

# Just Another Race Horse

## Chapter 1

The first things I remember from when I was born were the loving, gentle eyes of my mom. The tender touch of her nose, her lips, and her tongue was next. And then there was her smell! My mom was a beautiful dark bay thoroughbred mare, full of love and pride for me, her newborn thoroughbred son.

Within a few minutes, I tried to unfold my long legs and stand up. It was a struggle, but my mom encouraged me with her soft, loving touch. There were people around us too, but I don't remember much of what they did. I just wanted to follow the smell to drink some milk and be close to my mother.

The first months of my life were the most wonderful! I lived with my mom in a big, clean stall, but we went outside every day and spent time together in a beautiful green pasture. There were other moms and their foals, and I became friends with some of them. We played much and ran around the field, always under the careful watch of our mothers.

I learned not to be afraid of the people who came every day to clean our stall, gave us food and water and walked with us to the pasture. They were gentle and kind, and I felt special when they touched and groomed me. They taught me to wear a halter and how to follow them on a lead rope.

I grew up to be a trusting and very curious foal. A little frisky like young colts are, but I never got into real trouble. I was a happy horse, always looking for new things to discover; that I barely remember being separated from my mom. I had a wonderful time with the other young horses together and my days were always filled with playtime and roaming around in the green pastures!

As the months went by, I grew into a handsome thoroughbred yearling, dark bay like my mom, and I was without worries and had no idea as to how my life would unfold. But I think that as I was getting a little older, there were more supplements in my food because I started growing bigger and stronger within a relatively short period at some point in time. I had lots of energy and fun as I was just a happy and naïve young colt, enjoying every day on this earth.

Then one morning, I knew that something was different. Horses can sense this. There were many noises around the barn, and the people were going back and forth, moving things around and talked more than usual to each other. My groom cleaned me quickly, placed my halter on my head and led me outside. There was a huge horse trailer parked in front of the barn. It looked like a monster to me, and more people were standing around. Most of them I had never seen before.

Now I was scared! I didn't know what to expect and looked around seeing another yearling led into this enormous and scary trailer by his groom. I was next. My groom spoke to me quietly and told me I had nothing to be worried. I trusted him and walked inside the trailer; little did I know that I would never see him again. There was my favorite hay hanging inside the trailer, and I was very nervous and scared, but I tried to be brave. I watched some other yearlings coming in,

and then the doors shut close. There were 4 of us, each in our little space. We couldn't see each other, but knew we were together. As the trailer started to move, I was glad that I was not alone!