

I was very afraid.

Then the hotel groom came into the stable and tried to take the horses out. But he was afraid, too, and he tried to work quickly. That made us more afraid, and the other horses didn't want to go with him. When he came to me, he tried to pull me out fast. He pulled and pulled. I couldn't go with him.

We were stupid – yes! But we didn't know him, and he was very afraid.

There was more and more smoke. And then we saw the red light of fire from the floor above our heads. Somebody shouted 'Fire!' outside, and more men came into the stable.

The sound of the fire was louder and louder. And then – James was at my head. He spoke to me quietly: 'Come, my beauty. We have to go now. Wake up and come with me. We'll soon get out of this smoke.'

He put a coat round my head and over my eyes. Then I couldn't see the fire, and I wasn't afraid. He spoke to me kindly and we walked out of the stable.

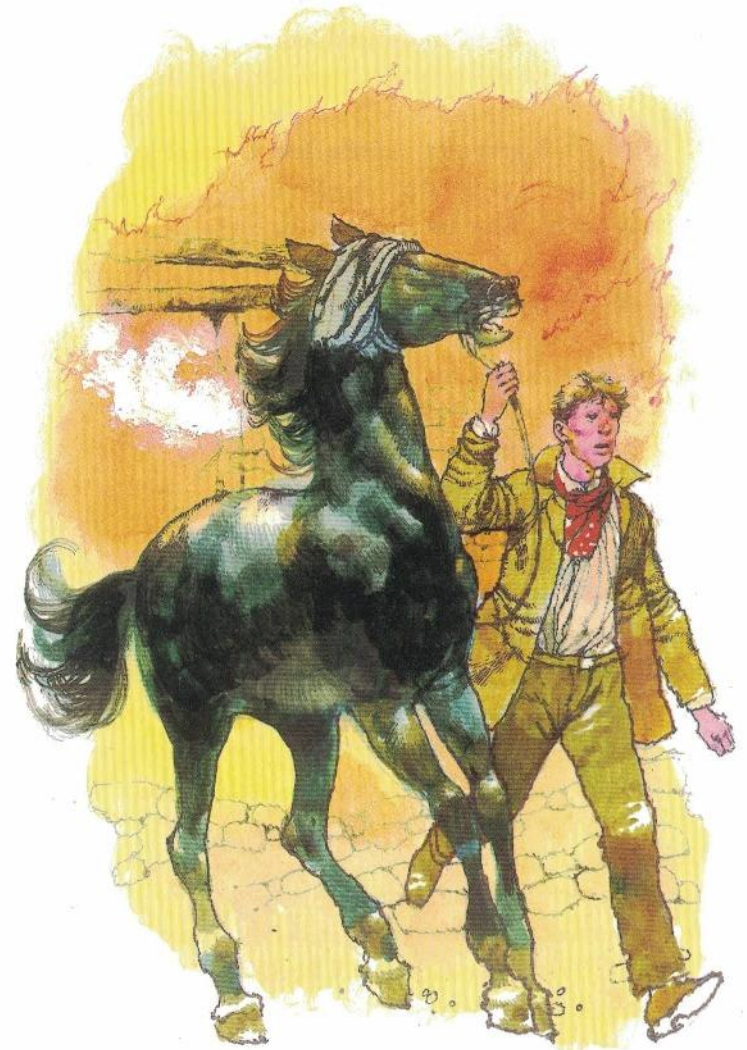
'Here, somebody,' James called. 'Take this horse, and I'll go back for the other horse.'

A big man took me, and James ran into the stable again. I was very unhappy when I saw him do this. I made a lot of noise. (Next day, Ginger said, 'When I heard you, I wasn't afraid. So I came out with James.')

A lot of things happened all round me, but I watched the stable door. There was fire and smoke inside, and things fell to the ground.

Mr Gordon ran to the stable. 'James! James Howard!' he called. 'Are you there?' There was no answer, but I heard more noises in the stable. Other things fell from the top floor. I was very afraid for James and Ginger.

I was happy when James and Ginger came out through the smoke to us.



*He spoke to me kindly and we walked out of the stable.*