

The Reading Horse

by Catherine Reeder



Buddy was a horse. His owner was a girl named Ell. Ell was a great rider. She also loved to read. There was a bench outside Buddy's stall where Ell sat to read. One day she was reading and Buddy was watching. He peered over her shoulder and down to the book. He loved to look at the pictures.

Sometimes Ell would read out loud to Buddy and Buddy loved to listen to the stories very much. He soon began to understand what the words meant.



One day, Ell left a picture book on the bench. Buddy took the book in his mouth and brought it into his stall. He nudged the cover and the book opened. For days, Buddy looked at the pictures. Over time, Buddy got bored with the pictures and tried to read the words. It didn't work the first few days.



He had just managed to stumble through two pages when ^{he} heard Ell coming. He snatched the book in his mouth and hid it in the hay.

“Where’s my book?”, Ell exclaimed. Buddy snorted guiltily...”Uh, I haven’t seen it”, he thought to himself. Ell left the barn with a sigh.

Buddy felt bad that he was responsible for Ell’s book, but after a few more days he returned the book to its place on the bench. When Ell came back, she saw the book. She covered her mouth in surprise!

The next day, out of curiosity, Ell left another book on the bench. A couple minutes later, she returned. The book was gone. When she left, Buddy was enjoying the wonderful book.

A few more days passed and the picture book was back on the bench. Buddy loved the book and longed for more. He got his wish. Ell put a pile of books on the bench. He read them one by one.



“Is it true?”, Ell thought, “that my horse is really reading my books?!”

Now, both she and Buddy could share their love of books together!

