

NOW a Columbia Picture

"Run Wild, Run Free"

DAVID ROOK

(Original title: The White Colt)



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The strange, silent boy who roams the moors is a mystery to everyone. Why doesn't Philip talk? Why does the beautiful wild colt follow him? They seem to have a secret understanding.

But now the colt has vanished. Can Philip find him, or has he lost the only friend he's ever known?

Unusual story of a young boy's private world—now a major motion picture presented by Columbia, starring John Mills, Sylvia Syms, Bernard Miles and Mark Lester, brilliant young star of "Oliver."



A Scholastic **STARLINE EDITION**

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NEW YORK TORONTO LONDON AUCKLAND SYDNEY

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Run Free"*

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1st printing September 1969

Printed in the U.S.A.

For my parents

m Dr. John Morrissey, M.B., D.P.M., to Miss
ne Vernon, M.A.

Request for Psychological Testing

Philip Ransome, aged 6 years 5 months.

The initial interview showed that he is clearly disturbed. At no time did he make any attempt at speech. He showed signs of distress at unexpected noises and became anxious if attention was focused upon him.

With regard to the parents it is quite clear that their relationship is strained. I get the impression that the mother plays the dominant role and I would suggest that she may have made too many emotional demands on the child.

REPORT:

from Miss Anne Vernon, M.A. to Dr. John Morrisey.

PHILIP RANSOME

PSYCHOLOGICAL TESTING

Date of birth: 27.1.49. Parents: James and Ellen Ransome.

Age: 6 years 5 months.

Date of Examination: June 14th, 1955.

When Philip came for Psychological Testing in June 1955 it was hoped to make some assessment of his level of general intelligence and of his capabilities.

Personal History:

Philip's progress during infancy was apparently normal. He spoke his first word at the age of 1 year and could sing nursery rhymes at 2. His speech development up to the age of 5 years was relatively normal apart from a tendency to stammer, which appeared around the age of 3½ years. This condition worsened progressively until around the age of 5 years when he began to withdraw and gradually ceased to make any attempt to communicate with those around him.

By the age of 6 years he was virtually without speech, although he could understand what was said to him. His parents claim that he was "emotionally cold" towards them and that he preferred to play alone rather than with other children.

There is no history of epilepsy, and E.E.G. records show no positive evidence of abnormality.

Philip's behaviour in the test situations was comparative with the description given by his parents. He has spoken only a few words and seems to be frightened by loud and sudden noises.

Psychological Investigations:

Philip is a slender blue-eyed child with brown hair. When he came for testing he was not shy and showed a lively interest in the test materials on the desk.

Unfortunately it has not been possible to obtain any reliable estimate of Philip's I.Q. Luria's work indicates that lack of speech (i.e., language) development tends to retard cognitive function. Philip is undoubtedly suffering from severe retardation, probably induced by emotional strain. Because of his apparently autistic withdrawal and lack of cooperation in various tasks, it was not possible to estimate his intelligence with any accuracy.

One has the impression that Philip is alert and

aware of his surroundings. In his case the underlying emotional stresses must be remedied before progress can be made on an intellectual level.

Part of a letter from Dr. Morrisey to Mr. and Mrs. Ransome, dated June 25th, 1955:

I believe that it will be of great value to Philip if he be allowed to attend at the clinic so that we can try to help him with some of his difficulties. If you agree, I would suggest that he comes twice weekly for therapy, which will probably continue for some weeks. These problems take time to resolve, as you will realise, but I am sure that we can help your son.

There is one aspect of the situation which I feel I must mention: Children react strongly to the atmosphere in the home. Even in the absence of open quarrels and disagreements, a strained relationship between the parents can cause untold damage. Philip is a very sensitive child and I believe that he is finding it increasingly difficult to cope. I cannot urge you too strongly to see that there is a relaxed atmosphere in the home in which no demands are made upon him. While he is undergoing therapy it is essential that you treat him in a relaxed and accepting way.

July 29th, 1955

Greylands
Hexworthy

Dear Dr. Morrisey,

This is to let you know that I shall not be bringing Philip to the clinic any more.

My husband and I believe that the treatment is having no effect at all and as the journey into Exeter is so difficult for me we have agreed that it is best to call it off.

Thank you very much for trying to help.

Yours sincerely,
Ellen Ransome.

Extract from letter from Miss Anne Vernon, M.A., to Dr. John Morrisey, M.B., D.P.M.

Thank you for the copy of Mrs. Ransome's letter. I wonder whether she will ever fully realise what she is doing to the poor child? Sometimes I despair.

Letter enclosed with Philip Ransome's end-of-term report, dated July 18th, 1964.

Dear Mrs. Ransome,

Now that Philip is fifteen I feel that we cannot

possibly cope with him any longer. I am sure that you are aware that we are under-staffed, and in a large class Philip cannot be given enough of the individual attention he requires.

I must remind you that I have repeatedly advised you to place him in a special school, and I still believe that he would have improved considerably had you done so.

I now suggest that you contact the Education Officer about the boy's future. I have informed the department that I am no longer able to take him here.

Yours sincerely,
H.S. Taylor.

Pure is the white pony
Who lies in the empty valley
With a bundle of fresh hay.
He is like a piece of jade.

Oh, do not be like gold or jade.
Do not go far from my heart!

(from *The Book of Songs*,
probably compiled by Confucius,
translated in *The White Pony*,
edited by Robert Payne, published
by Allen and Unwin, 1947)

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