

Ride for Your Life

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VORSCHAU

Contents

Chapter 1	A long way from home	4
Chapter 2	A boy and his horse	7
Chapter 3	Where is Aunt Jean?	11
Chapter 4	Lights in the night	15
Chapter 5	A dangerous farm	18
Chapter 6	Riding lessons	21
Chapter 7	Who is in the barn?	26
Chapter 8	Ride for your life	32
Chapter 9	Return to Five Trees Farm	35
Activities		37
Glossary		45

A long way from home

The bus doors opened. The bus driver looked at the girl. 'Here we are, Miss,' he said. 'Ballycare.'

'Thank you,' said Annie Grant. She looked out of the bus and saw trees and fields of green grass. There was no town. There were no houses and no people.

'Is this it?' Annie asked.

'Yes, Miss,' the bus driver answered. 'It's not a big place. There are some farms and houses.' He showed her a narrow lane. 'If you walk down that lane, you come to a shop. You can ask Mrs Murphy, the shopkeeper, where your friends live.'

'My aunt,' Annie said. 'My mother's sister. I'm going to stay with my Aunt Jean.'

She got off the bus and put her bag on her back. The bus drove away.

Annie wasn't very happy. She was a long way from her home in Scotland. She didn't want to come to Ireland. She liked her Aunt Jean but she really wanted to stay in Glasgow with her mother. But Annie's mother, Sandra, was very sick and had to go into hospital. Sandra didn't have any family in Scotland so she wanted her daughter to go to her sister Jean. Annie and her mother took a bus to the train station in Glasgow. Then Annie took a train to Liverpool in England. There she took a boat at night across the Irish Sea to Dublin. The next morning she took a train from Dublin to Cork.

Aunt Jean wasn't at the train station in Cork to meet Annie. Annie phoned her in Ballycare but she didn't answer. Annie phoned the hospital in Glasgow but she couldn't talk

to her mother. Annie waited at the station for a long time. Aunt Jean didn't come. Annie asked at the station about the bus to Ballycare. All the way on the bus she thought, *Where is Aunt Jean? Did she forget me?*

Now it was late in the afternoon. Annie stood on the side of the road. *I must find Mrs Murphy's shop*, she thought. *She'll show me the way to Five Trees Farm*. She looked down the lane. There were hedges on both sides of it. *This way, the driver said*. The sky was getting darker so she walked quickly. She was a city girl and thought the country was dangerous.

Soon she saw the shop at the end of the lane. But she didn't see any people near the shop.

Suddenly she heard a voice calling, 'Jump, Midnight!' A big black horse jumped over a hedge onto the lane in front of her. The horse stopped just before it hit her. On its back was a boy with red hair and green eyes. He was wearing a riding hat.

'You stupid boy!' said Annie. 'Your horse nearly hit me. It's dangerous! And you're a bad rider!'

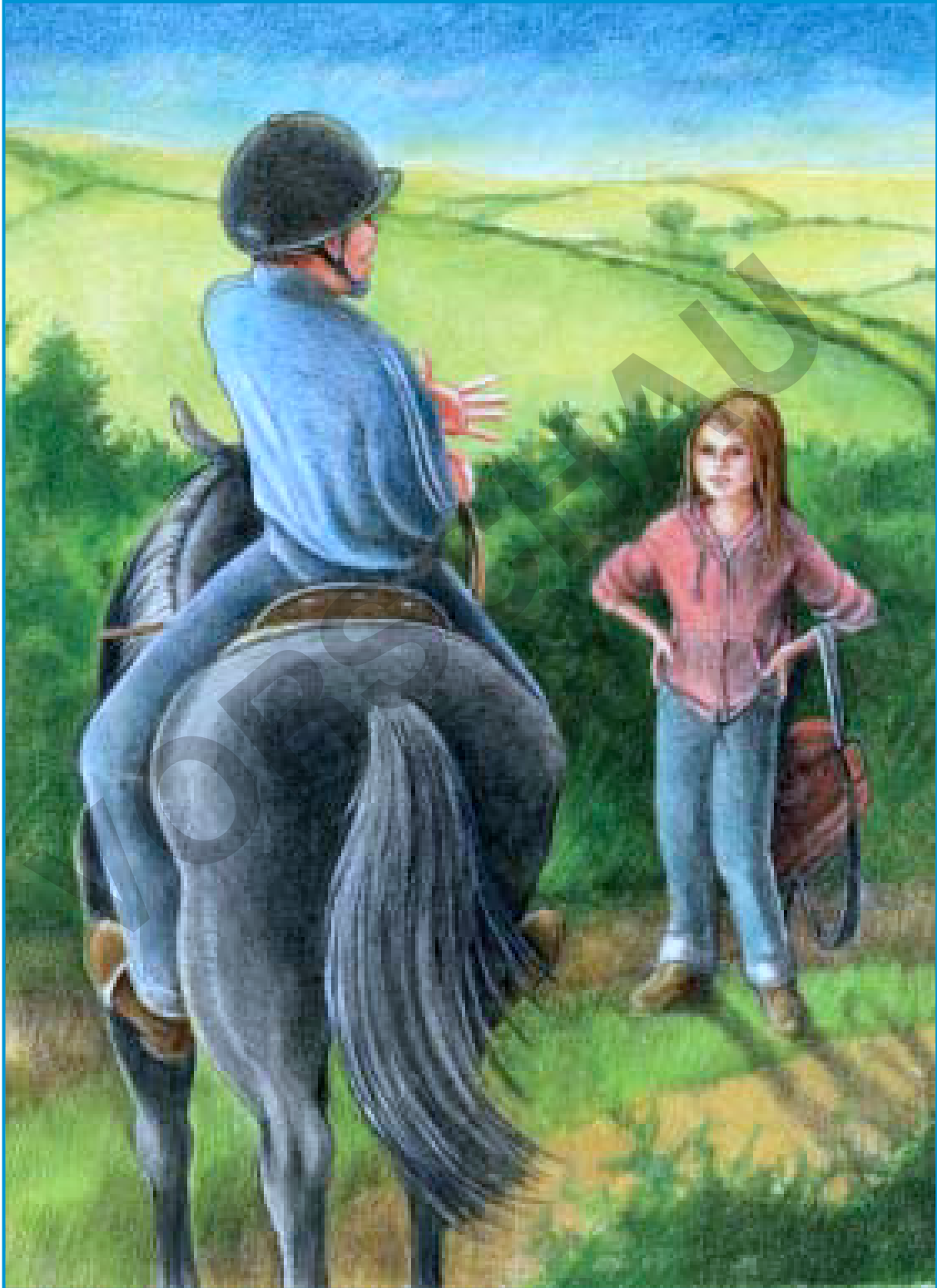
The boy looked down at Annie. 'I'm not stupid. And Midnight isn't dangerous,' he said. 'We jump over hedges every day and don't hit people.' He smiled a friendly smile. 'I'm Patrick Devlin. My friends call me Pat. I live in Ballycare. Who are you? We don't see many strangers here, little girl.'

'I am a stranger but I'm not a little girl,' Annie said angrily. 'I'm thirteen years old.'

Pat said, 'Thirteen! You're very small. I thought you were ten.'

Annie didn't like this boy. She walked away from him.

'The shop's shut,' he called. 'It shut early today.'
What am I going to do? Annie thought. I must find Aunt Jean. I must.



Who is in the barn?

Annie heard a car in the night. She thought it was the men coming back but she didn't get up. She didn't sleep well and was very tired in the morning. Aunt Jean was not in the house when Annie got out of bed. There was a letter for her on the kitchen table. It said 'I'M SHOPPING. DON'T GO OUT'.

Shopping again? Annie thought.

She dressed and then ate breakfast. She thought very hard. *Are the men in the barn this morning? Where were they when the police came? And where is Mary?* She walked out of the back door and over to the barn. She saw the white pony in his field. He watched her. The barn door was shut and there was a new lock on the door. Annie walked behind the barn. The white car was not there. Annie tried to look in the barn windows but they were very dirty. She heard a child crying softly in the barn. Was it Mary?

The only way into the barn was through a window. Annie found a rock on the ground and hit one of the windows. There was a loud noise and the glass broke. The child in the barn screamed. Annie looked in. It was dark but she could see Mary in there. She was on the floor. Her hands and legs were tied with rope.

'Mary, it's Annie, your cousin. Don't cry. I'll help you,' Annie called. She tried to take all the broken glass out of the window. She cut her hand.

A voice behind her called, 'Hi, Annie, what are you doing?'



It was Pat. He was riding Midnight down the hill behind the barn.

‘Pat, come here quickly,’ Annie said. ‘Mary’s in the barn. She’s tied with rope. I’m trying to get in the window but I cut my hand.’

Pat jumped off Midnight and tied her to a tree near the barn. He looked into the barn and saw Mary.

‘I’m going to get in the window. I’ll get Mary out,’ he said.

Pat got in the window. Mary stopped crying. He picked up the little girl and carried her to the window.

‘She’s easy to carry,’ Pat said. ‘She’s very light.’

He gave Mary to Annie. Annie put her on the grass. Pat got out of the window then untied Mary’s ropes. Mary stood up. She tried to walk. ‘My legs hurt,’ she said.

‘Sit down, Mary,’ Pat said.

‘Where’s Mummy?’ Mary asked.

‘She’s shopping,’ Annie said. ‘She’ll be home soon. Who did this to you, Mary?’

‘The man with Daddy,’ said Mary. ‘I don’t like him. He tied me up.’

‘Come over here,’ Pat said to Annie. They moved away from Mary. Pat spoke quietly. ‘This is bad, Annie,’ he said. ‘Your uncle’s escaped from prison. You know that, don’t you?’

‘Yes,’ said Annie. ‘With another man.’

Pat said, ‘Two men robbed a shop in Mallow this morning. The police think your uncle did it. The radio news said a woman was there too. Your aunt...’

‘Aunt Jean isn’t a robber,’ Annie said angrily.

‘No,’ Pat said. ‘But maybe your uncle is making her help him. Maybe that’s why they took Mary. Brendan Doyle is a

Activities

Chapters 1 and 2

Before you read

A. Look at the picture on page 6 and circle the correct answers.

1. What is the girl carrying?
a. a book b. a hat c. a bag
2. How does the girl look?
a. angry b. happy c. sad

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

hospital dangerous stranger hedge

1. We have a _____ around our garden.
2. I've never seen him before. He's a _____ in this town.
3. Jill had to go to _____ after her car accident.
4. It's _____ to drive and talk on a mobile phone.

C. Listen to Track 3 on the CD and answer these questions.

1. Who is speaking?
a. a girl and a woman b. a boy and a man c. a girl and a man
2. Where are they?
a. on a bus b. in a car c. in a shop
3. What are they talking about?
a. shopping b. where the girl needs to go c. the weather

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. Why did Annie want to stay in Glasgow?
a. Because she was sick. b. Because she didn't like Ireland.
c. Because she wanted to be with her mother.
2. What was Pat's family name?
a. Grant b. Doyle c. Devlin
3. Why did Pat ride back to Annie?
a. to tell her his name b. to say sorry and be kind to her
c. to ask her how old she was
4. Where did Pat take Annie?
a. to her aunt's house b. to the shop c. to the train station

Chapters 6 and 7

Before you read

A. Look at the picture on page 23 and circle the correct answers.

1. Who is riding Midnight?
a. Annie b. Pat c. Aunt Jean
2. How does the man on the other horse look?
a. friendly b. angry c. sad

B. Find these words in your dictionary. Use them in the sentences.

reins gallop escaped backpack

1. He was a good rider. He could make the horse _____ very fast.
2. I put my schoolbooks in my _____ and left the house.
3. To control the horse, pull on the _____.
4. Luckily, the family _____ from the burning house.

C. Listen to Track 5 on the CD and answer these questions.

1. Who is speaking?
a. a boy and a girl b. a man and a girl
2. How do they feel?
a. angry b. happy
3. Who does Annie want to ask Pat about?
a. Aunt Jean b. Uncle Brendan

After you read

COMPREHENSION

A. Circle the correct answers.

1. What was the first thing Pat taught Annie how to do?
a. get on the horse b. make the horse trot
c. make the horse canter
2. Who was the owner of Midnight?
a. Pat b. William Devlin c. Jean Doyle
3. What did Annie tell the police about Brendan Doyle?
a. He was in the barn. b. He was dangerous.
c. She didn't know him.
4. Who did Annie find in the barn?
a. Pat's dad b. her cousin Mary c. Uncle Brendan

soup /su:p/ *n.*

steal /sti:l/ *v.*

stole /stəul/ *v.*

stove /stəʊv/ *n.*

stranger /'streɪndʒə/ *n.*

stupid /'stju:pid/ *adj.*

tear /tiə/ *n.*

tie /tai/ *v.*

tightly /'taɪtli/ *adv.*

trot /trɒt/ *v.*

untie /ʌn'tai/ *v.*

woke /wəʊk/ *v.*

Suppe

stehlen

stahl (*past tense* von
steal)

Ofen, Herd

Fremde(r)

dumm

Träne

fesseln

fest

traben

losbinden, entfesseln

wachte auf (*past tense* von
wake)

VORSCHAU

