

# Shelby & Simon: A Tale of Two Ponies

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*It was another beautiful day on the shores of Virginia. The ponies that lived there were enjoying the yummy marsh grass. The mares were excitedly discussing the pony penning carnival in three days and the stallions were just as excited in hopes of being selected to become one of the Chincoteague Ponies that day.*



*Shelby, a young pony who did not seem to care about the commotion was staring off in the distance at the Maryland-Virginia Line...*



Mama, what if I don't want to be picked to go to Chincoteague. What if I just want to stay here?

Nonsense. You do not want to be like the Maryland ponies do you? They do not even get the chance to be chosen. You should feel privileged, Shelby!





*But Shelby did not see anything wrong with the Maryland Ponies. She was never allowed to cross over to where they lived but sometimes she would see a few along the state line and they all just seemed so carefree and happy.*

The Maryland ponies can't be that bad. I think I will go see for myself...

Woah, shouldn't you be over there gossiping about Chincoteague Island with the rest of your snooty friends?

Hi, I'm Shelby. What's your name?



Geez, he's pretty rude. I shouldn't be here ...



*The Maryland pony saw the look on Shelby's face and immediately felt horrible.*

Maybe the Virginia Ponies aren't too bad?



But anyway ... I am Simon. What brings you over here?

Well Simon, I have never heard a good thing about you Maryland ponies and I wanted to decide for myself. Looks like they were right about you!



Wait . . . You think we are the bad ones? You guys are the stuck up ponies that think they deserve everything! And the tantrum you are throwing just further proves my point!

*Shelby was proud of where she came from and she could tell Simon was too. She knew he was just standing up for his herd. She wanted to know more about the Maryland ponies.*

Okay, if your herd is so great, meet me here the same time tomorrow and show me what's so much better about them!



You have a deal!

*The next day Shelby met Simon at the fence right on time.*

We will see about that . . . Let's go.



Wow, you actually showed up. Are you ready to see why the Maryland ponies are the best?



The two ponies began walking along the shore and Shelby notices that not only does the shore look exactly the same but the ponies look just like Virginia ponies as well. There are no noticeable differences . . .

Wow, Virginia ponies are a lot like Maryland ponies . . . We basically live the same life!



Except we don't pride ourselves in getting picked to swim across the water to Chincoteague!

Going to Chincoteague Island is a cool thing Simon! These guys called Saltwater Cowboys come across and pick out specific ponies to take back and auction off at a carnival! Only the best ponies get picked!





Hmm . . . Well I guess that could be fun. I mean I have only seen this little island. I would like to go somewhere new . . .

See!! And I know my herd seem different than yours, but we have a lot more in common than you think! We look exactly the same, we like the same things and we are both very proud of where we come from!



She's right. I can't wait to tell my friends that the Virginia ponies aren't as bad as we thought! Maybe we can all get along after all!

Well, I gotta run! Mama doesn't like when I wander off and we have to get ready for the Saltwater Cowboys! Maybe I can show you around Virginia next time!

Sounds like a plan!



# Sources

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