

Rimfire: The Barrel Racing Morgan Horse



by Susan Dudasik

"Laura doesn't have to know. I'll just tell her that Nicholas can't go. I don't have to tell her that Mr. Bunker said I couldn't take Rimfire. We'll take Rimfire to the show, have a blast, skip dinner, and be back in time to feed all of Nicholas's horses." Thus began one of the worst days of Heather Richardson's life, when she chose to deceive her friends so she could compete in barrel racing competition.

Growing up is tough and often youngsters tend to make unwise choices. In, *Rimfire: The Barrel Racing Morgan Horse* the sixth book in the Morgan Horse series, by Ellen F. Feld, the author explores the ethical conflicts Heather, the book's main character, has to battle with when she opts to take a friend's horse to a competition after she had been told she could not do so. Feld does an awesome job of presenting the various thoughts Heather has as she tries to justify her decision and then how she has to deal with the consequences

of her actions when things go wrong.

From the very first chapter, the reader is vividly treated to the excitement of learning about a new equine activity, barrel racing, and how thrilling it is to be racing against time while running across the arena, turning around the barrels and galloping full out for the finish line. The lure of such excitement is too much for Heather to handle as she gives in to the temptation of winning. Like all of Feld's books, *Rimfire* also offers insights into the daily life at the stable; the joys of trail riding with friends, and the excitement of getting new horses. There's also a harrowing adventure that puts Heather in great danger as she tries to save Rimfire after he escapes into the woods. In fact, there are actually three stories interwoven in this book, the main story about Rimfire and

barrel racing, the second about Rocket, an aged Morgan horse that Heather's friend adopt and the third which focuses on the emotional consequences

Heather's actions has on her various friendships.

Though the Morgan Horse series is basically for

children and young adults, Feld provides a realistic view of the horse world. Her accurate and detailed descriptions of basic horsemanship and stable management makes the Morgan horse series books not only fun adventure stories, but educational as well. Another fun aspect of Feld's books is that each one explores a different discipline, from the hunter and saddleseat showings and now barrel racing, as well as the versatility of the Morgan Horse.

Feld's Morgan Horse series has captured the hearts of readers both young and old as well as numerous book awards. Her first book, *Blackjack: Dreaming of a Morgan Horse* was selected as a winner of the "Children's Choices for 2005" by the International Reading Association and Children's Book Council "Children's Choices" selection. Her second book, *Frosty: The Adventures of a Morgan Horse*, won the "Children's Choices for 2004."

Books nominated for this award were sent to selection sites in Tennessee, Ohio, Georgia, Texas and Montana to be reviewed by approximately 10,000 children who visited the sites, read the books and voted for their favorites. Feld's third book is *Rusty: The High-Flying Morgan Horse*, followed by *Robin: The Loveable Morgan Horse*, *Annie: the Mysterious Morgan Horse* and *Shadow: The Curious Morgan Horse*.

Like Feld's other books, don't be surprised if you end up reading *Rimfire: The Barrel Racing Morgan Horse* in one sitting as it is a fun-filled, educational, horsey adventure with numerous twists, turns and an unexpected adventure. With the holiday season coming up and riding time being limited, this book would make a great holiday gift for riders of all ages and disciplines.

For more information on Feld's books, please visit her website at <http://www.willowbendpublishing.com/>.

Susan is an equine journalist, mule enthusiast and the Idaho representative for the American Trail Horse Association. She's competed in numerous trail class events, holds clinics and teaches classes at Misfit Farm in Salmon.

