

Chapter 9

“ON YOUR MARKS, get set, ready, go”, calls Aunty.

I loosen my reins and urge Bella forward. We literally go from a standstill, to a canter and a full-blown gallop within a few seconds. The sea breeze is racing passed my cheeks as I sit as low as I can in the saddle. I feel like a jockey again. I glance down to see the sand flying rapidly off Bella’s hooves. A massive grin covers my face. I literally cannot tell you how fast we are travelling. Bella has the speed of lightning. We are locked in a happy bubble and I never want this to end.

I can hear Bella blowing. I gather up my reins and ease her down to a trot. I am slightly out of breath too. Our exhilarating gallop has left me feeling on top of the world. I lean forward and give Bella a well-done kiss on her neck and now have a mouthful of sand!

“Well done my baby. Wasn’t that just truly amazing?” I ask Bella in between trying to get my breath back and chomping on grains of sand.

“Wow, how fast did you two go? I had no chance of getting anywhere near you”, says Freya as she slows Hope down to a walk.

“I know. I am sure Bella is getting faster and faster”, I smile back.

“It looks like you four had great fun”, says Aunty as she pulls up alongside us.

“What a turn of speed Bella has Ems. Well done, such a fabulous display to watch. Freya you and Hope looked like poetry in motion, absolutely beautiful”, she continues.

Freya and I grin at each other. We love it when Aunty gives us compliments.

“How about we jump off, loosen their girths and lead them back to the bridleway?” asks Aunty.

“Great idea”, I say as I jump off Bella into the soft sand beneath us.

“Do you know what?” I blurt out.

“I am going to take my boots and socks off as I have the urge to feel the

golden sand running through my toes”, I continue.

“I will join you”, says Aunty and Freya at the same time.

Within seconds my boots and socks are off. I take a deep, relaxing breath as my toes feel their way through the soft, warm grains of sand. This is heavenly I think to myself as Bella and I make our way across the beach. Her hooves and my feet flick up the sand in unison as we go.

“Wasn’t that fun”, says Aunty as we reach the bridleway.

“I haven’t done that since I was a kid”, she continues with a huge smile across her face.

I brush the sand from my feet and pop my socks and boots back on.

It is five fifteen by the time we finish washing our ponies off and get them settled in the field.

What lovely news to hear, Charlotte and Nick have done all the chores, so all Aunty needs to do now is put Shady and Benny in with Snowy. Fingers crossed.

Freya gives us both a hug, says her goodbyes and heads off home. She’s on babysitting duties this evening.

Aunty and I grab two head collars and make our way over to the big field. I take Benny and Aunty follows with Shady.

Specks is right down the far end of the field, so sadly I don’t have chance to pop and see her.

“Eeyore, Eeyore”, calls Snowy as we walk towards the paddock with his two new friends.

“Ems, if you let Benny off first, I will wait a couple of minutes before letting Shady go”, says Aunty.

“Now you be a good boy with our Snowy”, I whisper in his ear before taking off his head collar.

We didn’t need to worry. Benny trots straight over to Snowy and immediately settles down next to him and starts to graze.

Aunty removes Shady’s head collar and we watch closely as he trots over to Benny and Snowy, puts his head down and starts grazing too.

Aunty and I smile at each other. It looks like they have always been together. How sweet.

“Right Ems. I am going to hang around for a while just to be one hundred

percent sure they are all ok. If you want to, why don't you nip and jump in the bath. I know you have your notes to type up too. I will get our dinner ready for seven o'clock?" says Aunty in a very chirpy manner.

"If you are sure, that would be great Aunty. I can't believe how fast today has gone. I have had a splendid day, and I can't wait to see what I can achieve with Specks tomorrow", I reply.

Nine thirty pm and I am tucked up in bed reading through my notes. I am truly proud of Specks. I smile and close my eyes as I run through today's wonderful events.