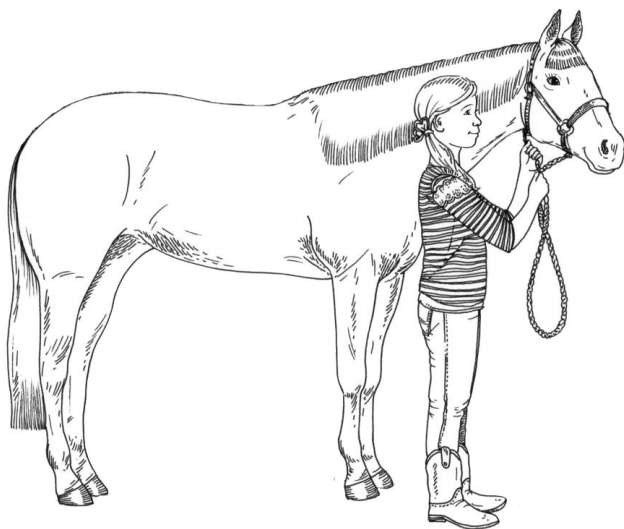


# SILVER PONY

*Ranch*

**Sweet Buttercup**



by **D. L. Green**

*illustrated by* **Emily Wallis**

**BRANCHES™**  
SCHOLASTIC INC.

# **For Chris Carson, my generous teacher. – D.G. For my sister, Maya – E.W.**

If you purchased this book without a cover, you should be aware that this book is stolen property. It was reported as “unsold and destroyed” to the publisher, and neither the author nor the publisher has received any payment for this “stripped book.”

Text copyright © 2016 by Debra L. Garfinkle  
Illustrations copyright © 2016 by Scholastic Inc.

All rights reserved. Published by Scholastic Inc., *Publishers since 1920*. SCHOLASTIC, BRANCHES, and associated logos are trademarks and/or registered trademarks of Scholastic Inc.

The publisher does not have any control over and does not assume any responsibility for author or third-party websites or their content.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission of the publisher. For information regarding permission, write to Scholastic Inc., Attention: Permissions Department, 557 Broadway, New York, NY 10012.

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are either the product of the author’s imagination or are used fictitiously, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, business establishments, events, or locales is entirely coincidental.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data  
Green, D. L. (Debra L.), author.

Sweet Buttercup / by D.L. Green. — First edition.  
pages cm. — (Silver Pony Ranch ; 2)

Summary: While staying at their grandmother’s ranch, sisters Tori and Miranda are practicing to compete in different events at the local horse show—but Ashley, a rude and conceited girl who is stabling her pony at the ranch, is constantly criticizing everything, their costumes, their ponies, Jewel and Buttercup, and generally draining the fun out of the summer.

ISBN 0-545-79769-1 (pbk. : alk. paper) — ISBN 0-545-79770-5 (hardcover : alk. paper) — ISBN 0-545-79771-3 (ebook) — ISBN 0-545-79772-1 (eba ebook) 1. Horsemanship—Competitions—Juvenile fiction. 2. Ponies—Juvenile fiction. 3. Ranch life—Juvenile fiction. 4. Competition (Psychology)—Juvenile fiction. 5. Sisters—Juvenile fiction. 6. Grandmothers—Juvenile fiction. [1. Horsemanship—Fiction. 2. Horse shows—Fiction. 3. Ponies—Fiction. 4. Ranch life—Fiction. 5. Competition (Psychology)—Fiction. 6. Sisters—Fiction. 7. Grandmothers—Fiction.] I. Title.

PZ7.G81926Sw 2016  
813.6—dc23 [Fic]  
2015011359

ISBN 978-0-545-79770-2 (hardcover) / ISBN 978-0-545-79769-6 (paperback)

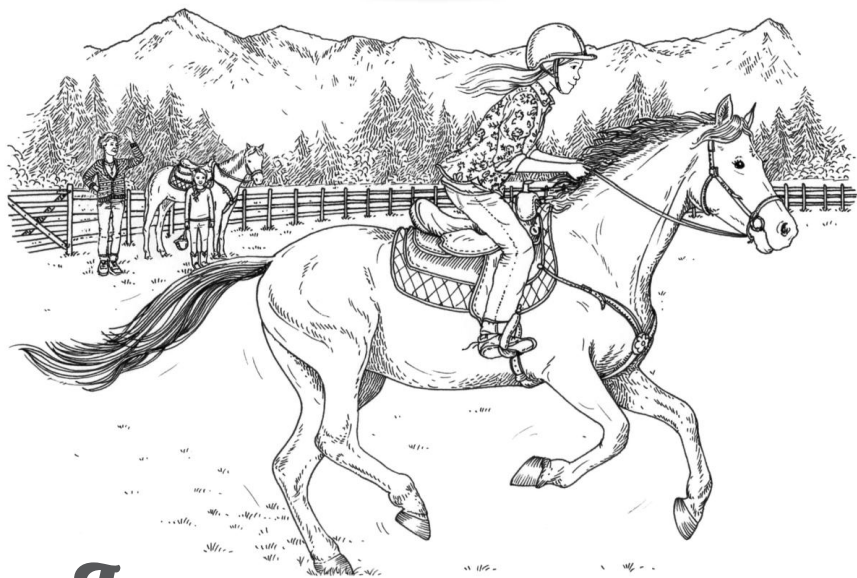
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

16 17 18 19 20

Printed in China 38  
First edition, January 2016  
Illustrated by Emily Wallis  
Edited by Katie Carella  
Book design by Jessica Meltzer

# one

## Best Summer Ever



**J**ewel and I galloped across the field. The wind whipped at Jewel's dark mane. We were flying!

"Great riding, Tori! But come here and let Jewel rest," Gran called to me. She stood near the fence with my little sister, Miranda, and Miranda's favorite pony, Buttercup.

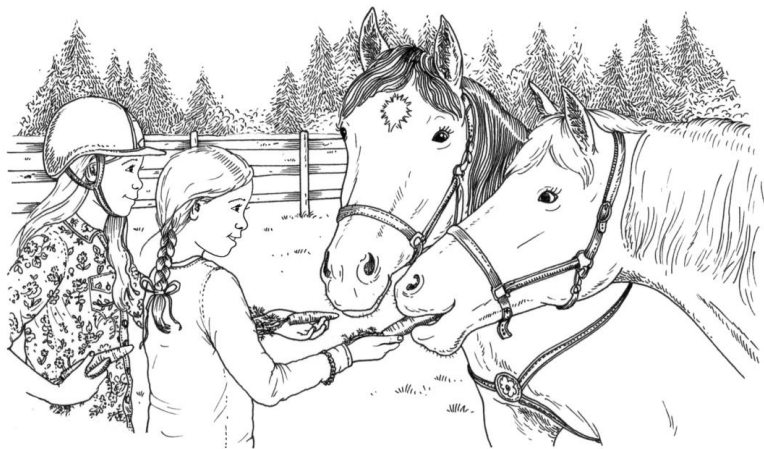
I loved spending the summer at my grandmother's ranch. I guided Jewel to the fence and pulled on her reins to make her stop.

"Jewel is the best pony ever!" I said.

"I think Buttercup is the best pony ever," Miranda said.

"Let's call it a tie," Gran said. "These wonderful ponies deserve some treats." She handed us carrots.

I wouldn't call carrots *treats*. But Jewel and Buttercup gobbled them up like candy.



“Tori and Miranda, I have a treat for *you*,” Gran said. “A girl your age is coming to the ranch today. Her name is Ashley. Her parents are renting a house nearby. And I’ll be taking care of Ashley’s pony.”

“I can’t wait to meet her!” I said.



Gran smiled. “Oh, I have one more treat. There’s a horse show on Saturday with lots of events for people and their ponies to compete in.”

“Fun!” Miranda said.

“Yeah! And today’s Tuesday. So the show is only four days away!” I said.

A loud horn honked.



“That must be Ashley and her folks now,” Gran said.

“Can I go get the puppies so they can meet Ashley?” Miranda asked.

Gran’s dog, Lady, had three adorable puppies. They stayed inside in a big pen, but we took them outside a lot.

“All right. But keep the brown and gray puppies on leashes. They’re not used to being around the ponies,” Gran said. She went to greet Ashley’s family at the front gate.

I hadn't thought this summer could get any better. But now there was a horse show coming up, a new girl to hang out with, and a pony to meet!

