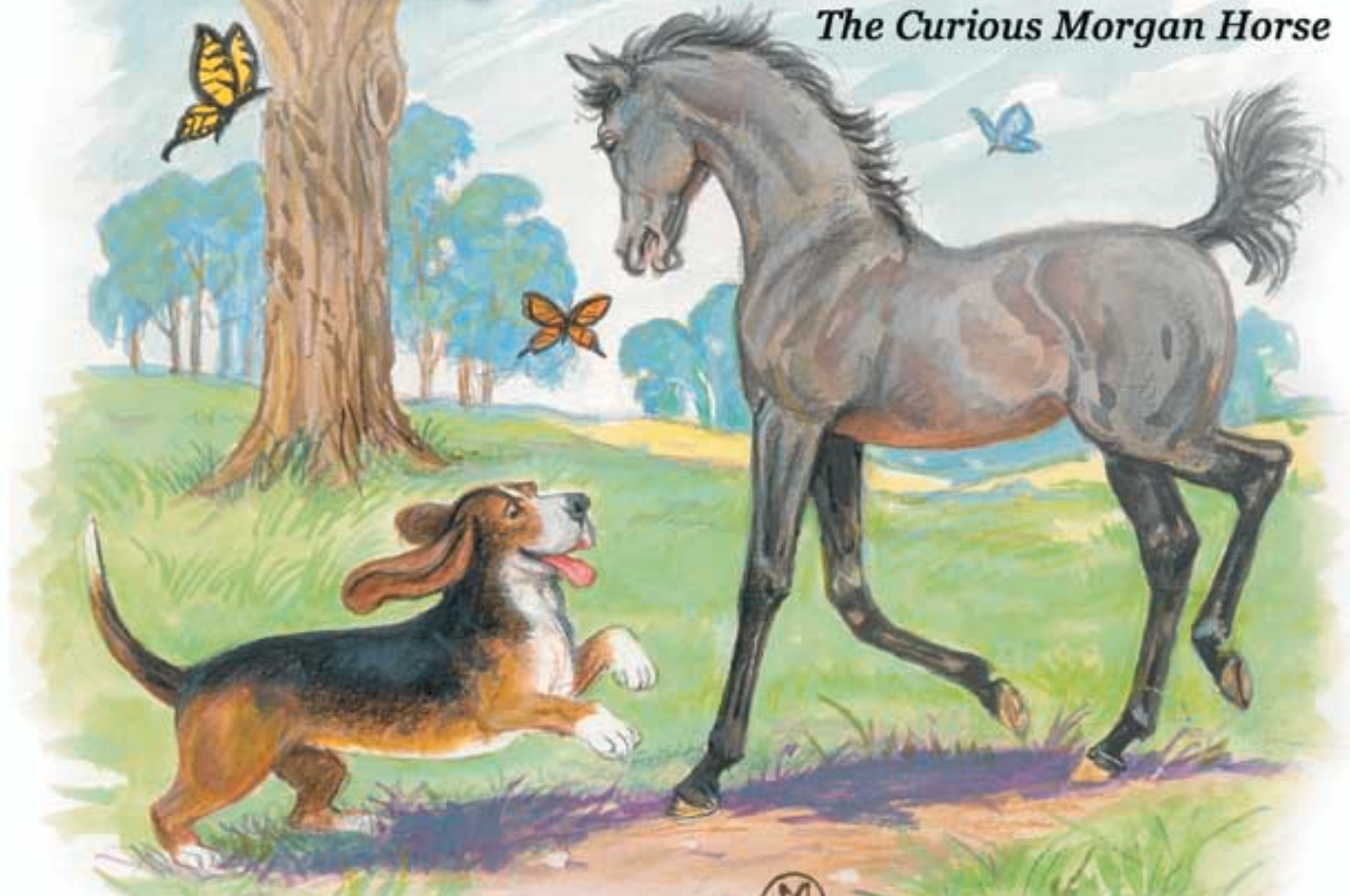


Shadow

The Curious Morgan Horse



by **Ellen F. Feld**



Illustrated by **Jeanne Mellin**

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Goshen, Massachusetts

***To Rusty—
a very special Morgan Horse.***

E.F.F.

***To Nancy—
for carrying on the Morgan Horse tradition so well.***

J.M.



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One beautiful spring morning, on the hill behind the big, red barn, a baby horse was born. Her name was Shadow, and like her mother Frosty, she was a Morgan Horse. She had tiny little hooves, soft gray hair covering her body, and long, curly whiskers at the tip of her nose. Her mane and tail were black, and she had the brightest blue eyes that her mother had ever seen.





Shadow loved to run and play in the field where she and her mother lived. She would jump towards the sky, kick her back feet up high, and chase the butterflies who flew into her pasture. Shadow would run, and run, and run until she came within a few inches of the wooden fence that surrounded her home. Then she would stop and stare at the mysterious woods beyond the fence. How she wanted to travel into the woods to see what lived among its tall trees!

One day, the rooster who lived in the barn wandered into Shadow's field and told the young horse about his amazing adventures in the woods beyond the fence.

"You really went into the woods?" asked Shadow in disbelief.

"Yes, many times," answered the rooster as he puffed out his chest. "In fact, the last time I traveled into the woods was yesterday. I was gone for several hours and met lots of wild animals."

"Did you see a bear?" asked the curious horse.

"Yes!" exclaimed the rooster.

"Did he scare you?" asked Shadow.

"He roared at me, but I wasn't afraid. I cock-a-doodle-dooed and he ran away," bragged the rooster as he puffed his chest out even further. "Then I met a deer who showed me a magical pond. The water sparkled and the deer told me that anybody who drank from the pond could fly!"

"Wow!" exclaimed Shadow. "Did you drink the water?"

"No," said the rooster. "It was getting dark and I had to go home." The rooster scratched the ground with his bright yellow feet and then turned and walked away.

As Shadow watched the rooster return to the barn, she decided that she wanted to go into the woods to find the amazing pond.

