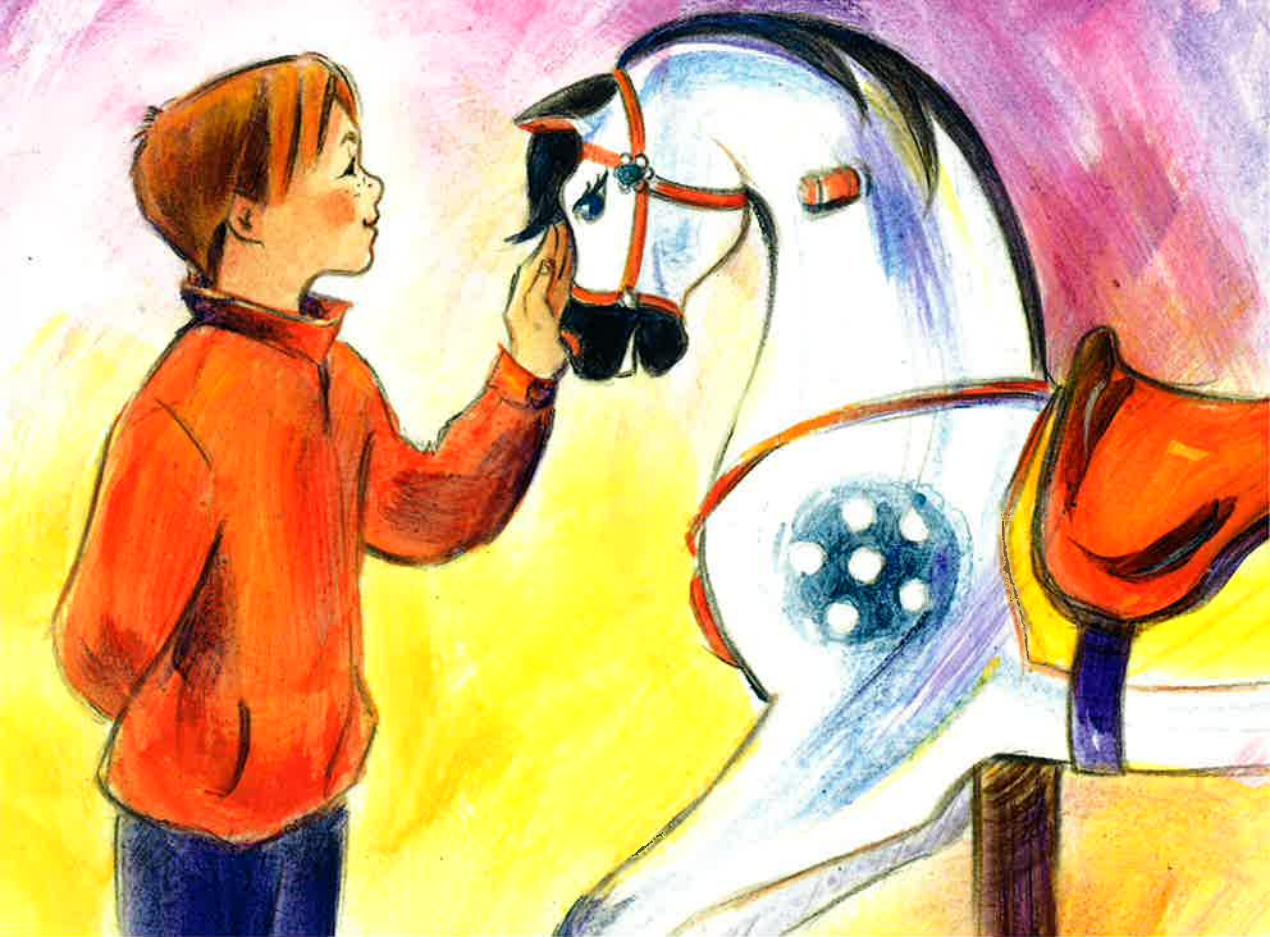
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The Carnival Horse

Story by Wendy Graham

Illustrations by Meredith Thomas





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Tommy loved Bravo, the old horse
from the merry-go-round.
Bravo stood inside Mr Turner's shop.
He had been there for a long time.
His paint had once been white,
but now it was cracked and dirty.
His mane was thin and ragged
and his eyes looked grey and sad.

But Tommy thought Bravo was beautiful.



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"Long ago," Mr Turner told Tommy,
"Bravo was a fine horse."
He showed Tommy a photo.
Bravo had been the best horse
on the merry-go-round at a carnival.



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All the children had wanted
to ride Bravo.
But when the carnival closed down,
he was taken to Mr Turner's shop.
He was put on a stand near the doorway.
Each hoof was fixed to the stand
with a strap.

Little children would climb onto his back.
They shouted with excitement
as they tried to make Bravo
move up and down.

But now Bravo couldn't move any more.
Tommy didn't mind.
He hugged Bravo and said quietly,
"You are still a great horse, Bravo."

One day, when Tommy was in the shop with his mother, two older boys climbed onto Bravo's back.



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