

# *THE STORY OF LUTSAN*

## *PART 1*

Hal Ames



He was born in the tall and majestic mountains of Montana. His mother was a gentle mare named Flonza. His father was a big black stallion named Kiosko. His name when he was born was Lutsan. He was just like his father. He was born to be a leader. He was a proud mustang.

Lutsan was jet black with a small amount of white on all his feet. On his head, he had a blaze of white between his eyes that stretched almost to his nose. He was a beautiful horse, strong and agile.

Life in the mountains is not easy. There are many dangers. Pumas, snakes, and the harsh weather all make for a difficult life, but those that survive are strong and independent.

Lutsan was like that. He was independent, and adventurous.

The herd of horses, that he was a part of, roamed the mountainside looking for food and water. There were more than fifteen young foals in the springtime. As the young horses grew older, they would either join the herd or join another group of horses.

The stallion was the boss. He protected the herd from danger. He had to be fearless. If another stallion challenged him, he had to fight to protect what was his. The young colts in the herd watched Kiosko and learned from him. Someday they would have their own herd of mares and they needed to know how to be a strong leader. If they did not learn the lessons well, they would be alone or even worse,

dead.

The summer was hotter than normal and the grass was becoming brown. Kiosko had to find better grassland for his family. They moved higher onto the mountains, but they couldn't find enough to eat.

Kiosko made the decision to go into the valley. He knew that there were more dangers in the valley, but he needed to find food.

The horses moved slowly down the mountain toward the river below. The grass was green and flowers were in bloom. Not only did the horses need food, but so did the other animals who lived on the mountain. This included bears, puma, coyotes, wolves, and the most dangerous of all, humans.

Kiosko warned his family of the dangers. He told them they needed to stay close together and warn the others if something was coming. They agreed and followed Kiosko down from the mountain and entered the valley.

The grass tasted like honey. The flowers were delicious. The horses ate and ate and ate. This was like heaven for them.

Suddenly Flonza began to run. This startled the family and they also began to run. No one knew why, it was the thing to do. The herd ran toward the river. It was not easy; the ground was soft and there were rocks and trees on the ground. After running for a while they began to slow down. Who was missing?

No one was missing. Everyone had made it safely.

Kiosko asked Flonza why she had run.

She told him that she had sensed a puma in the grass. She did not want to take any chances, so she ran.

Everyone knew that Flonza was smart about such things and they trusted her.

It took a while for the horses to calm down. They went back to grazing in the grassland.

Lutsan began to explore a little. He saw things flying around the flowers, he

watched them as they moved from one flower to the next. He saw frogs hopping into the water when he got close to them. He saw the fish swimming in the stream.

The grass tasted so good and the air here was so cool with the gentle breeze that blew in the valley. The sun was hot on his back, but he didn't notice. He was curious about everything around him.

His father called out for him to come closer. He had wandered too far from the herd.

Lutsan looked up. He could see his family. He would be fine. He put his head down and began to eat more of the delicious grass and flowers. It had been a week since he had filled his stomach.

The sun began to go down in the western sky. The air became cooler and the air was still. The sounds of the crickets echoed throughout the valley. The trees stood tall and regal with the evening sun shining through the branches.

Lutsan thought to himself, "It doesn't get any better than this."

Evening fell and the horses got closer together. Night time can be the most dangerous of all. They had to be alert and ready for anything.

The night passed quietly. In the morning, Kiosko talked to the herd about moving up the mountain again. It was dangerous to stay where they were.

Everyone had filled their stomachs, so they could survive going back up the mountain. Most of the younger horses didn't want to go. They liked playing in the grass. They liked the fresh food.

Kiosko told them it would not be wise to stay.

Reluctantly, the group of horses moved slowly out of the valley and up the ridge to higher ground.

Lutsan did not want to leave. He stayed behind. He thought he would eat some more and then catch up them later. He knew he could run fast and catch them.

Lutsan was distracted by everything he saw. He played and jumped and

chased the butterflies.

When he finally decided to follow the herd, he was all alone. He could not see anything.

He found the hoofprints of the others and followed them up the ridge. He still could not see any of the other horses. Either they had been moving faster than he thought or he had stayed longer than he planned.

He stopped for a rest. On the rock above him he heard a noise. He looked up and on top of the rock was a large cat. For a second he froze in fear. Just as the cat leapt off the rock at him he bolted. The puma's claws dug into his back. The noise of the cat was in his ears. He ran as fast as he could.

The cat slipped off his back onto the ground. Lutsan ran as fast as he could. He was so frightened he didn't know what else to do. He ran and ran until he could run no more.

When he came to a stop he felt very weak. He found some water and drank until he felt a little better.

He looked around. He had no idea where he was or where his family was. He suddenly felt his legs fall. He fell to the ground. He could not get up. He lay there for a long time.

Suddenly there was something was on top of him. He was very weak. He tried to stand up, but he was not able to.

He looked around in panic. Where was he? What was happening to him?

He turned his head, and he saw something he had never seen before. His father had told him about this, but he had never seen one before. It looked like a human!

Of all the animals his father was afraid of, the humans were number one. Now Lutsan tried to struggle loose. Something kept touching him behind his ears. It felt good and it relaxed him, but still he needed to get away. He tried again, but he was too weak.

He laid his head back onto the ground. It happened again. Something was rubbing him behind his ear. He liked it. It helped to relax him even more.

He fell back asleep.

When he woke up there were more those humans. They were making a lot of noise. Two of them were touching him. He was afraid. He tried to get up. He managed to get to his front legs first and then he got onto his back feet. He shook himself and tried to get whatever was on his back off himself. He did not like it at all.

He tried to raise his head, but something was on it. He could not get rid of it either. He pulled and jumped and twisted and turned. He was stuck. He hated it.

Soon he got too tired to fight anymore. He was still very weak. There was a human who kept making sounds at him and touching him. It was not threatening. It was soft. It was very confusing. He was still afraid of these humans.

In front of him was water. He took some. It was cold. He liked that. Next to the water he saw some food. He tried it. It was delicious. He had never had anything like it before. While he was eating, the thing that was on his back came off. He shook himself. That felt so much better.

He finished the food and looked for more.

One of the humans stood in front of him. It had something red. It smelled good. Lutsan smelled the red thing. Then he took a bite of it. It was so sweet and so wet. He had never tasted anything like this before. He looked for more of those red things.

One of the humans touched his face. He pulled away because he did not understand why this human would be touching him.

He felt himself being pulled by his face. He did not like that either. He pulled back. The human pulled harder so he stood up on his back feet. He was telling them he was the boss, just like his father had taught him. He wanted no part of what these

humans were making him do.

After trying to get free, he finally was too tired to fight any more. His back hurt him, and he still felt weak.

A smaller human walked in front of him and led him to a place he had never seen before. They put him into a small room and closed him in. It was cool in this place and he had water and food.

The next day the door to the room opened and the small human came in. At first Lutsan moved away from him, but the small child followed him. Then he took his head and led him out of the small room.

Lutsan followed the small human out of the building. The sun made his eyes hurt. He had never been in anything like this before.

The human reached up and took the thing off his head. Lutsan turned and ran away. In front of him was wood. He ran around the wood and he couldn't find a way to get out. He went around and around looking for a way out. This didn't make any sense. He pushed against the wood. He tried to jump over the wood. He tried to kick the wood, but he was still trapped. He did not know what to do.

Lutsan ran in circles. He tried to go through the fence that surrounded the place he was until he got tired. There were many humans looking at him. He hated it; all those eyes watching him. It made him very nervous.

There was no grass here. The dirt was soft. The sun was hot. It was a terrible place to be.

As the sun began to go down, Lutsan's back began to hurt more. He moved very slowly. He didn't understand why he was not able to do the things he used to do.

One of the gentle humans came up to him. They put something over his head. He was too weak to fight it. He was pulled by the head and went back into the building. On the side, he saw a big door open. The human led him into the door. Inside he found more of the food that he liked. He put his head into the basket and ate the food

slowly.

While he was eating another human came and stood beside him. This one was rubbing him with a tool. It felt so good. He had never experienced this before. He leaned into the human to make the tool harder against his skin. The human was making soft noises. It relaxed him. Soon he was feeling much better.

In the morning, there was a lot of noise. He could hear the sounds of other horses.

Lutsan called out to them and they answered him. He was excited to hear other horses. He was so lonely now. He wished that he could see them.

He walked over to the entrance to his room. He looked over the doorway and looked around. Some of the horses were doing the same thing. They were telling each other about how they felt about things and what they thought about where they were living.

Lutsan found out that most of the humans were kind. He heard stories about how they had come to this place. None of them had lived in the mountains. The others were fascinated by Lutsan's stories of life in the wilderness.

Just then one of the humans opened the door. He was pulled out of his room by his head. He didn't like it. He rose up on his back feet and fought. He made loud noises telling this human to go away. He wasn't going to go with them. He bumped against the walls of his room. He pulled back against the human, but the human would not give up.

Lutsan tried something new. He decided he would try to run, so he rushed toward the opening to his room. Just as he got outside his head turned to the side very hard. He almost fell. It really hurt. But he wasn't going to give up. He jumped and turned trying to get free. Whatever it was that was holding his head would not stop.

Lutsan fought and fought until he could fight no more. He got tired and then

he just stood there. He was panting and out of breath.

The human then walked out of the building leading Lutsan behind. They went to the same place he had been before. The human went to the middle of the space and then made Lutsan run in a circle around him. The thing attached to his head forced him to do what the person in the middle wanted him to do. He had to go fast and then slow. Then he had to turn the other direction and do the same thing again.

This went on for a long time.

It felt good to run and get exercise, but he got tired quickly. The injuries on his back were healing, but he had lost a lot of blood.

Lutsan had had enough and he stopped. He was not going to do this anymore.

Another person came up to him and tried to put something into his mouth. He did not like this at all. He shook his head and pulled back, but he could not fight hard enough and the hard metal thing was now in his mouth. He chewed on and it and tried to push it out with his tongue, but it would not move. He shook his head from side to side trying to get that thing out of his mouth. Finally, he just gave up.

Then something else happened. Something was on his back. It hurt and reminded him of the puma. Lutsan jumped up and down to get that thing off his back. He spun and twisted, jumped and leapt, but it would not come off. He soon got tired. He stopped and stood waiting to see what was next.

Now the person in the middle made him go around in a circle again. He was too tired to fight it, so it did as he was made to do.

He tried a couple more times to get the thing off his back, but it would not.

The human pulled him to the side. He saw some water and drank it. The thing in his mouth made it hard to drink. He hated it, but it would not come out.

**VOCABULARY** (*Match the word to its definition*)

- |                      |                           |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. majestic _____    | a. large wild cat         |
| 2. mustang _____     | b. talon, long sharp nail |
| 3. puma _____        | c. baby horse             |
| 4. herd _____        | d. eating in a pasture    |
| 5. mare _____        | e. wild horse             |
| 6. graze _____       | f. unsafe, perilous       |
| 7. foal _____        | g. diversion, disruption  |
| 8. dangerous _____   | h. female horse           |
| 9. distraction _____ | i. magnificent, amazing   |
| 10. claw _____       | j. group of horses        |

**TRUE / FALSE**

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|---|-------|
| 1. The father's name was Kiosko.                      | T / F |
| 2. His mother's name was Flora.                       | T / F |
| 3. They lived in the mountains of Colorado.           | T / F |
| 4. The horse's name was Lutsan.                       | T / F |
| 5. The horses ran when a human tried to capture them. | T / F |
| 6. Lutsan saw butterflies.                            | T / F |
| 7. Lutsan went with his family up the mountain.       | T / F |
| 8. A puma tried to kill Lutsan.                       | T / F |
| 9. The puma ate Lutsan.                               | T / F |
| 10. Lutsan woke up with humans around him.            | T / F |

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Where did we live? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) mountains of Montana
  - b) on a ranch
  - c) in a valley in Wyoming
  - d) in Canada
  
2. What did Flonza think she saw in the grass?
  - a) bear
  - b) human
  - c) puma
  - d) beaver
  
3. What attacked Lutsan as he passed by the rock? \_\_\_\_\_
  - a) bear
  - b) human
  - c) puma
  - d) beaver
  
4. What did Lutsan see when he woke up?
  - a) humans
  - b) his family
  - c) puma
  - d) mountains

**COMPREHENSION:** *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. Where was Lutsan born?

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2. What was his father's name?

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3. What did he learn from his father?

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4. What was Lutsan doing when his family left?

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5. What scared his mother?

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6. Why did the herd go down to the valley?

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7. Who was the leader of the herd?

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8. What attacked Lutsan?

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9. What did Lutsan like to eat?

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10. What did Lutsan see when he woke up?

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