

THE REMARKABLE STORY OF THE MARE WHO WAS

Born To Reign

ANSATA BINT BUKRA

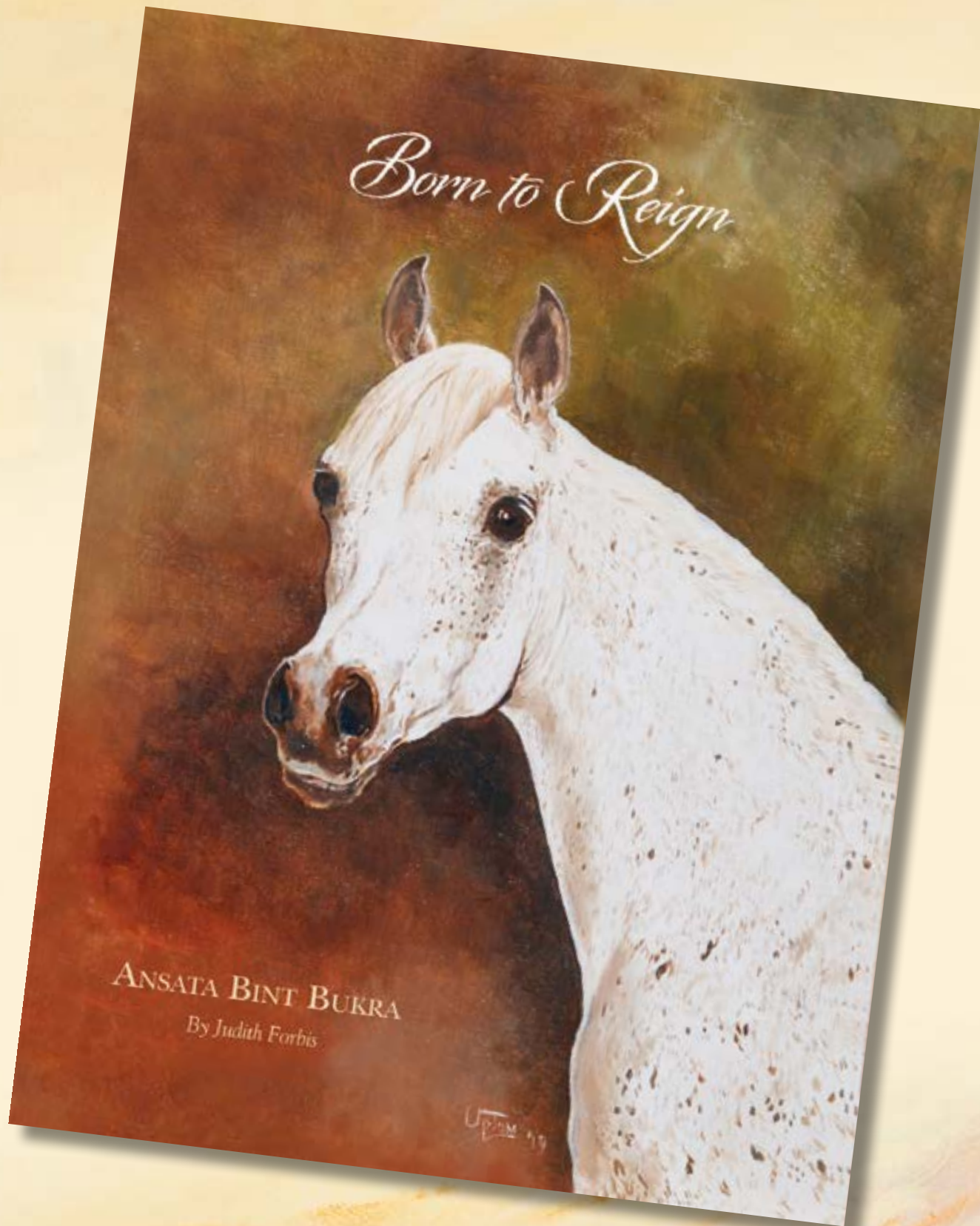
(August 23, 2959 - October 21, 1981)

By Judith Forbis

Most horse books have been written about famous stallions, very few if any are about remarkable mares.

“Born to Reign - Ansata Bint Bukra”,

is a book whose time has come...



Though few people ever actually saw her during her life, the "crippled mare", as she was often referred to, became an international celebrity. Even to this day, her name, Ansata Bint Bukra, still invokes awe and admiration. Images of her beautiful countenance continue to inspire journalists, artists, photographers, and breeders of Arabian horses throughout the globe.



I believe this story actually began with my love for Silver, a grey pony I first rode when I was only three years old. She was my "first love". Silver made me understand, as I grew older and wiser, that love is the motivating force of the universe.

My mother and father always encouraged my equine activities, but it was my beloved Uncle Whit (George Whitwell) who inspired me

to overlook handicaps, to look deeper into the soul, and soldier on no matter what. He was only five years old when polio struck him, crippling him thereafter so that he wobbled strangely when he walked.

Through him, I understood that some people and creatures come into our experience early in life, some later, but always at a time that connects us to their spirits and provides lessons when we need them. I like to call them "divine appointments". In time, I learned to overlook imperfections and judge on other merits. Love always hovers nearby if we open our hearts and minds. That is the basis for this book!





AN AFFAIR OF THE HEART

When my husband, Don, and I began our quest for Arabian horses while living in the Middle East, we committed ourselves to learning as much as possible about the breed. In 1959, we visited the Egyptian Agricultural Organization's El Zahraa Stud, and purchased three yearlings who were to influence Arabian horse breeding worldwide: Ansata Ibn Halima, Ansata Bint Mabrouka, and Ansata Bint Zaafarana. A year later, we returned.



The remarkable sire, Nazeer, whom we had seen in 1959, had passed away. As we walked through the pastures, my eyes fastened on one of his daughters. She was a stunning yearling filly, but she hobbled awkwardly around a sandy paddock. She was badly crippled; her pelvis was knocked down, her hind leg had atrophied, she had knots on her front legs... but she had the "star quality" that our friend and fellow Arabian horse breeder Mike Nichols once told me about. She also had an extraordinary dam, Bukra, whom she resembled in type. There was an immediate attraction between us and I knew this lovely filly and I were destined to be together. Thus began an affair of the heart.



After overcoming several obstacles (as related in the book), she finally came to America. Husnia "The Beautiful" as she was named in Egypt, became the cherished foundation mare of Ansata Arabian Stud and she eventually became a living legend in America and worldwide under her new name, Ansata Bint Bukra, which translates as, "Life's Daughter of Tomorrow". Thanks to her, my understanding of the courage, fortitude, and stamina inherent in Egyptian Arabian mares deepened over time. She also taught me that outward beauty is often an expression of an inward state.

LESSONS LEARNED

As I look back over more than 60 years with Egyptian Arabian horses, I realize how many lessons I've learned from them - especially the mares.

While writing this book in 2019 it marked the sixtieth year since "Husnia", Ansata Bint Bukra, came into the world. At that time I remembered something I once wrote, and that the Arab poets Al Mutannabi and Al Jahiz, as well as the world famous author Walter Farley would agree with, "Inspiration comes to artists, photographers, musicians, and writers from many sub-jects, but it is a passion to express ourselves and to exalt that which touches our souls that drives us to create something memorable." I might also add, it is this same passion that keeps us striving for perfection - especially in breeding Arabian horses.



Another lesson I've learned over the years is the only thing that is never diminished, and only multiplies when shared, is love. Thank you to those who have shared their love for the Arabian horse with me and allowed me to share mine not only with them, but through this book and others, with the world.

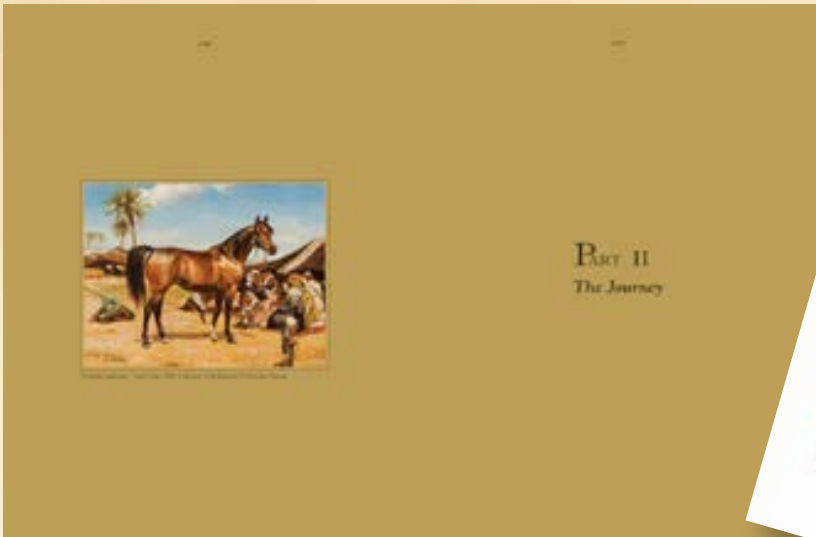


BORN TO REIGN - ANSATA BINT BUKRA, is divided into four unique yet interconnected parts. The reader will find many surprising twists and turns until the unexpected conclusion and along the way, you can enjoy historic photos and documents, gorgeous art, spectacular photography, and more...

PART I - THE STORY: Enjoy seeing the origins of our 60 year journey and learning the story of the mare, *Ansata Bint Bukra*, who became the foundation of the Ansata breeding program and whose offspring have founded programs around the world.



PART II - THE JOURNEY: *In this part of the book, the travels, the breeders, the horses and more of the history and influence of Ansata Bint Bukra is revealed through beautiful images of her offspring and generations of her descendants...*



THE JOURNEY

The first time the Ansata Bint Bukra was seen in the United States was in 1958 at the 1958 World Horse Show in Las Vegas, Nevada. The horse was owned by the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the ruler of the United Arab Emirates. The horse was brought to the United States by the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the ruler of the United Arab Emirates. The horse was brought to the United States by the late Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the ruler of the United Arab Emirates.

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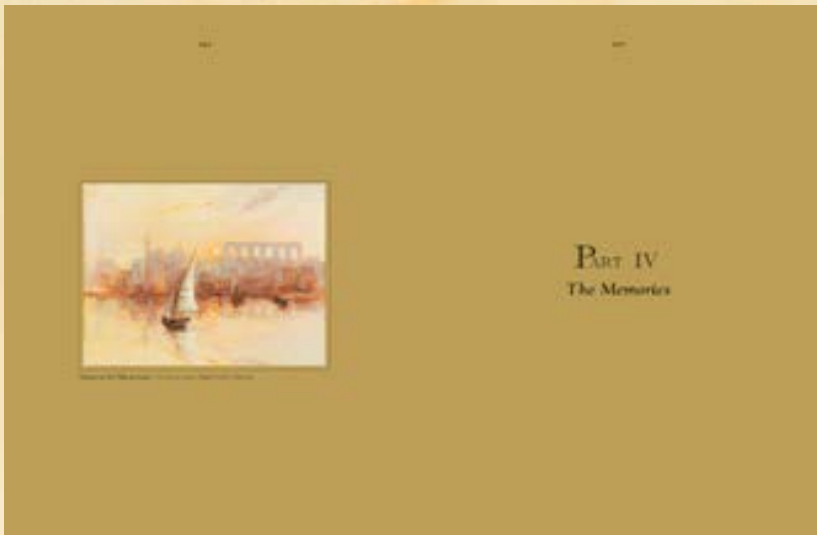
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PART III - THE TRIBUTE: *In this part of the book, we celebrate the beauty and bravery of the Egyptian Arabian mare with stories, photos, and art and learn about the significance of the traditions associated with our breed. We also touch on the life lessons that they teach us about the rare qualities of nobility and humility.*





PART IV - THE MEMORIES: *In the final part of the book, people share their memories and impressions of Ansata Bint Bukra. Also included is a tribute to author Walter Farley and the inspiration his books have provided for more than half a century, as well as the important lessons Arabian horses teach us about meaningful values...*

KUWAIT:
Contact:
www.bintbukra.com
office@baitalarab.com
 Fax: 965-247-60898

USA ONLY:
For further information contact:
 Ansata Publications, 240 Polk Road 712,
 Mena, Arkansas 71953
 Tel/Fax: (1) 479-394-2252
 Email: Ansata@hughes.net

