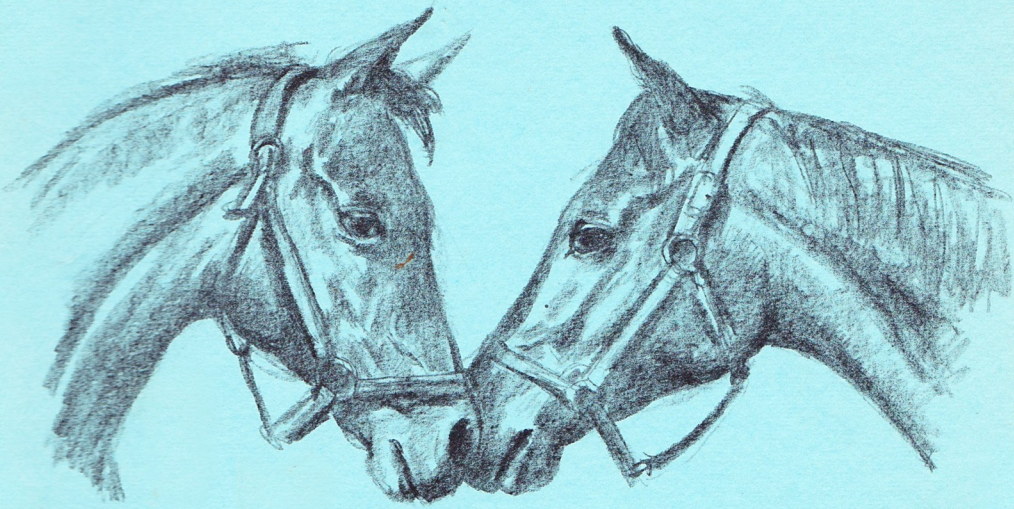
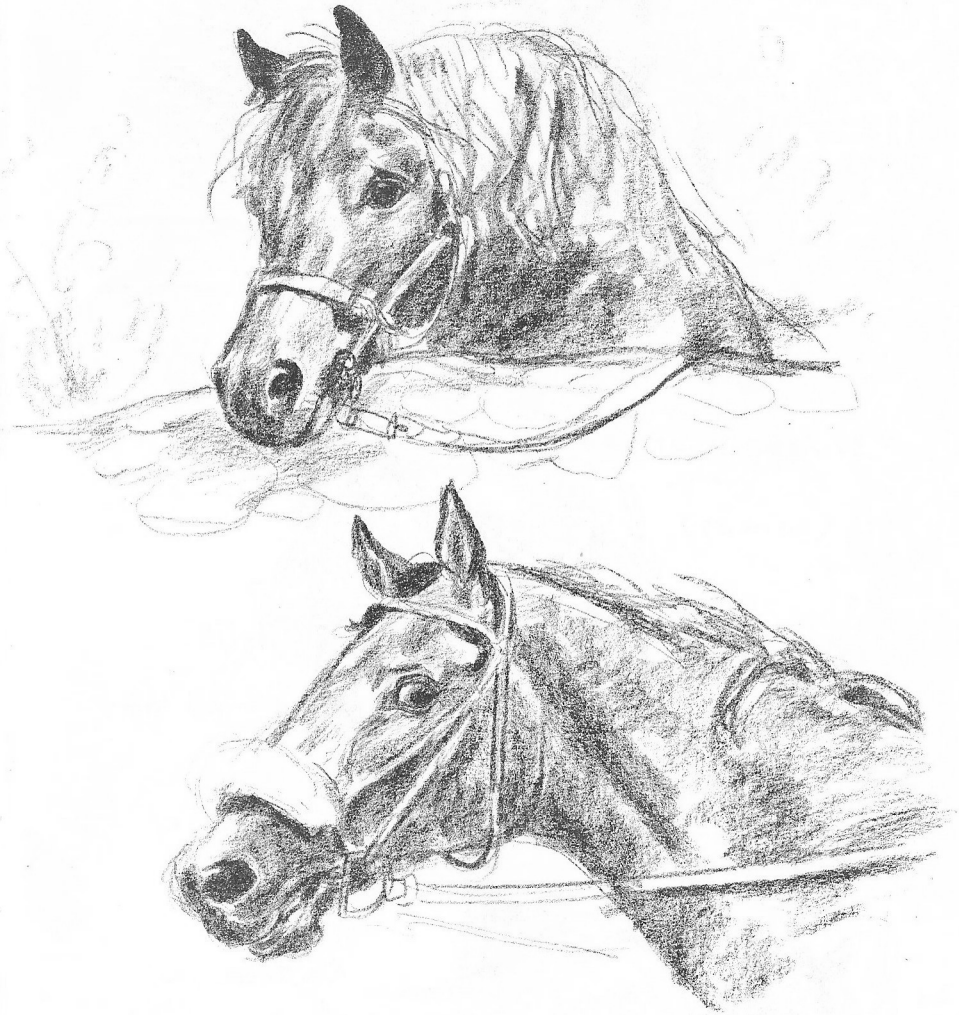


HORSE LANGUAGE

BY

PHOEBE TAYLOR

A horse speaks to us with his eyes, and his ears, and his body.



His language is very clear - he doesn't try to hide his feelings.

GREETINGS

HI!

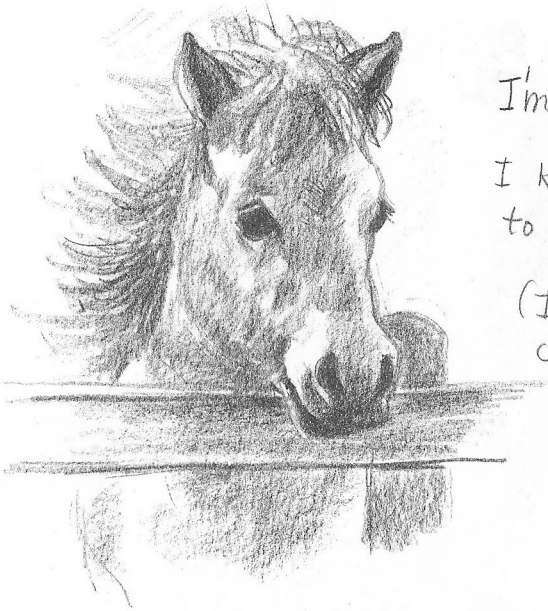
Much enthusiasm in the set of the head and ears.

Hello.

A mild interest

Oh, there you are.

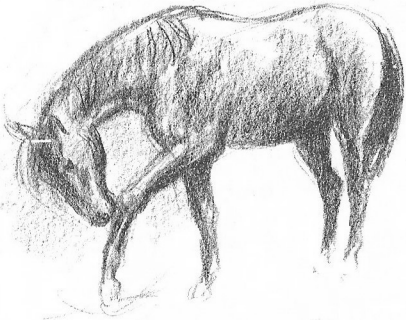
(A perfunctory look around)



I'm Hungry

I know its time to eat

(I have a perfect clock in my mind)



I'm impatient

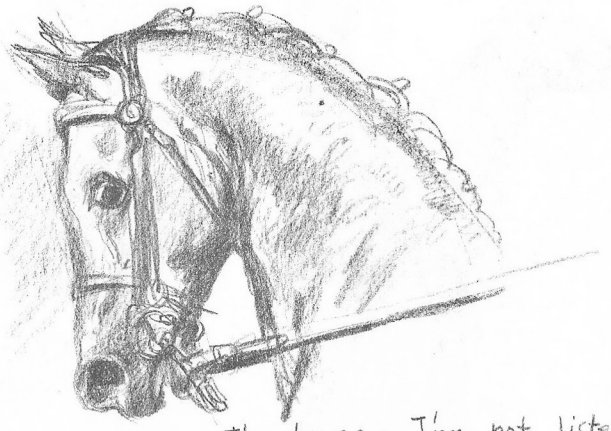
(pawing)

Don't come near me when I'm eating!

so you're the new pony.

I won't really kick you but you must realize I was here first

Now that we are friends we can scratch each other's backs



I'm tense - I'm not listening
(tight neck muscles, stiff ears)

I'm listening to you
(ears cocked)

I'm bored. I have been doing the same school work over and over and over again.

I'm unhappy – I'm holding my head too high, I'm stiff and hollow in the back.

I feel much better – I can move easily and naturally.

JUMPING

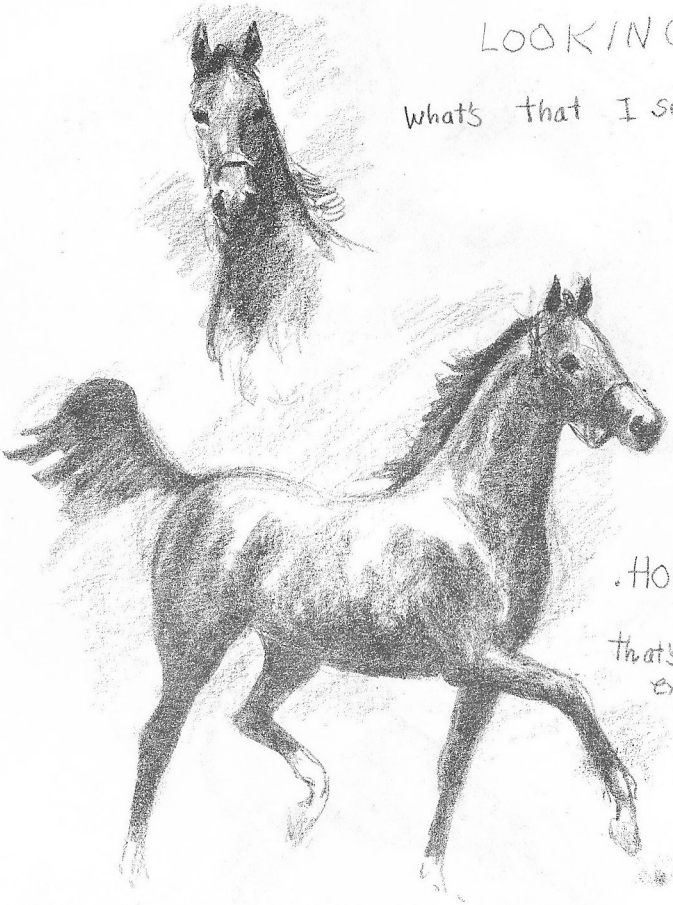
You're jabbing my mouth!
How can I make a good jump

Its too big a Jump I'm afraid to try it.

I'm very Confident

LOOKING

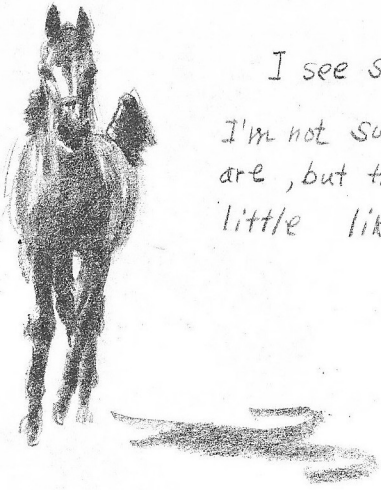
What's that I see?



.HORSES!

That's exciting!

(much snorting and tail straight up in the air)



I see some deer!

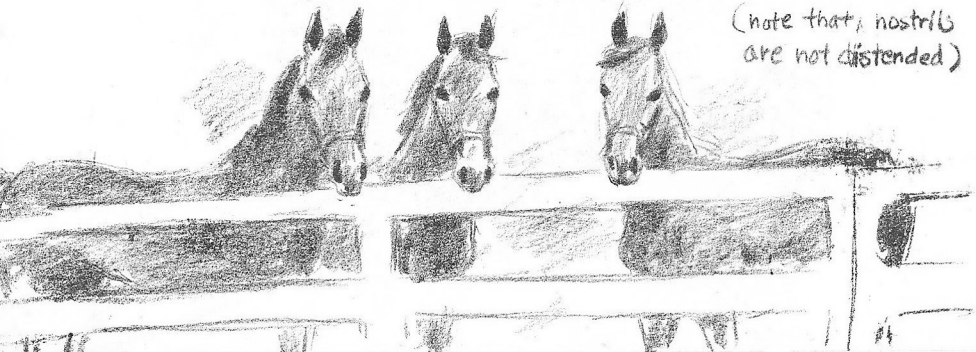
I'm not sure what they are, but they look a little like horses.

Here comes
Someone I know

There's something
interesting at
the other end
of the field

we are always curious, we watch every passer-by.

(note that, nostrils
are not distended)



WHAT did you put in my feed - it smells terrible!

(horses have a keen sense of smell and can detect even a small amount of medicine mixed with their feed.)

(he rolls back his upper lip when the smell offends him)

that's new - I'll have to sniff

I love you too.

we're playing -
not fighting -
this is my friend.

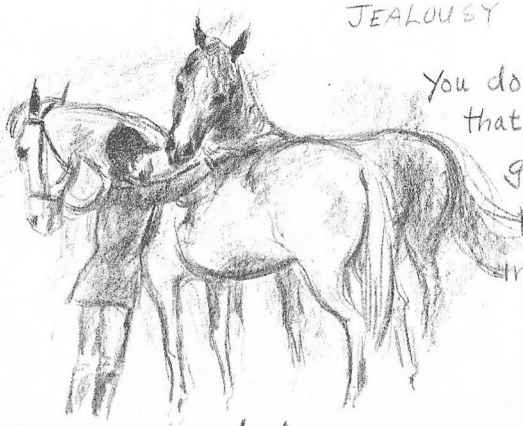
I'm not sure I trust you.

I'm not going to move

Well, here we come!
yearlings
I'm feeling great!
yearling
You're my new baby

FEAR
I'm afraid of that spooky thing!
I'm afraid to step into this van
I've never been in one before
I kicked from instinct, because you came up behind me with no warning! You frightened me!

JEALOUSY



You don't mean that you are going to ride that horse instead of me!

Some horses become very possessive about their riders

and even about the rides they take.

Zar was ridden on a trail across from the farm almost every day.

It was his ride!

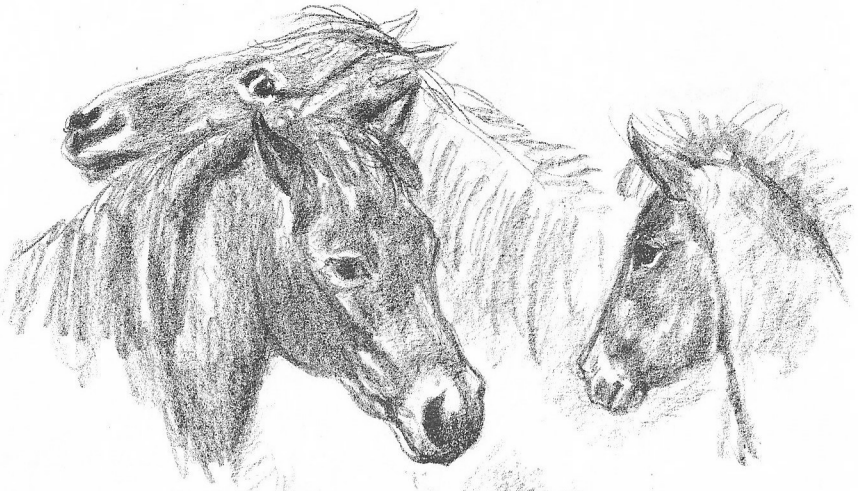
One day Zar's mistress took the trail by herself.

Zar couldn't believe it.

Heran to the far fence and whinnied

COME BACK!
TAKE ME!
THATS OUR RIDE!

He whinnied and called until She came back.



The horse speaks his own language. If we watch his ears and his eyes, the way he carries his head, his tail, the play of his muscles, the flare of his nostrils, we can understand much of what he is saying to us.

AND HE UNDERSTANDS US

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