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Yuan Ching

*The Story of
Little Black Horse*

小黑馬的故事

(簡寫本)



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· 英语阅读教材 ·

THE STORY OF
LITTLE BLACK HORSE

小黑馬的故事

(簡写本)

袁靜原著

北京外国语学院英语系
課外閱讀教材小組 改譯、注釋



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本书简介

《小黑馬的故事》描写一批旧社会遗留下来的流浪儿。解放后，他們在党与国家的撫育和教导下，从劳动中得到了改造，变成社会主义的建設者。小黑馬就是其中的一个。

故事中的另一个人物——荣誉軍人刘德山在革命战争中受了弹伤，因而瘸腿。解放后，他担任芦台国营农場的青年队队长，直接負責这批流浪儿的教育和改造。他忠于党的事业，全心全意地完成任务，处处表现出人民解放軍的光荣传统。

《小黑馬的故事》的英文譯本，已由北京外文出版社在1959年出版。現在收在这里的并非原譯，而是根据其主要情节，以浅易的英語重新編写的，作为初学英语者的补充讀物。

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Proper Names

Tientsin 天津

Lutai 芦台

Liu Teh-shan 刘德山

Kao Pao-yuan 高保元

Monkey 大眼猴

Little Black Horse 小黑馬

Niu Niu 牛牛

Erh Hsiao-tse 二小子

CHAPTER 1

CRISIS

It was 1950, the year after liberation.

One autumn morning, three boys were walking side by side¹ down a street in Tientsin. They were dressed in rags and barefooted.

The smallest of them was Little Black Horse. The other two were Niu Niu and Monkey. They knew each other only by these names.

As they went along, they glanced over their shoulders² every now and then.³

"We part at the next crossing,"⁴ whispered Monkey, nudging⁵ Little Black Horse. "Watch out for the cops.⁶ Don't let any of them catch you."

1. side by side — 并肩地。

2. glanced over their shoulders — 朝后看。

3. every now and then — 不时地。

4. part at the next crossing — 在下个十字路口分手。

5. to nudge (a person) — (用胳膊肘儿)轻推, 促使注意。

6. watch out for the cops — 小心警察;

cop (俚) = policeman.

"Don't worry!" replied the other. "I'm too quick for them."¹

"Damn it,² you can't tell the difference nowadays between soldiers and cops. They're all in grey uniforms, with a belt round the waist."

"Why are they always after us?" asked the third boy Niu Niu. "Why don't they leave us alone?"³

"You stupid," growled Monkey. "Didn't our master say they wanted us to be soldiers? They're trying to round us up⁴ and send us to an army camp. Now you understand, don't you?"

Monkey blew his running nose⁵ and went on: "Oh, it's hell⁶ in the army. I know. I was once an errand boy in a Kuomintang army camp. I'd rather die than⁷ go back there again."

At the crossroads the three parted. Monkey and Niu Niu turned into a street running east,⁸ while Little Black Horse went in the other

1. I'm too quick for them — 他們抓不着我。

2. damn it — (咒語) 該死!

3. leave (a person) alone — 不干涉(他); 不去管(他)。

4. round up — (大批)逮捕。

5. blew his running nose — 擤了一下流鼻涕的鼻子。

6. it's hell — 那真是地獄。

7. would rather die than ... 寧死而不...

8. turn into a street running east — 拐進一條往東去的街道。

direction. Niu Niu was a country boy. He was not yet smart enough to work by himself.¹

Little Black Horse came to a stop² about a hundred yards from the crossroads. There were no policemen in sight, so he went into a grocer's shop. He took out his bamboo clappers³ and began to sing:

"As my bamboo pieces strike against each other, I come to salute the big master ..."

The shopkeeper had an old-fashioned pipe about two feet long in his hand. He ran up to the counter and down came the metal bowl of the pipe⁴ on Little Black Horse's head. "Get out of here! Don't you ever come again," he shouted.

But Little Black Horse remained where he was. Clicking his bamboo pieces, he continued:

"Have pity, boss. Don't hit me again, or I'll stay for supper. Then you'll have to give me eggs, noodles and meat, and not just a few coppers ..."

The owner came out from behind the counter.⁵ He tried to push the boy out onto the

1. not smart enough to work by himself — 自己单独干起来 (指讨乞和窃执事) 还不够机灵。

2. came to a stop — 停住了。

3. bamboo clappers [bæm'bu: 'klepəz] -- 竹板 (說快板用的)。

4. the metal bowl of the pipe — 旱烟袋的銅斗。

5. came out from behind the counter — 从柜台后面跑出来。

pavement, but Little Black Horse stood his ground.¹ Just at this moment he felt a big hand fall upon his shoulder. He looked up and saw a man with a belt.

"Come with me," said the policeman. "And don't make any more trouble."

"Where to?" asked Little Black Horse.

"The Children's Home," the policeman answered. "You'll be given food and work there. The People's Government will look after you.² You won't have to beg any more. Hurry up now!"

Little Black Horse looked at the policeman's club, and followed. He found himself going back the way he had come.³ Soon they reached the crossroads and turned into the main street. As they came near a cinema, they saw people pouring out into the street.⁴ It was the end of the afternoon show.

Suddenly Little Black Horse dashed into the crowd.⁵ The policeman went after him. But the boy was soon out of sight.⁶ He disappeared into one of the byways before anyone could stop him.

1. stood his ground — 坚持不动; 坚守阵地。

2. will look after you — 会照顾你。

3. going back the way he had come — 沿着原路回去。

4. pouring out into the street — 拥到大街上来。

5. dashed into the crowd — 冲进人群里面去。

6. was out of sight — 看不见了。

"The little devil!" the policeman sighed.

Little Black Horse wandered about the streets for the rest of the evening. He had bad luck that day. He knew he was in for a beating¹ when he went back to his master.

The moon was now high up in the sky. Little Black Horse knew it was about 9 o'clock. All the shops were closing for the night. He started "home," prepared for the worst.²

His master was a thief, a big man with a pock-marked face.³ People called him Smallpox Li.⁴ He had taken in several homeless boys and taught them how to beg and steal. Each night they had to turn over⁵ to him everything they managed to get during the day.

They all lived together in a hovel that belonged to the owner of a small restaurant. Their room was under an outdoor stairway. It was low and small. At night the master himself slept on a wooden bed, while the children lay on an old wornout mattress on the ground. They ate the leftovers⁶ from the restaurant.

1. was in for a beating — 一定得挨打.

2. prepared for the worst — (思想上)有了从最坏方面着想的准备(过去分詞短語).

3. a pock-marked face — 麻臉.

4. Smallpox Li — 李麻子.

5. to turn over — 交出.

6. leftovers — 剩飯剩菜.

What Little Black Horse dreaded most of all was the coming of winter. Often on a cold day he was given a big drink of *kuotiang* wine by his master. Then he was told to go and lie in the snow with nothing but a shirt on. That was one of Smallpox Li's best tricks. The boy would come back with more money than usual, but nearly frozen to death.

When Little Black Horse got back that night, he found his master sitting on the bed, holding, as usual, a bottle in his hand. He did not, however, beat the boy or scold him. Instead, he said to Little Black Horse, "Go and have your supper. It's on the barrel."

Little Black Horse ate hungrily, although the food was as cold as ice. While he was eating, the man said, "Little Black Horse, things are getting tough for us.¹ We have to give up this business and go into something else."

He got up. A few unsteady steps, and he was standing right in front of Little Black Horse. "Turn over all your savings to me,"² he said in a loud voice, "and let's be partners in the new business."

Little Black Horse dared not look his mas-

1. things are getting tough [taf] for us — 我們的
日子越来越不好过了。

2. Turn over all your savings to me — 把你积蓄
的錢都交給我。

ter in the face. Before he himself knew it¹ he put his hand over a patch on his coat. Inside was hidden a big banknote which he had picked up in the street a few days before.

The thief immediately ripped the patch off² and took the money away from Little Black Horse. "We are partners now," he laughed.

All Little Black Horse could do was to wipe the tears out of his eyes and lie down to sleep. Neither Monkey nor Niu Niu came back that night. "Have the police got them?" Little Black Horse wondered as he fell asleep.

The next morning, long after daybreak, another boy woke him up. With tears rolling down his cheeks, the boy cried, "You fool! The master has gone and you are still sleeping. He has run away with my pocket watch ..."

Sure enough, all that was left on the master's bed was two wooden boards and nothing more.

What now?³

-
1. before he himself knew it ... 他不知不覺地...
 2. ripped the patch off — 把補上的一塊布撕掉。
 3. What now? — 現在怎辦呢?

CHAPTER 2

UNCERTAINTY

Hungry and cold, Little Black Horse wandered about the streets all morning. The smell of food from the shops made him feel hungrier than ever. Suddenly he saw a man with a belt coming in his direction. With him were several ragged children.

In a flash¹ Little Black Horse turned around and started off in the opposite direction. As he ran, he heard someone calling him. Looking back over his shoulder he saw Niu Niu, and stopped.

When Niu Niu came up to him, he asked suspiciously, "Who's the man with the belt?"

"It's all right," Niu Niu replied. "Don't get scared!"

"Is he a cop?"

"No, only a crippled soldier. Look, here he comes."

The man smiled at them as he hobbled along,² several boys close behind him. Niu Niu said to him, "Will you go first, uncle? I'll come along in a minute."

Strange! How did Niu Niu come to have an uncle, Little Black Horse wondered.

1. in a flash — 立刻，一眨眼的工夫。

2. he hobbled along — 一蹒一拐地走过来。

"Take this. You must be hungry," said Niu Niu, giving him a rice cake.

Little Black Horse was as hungry as a wolf. He took two or three bites, and then asked, "Where were you last night? What has become of Monkey?"¹

"Monkey was caught picking a man's pocket.² I went with him to the Children's Home."

"Oh, you mean they are going to put you in the army?"

"Do you still believe what that old thief said? Listen to this: The People's Liberation Army doesn't want us. We're too young to join. Back in the country I saw children about my age trying to enlist. But they were turned down³ by the officer."

"What sort of a place is the Home?"

"Come and see for yourself.⁴ Did you see those boys with the crippled soldier? They all seem to like it."

Little Black Horse thought for a while. Then he said, "All right, I'll come. If I don't like it, I'll just walk out."

1. What has become of Monkey? — 猴子怎么了?

2. was caught picking a man's pocket — 在掏人家腰包时被抓住了。

3. turn down — 拒絕。

4. Come and see for yourself — 你跟我来，自己去看看。

So Niu Niu took Little Black Horse to a Home for the Homeless. The place consisted of many rooms and several courtyards. It was full of people, men and women, young and old. The two boys went to the section for children, where they saw the crippled soldier bending over his desk.¹

He nodded to Little Black Horse and said, "You are a new boy, aren't you? Let me put down your name first. What is your name?"

"I have no name," the boy answered.

"We all call him Little Black Horse," said Niu Niu. "He is small and black, just like a little black horse."

The children who stood around all laughed. The soldier went on: "What did your mother call you?"

Little Black Horse had made up his mind not to give his real name. He was not sure whether he was going to stay. So when his eyes lighted on a bottle of ink on the desk,² he said, "She called me Ping-erh (bottle)."

The crippled man wrote that down in the book and asked the boy's age.

"Fifteen," he answered.

"What is your father's trade?"

1. bending over his desk — 低头坐在桌子边 (在工作)。

2. his eyes lighted on a bottle of ink on the desk — 偶然看到桌上放着一瓶墨水。