

Jewel of the Desert

by Ashley Eberhart

sands of topaz
doze wearily, swathed
in a humid blanket of
thick air.
a flaming ruby sun
scorches the barren dunes.
silence.
stillness.

shattered-

a piercing wild neigh
splits
a cloudless sapphire sky.

can you hear it?
can you feel it?
hooves are pounding a
symphonic cadence
upon the ground:
dust masks the horizon
in a sandy cloud.

then

out of the abyss...
i see her.
her:
the dished profile of an angel, as
a molten silver tail streams behind
her-
a glistening desert diamond.

starry
stormy
those eyes sparkle in
scornful defiance.

sleek
smooth
those eyes sparkle in
scornful defiance.

sleek
smooth
 those muscles ripple
beneath dapples of pewter
 she stops
...eyes wide
...nostrils flared
...ears pricked.
 she has
 seen me.
i will not harm you.
 timidly she draws
toward my extended hand.
 a velveteen nose
meets my outstretched fingers.

it feels a dream,
this moment of pure harmony.
this symphony of belonging...
two hearts
listantly
 inexplicably
 intertwined.
almost too
 good
to be...
 true.

Can it possibly be real?
Surely such mystical beauty is
 not of this world.
magical mare-
a mirage?
maybe. yet
i'll never be sure. for, in a
 single
 blink of my eyes,
she is
gone,
disappearing into the
 cloak of dust
 from whence she came,

 galloping through my
 wildest dreams.
now,

she is but a
distant memory,
my
desert diamond.