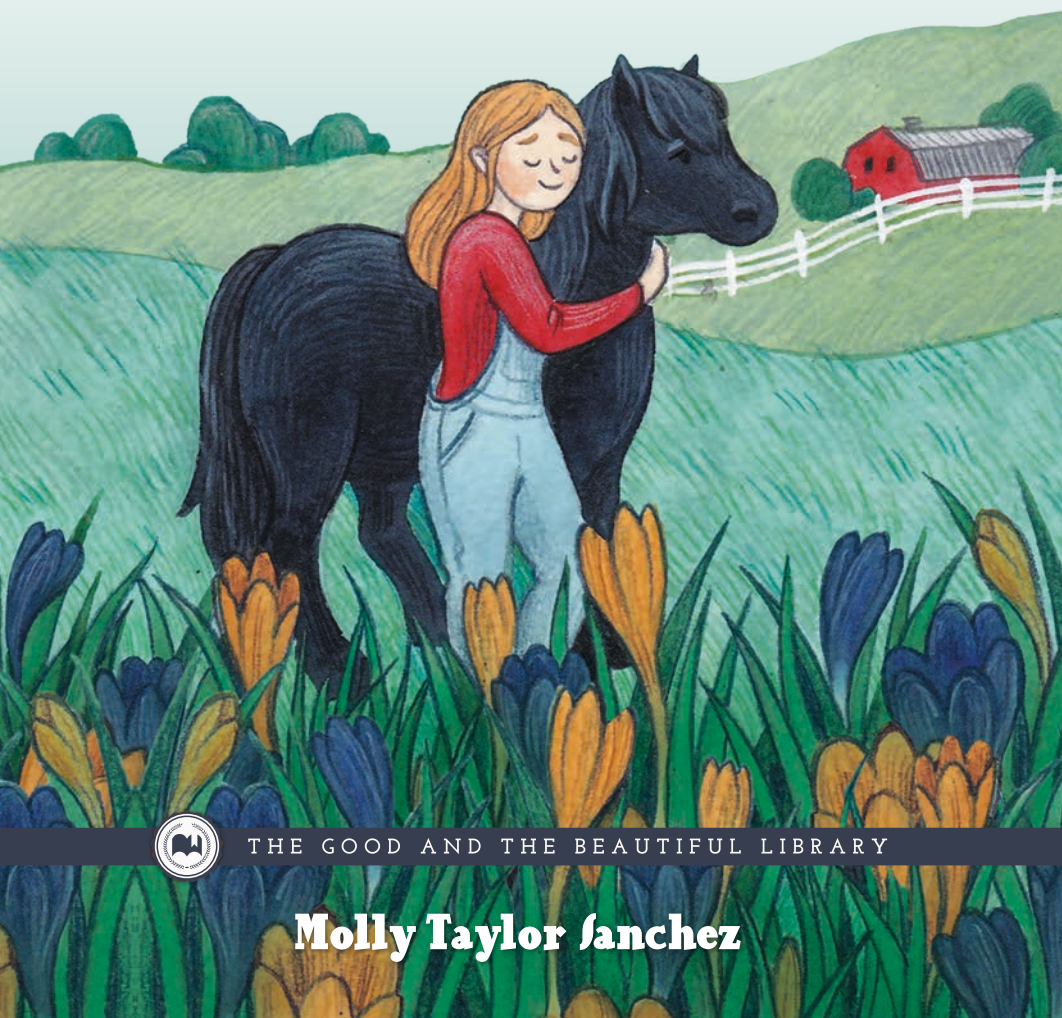


Mary Helen AND THE BLACK PONY



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY

Molly Taylor Sanchez

Chapter One

Mary Helen was a little girl who lived in a modest home on a hill.



She lived with her mom,
dad, older sister, Becky, little
brother, Bert, and Peppy the
dog.





At night she loved to look down at the valley and see the twinkling lights. Then she would look up at the sky and see many twinkling stars. And she felt happy.

Mary Helen helped her dad plant lots and lots of trees on their hill. That was so the dirt would not slide down and the house could stay on the hill.



She liked to play on the hill and hunt for rocks, shells, and roly polies. Bert helped her put them in old empty bottles.



Mary Helen loved going to school. She loved her teacher. She loved being in a class with her best friends, Joyce and Jules. They were twins. Mary Helen was also friends with Polly, Teresa, and Suzy.



Chapter Two

Mary Helen loved reading books. Mostly she loved reading about horses. She also loved to color horses in her Old West coloring book. The horse she most liked to color was a bay horse with a reddish-brown coat and black legs. This horse also had a black mane and tail. Mary Helen loved horses!

Mary Helen did lots of fun

things with her dad. One of the best things was going to visit Mr. Bat. He had a big red barn, some chickens, a little pony, and a big horse.

He let Mary Helen and her dad visit, and she got to ride



the pony. One time when Mary Helen was very small, Mr. Bat set Mary Helen up on the big horse.

It took off and started running away with Mary Helen on its back. Her dad



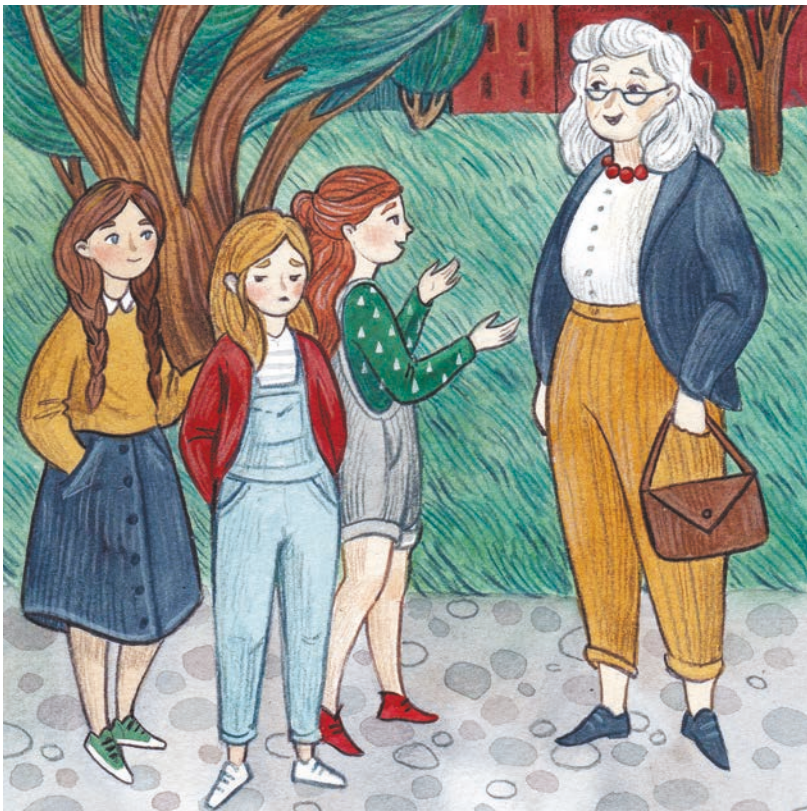
ran as fast as he could after the horse. He was very afraid that his small child would fall off the horse. But Mary Helen held on tight. When her dad reached the horse, Mary Helen was still holding on,



smiling and giggling. She was very happy!

Mary Helen loved playing with her friends. They talked about all kinds of things! It was fun and easy to talk to her friends. It was not so fun and easy to talk to other people. Jules would talk to everyone around—even to grown-ups. Mary Helen felt she was so brave. But Mary Helen did not know how to talk to people who were not her family or friends.

Sometimes they tried to talk to her. Mary Helen didn't know what to say when people talked to her, so she just looked down. That scared her.



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Mary Helen is a happy little girl who loves God, family, friends, and horses. But Mary Helen has a problem—she’s too shy to talk to anyone else! Grown-ups and older kids seem too scary to talk to, so she can only lower her head and say nothing at all. Find out how Mary Helen is able to grow and face her fears through God’s love, some helpful advice from her parents, and caring for a beautiful black pony named Moki.



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