

SHORT STORY:

SARA'S QUEST

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QUESTIONS FOR HORSE ENTHUSIAST:

1. Why do you think Sara wants an Arabian?

2. Tell us about what your dream Arabian horse and what it might look like ?

3. Sara's journey with Arabian horses is just getting started. In the space below, share how you think the next chapter unfolds with Sara and Montana:

We would love to hear your short stories!
Please share your story by emailing it
to youth@arabianhorses.org

SARA JOHNSON WAS EXCITED.

In a couple of months she would be turning fourteen years old. She had been taking riding lessons for four years and she knew that she was ready to have her own horse. She had read every book about horses from the local library. She REALLY likes reading about breeds. Based on what she had found out about them, she decided that an Arabian horse would be her number one choice. She just had one major hurdle in her way, her parents.

Sara decided that she needed to have a plan. She could hardly wait until Saturday when she had her next riding lesson at Maplewood Equestrian Center. She would talk to her coach and see if she could speak to her parents.

Saturday morning finally came. Sara was really nervous but she knew what she had to do. After her riding lesson she approached her coach.

"Hi Ashley could I talk to you about something?" Sarah asked.

"Of course, what's up kiddo?" Ashley answered

"I need your help. I really want to ask my parents if I can have a horse. Would you help me?"

"Yes of course. What would you like me to do?"

"Could you tell them that you think I'm ready and ride well enough to have my own horse."

"Yes I can. A few kids from your group have horses already. I think it would be a great idea for you to have one as well."



Ashley called her mother the next day. Sara was worried about her mother's reaction.

"Sara, I just got a call from Ashley. She is recommending that we buy you a horse since she feels you know enough to have one. Horses are expensive and we don't live on a farm."

"I know Mom but what if I get a job to pay the board?"

"There is still the cost of the horse and equipment. I will have to speak to your father. I'm not making any promises."

Sara was okay with that. Her mother loved animals so she knew her mother would try her best.

Sara also knew that getting a part time job would be essential to pay for horse board and care. So she decided to start looking. She went on her computer to look up jobs in the classifieds. There were some jobs at fast food places but Sara really wanted to find a job on a horse farm.

She spoke to Ashley again but Ashley didn't know of anyone who was looking for help.

There was a schooling show coming up at Maplewood that Sara was excited about. She loved the jumping and equitation classes. It was exciting and challenging to do the jumping classes. The equitation classes were fun too because it was about how well you could ride.

The day of the show finally arrived. Sara was nervous as usual, but she felt ready. She was riding Tonka that day. He was a lovely gray Thoroughbred cross. She won a second and a third in her hunter over fences. In the last class of the day she won the equitation class. Sara was elated. Her parents were there and they were so proud of her.

When she was untacking Tonka, a man came over to speak to her. "Where do you live?" he asked

"In Peterborough," she answered

"Would you like a job?"

Sara was totally shocked.

"What is the job?"

The man introduced himself as Mike Wilson.

"I own an Arabian ranch just outside of Peterborough. I am looking for someone to do barn chores and help me at some of the shows."

"I will have to ask my parents," Sara said nervously.

"OK, here is my number. Give me a call if they say it's alright and come out and see my place."

A few days later Sara pulled in the driveway of Wilson Arabians. Sara had never seen such a beautiful farm before. There were rows of fences with Arabian horses everywhere. It was June so there were a few flowers growing in front of the barn and the house. There were mares with their foals in one field and other fields with young horses and riding horses.

Mr. Wilson came to greet them. He took them to the barn. The first thing they saw when they walked in the barn were three stallions in the stalls — a gray, a bay and a chestnut. They were stunning! Next they walked through the barn where there was a gray gelding that Mr. Wilson wanted her to ride as part of her job interview. Sara looked in the stall and saw the most beautiful horse that she had ever seen. His name was Montana.

"Hey there Montana" Sara said softly as she opened his stall to bring him out.

Montana walked over to her, smelled her hands and then put his head on her shoulder. Sara pet his neck and said to him, "OK Montana let's get you tacked up."

Riding Montana was like riding a cloud. He was so smooth and well trained. Mr. Wilson explained what she would have to do if she worked there. Sara was so excited and her mother was happy she now had a job and a place for a horse. Now she just needed to find the right horse.



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