?" said s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ou like him?" "He is exactly what
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              John said," he replied; "a pleasanter creature I never wi
dy was at t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ow do y
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                " "Will you call him Blackbird, like your uncle's old hors
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 s black as ebony." "No, not Eb
                     No, he is far handsomer than old Blackbird ever was." "Yes," she s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   really quite a beauty, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      he has such a sweet, good-tempered face, and such a fine, int
                lligent eye--what do you say to calling him Black Beauty?" "Black Beau
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 es. I think that is a very g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ood name. If you like it shall be his name;" and so it was. When
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                e for me, that meant something; not like Marengo, or Pegasus, or Rob Roy, for I never saw two horses more alike." "That's no wondo
           John went into the stable he told James that master and mistress had chos
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                d, sensible English nam
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               a go
      Abdallah. They both laughed, and James said, "If it was not for bringing back th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                hould have named him
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                had never heard th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            at before; and so poor Rob Roy who was killed at that hunt was my bi
   ' said John; "didn't you know that Farmer Grey's old Duchess was the mother of th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                least they never
other! I did not wonder that my mother was so troubled. It seems that horses have no
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          know each other after they are sold. John seemed very proud of me; he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ns; at
used to make my mane and tail almost as smooth as a lady's hair, and he would talk t o m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              of course I did
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        not understand all he said, but I learned more and more to know what he
 meant, and what he wanted me to do. I grew very fond of him, he was so gentle and kind
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ow just how
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   a horse feels, and when he cleaned me he knew the tender places and the
                                                                                                                                                                                                 seem
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                any ill-temper. James Howard, the stable boy, was just as gentle and pleasar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           stirred up
cklish places; when he brushed my head he went as carefully over my eyes as if they w
                                                                                                                                                                                               is own, and
in his way, so I thought myself well off. There was another man who helped in the yard,
                                                                                                                                                                                          e had very little t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              and me. A few days after this I had to go out with Ginger in the carriage. I wond
                                                                                                                                                    but h
                                                                                                                                                                                       r, she behaved very w
ered how we should get on together; but except laying her ears back when I was led up
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            honestly, and did her full share, and I never wish to have a better partner in doub
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         d her w
 e harness. When we came to a hill, instead of slackening her pace, she would throw he
                                                                                                                                                                                    ht right into the collar, and pull away s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ht up. We had both the same sort of courage at our work, and John had oftener to
                                                                                                                                                          r weig
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        traig
 hold us in than to urge us forward; he never had to use the whip with either of us; then
                                                                                                                                                                               ces were much the same, and I found i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         asy to keep step with her when trotting, which made it pleasant, and master alway
                                                                                                                                                                  s together we grew quite friendly and socia
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ch made me feel very much at home. As for Merrylegs, he and I soon became grea
 liked it when we kept step well, and so did John. After we had been out two or three ti
riends; he was such a cheerful, plucky, good-tempered little fellow that he was a favorit
                                                                                                                                                                       ith every one, and especially with Miss
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      nd Flora, who used to ride him about in the orchard, and have fine games with him a
nd their little dog Frisky. Our master had two other horses that stood in another stable. O
                                                                                                                                                                           was Justice, a roan cob, used for rid
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      the luggage cart; the other was an old brown hunter, named Sir Oliver; he was past v
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   or
ork now, but was a great favorite with the master, who gave him the run of the park; he so
                                                                                                                                                                             imes did a little light carting on the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  rried one of the young ladies when they rode out with their father, for he was very gentl
e and could be trusted with a child as well as Merrylegs. The cob was a strong, well-made,
                                                                                                                                                                           od-tempered horse, and we sometime
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   s ha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 in the paddock, but of course I could not be so intimate with him as with Ginger, who sto
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ed; all who had to do with me were good and I had a light airy stable and the best of food.
od in the same stable. 6 Liberty I was quite happy in my new place, and if there was one th
                                                                                                                                                                           that I missed it must not be thought I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        c on tent
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  was
 Vhat more could I want? Why, liberty! For three years and a half of my life I had had all the
                                                                                                                                                                          ty I could wish for; but now, week after
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              month, and no doubt year after year, I must stand up in a stable night and day except when
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ek. m on th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            d blinkers over my eyes. Now, I am not complaining, for I know it must be so. I only mean to
I am wanted, and then I must be just as steady and quiet as any old horse who has worked
                                                                                                                                                                           years. Straps here and straps there,
                                                                                                                                                       we nty
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           n m y mouth
say that for a young horse full of strength and spirits, who has been used to some large field
                                                                                                                                                                          ain where he can fling up his head and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            and gallop away at full speed, then round and back again with a snort to his companions--I s
                                                                                                                                                         or
ay it is hard never to have a bit more liberty to do as you like. Sometimes, when I have had les
                                                                                                                                                        se xer
                                                                                                                                                                         cise than usual, I have felt so full of life
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             nd sp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                that wh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ohn has taken me out to exercise I really could not keep quiet; do what I would, it seemed as
                                                                                                                                                       cial ly
                                                                                                                                                                        at the first; but he was always good and p
if I must jump, or dance, or prance, and many a good shake I know I must have given him, espe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             atient
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         dy, my boy," he would say; "wait a bit, and we will have a good swing, and soon get the tickle
out of your feet." Then as soon as we were out of the village, he would give me a few miles at a s
                                                                                                                                                                        g trot, and then bring me back as fresh as
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              be for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 e, on ly c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          he fidgets, as he called them. Spirited horses, when not enough exercised, are often called sl
                                                                                                                                                        pan kir
ttish, when it is only play; and some grooms will punish them, but our John did not; he knew it wa
                                                                                                                                                                         high spirits. Still, he had his own ways of
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   rsta
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           the tone of his voice or the touch of the rein. If he was very serious and quite determined, I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            ma / kir
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                a me u nde
ways knew it by his voice, and that had more power with me than anything else, for I was very fond
                                                                                                                                                                         I ought to say that sometimes we had our
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               y fo ra few hou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        his used to be on fine Sundays in the summer-time. The carriage never went out on Sundays,
ecause the church was not far off. It was a great treat to us to be turned out into the home paddock o
                                                                                                                                                                       ld orchard; the grass was so cool and soft
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               r feet, t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       weet, and the freedom to do as we liked was so pleasant--to gallop, to lie down, and roll over or
                                                                                                                                                         rtheo
our backs, or to nibble the sweet grass. Then it was a very good time for talking, as we stood together
about my bringing up and breaking in, and I told her. "Well," said she, "if I had had your bringing up I
                                                                                                                                                          un de
                                                                                                                                                                      r the shade of the large chestnut tree. 7 Gin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  er
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             One
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     day w he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      nger and I were standing alone in the shade, we had a great deal of talk; she wanted to know a
                                                                                                                                                         mig ht
                                                                                                                                                                       have had as good a temper as you, but now
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            on't
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      I ever shall." "Why not?" I said. "Because it has been all so different with me," she replied. "I no
ver had any one, horse or man, that was kind to me, or that I cared to please, for in the first place I wa
                                                                                                                                                                     en from my mother as soon as I was weane
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           nd put
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ot of other young colts; none of them cared for me, and I cared for none of them. There was no k
nd master like yours to look after me, and talk to me, and bring me nice things to eat. The man that ha
                                                                                                                                                          dt h
                                                                                                                                                                      e care of us never gave me a kind word in m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               not m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    an that he ill-used me, but he did not care for us one bit further than to see that we had plenty to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           e. I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   do
at, and shelter in the winter. A footpath ran through our field, and very often the great boys passing th
                                                                                                                                                                     h would fling stones to make us gallop. I wa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    but one fine young colt was badly cut in the face, and I should think it would be a scar for life. We
                                                                                                                                                          rou g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          eve
did not care for them, but of course it made us more wild, and we settled it in our minds that boys wer
                                                                                                                                                                     ur enemies. We had very good fun in the fre
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          eadows.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    lloping up and down and chasing each other round and round the field; then standing still under
                                                                                                                                                          e o
he shade of the trees. But when it came to breaking in, that was a bad time for me; several men came t
                                                                                                                                                                      tch me, and when at last they closed me in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  of the fiel
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   d, one caught me by the forelock, another caught me by the nose and held it so tight I could hard
                                                                                                                                                          оса
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   on
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         e c
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   one dragged me along by the halter, another flogging behind, and this was the first experience I l
draw my breath; then another took my under jaw in his hard hand and wrenched my mouth open, and
                                                                                                                                                                     by force they got on the halter and the bar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          mv
d of men's kindness; it was all force. They did not give me a chance to know what they wanted. I was h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   bt, and gave them, dare say, plenty of trouble, but then it was dreadful to be shut up in a stall day
                                                                                                                                                                       bred and had a great deal of spirit, and w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              o d
after day instead of having my liberty, and I fretted and pined and wanted to get loose. You know yours
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   nty of coaxing, but there was nothing of that sort for me. "There was one--the old master, Mr. Ryde
                                                                                                                                                                       t's bad enough when you have a kind ma
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ste
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    nd
--who, I think, could soon have brought me round, and could have done anything with me; but he had g
                                                                                                                                                                      n up all the hard part of the trade to his s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   her experienced man, and he only came at times to oversee. His son was a strong, tall, bold man; t
                                                                                                                                                                        was no gentleness in him, as there was
hey called him Samson, and he used to boast that he had never found a horse that could throw him. Th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 but only hardness, a hard voice, a hard eye, a hard hand; and I felt from the first that what he wan
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           his
                                                                                                                                                                        sh. 'Horseflesh'! Yes, that is all that he
d was to wear all the spirit out of me, and just make me into a quiet, humble, obedient piece of horsefle
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ght abo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  and Ginger stamped her foot as if the very thought of him made her angry. Then she went on: "If I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ou
did not do exactly what he wanted he would get put out, and make me run round with that long rein in t
                                                                                                                                                                          he training field till he had tired me ou
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 he drank a good deal, and I am quite sure that the oftener he drank the worse it was for me. One day
he had worked me hard in every way he could, and when I lay down I was tired, and miserable, and ang
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 or me early, and ran me round again for a long time. I had scarcely had an hour's rest, when he cam
                                                                                                                                                                           it all seemed so hard. The next mor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           g he c
e again for me with a saddle and bridle and a new kind of bit. I could never quite tell how it came about; he h    ad only
                                                                                                                                                                             just mounted me on the training g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                ro
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           un d, w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           hen
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 mething I did put him out of temper, and he chucked me hard with the rein. The new bit was very pa
nful, and I reared up suddenly, which angered him still more, and he began to flog me. I felt my whole s 🏻 pirit set a
                                                                                                                                                                            gainst him, and I began to kick, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   rear as I had never done before, and we had a regular fight; for a long time he stuck to the saddle
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            unge, a
nd punished me cruelly with his whip and spurs, but my blood was thoroughly up, and I cared for noth
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 after a terrible struggle I threw him off backward. I heard him fall heavily on the turf, and without loo
                                                                                                                                                                         ng he could do if only I could get him
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              At
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  . I stood under an oak tree and watched, but no one came to catch me. The time went on, and the si
king behind me, I galloped off to the other end of the field; there I turned round and saw my persecutor s
                                                                                                                                                                             rising from the ground and going
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                int
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             o t
n was very hot; the flies swarmed round me and settled on my bleeding flanks where the spurs had dug in. I felt hung
                                                                                                                                                                        ry, for I had not eaten since the early m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    . but
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ere was not enough grass in that meadow for a goose to live on. I wanted to lie down and rest, but
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              ing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             he other c
with the saddle strapped tightly on there was no comfort, and there was not a drop of water to drink. Th
                                                                                                                                                                  e afternoon wore on, and the sun got low. I sa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  Its led in, and I knew they were having a good feed. "At last, just as the sun went down, I saw the ol
d master come out with a sievé in his hand. He was a very fine old gentleman with quite white hair, but his voice was what I should know him by among a thous 🛚 and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   not high, nor yet low, but full, and clear, and kind, and when he gave orders it was so steady and de
cided that every one knew, both horses and men, that he expected to be obeyed. He came quietly along, now and then shak ing the oats about that he had in th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ing cheerfully and gently to me: 'Come along, lassie, come along, lassie; come along, come along
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         eve , a
I stood still and let him come up; he held the oats to me, and I began to eat without fear; his voice took all my fear away.
                                                                                                                                                                           He stood by, patting and stroking me
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          tin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    and seeing the clots of blood on my side he seemed very vexed. 'Poor lassie! it was a bad busine
s, a bad business;' then he quietly took the rein and led me to the stable; just at the door stood Samson. I la id my ears ba ck and snapped at him. 'Stand back,' s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    master, 'and keep out of her way; you've done a bad day's work for this filly.' He growled out som
thing about a vicious brute. 'Hark ye,' said the father, 'a bad-tempered man will never make a good-tempere d horse. You' ve not learned your trade yet, Samson
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    ed me into my box, took off the saddle and bridle with his own hands, and tied me up; then he call
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            Then he
ed for a pail of warm water and a sponge, took off his coat, and while the stable-man held the pail, he spong ed my sides
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ow sore and bruised they were. 'Whoa! my pretty one,' he said, 'stand still, stand still.' His very
                                                                                                                                                                           a good while, so tenderly that I was sur e
oice did me good, and the bathing was very comfortable. The skin was so broken at the corners of my mout in that I cou
                                                                                                                                                                           Id not eat the hay, the stalks hurt me. H e looked clo sely at i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ook his head, and told the man to fetch a good bran mash and put some meal into it. How good
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       t, s
hat mash was! and so soft and healing to my mouth. He stood by all the time I was eating, stroking me and t_alking to th
                                                                                                                                                                          e man. 'If a high-mettled creature like thi s,' said he, 'can't be b rok
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                en by fa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       r means, she will never be good for anything.' "After that he often came to see me, and when m
mouth was healed the other breaker, Job, they called him, went on training me; he was steady and though tful, and I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        e that Ginger and I were together in the paddock she told me about her first place. "After my br
                                                                                                                                                                           soon learned what he wanted." 8 Ginger's Story Continued The n
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 ext tim
eaking in," she said, "I was bought by a dealer to match another chestnut horse. For some weeks he drove u is togethe
                                                                                                                                                                          r, and then we were sold to a fashionable
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ent
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           up to London. I had been driven with a check-rein by the dealer, and I hated it worse than an
hing else; but in this place we were reined far tighter, the coachman and his master thinking we looked mor e stylish
                                                                                                                                                                          so. We were often driven about in the park
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           le places. You who never had a check-rein on don't know what it is, but I can tell you it is dre
adful. "I like to toss my head about and hold it as high as any horse; but fancy now yourself, if you tossed y o 🛭 ur he
                                                                                                                                                                         ad up high and were obliged to hold it there.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ether, not able to move it at all, except with a jerk still higher, your neck aching till you did r
ot know how to bear it. Besides that, to have two bits instead of one--and mine was a sharp one, it hurt my ton
                                                                                                                                                                        nd my jaw, and the blood from my tongue col
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              kept flying from my lips as I chafed and fretted at the bits and rein. It was worst when we have
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 'Did not your master take any thought for you?" I said. "No," said she, "he only cared to
d to stand by the hour waiting for our mistress at some grand party or entertainment, and if I fretted or stampe
                                                                                                                                                                        th impatience the whip was laid on. It was en
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    mad.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ough to dr ive o
                                                                                                                                                                                       ad an irritable temper! that I had n
nave a stylish turnout, as they call it; I think he knew very little about horses; he left that to his coachman, who
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ot been w ell brok
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               heck-rein, but I should soon get used to it; but he was not the man to do it, for when I was
in the stable, miserable and angry, instead of being smoothed and quieted by kindness, I got only a surly wor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           tried to bear it.
                                                                                                                                                                        r a blow
                                                                                                                                                                                          . If he had been civil I would have
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  willing to work, and ready to work hard too; but to be tormented for nothing but their far
cies angered me. What right had they to make me suffer like that? Besides the soreness in my mouth, and the
                                                                                                                                                                                           neck, it always made my windpip
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ped there long I know it would have spoiled my breathing; but I grew more and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       bad. and
more restless and irritable, I could not help it; and I began to snap and kick when any one came to harness m
                                                                                                                                                                          for this the groom beat me, and one day, as t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               into the carriage, and were straining my head up with that rein, I began to plur
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   urse I could not be warranted free from vice, so nothing was said about that. My hands
ge and kick with all my might. I soon broke a lot of harness, and kicked myself clear; so that was an end of th
                                                                                                                                                                           place. "After this I was sent to Tattersall's to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             be so
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             CO
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    nd he soon found out what I could not bear. At last he drove me quite without a check
                                                                                                                                                                           ; he tried me in all kinds of ways and with dif
ome appearance and good paces soon brought a gentleman to bid for me, and I was bought by another deal
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ts, a
rein, and then sold me as a perfectly quiet horse to a gentleman in the country; he was a good master, and
                                                                                                                                                                           as getting on very well, but his old groom lef
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ne came. This man was as hard-tempered and hard-handed as Samson; he always sp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      m an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  d a new o
oke in a rough, impatient voice, and if'l did not move in the stall the moment he wanted me, he would hit m
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         fork, whichever he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         have in his hand. Everything he did was rough, and I began to hate him; he wante
d to make me afraid of him, but I was too high-mettled for that, and one day when he had aggravated me m
                                                                                                                                                                               ore than usual I bit him, which of course p
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          , and he began to hit me about the head with a riding whip. After that he never da
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         im in a g
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            reat rac
ed to come into my stall again; either my heels or my teeth were ready for him, and he knew it. I was quite
hought he knew one place where I should do well. "Twas a pity,' he said, 'that such a fine horse should go to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ned to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           he man said, and so I was sold again. "The same dealer heard of me, and said he
                                                                                                                                                                                 quiet with my master, but of course he
                                                                                                                                                                                 the bad, for want of a real good chance,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            f it was that I came here not long before you did; but I had then made up my min
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 end o
d that men were my natural enemies and that I must defend myself. Of course it is very different here, but who
would be a real shame if you were to bite or kick John or James." "I don't mean to," she said, "while they are go
                                                                                                                                                                               knows how long it will last? I wish I coul
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             ngs as you do; but I can't, after all I have gone through." "Well," I said, "I think
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             hink a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                bout thi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              kindness,' and instead of punishing me as I expected, James came to me with h
                                                                                                                                                                 o d to me. I did bite James once pretty sharp, b
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               John said, 'Try her
is arm bound up, and brought me a bran mash and stroked me; and I have never snapped at him since, and I wo
                                                                                                                                                                 n't ei ther." I was sorry for Ginger, but of cours
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                knew very little then, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                I thought most likely she made the worst of it; however, I found that as the w
eks went on she grew much more gentle and cheerful, and had lost the watchful, defiant look that she used to tu
                                                                                                                                                                                                   person who came near
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                er; and one day James sa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   "I do believe that mare is getting fond of me, she quite whinnied after me thi
                                                                                                                                                                rn on any strange
s morning when I had been rubbing her forehead." "Ay, ay, Jim, 'tis 'the Birtwick balls'," said John, "she'll be as
n he got out of the carriage and came to speak to us, as he often did, he stroked her beautiful neck. "Well, my pr
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ic she wants, poor thing!" Master noticed the change, too, and one day who
                                                                                                                                                                 good as Black
                                                                                                                                                                                                     Beauty by and by: kin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       dnes s is all th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            e phys
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   od bit happier than when you came to us, I think." She put her nose up to h
                                                                                                                                                                etty o ne. well.
                                                                                                                                                                                                       how do things go wit h yo u now?
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                You ar
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              a go
m in a friendly, trustful way, while he rubbed it gently. "We shall make a cure of her, John," he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    me creature that she was; it's 'the Birtwick balls', sir," said John, laughing
                                                                                                                                                              sir. s he
                                                                                                                                                                             's wonde
                                                                                                                                                                                                         fully improved; she's
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                not th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                le sa
This was a little joke of John's; he used to say that a regular course of "the Birtwick horsebal
                                                                                                                                            ls" would coure al most any vicious hor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      of patience and gentleness, firmness and petting, one pound of each to be
                                                                                                                                                                                                          se; these balls, he sa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     d, were mad
e mixed up with half a pint of common sense, and given to the horse every day. 9 Merrylegs
                                                                                                                                           Mr. Blom
                                                                                                                                                            efield, the vicar, had a large fa mily of boys and girls; some
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        sed to come and play with Miss Jessie and Flora. One of the girls was a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             times t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     hey u
old as Miss Jessie; two of the boys were older, and there were several little ones. When the
                                                                                                                                         ev came
                                                                                                                                                                         t here was ple
                                                                                                                                                                                                     nty of work for Merrylegs, fo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           r nothing
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        d them so much as getting on him by turns and riding him all about the
orchard and the home paddock, and this they would do by the hour together. One aftern
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ut on his halter he said: "There, you rogue, mind how you behave you
                                                                                                                                        oon he had be e n out with them a l
                                                                                                                                                                                                           o ng time, and when Jam
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           es brought
   If, or we shall get into trouble." "What have you been doing, Merrylegs?" I asked. "O
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              people a lesson; they did not know when they had had enough, nor
                                                                                                                                        h!" said he, tossing his
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  head, "I have only be
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            en giving tho
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          se young
 then I had had enough, so I just pitched them off backward; that was the only thing t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                  erstand." "What!" sa
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              d I, "you threw
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               Idren off? I thought you did know better than that! Did you throw
                                                                                                                                        hey coul
ss Jessie or Miss Flora?" He looked very much offended, and said: "Of course not;
                                                                                                                                        I would
                                                                                                                                                                                                                   o such a thing for th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 e best oats tha
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          ever
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               came into the stable; why, I am as careful of our young ladies as th
                                                                                                                                                                                    not d
                                                                                                                                       ey seem
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  as smooth and as quiet as old pussy when she is after a bird; an
e master could be, and as for the little ones it is I who teach them to ride. When th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                     ened or a little unst
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    eady on my bac
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  est riding-master those children have. It is not them, it is the boy
I when they are all right I go on again faster, you see, just to use them to it; so d
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      self preaching to
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        I am the best friend and the b
                                                                                                                                                                                    trouble vou
                                                                                                                                       on't you
s; boys," said he, shaking his mane, "are quite different; they must be broken
                                                                                                                                                                                                                      en we were colts.
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         st be taught what's what. The
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    other children had ridden me about for nearly two hours, and the
                                                                                                                                                                                    were broken in wh
en the boys thought it was their turn, and so it was, and I was quite agreeabl
                                                                                                                                                                                ode me by turns, and I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        galloped them a bo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ut, up and down the fields an
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    d all about the orchard, for a good hour. They had each cut a gr
                                                                                                                     in good part, till at las
eat hazel stick for a riding-whip, and laid it on a little too hard; but I took it
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         h. so I stoppe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      v of a hint. Boys, you see, think a horse or pony is like a stea
                                                                                                                  hey please; they never thin
m-engine or a thrashing-machine, and can go on as long and as fast as t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         whipping me could not understand I just rose up on my hind
                                                                                                                                                                       k that a po ny can get tired, or have any feelings;
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              so a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              s the one who was
legs and let him slip off behind--that was all. He mounted me again, an
                                                                                                                                                  he same. Then the oth
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              beg
had
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         tick I laid him on the grass, and so on, till they were able to
                                                                                                                                                                                                   er boy got up, and as soon as he
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               an to use his s
understand--that was all. They are not bad boys; they don't wish to b
                                                                                                                                                      I like them v
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          a lesson. When they brought me to James and told him I t
                                                                                                            e cruel.
                                                                                                                                                                                                      ery well; bu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 t you see I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 to give them
hink he was very angry to see such big sticks. He said they were o
hose boys a good kick, and that would have given them a lesson
                                                                                                                                                                                                                         sies,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            en." "If I had been you," said Ginger, "I would have given to
                                                                                                         nly fit for
                                                                                                                                                        drover
                                                                                                                                                                                                        s or gyp
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      an d not
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             for yo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ung gentlem
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  ylegs; "but
when they
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             then I am not quite such a fool (begging your pardon) as
                                                                                                                 "No
                                                                                                                                                         doub
                                                                                                                                                                                                         t you w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ou ld,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          said Merr
to anger our master or make James ashamed of me. Besides, th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        my charge
                                                                                                               e chil
                                                                                                                                                                                                          are un
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              are riding; I tell you they are intrusted to me. Why, only
                                                                                                                                                         dren
he other day I heard our master say to Mrs. Blomefield, 'My de
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     he childre
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               n; my old Merrylegs will take as much care of them as y
                                                                                                                ar ma
                                                                                                                                                   da m, yo
                                                                                                                                                                                                           u need
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               not be anxious a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 bout t
ou or I could; I assure you I would not sell that pony for any
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               rfectly good-
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  trustworthy;' and do you think I am such an ungrateful
                                                                                                                money
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ered and
                                                                                                                                                         , he is
                                                                                                                                                                                                           so pe
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    temp
brute as to forget all the kind treatment I have had here fo
                                                                                                                r five years, and all the trust they p
                                                                                                                                                                                                           lace in
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 me, and tu
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      rn vi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      cious be
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  cause a couple of ignorant boys used me badly? No,
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    t I can tell you good places make good horses. I wo
no! you never had a good place where they were kind to
                                                                                                                                      o you don't know,
                                                                                                                                                                                                          and I'm
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      y for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        you; bu
                                                                                                               you, and s
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                sorr
                                                                                        aid Merrylegs, and he ga
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      used to do in the morning when he heard James' f
uldn't vex our people for anything; I love them, I do," s
                                                                                                                                             ve a low "ho,
                                                                                                                                                                                                    h o, ho!" th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               roug hh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    o se, as he
ootstep at the door. "Besides," he went on, "if I took
                                                                                     to kicking where should
                                                                                                                                                I be? Why, s old off in a ji
                                                                                                                                                                                                        , and no character, and
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        ht fi
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   nd myself slaved abo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ut under a butcher's boy, or worked to death at so
                                                                                                                                                                                                ffy
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            l mi g
                                                                                                                                                                                                      in some cart with three or four
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         Sunday spree, as I have often seen in the place I
me seaside place where no one cared for me, exce
                                                                                  pt to find out how fast I c
                                                                                                                                                 ould go, or be flogged along
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   g reat
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            men in it going out for a
                                                                                                                                              h ope I shall never come to that." 10 A Talk in
lived in before I came here; no," said he, shaking
                                                                                                     his head, "I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                        the Orchard Gin
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       er and I
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      were not of t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          he regular tall carriage horse breed, we had mor
                                                                                                                                                    hands high; we were therefore just as
e of the racing blood in us. We stood about fifte
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      iding as we were for driving, and o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           ur master used to say that he disliked either ho
                                                                                                          and a hal
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             good for
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             parks, h
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             kind of horse. As for us, our greatest pleasure
rse or man that could do but one thing; and a
                                                                                                            did not
                                                                                                                                               wa nt to sho
                                                                                                                                                                                w off in Londo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                e preferred a more active and useful
was when we were saddled for a riding par
                                                                                                                                                as ter on G
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 and the young ladies on Sir Oliver and Merrylegs. It
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                was so cheerful to be trotting and cantering
                                                                                                              ; the m
                                                                                                                                                                                     inger, th
                                                                                                                                                                                                                             mistress o
                                                                                                      ty
all together that it always put us in high's
                                                                                                                                                 . I had t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                              of it, for I always carried the mistress; her we
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      ight was little, her voice w
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                as sweet, and her hand was so light on the
                                                                                                               pirits
                                                                                                                                                                                       he best
                                                                                                                                                                                                                               ple knew what a
rein that I was guided almost without fe
                                                                                                               eling
                                                                                                                                                  it . Oh!
                                                                                                                                                                                           if peo
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    comfort to hor
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       ses a ligh
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 nd is, and how it keeps a good mouth and
a good temper, they surely would not
                                                                                                               chuck
                                                                                                                                                       and
                                                                                                                                                                                            drag, a
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 nd pull at t
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          he rein as
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         they o
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   ten do. Our mouths are so tender that wh
ere they have not been spoiled or ha
                                                                                                                                                      with b
                                                                                                                                                                                              ad or i
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         ent, the
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     y feel the slightest movement of the driv
                                                                                                              rdened
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   gnoran
                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              treatm
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