

Adventures with TK

As I walked in to the barn, the sounds of hooves and the horses that whinnied woke me up from my gentle daydreaming. Straight away, I knew something was wrong on the other side of the barn. I found the problem; they were trying to load a troublesome horse named TK. He always ran away whenever someone opened his stall door. However, TK was a marvellous mover when you watched him frolic around in the paddock. I actually have never really... ridden before. I had this accident when I was little. I actually loved riding when I was like, super young. My dad used to own a ranch until we came to this school, called DeVado Academy, for my dad to teach riding and for me to be a student. About the accident, I was riding this horse Baby

Blue, he was a very mischievous horse. I was trying to get off, but he bolted and I could not get my foot out of my stirrup. I was dragged. I remember that my head was bouncing on the ground and his hooves were so close that they felt like they were on my head. Therefore, my dad said if I come to the academy, I have to ride. SCARY!

My roommate's name is Katie and my name is Amy. We live in the Rose cottage. Beautiful name, isn't it? The first day I arrived here, TK almost ran me over. After that, I went into his stall. He undid the knot and galloped away. Oops! Anyways, once I saw TK trying to get in the trailer, I decided I wanted him to stay at the academy. I went to talk to the headmistress DeVado to see if we could have TK here a bit longer. However, she said someone has to ride him for him to stay here. Immediately I said I'd ride him without even knowing I'd said that. UGH! I hate when that happens! So right when she excused me, she told me I should get Elaine from Rose Cottage. By the way, she is my archenemy. Apparently, she was invited

for tea. That is actually a very important matter. Anyhow, now I actually, sort of, promised Lady DeVado that I would at least trot today. Okay, time to face my fear. First actually to mount TK. I have this. I can do this. I put my foot in the stirrup and swing my leg over. Yeah! I'm finally actually on a horse, it's a little scary but I'm going to do this if I want to keep TK. Alright.

"Ok TK, we'll just go for a walk, it's time for us to trot," I said as I almost tumbled to the ground from a 5 foot drop.

"Oh goodness, Katie, I was about to fall off!" I told my roommate.

“No, you were not, Amy. Try it again. You can hold onto TK’s mane if you want to,” said Katie

“I shouldn’t, I don’t want to hurt him by pulling out his beautiful flowing mane,” I muttered under my breath.

“Actually, fun fact, horses can’t feel their mane, so go ahead and grab it for balance,” she said.

“Okay then, so how do we get him to trot?” I asked while Katie’s head was in her hands.

“Just squeeze his sides with your heels. Your stirrups have elastic outsides so you won’t be dragged. The elastics just pop out of the hook. There called safety stirrups.”

"You can do this," I said nervously in my head.

"What if I make a bad mistake?" I think. It seems like I have a bad case of the 'what ifs'. Ok, in three, two, one, squeeze! We're trotting, this is a very bouncy two beat gait. "TK, let us stop now," I said.

And that's how I got over my fear of riding. Bye, I have to go practice jumping with TK!

