

## "Death" of a Showhorse: A Rhyme for the Times

I'm so glad you'll pay two-fifty  
For this remake that I've done—  
He's a flashy bay overo  
Lady Phase now in a run.

Your check has reached me safely  
And I'll send him right to you.  
Watch for a box by UPS—  
He comes with photos, too.

*Ah, Nine Across, at last you're here—the stallion of my dreams!  
Together, we may well become the mightiest of teams.  
We'll take the model world by storm, and you'll win many Grands  
But if you don't, that's okay too—you'll never leave my hands!*

You saw a photo of a Paint?  
Oh yes, that's one of mine.  
I did him for a saleslist, and  
He came out mighty fine.

That's nice to hear you gave him Grand,  
And—what? You want a twin?  
I never, ever duplicate...  
But I'll make one close akin.

*Oh, Nine Across, we're doing great—beyond my aspirations!  
The judges really seem to love you all across the nation.  
Although it bugs me that in shows some look-alikes will lurk  
With all your "brothers" that are springing out of the woodwork.*

I'll always love that Nine-Across—  
He's made my bankroll fatter.  
None of the rest "clicked" quite like him  
But, guess that doesn't matter.

He stars in all the ads I run  
And I sold him for big dough—  
I think I'll put his photo in  
This "Customizers' Show"!

I don't have his owner's permission  
But hey, she shouldn't mind  
She should be proud that I promote  
Such a high-class one-of-a-kind.

*My Nine Across, I never thought you'd retire so soon  
But over-saturation has spelled out your career's doom.  
There's nothing wrong, but judges yawn when you step in the ring:  
"We've seen that guy already—now how 'bout a different thing?"*

*Besides your picture seen in ads and customizers' shows  
There's all your copied cousins, who were truly fearsome foes.  
And you and I, three shows each month we went to, all in all—  
Oh, Nine Across, how could we have prevented your downfall?*

*So bear in mind, all showers, next time you shell out a sum  
For a super-nifty showhorse that you think will be The One—  
Just because you own the horse and all his showrights (you assume),  
Is it possible that someone else will start to fade his bloom?*

*Each remake has a "show-life" during which he will show well—  
How long it takes to run its length, well, only time will tell.  
He might be hot for two, three years, or in six months be done—  
The end will come when judges feel he is a dull rerun.*

*His six similar cousins are a quandary without cure—  
The remake art spans 20 years. Was your horse first? You sure?  
You can't stop brothers fore or aft, but here's the biggest trouble:  
It's a strike against his show-life if an artist makes a double.*

*Your horse's likeness shown in print is a big compliment.  
It's natural to show him off; no harm is really meant—  
It may well help his show career and gain him a few fans.  
But watch out for a new trend that will slice his show-lifespan:*

*Customizers' shows are offering his artist leave  
To show him without asking...and away his show-life bleeds.  
And later, when you show him where his artist did before,  
If the judge likes "new" and "different," she may boot him out the door.*

*Does an artist have the right to sell a horse, then change her mind  
And help herself to partial showrights? Is she out of line?  
If you want to show your remakes that you sold, ethically,  
You must ask buyers' permission to show their property!*

*If buyers tell you "no," that's that—the law is on their side.  
And not sharing the showrights will prolong those horses' lives.  
If you want customizers' shows, try questioning the source:  
Which did you want more at one time—the money, or the horse?*

### The Clothes Horse

*Model Horse and Rider Attire*

Custom Work Available

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