

## SOME KIND OF WONDERFUL

One night a young boy was sleeping when he was awakened, "Hunter, will you check on Piper?" Hunter jumped out of bed as he went to see his mare. When Hunter arrived at the stable, he was amazed. His bay mare had foaled a little grey Standardbred filly. Hunter called for his father who was just as surprised as he was. "I've named her Chantilly-Lace. Even though she's small, I know she's going to do something wonderful" Hunter exclaimed.

Over the next few months, Hunter took good care of his mare and foal. Time passed quickly. Hunter worked daily with his new standby. When Chantilly-Lace was 18 months old, they started getting Lacey used to the sulky and being guided by a driver. The months continued to fly by. Before they knew it, Lacey was 2 years old. It was time that she entered her first race.

At the track, a stray dog ran in front of Lacey's sulky. Lacey spooked and tore a tendon. She was on stall rest for 2 months. After daily rehab, medicine and rest Lacey was ready to ease back into work. As her next race approached, Chantilly-Lace was ready!

Over the years, she entered many races and was often a front runner. Chantilly-Lace was awarded the Canadian Harness Horse of the Year award twice and was a World Driving Champion. Finally, at the age of 14 her sulky was put away and she was retired from driving.

Chantilly-Lace was sold to Emerice Reeds, who fell in love with her new mount. Emerice started training Lacey for eventing. After 2 years, they were finally ready for a CCI\* event. The pair would compete at numerous 3 day events together.

As Emerice sat before her computer, she submitted her application for the Badminton Horse Trials. They had 2 months until Badminton arrived. May 1<sup>st</sup>, Emerice and Lacey entered the dressage arena. They had a very successful round, which placed them in 5<sup>th</sup>. Emerice untacked and gave Lacey her well-deserved lunch. For cross country, she decided to take the short route. After a clear round, they sat in 3<sup>rd</sup> place. The trot was up next.

The judge announced over the speakers, "Chantilly-Lace and Emerice Reeds have been spun". As soon as she heard this, Emerice knew her dreams of winning were over. They weren't eliminated yet. A second vet would arrive shortly with a decision. "Chantilly-Lace and Emerice Reeds have pass to the final phase". A roar of excitement came from the crowd. She would enter the final round!

**RING!** Chantilly-Lace cantered underneath Emerice as she rode to the first jump. The grey mare cleared it! All jumps were in their cups as the pair approached the final obstacle.

**One, two, three...** Emerice counted her strides. It was like flying and as the pole rocked in its cups, it didn't fall! "They have won! Emerice Reeds and Chantilly-Lace are the youngest and only standardbred horse combination to ever win Badminton!"

*Written by Avery Kirkpatrick from Bowmanville, ON*