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The Bhoomian in India

Matthew Davis
A Lady Named Jess

By Robert F. Stowell

With a new haying season coming on, we began to talk about horses. My experience was limited to a few days when we had the loan of a riding horse. I also knew they were large animals with strong teeth that sometimes tried to nip your jacket and their hoofs were capable of bruising a foot if struck with enough force. Vermont winter we were certainly dreamers. We wanted a mare for riding, a gelding for farm work, and we wanted a horse that could work but would also not be impossibly awkward to ride. Those of you who know horses will realize that this is far from the truth. You can't combine the surefootedness of a pack-train gelding with the pleasure of a sports car.

That spring I spent many hours peering through fences at a wide variety of work horses, thinking that we might learn something useful from them. Most of the horses seemed to me hopelessly handsome or they were very clumsy. Our adviser on horses told us that what we needed to find was a Morgan — or a part-Morgan. Vermont is famous for this breed. They are on the small side for farm work but intelligent, stout hearted work horses, thinking that we might learn something.

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