



First Sight, First Real Friends

Sofia W., Nebraska

I remember always watching for horses out of the old Windstar's back windows, but none ever really caught my eye. Don't get me wrong, they were all gorgeous, but I never had time to really watch them.

I strolled out of my grandparents' house to the warm cement driveway. I leaned over, looking for cars that might zoom around the sharp corner. I loped across the street of loosened gravel to the side of long, gold, coarse grass. I walked beside the electric wire fence to find the horses. I found them at the far end of the pasture and plopped down to watch them.

I was getting weary and sweaty. I wondered what time it was. It was getting darker and a bit chilly. Suddenly, I felt a rain drop. It was only drizzling. I began humming "Rain, Rain Go Away" over and over. I closed my eyes for a while. When I opened them, the palomino horse stood so close to the fence. I could reach through and stroke his damp coat. I moved slowly, so not to frighten him. As my fingers touched him, he looked at me as if to say, "Go ahead. I don't mind" so I petted him for a while.

When the time came for me to go back inside, he followed me a ways along the fence. I wondered if he had already been trained.

The following day, I did as yesterday, but the horses were at the other end of the field. This end of the fence had a mere top wire, a good three feet above the ground. I sat close to the "border" of the pasture.

As I observed, the palomino, again, slowly but surely got nearer. Once in a while, the stallion looked up at me.

Finally, he got to the fence. I watched him. He looked so beautiful, so assure of himself. I knew I shouldn't even think about it, but I had to. I looked around, making sure no one was around and slowly crawled under the thread of wire. I hesitantly got to my feet and stood beside the golden horse. He would be perfect for me.

He lifted his beautiful head and turned to face me. He looked me in the eyes, seeming to tell me, "You are the one". I nodded and blinked. Suddenly, a door slammed. I ducked under the wire again, satisfied. I had stood face to face with whom I later found out was an untamed stallion! Now I knew we shared a bond that was unlike any other.