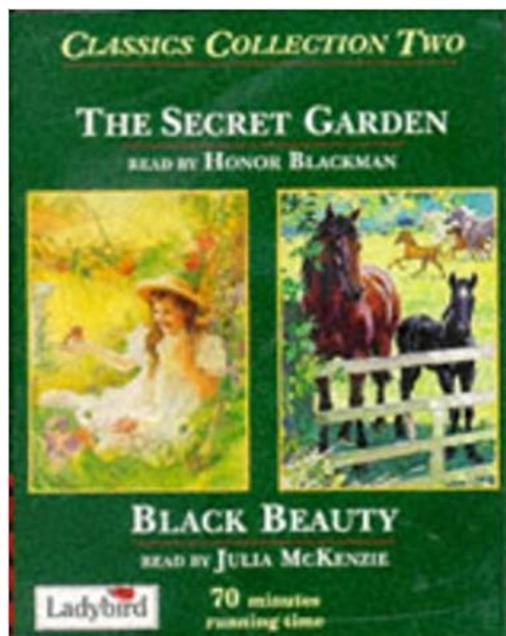


Black Beauty (Classics Collection) by Julia McKenzie, Honor Blackman, Anna Sewell



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A pack of two audio-cassettes - "Black Beauty" and "Secret Garden" - read by Julia McKenzie and Honor Blackman.



Reviews of the Black Beauty (Classics Collection) by Julia McKenzie, Honor Blackman, Anna Sewell

Fesho

The Autobiography of a Horse (Classic Reprint) - from Forgotten Books. Hardcover version is a weird, incomplete printing. Only 17 chapters in the main story, rather than the nearly 50 chapters in the regular edition. No explanation as to what was cut out or why. Then some weird additional chapters tacked on at the end.

Definitely not worth the extra price! We thought we were getting a classic reprint but we got a weird mishmash of chapters. Very odd.

cyrexoff

Anna Sewell (English Quaker 1820-1878) was one of the first equine advocates, if not the first to write a children's novel about a wonderful horse and the cruelty of man. *Black Beauty* is the autobiography of a horse.

Told from the horse's point-of-view, *Black Beauty* describes his birth, early training and his fondness for his first master, Squire Gordon, stablemates Ginger and Merrylegs and grooms John and James.

For fashion's sake, some owners insisted the grooms harness the carriage horses with their head's held high with the check rein. This made it difficult for the team to pull as well as caused other long term problems. Squire Gordon was against such devices.

When James plans on moving on, little Joe Green is trained for his position. The young boy makes a grave error in Beauty's care after the horse is ridden hard to fetch the doctor for the mistress, and the doc rides him hard back. Beauty survives the incident, but when the mistress needs to move due to her illness, all the horses must be sold.

After that, Beauty describes his life with various owners. Some are ignorant, some cruel but a handful give him the best care they can including a cab driver. Life is hard, and the author gives details of the cruelty of some grooms, drivers and owners.

At least Sewell gives the story a happy ending.

I first read this as a teen, before I took riding lessons. Looking back, I think Sewell's insight helped me decide my path on my journey to becoming a professional horsewoman.

I would recommend this book for all horse lovers except the very young.

Dobpota

The book is fine but it is the abridged version.

Zonama

I got this book because i was forced to read it in school and didn't really remember it. I thought I would read a page and probably be done with it. But to my great surprise, I found it an amazing story from the horse's mouth. (Joke) Anyway if you've never read it or even read a long time ago, it is well worth the read or re-read!

Lanadrta

This was the only published work of Anna Sewell, Norfolk-born author. Written between 1871-77, the book details the life of a horse and is curiously written from the horse's perspective (in fact, originally described as "the autobiography of a horse"). It highlights the way work animals were treated and was originally penned by Sewell as a story aimed at those people who work with horses so that they may gain a perspective of the animals and treat them better. The book became a children's classic and established the whole genre of "horse" books that lives on today, some 150-years later. *Black Beauty* has been quoted as one of the most influential anti-cruelty novels of all time and its publication provoked outrage and changes to how horses were treated.

Dandr

BLACK BEAUTY is an all-time classic children's story. It tells the tale of a horse named *Black Beauty*, from birth to old age. It's a gentle, easy-to-read book that will find favor with children of all ages, and those adults with a little child deep inside.

One interesting aspect of the story is it's narrated by *Black Beauty* himself, so we get to see the

world from the horse's point of view...and we don't come off well in many aspects.

The story is fun on its own terms, but it also teaches consideration for all life, compassion for animals, and how important love and respect are in this world. Any child who hears this story and takes it to heart will become a better adult.

Pettalo

xcerpt from "Black Beauty" A Manly Talk You Will NOT See in a Modern Book:

"You are a very good man," said James. "I wish I may ever be like you."

"I don't often speak of myself," said John, "but as you are going away from us out into the world to shift for yourself I'll just tell you how I look on these things. I was just as old as Joseph when my father and mother died of the fever within ten days of each other, and left me and my cripple sister Nelly alone in the world, without a relation that we could look to for help. I was a farmer's boy, not earning enough to keep myself, much less both of us, and she must have gone to the workhouse but for our mistress (Nelly calls her her angel, and she has good right to do so). She went and hired a room for her with old Widow Mallet, and she gave her knitting and needlework when she was able to do it; and when she was ill she sent her dinners and many nice, comfortable things, and was like a mother to her. Then the master he took me into the stable under old Norman, the coachman that was then. I had my food at the house and my bed in the loft, and a suit of clothes, and three shillings a week, so that I could help Nelly. Then there was Norman; he might have turned round and said at his age he could not be troubled with a raw boy from the plow-tail, but he was like a father to me, and took no end of pains with me. When the old man died some years after I stepped into his place, and now of course I have top wages, and can lay by for a rainy day or a sunny day, as it may happen, and Nelly is as happy as a bird. So you see, James, I am not the man that should turn up his nose at a little boy and vex a good, kind master. No, no! I shall miss you very much, James, but we shall pull through, and there's nothing like doing a kindness when 'tis put in your way, and I am glad I can do it."

"Then," said James, "you don't hold with that saying, `Everybody look after himself, and take care of number one'?"

"No, indeed," said John, "where should I and Nelly have been if master and mistress and old Norman had only taken care of number one? Why, she in the workhouse and I hoeing turnips! Where would Black Beauty and Ginger have been if you had only thought of number one? why, roasted to death! No, Jim, no! that is a selfish, heathenish saying, whoever uses it; and any man who thinks he has nothing to do but take care of number one, why, it's a pity but what he had been drowned like a puppy or a kitten, before he got his eyes open; that's what I think," said John, with a very decided jerk of his head.

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