

Black Beauty - the book

Black Beauty is a novel by English author Anna Sewell. She was born in England in 1820. When she was young she injured her legs and she couldn't stand for a long time. She never married or had children, but remained very close to her mother. The book was published three months before her death, in 1877. The novel is intended to the people who work with animals especially horses. It also contains lessons about how to treat people with kindness, sympathy and respect. With 50 million copies sold, Black Beauty is one of the best-selling books of all time. It convinced many people that they must be less cruel to animals. Then in 1994 director Caroline Thompson made a film after the novel Black Beauty with the same title.

This is a story told by a horse, in his own words. It is a story of how he was treated with kindness and respect when he was a young and healthy horse, how he fell into illness and how he was passed from one careless hands to the next. Black Beauty is a beautiful, black, obedient and elegant horse. He had many owners. Some of them were good some were bad. But he always tried his best to serve them.

Black Beauty began the story with describing his first memory a "pleasant meadow." That was his birthplace. As soon as Black Beauty could walk his mother told him a useful advice that he must be a well-behaved horse. Than a few years later he became a beautiful young black stallion. He described how bad the feeling was when his master first put a saddle on his back. But that was not half so bad as it was the felling of horseshoes. After weeks of hard work none of that was a problem anymore.

It was early in May when Black Beauty was sold to his new owner. Birtwick Hall became his pleasant home for more than three years. He was happy there but still he missed his mother a lot. Here he met the horses Merrylegs, Ginger, and Sir Oliver, and the grooms James and John. He learned that Ginger got her moody nature from a hard life with previous owners. Than Groomer James got an opportunity for a better position at work so he left Birtwick, but before he went, he drove on a trip to see his friends. He took Black Beauty and Ginger with him. At a stop on the way, the stable caught on fire, but James managed to save Beauty and Ginger. James got fired after that and a new groomer Joe replaced him. Meanwhile Black Beauty got sick and Joe didn't quite know how to help him so he took him to the doctor. Black Beauty got really sick but somehow he cured. When he felt better he and Ginger were sold to an Earlshall Park.

There they had to pull the carriage. Their owner treated them badly so one day Ginger went wild. She was then used as a hunter. Black Beauty thought he has settled into a good home, but then the stable groomer Mr. Smith got drunk and took Beauty on a dangerous ride which injured Black Beauty's legs.

When he recovered he was sold again to as a job horse. He wasn't happy until he was sold again. His new owner was Jerry Barker, a London cab driver. Jerry gave Black Beauty a new name that suited his appearance. He was Black Jack now. From one day to another Black Beauty and Jerry were transporting passengers all over town. One day Black Beauty saw Ginger all in pain and wounds. A few days after he saw that her dead body was taken away.

Jerry than got sick and Black Beauty was sold again to a corn dealer. He worked very hard and they almost put him down but an unknown farmer saved him. He took him to his new and last home where Black Beauty spent the rest of his life as a happy horse.

I really liked the book because it gives you a whole new look on the world. It is a really sad story but it assumes you. I would recommend it to all who like animals, especially horses and those who want to know some good advices about how to treat people and animals. For those who don't like reading there is also a movie that is very good.