The Auctioneer

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Abstract

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This here little animal, ladies and gentlemen, is a bargain at any price. She's not too big but on the other hand she eats less than your average size horse. A handy size for the kids to use.

... "You wanna know how old she is? Well, let me tell you, ladies and gents, she's that age where she's got plenty of years left in her and yet you don't hafta worry bout her being flighty or skittery. She wouldn't shy if a locomotive passed her three feet away.

... "Spirit? Hell, yes, she's got spirit. Pardon my language, ladies. All you need is a little switch to lay on once in a while and you'll see a horse with plenty of spirit. I'll bet this animal would make a dandy barrel horse. Bring your cattle up at night, fellas.

... "Can she carry a man? Don't let her height fool you, folks, this horse has a lot of depth. These little horses can carry a lot of weight if you're not afraid to get your money's worth out of 'em. And, remember, they don't eat near to half what them big horses eat.

... "That little swelling on the fetlock? Folks, there's a heartwarming story that goes along with this mare. The fella that owned this mare before I was fortunate enough to get her was caught out one night bringing home the cattle.
He was just past the creek when a branch hit him and knocked him plumb silly. This great little horse ran for home just as fast as her legs could carry her. Well, she had to jump a fence 'bout as big as she was and when the hired hand found her she was shaking and blowing and had hurt her foot hitting the top of the fence. Jake went out and got the owner and then fetched the vet. Soon as the vet got finished sewing up the man's head he went out and fixed up this brave little horse as best he could. Vet says if you don't mind looking at a little puffed area on the leg this horse is as sound as a dollar. Like the old saying goes, if your horse ain't marked, then like as not he ain't never moved.

. . . “Not only is this little mare hardworking, she's just as gentle as a newborn kitten. Why I'd put my little girl Jody on this mare and not have a moment's worry. This horse won't kick, bite, shove ya 'gainst the side of the stall or even step on your toes. This horse hasn't a mean bone in her body. She don't even blow out when you're cinching her up. Nine times out of ten she'll—

“Somebody grab that boy climbing in the ring! Whew! You'd better watch that boy, lady. He's liable to get kilt fore his next birthday. . . .

“Now what was I saying? Oh, yes. Nine times out of ten this mare will open up her mouth and take that bit just as purty as you please. . . .

. . . “Why don't I keep this great little horse for myself? Well let me tell you. I'm in the horse selling business. You folks come to me looking for high quality stock. And I have it. Now how would it be if I kept all the good ones for myself and tried to palm the rotten apples off on my loyal customers? No sirree. There's honor in this business too.”

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**Senryu**

*by Warpo Marks*

It has been written
that when the platypus mates,
nature lays an egg.