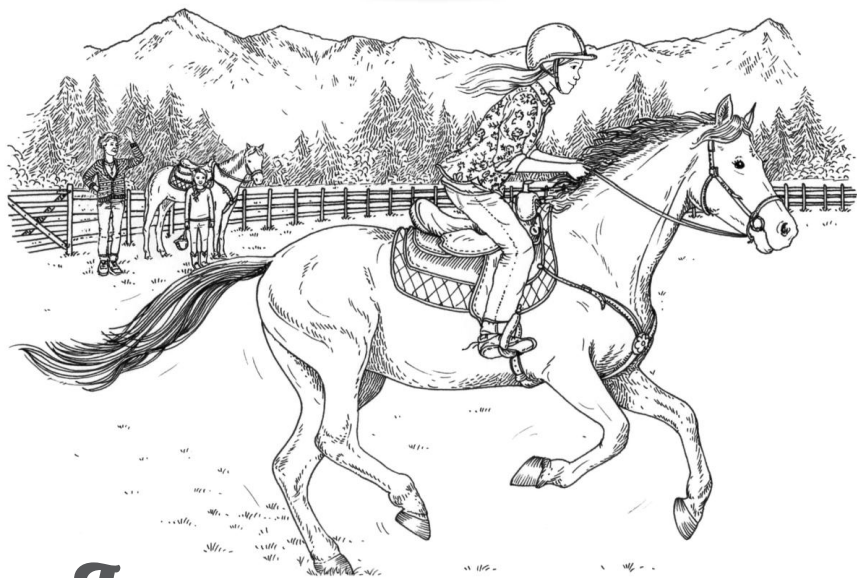


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Best Summer Ever



Jewel 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.

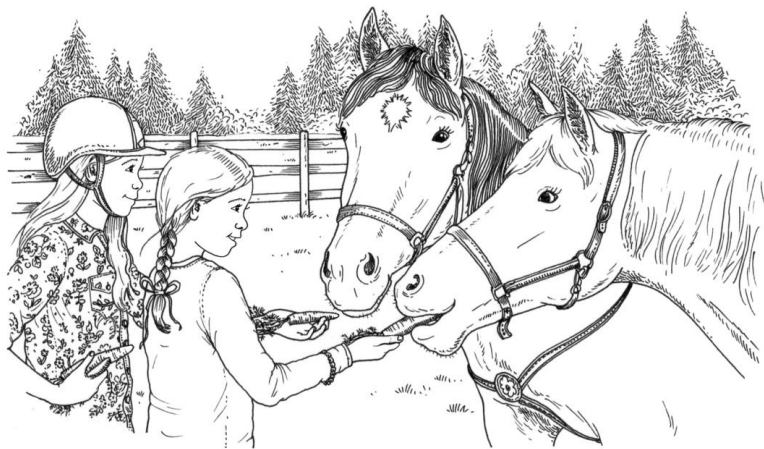
I loved spending the summer at my grandmother's ranch. I guided Jewel to the fence and pulled on her reins to make her stop.

"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!

