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TIPS AND TRICKS FOR
SPEEDING PHOTO
SHOW JUDGING p.4

Fiction:

For the Want of a Nail
By Elizabeth Hartmann
ON PAGE 8



Volume 12
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QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

EDITOR: Elizabeth Jones

<http://mepsa1.tripod.com/mepsa.htm>

MEPSA is an educational group for model horse enthusiasts, promoting the hobby of model horse mail-in photo showing.

Note: Priority postage has gone up from \$5.60 to \$5.75.

Annual Championship...is behind us! The new season has begun!

Congratulations to all the winners and I hope you all enjoyed the "MEPSA showers Annual" ... our "yearbook" equivalent with Championship show results and photos and wonderful articles. The book is available at Lulu.com. Just do a search for MEPSA and look for the 2014 book.

The Grand and reserve champions are available for viewing in the "Gallery of Champions" at <http://mepsa1.tripod.com/champs.html>. These photos represent some of the best model show photos! GET INSPIRED to take some new photos today!

MEPSA is an open, photo show organization. You do not need to pay any membership fees to show. No registration needed. Just send your model photos, return envelope and your show fee, and you will be competing with some of the best. Not quite there yet? MEPSA also has a Novice division, designed to help coach new MEPSA showers to reach the level they need to compete in the open division! Contact Marie Phillips (riap57@aol.com) if you have questions about entering novice shows!

Reminders for judges!

The revised judge's packet has been streamlined so it is easy to read and it should answer any questions you might have. In addition, there is a check list to make sure you don't forget anything important. When you complete your checklist and submit it to the Judge coordinator (Linda) you will be entered in the annual drawing for an outstanding prize. It is important to complete your show (judging and submitting results and entry fees collected) in the time allowed. Helpful hints from one of our fastest judges are provided in the article in this newsletter (see page 4)!

If you are judging a specialty qualifier you probably will have fewer classes with more entries in them. For example, in the light breed special, stock classes will have 0 entrants. Feel free to split classes with high numbers of entries.

Thanks to all who volunteered to judge for MEPSA in the upcoming season!

We have an amazing lineup with almost no repeat judges! We are already taking volunteers for the next championship show! We will be looking for judges for the champ show who have not judged the division of interest during the qualifier season. That is, if you judged an OF qualifier during the season, we will not consider you for judging Div A, B or E in the championship.

Qualifier schedule for the second quarter of the 2014-2015 Season:

November 1, 2014 - OF Plastic/China Regular Qualifier (A,B,E)

Brenda Bednar
2 Olympic Annex
Stafford Springs, CT 06076

November 8, 2014 - Specialty for Foals (all divisions)

Michele Katz
170 Crossing Dr. #201
Cumberland, RI 02864

November 15, 2014 - AR/CM Regular Qualifier (C,D,F)

Allison Malone
7700 Silo Mill Ct
Manassa, VA 20112
thebreypatch@verizon.net

**November 29, 2014 - Specialty for Stock Breeds (Performance only - E,F;
ONLY breeds eligible for Classes 17-21)**

Traci Durrell-Khalife
25081 SW Airport Rd
Philomath, OR 97370
khalife@proaxis.com

December 6, 2014 - OF Plastic/China Regular Qualifier (A,B,E)

Corina Roberts
PO Box 702
Simi Valley, CA 93062
redbirds_vision@hotmail.com

December 13, 2014 - Specialty for Classic Scale (all divisions)

Jennifer Floyd
142 El Capitan Drive
Chula Vista, CA 91911
shahbazin@aol.com

December 20, 2014 - AR/CM Regular Qualifier (C,D,F)

Betty Hook
41 Old Trail Road
Liverpool, PA 17045
eclipse@pa.net

December 27, 2014 - Specialty for Longears, Exotics & Mixes (Halter

only - A,B,C,D; ONLY breeds eligible for Classes 38-41)

Betty Hook
41 Old Trail Road
Liverpool, PA 17045
eclipse@pa.net

January 3, 2015 - OF Plastic/China Regular Qualifier (A,B,E)

Elizabeth Jones
10241 Battlefield Dr.
Manassas, VA 20110
ubersu4u@yahoo.com

January 10, 2015 - Specialty for Spanish, Gaited, Draft, Pony, Longears, Mix (Performance only - E,F; ONLY breeds eligible for Classes 28-40)

Laurel Dedes
5193 Coventry Ln
Barboursville, VA 22923
dserthorse@aol.com

January 17, 2015 - AR/CM Regular Qualifier (C,D,F)

Charlotte Martin
3097 Hillery Rd
Lake Charles, LA 70611
carousel1093@aol.com

January 24, 2015 - Specialty for Breyer (A,B,D,E,F)

Heidi Reaves
526 N Hopi Trail
Dewey, AZ 86327
sw.heidi@gmail.com

January 31, 2015 - Specialty for Minis (SM, Chips, LB, Pebbles & same scaled models; all divisions)

Kay Myers
c/o Guy Carpenter & Co
1717 Arch St Suite 800
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(Please mark all envelopes "personal/confidential")
pookaa01@comcast.net

Novice series:

NOVEMBER 15, 2014 - Halter

Marie J. Phillips
93 Franklin Ave
Oakville, CT 06779
RiaSP57@aol.com

division I put the count of photos from each baggie. Sometimes showers (myself included) miscount how many photos are sent so I make sure I know how many photos arrived for the show. This also will save time at the end of the show when I sort the photos to go home. If the count I get doesn't match the count written on the baggie I will count again. If my count still doesn't match I will put a note on the baggie so the owner knows someone has gone astray somewhere.

After all the entries are checked in it's time for the first sort! Depending on what type of show I am judging will dictate what class numbers I need. I make class tags that are taller than the photos and sort everything into a plastic shoebox. The box keeps the photos safe between classes and during storage. I also keep the show fees in the box until the end of the show so nothing gets lost.



I keep the divisions that are not being judged in the individual baggies sent by each entrant. That way I don't accidentally mix in any photos that don't belong in the current division and they stay safe until it's time for judging. I keep the return envelopes in a grocery bag. At the end of each day of judging all the items will be stored in a safe place all together.

The next big tip for quick how you judge. I have tried methods over the years but have it's easiest, for me at least, to lay out all the photos so I can see spread of the competition. I usually judge sitting on my bed gives me plenty of room to lay out all the photos in each class extremely large gender classes in halter this method would not well). Some people spread the photos out on their kitchen or table. Anywhere you have a large, clean space will work. I keep a me to write down the class count at the beginning of each class. these when you enter results.



judging is several found that the full because it (*note* for work as dining room notepad with You'll need



After I have picked my ten placings I order starting from first at the top of down to tenth at the bottom of the take the 10 photos that placed and put the sorting box behind their class photos that didn't place get put in the box.



put them in the stack stack. Then I them back in number. The back of the

I usually judge an entire section (ex. pleasure), placing the ten winners behind each class number as I finish it, and then I go to the computer to type in the results. If you have a laptop it would be easy to go class by class but I don't so this method has worked the best for me. After each section is judged I take my list of class counts and the photo box and get to typing. I take each class one at a time and type in the horse's name and entrants code, making sure I keep them in the correct order. I take the top two or three horses in each class (depending on the size of the class) and those are the horses that get considered for champs. I usually do my champs by how many top placings they got in each division. I have heard a lot of arguments about the "correct" way to do champs but when I learned to judge I was told I can go by points or even use a one-hit wonder that was exceptional in the only thing they entered. So it comes down to, you are the judge and you decide how to do champs. I chose to do them by the number of top placings because it's an efficient way to figure champs and I feel that a horse that placed very well in several classes should champ before a horse that placed well in one class and then poorly in a large number of other classes. But if you want to go solely by points make a list of each horse that places and add all the points up at the end of the division.

Western



When all the divisions are judged it's time to sort the photos to go home. Most of us have at one time or another ended up with a horse in our herd that wasn't ours. And sometimes one of our horses wanders into another owners trailer to see another part of the country. I try to avoid that at all costs but ponies can be naughty. For my sorts I make a separate pile of photos for each entrant. After I have sorted all of the photos into piles I start taking out the individual (*note* I also do this at the end of each



baggies division so

photos that are finished being judged don't hang around outside of bags). I check the count on my check-in list and go through each stack and count. During the count I am also checking to make sure all the photos in the stack belong to the same person. Ponies can be sneaky after all! If I have a stack that is short a photo or two I put it down and start on another one. Usually by the end I can find all the ponies that try to sneak away with a different herd and get everyone packed up safely in their baggies and then get the envelopes packed and taped for the trip home.

The last step is a trip to the post office. The USPS rules state that any package weighing over 13 ounces that has regular stamps for postage (not a metered stamp) must be presented to a clerk. This is a safety precaution but I make sure to follow it so I know for sure all the packets are on their way home. If I haven't already sent the results to the entrants I would do that now, send the show proceeds to the treasurer and the results to the recording secretary. Then my job as judge has ended and I can look forward to entering the next MEPSA show!

Class 54 – What's current with Breyer?

Breyer current for 2014-15 season (in the current catalog) + add newer releases as they come out.

- Harley D Zip
- Flexible
- Magic
- Hamlet
- Weathermont Ethan Morgan
- OT Sara Moniet RSI
- Marwari (palomino)
- Gypsy Vanner (pinto)
- Sam Olympic Gold Medalist
- Trooper
- Guy McLean's Nugget
- Overo Paint (LP) Mare and Foal
- RCMP (black big ben)
- Northern Dancer (John Henry Mold)
- Secretariat (Smarty Jones mold)
- Ballou
- Misty and Stormy, Chincoteague ponies
- Padre (mustang)
- SBH Phoenix
- GVF Sjokolade
- Ssameless++
- RCH Ventarrones
- GG Valentine and Heartbreaker
- Totilas
- Hickstead
- Topsails Reinmaker
- Lindsay's Faith
- Big Chex to Cash
- Grullo Paint ethereal mold
- Zenyetta
- Zenyetta's first colt
- Frankel (Smarty Jones mold)
- Brookside Pink Magnum
- Indian pony (appaloosa on foundation appaloosa mold with feathers)
- Sgt Reckless
- Lets Go Riding Western (buckskin foundation stallion)
- Lets Go Racing (black secretariat)
- Camila, Springtime foal (not technically traditional scale, but we'll include here)

Everyone showing performance should be reading <http://www.positivelyperfectperformance.com/>, and printing it out for their binders. I'm not saying it's perfect in every way, but it certainly is a lot of good information in one place!! Another site with easy to access information specifically for model performance showing is the IMEHA site: <http://www.imeha.org/imehaguidebook/imehaguidebook.html>– Laurel.

New Members join the MEPSA Board of Directors

Carissa Kirksey is our new Secretary. Danielle Duggan is the new Donations Coordinator. Welcome aboard!

2014-15 MEPSA Officers:

President
Vice-President

[Elizabeth Jones](#)
[Corina Roberts](#)

ubersu@verizon.net
redbirds_vision@hotmail.com

Secretary	Carissa Kirksey	sprucewoodfarms@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Robin Nere	nerebcr@msn.com
Donation Coordinator	Danielle Duggan	d_duggan@ymail.com
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Novice Show Coordinator	Marie Phillips	RIAP57@aol.com
Championship Show Coordinator	Carolyn Bailey	foggynote@comcast.net
Championship Show Book	Anne Field	fieldofdolls@gmail.com
Website Coordinator	Jennifer Cole	snyder_1@hotmail.com

2014 Adios customizing challenge

Many of you are already working on the 2014 challenge model, Breyer Adios! I look forward to seeing those results at the end of 2014!

Makeover Challenge Contest- December 2014!

Makeover an Adios any way you want. Get the body soon, so you have plenty of time to work! Please mail Laurel dserthorse@aol.com if you are a proven artist (done MEPSA winners, qualifiers in large classes, other competitive photo show winners or Live show winners or NAN qualifiers) to be added to the list. MEPSA needs bodies to send out, or you can provide your own. -Prizes, not yet decided

If you are an artist – and would like to donate a paint job to MEPSA, we have bodies on hand and artists ready to prep a body for you! Contact any board member to get started, or contact Marie Phillips for a list of available bodies. You may also request a specific body, and we will try to find one for you.

If you have newer body quality models (Nakota, Salinero, Esprit, etc) or classic “Love” molds, you can send these to:

Marie J. Phillips
93 Franklin Ave
Oakville, CT 06779

We will pair the bodies up with artists willing to paint them. Yet another way to raise funds or obtain nice prizes for MEPSA!

MEPSA 2014 CONTEST SCHEDULE

Here is our contest schedule for the rest of this season! MEPSA reserves the right to be somewhat flexible if necessary, and to substitute prizes for something of equal or greater value if necessary. We may, in fact, offer a choice of the prize named here, or an alternative, as we get closer to each contest date. We may offer two divisions of any contest with enough entries, and a second, smaller, prize!

Hallowe'en contest is cancelled due to lack of interest. Contact dserthorse@aol.com for more info.

Next up – the writing contest!

Did you get inspired reading the Annual Champ show book? Time to sharpen your pencils and write about your favorite breed, performance, photography tips, or other model horse items of interest!

Shorter and longer articles are needed, generally 1000-3000 words. The contest ends on December 31. As always we will have a very nice prize! ubersu@verizon.net for more info.

The other contests for this season include: a SM customizing contest, a tack contest and Danielle would like to continue the fun customizing contest with Khemosausage – I mean Khemosabi -- for 2015. We did the Stone WPH last year and are working on Adios for this year. If you have a Khemosabi you would like to donate, please let Danielle know d_duggan@ymail.com.

Website update:

RESULTS! New this year! Get your results by visiting the “show dates and judges” page. Click on the RESULTS button! If the results are ready (as soon as our webmaster Jennifer gets them) they will pop right up!

Donor record:

Start keeping a list of your donations today! Form available on the website. Record each donation and the value. You can also record shipping you have donated to MEPSA, as well as judge’s fees donated. Get credit for all you do for MEPSA! Value of contest entries should not be included as these have their own separate reward system. Submit your donation record at the end of the season (or with your championship entry). This will make record keeping easier for the BOD. All donors receive ad space in the Championship book. Donate \$100 – get a full page, \$50 gets you half a page and \$25 gets you a quarter page ad. Become a patron level sponsor by donating \$150 or more and get your champ show book for free!

Community news --NEW MODEL CLUB STARTING UP:

GAITED MODEL HORSE ASSOCIATION

By: Linda Ransom

As a fan of gaited horses, and owning one, I'd been toying with the idea of forming a model horse club for those types of models. After meeting Jennifer Tomey, a CM (etching) artist and lifelong horse enthusiast who owns a Tennessee Walking Horse mare and some mini horses, we decided to open the Gaited Model Horse Association. The GMHA is for showing and promoting the gaited model horse, but is also a pedigree club. In order for a model to show in the GMHA, it must first be registered, and must have at least a sire and dam. A registration certificate will be issued to the horse's owner once a registration form has been received. The idea for the certificates stems from the old model horse clubs, like the Model Appaloosa Club, who used real-life certificates for their registered models.

Currently we have a facebook page, which can be found by searching for the "Gaited Model Horse Association." We are, so far, a halter club, but would be interested in adding performance if we get enough performance showers. The classlist can be found on the facebook page, as well as the registration form. The GMHA is open to all gaited horse and pony breeds, as well as mules. Our show season will run from September through April, with separate divisions for OF P/C and AR/CM. It is a mail-in club.

We are excited about this new model club, and hope that anyone interested in a place specifically for their gaited model breeds will join.

Editor’s note: this club is not affiliated with MEPSA

Newsletter

The MEPSA newsletter is published quarterly and is available by snail mail upon request. It is edited by Elizabeth Jones and distributed by Marie Phillips.

Have a question or contribution for the next newsletter? Email it to Elizabeth Jones at ubersu@verizon.net or mail it to 10241 Battlefield Drive, Manassas, VA 20110.

Fiction!

*For the want of a nail a shoe was lost
For the want of the shoe the horse was lost
For the want of the horse the rider was lost
For the want of the rider the message was lost
For the want of the message the battle was lost
For the want of the battle the kingdom was lost
All because of a little horseshoe nail.
~Author Unknown~*

~~~~~

### **For the Want of a Nail By Elizabeth Hartmann**

The bay gelding stumbled badly. The momentum of the sudden transition from full gallop to jerking walk threw the rider onto the horse's neck. Liam kicked the exhausted gelding blindly. "Must reach Arrowdale. Must reach Arrowdale." It had been Liam's mission for the past day after the capture of the town of Edriana. The gelding managed to press into a breaking trot, but he would not be prodded any faster. Wondering what was wrong, Liam climbed from the young, fleet gelding. Seeing the horse had lost a shoe, Liam groaned inwardly. Upon inspecting the hoof, Liam saw a huge crack. He patted the bay's sweaty neck. He had tried his best and Liam was grateful to him, but the fate of the Kingdom rested on Liam. He had to get the message to the capital, Arrowdale, in time. Taking the time to remove the gelding's tack, he left him to graze and then jogged off into the predawn light.

His eyes drooped. Blinking hard, Liam traveled on. The day had passed and the night was deep again. Surely the forest would end soon, and he would see the Castle Arrowdale majestic under starlight. He traveled for the night and then when morning came, he realized that had been a mistake in this vast forest. He was sure he had seen that rock before, and that it was not on the original trail out of the forest. Cloud cover had obscured the view of the stars, and he must have traveled in aimless circles. He was now thoroughly lost. The sky was overcast and gray, and it was nearly impossible to tell the direction of the sun. Liam ran recklessly, determined to find his way out of the massive forest. He had to reach Arrowdale to warn the other Kerans.

The skies remained overcast, and the forest was very dark. Liam's exhausted mind refused to work properly, and he lost track of time in his wandering among the dark trees. Finally, Liam stumbled from the forest. He was miles from Castle Arrowdale, but at least he was on the road again. Entering a nearby farmhouse in late evening, Liam paid for a meal and a few hours of rest before continuing on. By the next day, he reached his destination. To his horror, the screams of dying men echoed in the valley. The castle was already under attack – he was too late. As he watched, the battle cries turned into the all too familiar sounds of a massacre. His town had suffered the same fate; he was the only one left alive.

Suddenly, Liam saw a group of men, women, and children streaming from the city, and he ran after them. Glancing over his shoulder, Liam saw a squadron of ten men, armed and running after them. *Lidians*, he thought bitterly. *The murders, hadn't they shed enough blood in the capture of Arrowdale and Edriana?* He shouted a warning to the fleeing Kerans, the golden haired people – his people – who's land was being invaded. Urging the women and children on, the men stopped, stood, and fought the Lidians with such hatred and fierce determination the Lidians turned and ran back to Arrowdale. The men then followed the women and children far into the thick forests, mountains, and caverns in the far western countryside. Their homeland was gone, but they would be free. Liam vowed one day they would regain their independence.

## 93 years later, 106 miles from Castle Arrowdale

Galwyn fought the bonds on his wrists as he limped after the long line of other Keran men, who were being dragged along as slaves. For as long as he could remember, he had fought the chains of slavery. The sight of his new master's home, a large castle, reared up on the horizon.

Once inside the walls, Galwyn was astonished to see that there were hundreds of Kerans walking unbound through the city. As he glanced around, his eyes widened in amazement. A man approached Galwyn holding a long dagger! With a quick slash, it severed Galwyn's bonds – he was free! The man continued down the line of Keran prisoners, freeing their bonds as well. Galwyn was so surprised, he did not move. A short man in a long, elegantly-embroidered tunic swept into the street. His dark hair and eyes revealed that he was Lidian. Galwyn was about to turn and flee; however, the man's words stopped him.

“Greetings! I am Richard, and you all are free.” The man grinned with a pleasant but mischievous smile. “As you might be able to tell, I'm in the habit of buying Keran slaves and then freeing them. The fact is, I'm raising an army to oppose my own people. I've never quite agreed with the way they murdered and enslaved you and your people, and my greatest desire is to see your land restored to you. The hour is very near to our revolution, and I would be greatly pleased to have you men join me.”

Whispers chorused through the group Galwyn had entered with. It was a bizarre turn of events, and all their instincts said not to trust the man – he was Lidian after all. Richard realized the conflict in their thoughts and motioned to a middle-aged Keran next to him.

The Keran spoke, “My brothers, Richard is telling the truth. Under his wing, our people have united and flourished. We owe him everything, and soon we will owe him our country. We are just months away from marching an army of over three hundred trained Keran warriors! Our lands will soon be returned to us!”

Galwyn added his own voice to the cry of triumph the group of Kerans raised. They would trust this Keran.

His life was a blur after that day. All the men had been assigned to different tasks. Galwyn, because of his twisted leg, was taught the art of horseback riding. His task in the coming war would be to take messages to generals and to carry Richard's banner. He also learned to use sword, lance, and spear effectively from on top a horse so he would not be completely defenseless.

One day while brushing his master's horse to glossy perfection, Galwyn heard a loud commotion in the courtyard. Galwyn, ever curious, went to see what was going on. He saw a small gray mare. The mare took a nervous step, and he saw she was favoring her hind leg. Her right hock was swollen. That was what the raised voices were about. The men in the courtyard were arguing about keeping her or killing her because of her limp. The lovely mare looked at him. Her dark, liquid eyes were filled with pain, and she seemed to be asking for help. Galwyn pursed his lips and tears welled in his eyes. The little mare reminded him of himself. His leg had been twisted at birth, so he had never been able to keep up with the other boys and had been sold and resold and rejected throughout his life. Galwyn saw his master enter the throng and ran to him.

“Please, sir,” he said, falling on his knees. “Do not kill the mare! I will take care of her.”

Richard's gaze softened, “Galwyn, the mare has a torn muscle. She will need weeks of attention to heal her. Even after that, full recovery is not certain. With war coming, we simply don't have time for her.”

“Please, sir, I will care for her in my spare time,” Galwyn pleaded.

Richard sighed deeply, “So be it.” To the men in the courtyard he said, “This horse is to be put into Galwyn's care. If he succeeds in healing the mare, she will be his for good.”

## Six months later: The March to Castle Arrowdale

Galwyn grinned widely as he sat astride his sleek gray mare. Kamila pranced nervously, and he patted her neck. She calmed immediately. Galwyn felt a connection with the mare. He even suspected that, in a horsey way, she spoke to him. The mare's feet stayed still, but she tossed her head with an impatient flair as if to say, *Are we going to leave yet?*

“Yes, now be patient. Are you sure you are strong enough to carry me all the way to Arrowdale? I could always ride another horse.” It was his constant worry. In the months after her leg had healed, he had taken to strengthening it with longer and faster rides every day, but the trip to Arrowdale would be a steady trot for hours every day.

Kamila, snorted loudly and pawed the ground. Galwyn fancied she was saying *Don't you dare ride another horse. I'm plenty strong enough!* He shook his head. Horses couldn't understand what humans said, could they? Kamila sure seemed to.

“Riders, move out!” came Richard's cry. It was echoed by a trumpet. Carrying Richard's brilliant yellow banner, Galwyn filed in with the line behind Richard.

In four days time, they were within an hour's ride of the castle. Stopping for the night, the army rested and put together last minute details. Galwyn cared for Kamila, who had taken the march just fine. Tomorrow the Kerans would fight to take back their land.

Indeed, the following morning, when foreign trumpets sounded at the break of dawn, the Lidians in the castle were thrown into a chaotic struggle to prepare for battle. The surprised garrison was completely unprepared to meet the large force opposing them. The Kerans set ladders and grappling hooks with long ropes on the walls, and their men swarmed up them. The battle was short, and the Kerans forced the Lidians from the castle. The Kerans had regained their largest castle, a perfect foothold from which to take back the rest of their land.

A few weeks later, Galwyn gazed over the wall beside Richard, and virtually moaned in horror. Outside the Castle Arrowdale's wall sat an ever-growing force of Lidians. More men joined it every day. They had blocked all the roads and began a siege to weaken the Kerans. Richard gripped Galwyn's shoulder now.

“Galwyn, someone must ride to get help.” he said.

“Help from where, sir?” Galwyn answered.

“I remember a story. When my people drove yours from this castle years ago, it is said a group of 100 or so escaped. They ran into the hills west of here. I have no idea if they survived, but if they did surely they would want to help take back their land. The Lost Kerans are our only hope.”

Galwyn nodded, “I will go, sir.”

Richard smiled at him, “Good. Tonight, under cover of darkness, ride to the western mountains. They are riddled with caverns to hide in. If the Kerans are still there, they will see you before you see them. Alright, boy, go now, and get ready.”

Galwyn rushed to the stable. He began brushing Kamila. “Hey, girl. You'll never believe what has happened!” He wasn't sure why he was talking to his horse but he continued anyway. “Tonight we are to leave the castle and find the legendary Lost Kerans. The fate of Arrowdale hangs on our journey!”

The mare snorted and tossed her head proudly. *Well, of course! They wouldn't trust anyone else. We are the fastest!* Galwyn grinned and again wondered at the bond which seemed to allow horse and boy to understand one another.

Just before dusk, a thick fog shrouded the castle. Galwyn was prepared and stood at the western gate getting final advice from Richard.

“Good luck, young sir. Ride as fast and hard as you dare, but remember: don't run yourself or your horse to the ground. It is better to keep a slower, steady pace and reach your goal than to push yourselves and never get there.”

Galwyn nodded.

Richard clapped him on the back and motioned for the gate to be opened. On the other side of the castle, the eastern gate was also being opened to let out a small number of men who would produce a diversion attack for a few minutes.

The going was slow, but Galwyn was glad for the fog, though it seemed to be lifting slowly. The Lidians had set a full sentry line around the castle. As he neared it, they called out a challenge. Galwyn, who was prepared for this, answered in a powerful voice, “Get out of the way! The enemy is making a surprise attack on the east side. Get over there, and make use of yourselves! I have to speak to the commander!” His words threw the unseen line into chaos, and Galwyn trotted through unnoticed.

About a mile from the castle, the fog lessened drastically and soon disappeared altogether. Galwyn glanced at the stars, got his bearings, and headed west at a gallop. Sensing the urgency, Kamila ran faster than she ever had before.

Freedom. Pure, joyous, freedom. For the first time in all his life, Galwyn felt free. His deformed leg no longer dragged him down, chaining him to the ground. Now he was astride his very own mare, and they were flying like eagles.

Kamila nickered, *Want to go faster?* Galwyn wasn't sure if it was Kamila or his own thoughts, but he grinned and leaned over her neck. The little mare swept them over the ground even faster. As they rode, the temperature dropped. Leaning over the mare's neck for warmth, Galwyn rubbed his freezing hands under Kamila's mane.

Night passed. The day dawned clear and cold, and it saw Galwyn still cantering on his faithful gray mare. The sun set and rose again, still looking down on the figure of horse and rider picking their way through the tangle of rocks, trees, and gulleys.

Once in the mountains, they meandered on faint mountain goat trails but had to back track numerous times due to rock slides. The terrain was rough, and progress was painfully slow. This continued for another two days. Sporadically Galwyn would be slumped over the mare's neck sleeping, but they never stopped except for an occasional drink at a creek. Galwyn ate in the saddle, and Kamila snatched mouthfuls of dried grasses when she could. Galwyn was amazed at the mare's strength. Never once had she faltered.

On the fourth full day of travel, Galwyn was slouched in the saddle when he was startled awake by her jolting stop. When he opened his eyes, he saw a line of men holding spears, who were obviously Kerans because of their golden colored hair.

"Why are you here?" a man at the head of the line asked.

"I've come to humbly ask you, Keran warriors, to come help free our people. This very moment, if my message is not too late, they are holding our largest fortress, Arrowdale, against the Lidians, but without your help we cannot win." Galwyn answered calmly.

The years of mistrust which had kept these Kerans safe came into play. "How do we know you tell the truth?"

Galwyn answered indignantly, "Am I not tall, blond and have blue eyes like most of you?! I am Keran, too. At this very moment our people are fighting for freedom! Will you hang onto uncertainties and so let the kingdom fall back into the hands of Lidia?!"

This sparked a heated discussion, which lasted for nearly half an hour. Finally, they made a decision. "We will go," the eldest man answered.

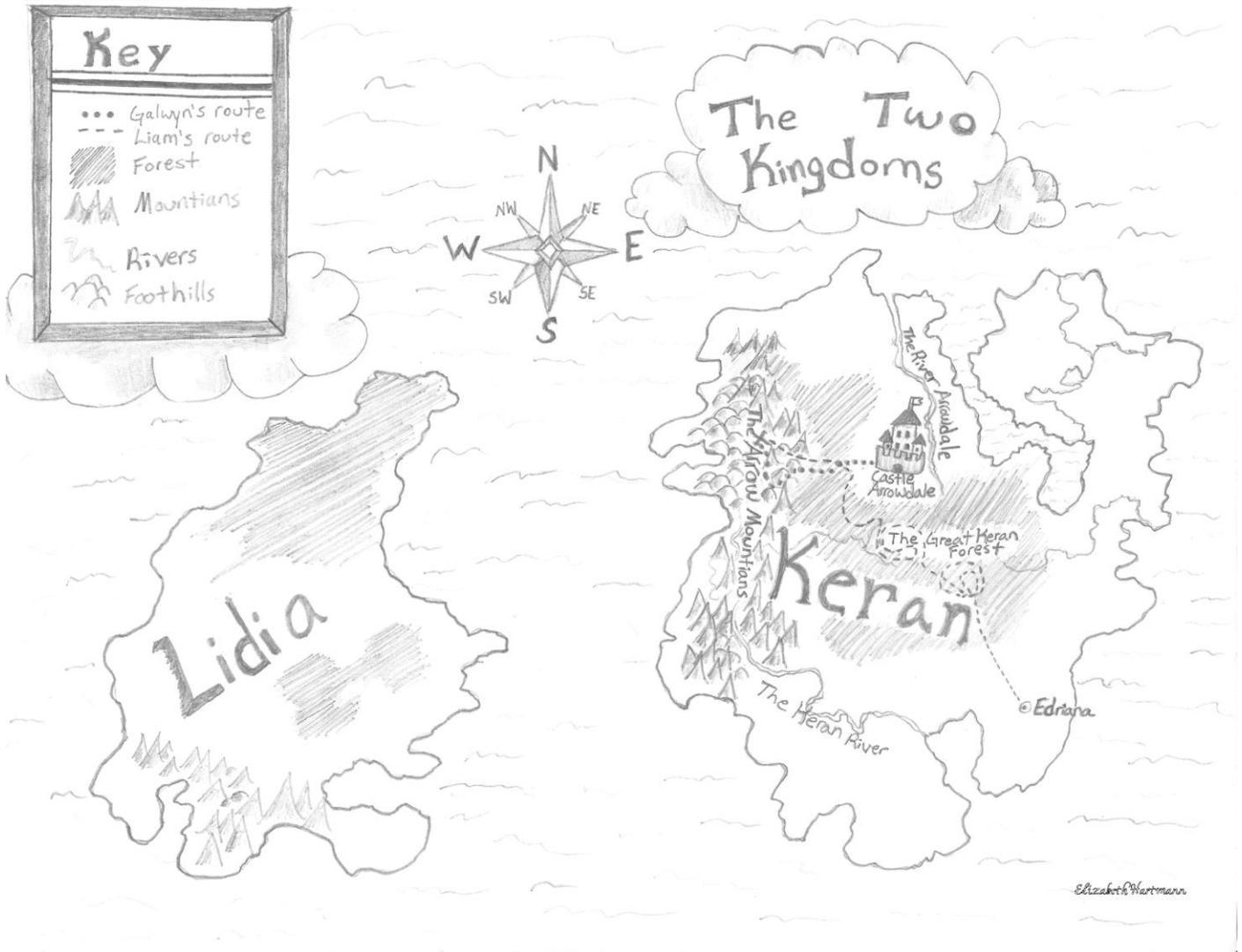
In two hours, an army of the Lost Kerans marched, 600 strong. Because of their lack of horses, it took just over seven days to arrive within sight of the besieged castle. Catapults were hammering Castle Arrowdale's walls.

The Lost Kerans' general sounded a battle horn, and as one unit the men charged into battle – flanking and surprising the Lidians. Galwyn, on his mare, charged with them shouting, "Freedom for Keran!"

Then it happened: the horse he had found new legs on lost hers. They tumbled to the ground. Galwyn immediately scrambled to his feet and rushed over to his mare. When she stood, he saw that she had lost a shoe and had gone lame on a sharp stone.

The mission, however, was complete. The message had been delivered, and within a day the battle was won. The Lidians were driven back across the sea. The loss of a nail did not win this time.

Kamila recovered quickly, and Galwyn and his mare were rightly regarded as heroes. Galwyn and his horse were rarely separated. Galwyn had gained freedom not only for his people, but also from the ground. On Kamila's back, his twisted leg was a distant memory. With the wind in his hair and the ground flying under them, Galwyn was filled with an inexplicable joy. He raised his hands and face to the sky and laughed jubilantly. *We are free!*



**MEPSA BODY BOX Sept 2014**

**STABLEMATES**

- G1 Arab stallion
- G1 Arab mare
- G1 ASB
- G1 Citation (3)
- G1 laying down foal
- G1 Morgan Mare
- G1 QH stallion
- G1 Native Dancer (2)
- G1 Silky Sullivan (2)
- G1 Swaps (2)
- G1 TB mare
- G2 Appaloosa/Stock (Unpainted/prep)
- G2 galloping Drafter (3)

G2 Morgan (4)  
G2 Mule  
G2 Paso Fino (unpainted/prepped)  
G2 rearing Arabian (3)  
G2 rearing Arabian (partially painted may need stripping)  
G2 Cantering Foal  
G2 Scrambling foal  
G2 Scratching foal  
G2 Shetland  
G2 Thoroughbred (5)  
G2 Warmblood (4)  
G3 Friesian  
G3 Rearing Andalusians (3)  
G3 Standing Thoroughbred (2)  
G3 WB jumper (no stand)  
Grey halfinger? Welsh? G4? Rear leg cracked.  
Grey halfinger? Welsh? G4?

### **LITTLEBIT / STONE PEBBLES**

Saddlebred  
Stock horse  
Warmblood  
Schleich Drafter  
Schleich WB (Littlebit size)  
Schleich Shire gelding  
Schleich Draft gelding  
Schleich Appaloosa foal

### **CLASSIC**

Andalusian Foal  
Andalusian Mare  
Andalusian Stallion (2)  
Arabian Foal- tail missing  
Black Beauty (2)  
Flicka  
Ginger  
Keen (2)  
Might Tango  
Mustang Foal  
Western Pony (Needs sticky paint stripped)

### **TRADITIONAL**

Action Stock Horse Foal (2)

Andalusian (rear leg broken-piece missing.)  
Black Beauty (old Mold) rear leg broken have piece.  
Breyer Jumper with wall-tail removed  
Family Arab Mare (2)  
Justin Morgan (3)  
Oldenburg-buckskin (tail broken have piece)  
Lady Phase  
Man O War (old mold)  
Phar Lap (2) One is partially etched-be nice if someone finished him! Have pic  
Proud Arab Foal  
Proud Arab Mare  
Proud Arab Stallion  
San Domingo - (broken rear leg-have piece)  
Silver body  
Running Foal  
Running Stallion (front leg broken-have piece)  
Shetland Pony (4)  
Stock Horse Mare  
Stud Spider

### **RESIN**

Unknown Morgan/Pony type stallion Three legs broken. Have pieces (Have pic)