

THE STORY OF LUTSAN

Chapter 1



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 of 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 tough 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 thirty mares and fifteen young foals in the springtime. As the young horses grew older, they would either join the herd or join another group of horses in another herd.

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 move 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 feed his herd.

The herd 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 the herd of the dangers. He told them that they needed to stay close together and warn the others if something was coming. They all 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 others 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 the herd began to slow down. Who was missing?

No one was missing. They had all 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 grass land.

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 the others. 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 here. 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 herd moved slowly out of the valley and up the ridge to higher ground.

Lutsan did not want to leave. He stayed behind and 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 footprints of the others and followed them up the ridge. He still could

not see any of the other horses.

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 of 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 of his back onto the ground. Lutana 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 herd was. He suddenly felt his legs fall. He fell to the ground. He could not get up.

The next thing he knew he was on the ground. 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 that 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 got 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 of himself. He did not like it at all.

He tried to raise his head, but something was on his head. 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. 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 water. 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. There was 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 liked it, but 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.

He followed the 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 of 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.

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:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 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?
 - e) bear
 - f) human
 - g) puma
 - h) beaver

3. What attacked Lutsan as he passed by the rock? _____
 - i) bear
 - j) human
 - k) puma
 - l) 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?

2. What was his father's name?

3. What did he learn from his father?

4. What was Lutsan doing when his family left?

5. What scared his mother?

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

7. Who was the leader of the herd?

8. What attacked Lutsan?

9. What did Lutsan like to eat?

10. What did Lutsan see when he woke up?
