

Archie's Tale, a series, is told from the perspective of the main character. Archie, a Quarter Horse colt born of championship blood, is rejected at birth by his mother. He learns about life and the efforts necessary to become a champion from his surrogate Haflinger mother. Supported by barn mates, he teaches others along his way to success.

Archie's Tale

Life as I Saw It

By Wade N. Spruill, Jr.
Illustrations by Riley Johnson

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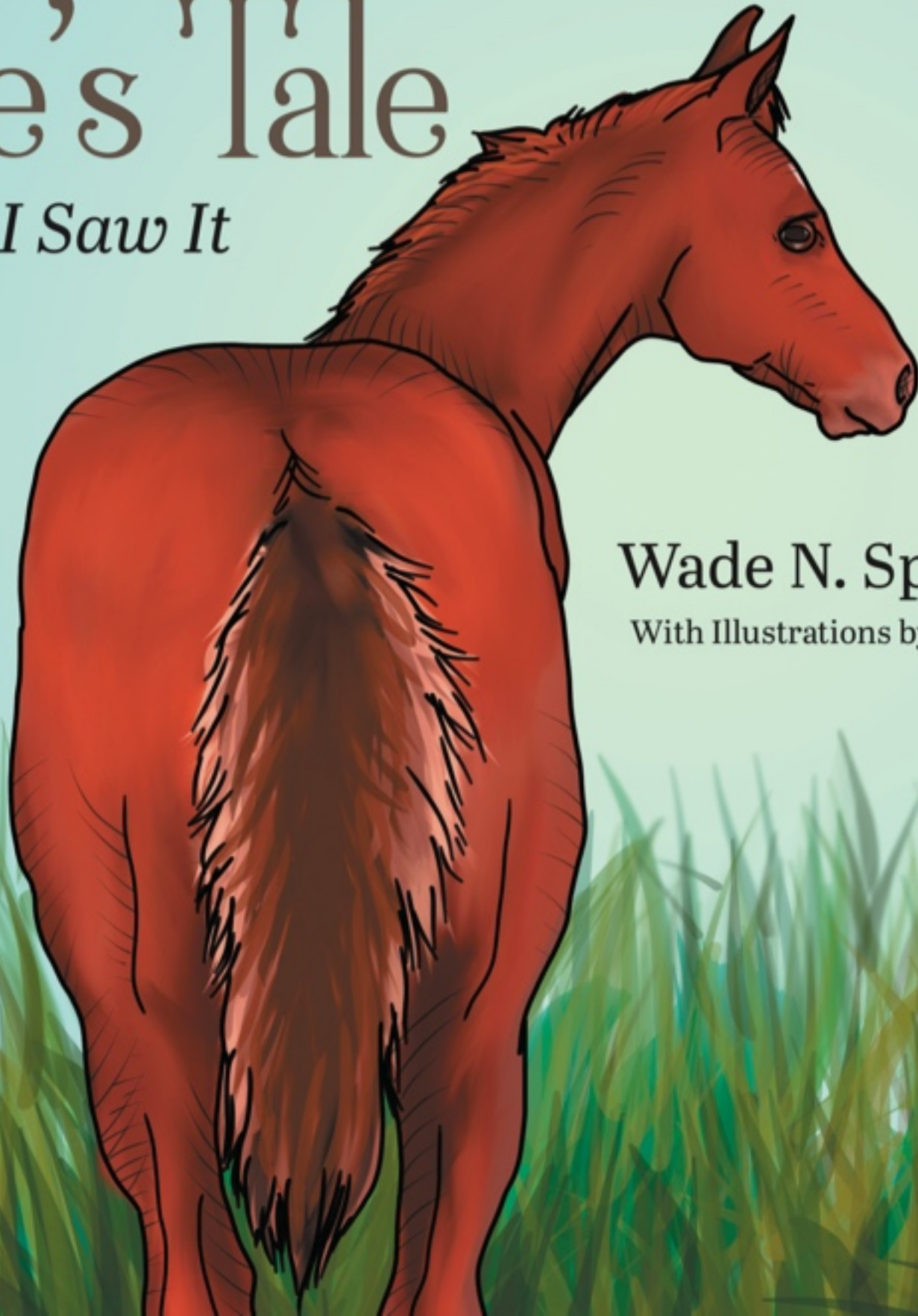
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Sincerely dedicated to Dianne Spruill
Whose love for horses may be equaled but never exceeded!

SINGLE
SHOE 
STABLES
PUBLISHING

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Illustrations by Riley Johnson

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Preface

Archie, a son of Epic Titan and Dance With The King, was born on an early spring evening in 2019. His birth was unexpected by his owners, who were away attending another horse show. Early in his life, he would become registered with the American Quarter Horse Association as Titan Up, but he would always be known as Archie.

Archie's beginning in life was not typical. This book, and those to follow, is about his origin and life as he saw it.



I'm a Quarter Horse, but I didn't know I was when I woke up in the dark. I couldn't see very well, but something very close stared at me. It was shaped exactly like me but much larger.

I was determined to stand up and get away until we could get to know each other.

Finally, I did stand up, but I was too shaky and weak to move, so we just stared at each other. I could tell that it was as scared as I was.

"I don't know you! What am I? Do you know what I am?" I asked the big thing now pacing and staring at me.

"You are a foal. That's what humans call a baby horse," it said.

"I'm a baby? Is that why I am so small and you are so big? What's a human?" I asked.

"Slow down! Yes, you are a baby! You are my baby boy, and you were just born in my stall," it said.

"Stall? Your baby? Humans? I'm confused, scared, and hungry," I said to it.

"Well, get over it. The humans will take care of you. They take good care of me. I am your mother, but I'm not happy about it. I didn't want to have a baby, but my humans didn't

ask me. They just arranged for me to have you because they like your daddy. They talk about him every day."

"Really? I have a daddy, too? Do you like him, Mother?" I asked.

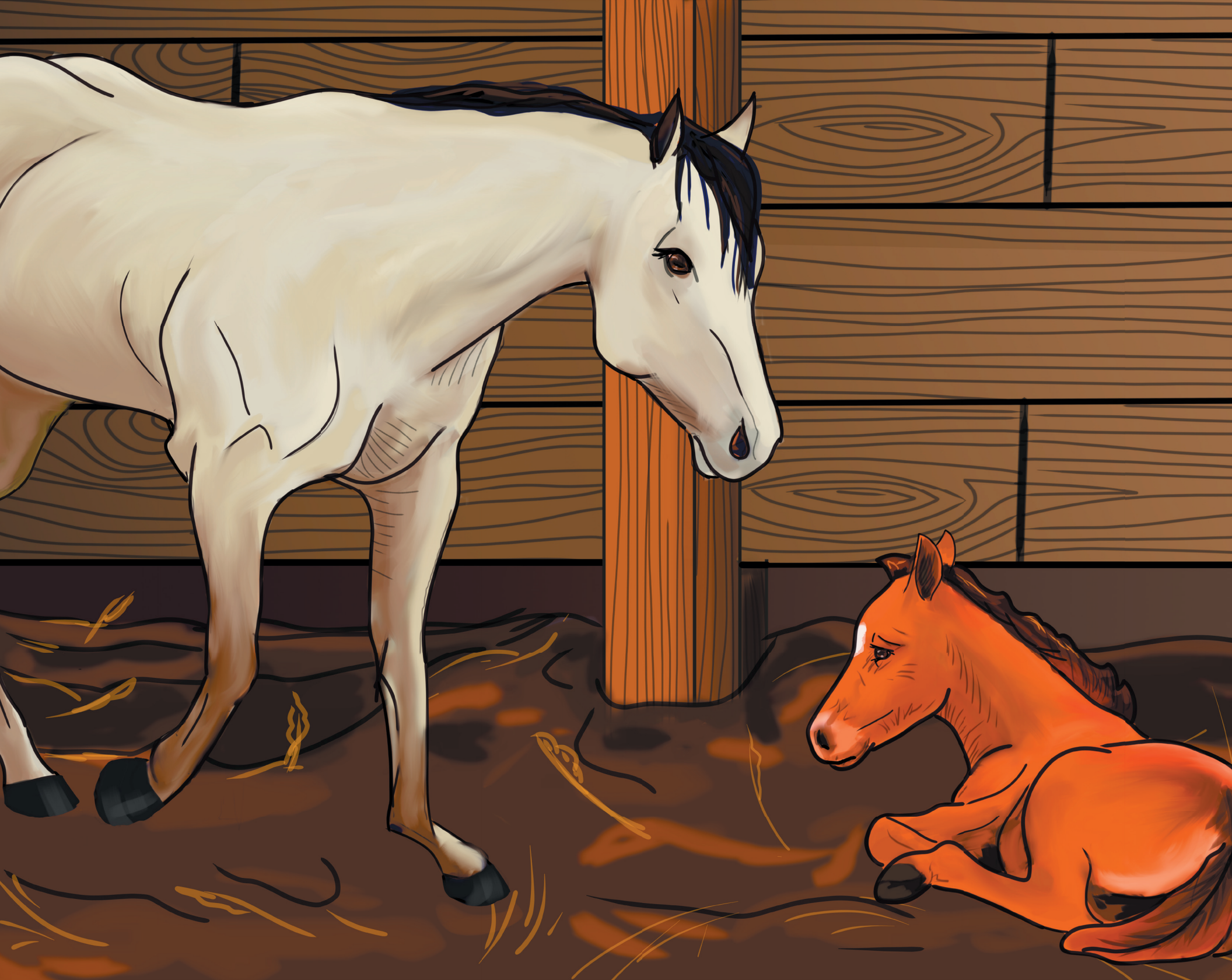
"They have never let me meet him. He is a famous Quarter Horse out West. All I know about him is his name, Epic Titan, and that he is a reining horse. I suppose that you will learn about him as you grow up."

"I want to see my daddy! I can see you; so why can't I see him now? What's a Quarter Horse?" I asked Mother.

"I told you, your dad is out West. I've been there, and it is far away from us. Kids and their questions! Please let me answer one before you ask another. Quarter Horse is what humans call our breed, but there are many breeds of horses. Like your daddy and I, you are a Quarter Horse."

"Okay, I'm a Quarter Horse. Mother, I'm just trying to learn—sorry," I said regretfully.

"Well, I'm sorry that our humans don't know you've arrived; they should have stayed home! They have my best friend, Kola, on another trip away from me. I don't like that



either, but they didn't ask me what I liked. They took me on trips before they decided that I needed a baby. Now, they have some young humans here to take care of us until they come back. They are okay, but they're not our humans. I'm mad about that, too; I guess I'm not happy about anything!" she said, with ears pinned back.

Suddenly, I heard voices, but they didn't sound like Mother and me.

"Oh, my goodness! Dance has had her baby," one of the humans said.

"Oh no! Maloree, what do we need to do?" the other human nervously asked.

"I don't know! I will call Hannah and let her know about the baby. She will come to help us, and it will be okay, I hope. Oh, it's so cute and look at its color! It's a sorrel with a white mark on its little face," the first human said as they both peered over at me.

CAN YOU REMEMBER WHAT ARCHIE SAID?

- * Archie is a _____ horse
- * A baby horse is called a _____



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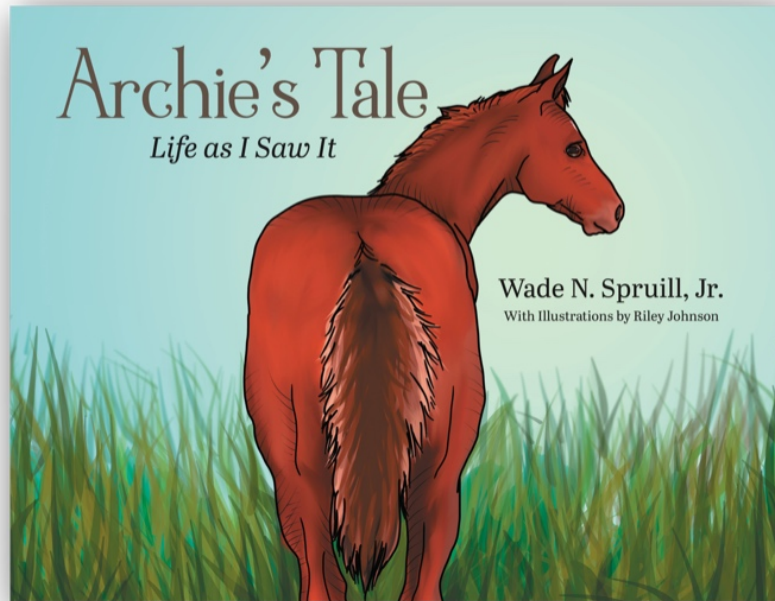
Mother, is your name Dance? They said Dance had her baby. I'm your baby, so does that mean Dance is your name?"

"That's what my humans call me now. Before I came here, I believe my name was 'Stop It Filly' or 'Wow, She's Pretty;' never was sure which one was my name. I heard both all the time from my first human. Every time she got around me with other humans, she would say things like, 'Stop It Filly, don't bite!' 'Stop It Filly, don't kick me!' 'Wow, She's Pretty?' It was all very confusing. I like my new name, Dance. I love this place better, too, because my humans like me. They take good care of me and the rest of us horses here. I don't like that I've had you; so, get away from me, and stop asking me all these questions," Mother said while trying to kick me.

I ran to a corner of our stall. Why me? I just got here and haven't done anything to her. My birth wasn't my idea. Why isn't she mad at our humans? They did it to her, she said. What is going to happen to me? I'm starving! Do I have a name?

CAN YOU REMEMBER?

- * Horses are cared for by _____
- * Archie's mother is named _____



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