

the SCOTTS DALE CHRONICLES

a Classic Returns

BY LISA SHOVER

As Sshameless (Fame VF+ x Armira) and I entered Scottsdale's Stallion Halter AAOTH it felt like an explosion, a once-in-a-lifetime moment with this amazing powerhouse playing to the crowd, his beauty and charisma charging the air filled with cheering. It was a Sshameless celebration, his moment, his return after more than 10 years, and his fans stood waiting for him. Feb. 16, 2010, the moment a blur, but in the same breath, time seemed to stand still.

The best of the best waited for us at ring-side. I heard Jack Crawford, who had shown SShameless to a reserve U.S. National futurity colt championship in 1996.

"Well done, well done! He looked amazing coming in the ring. Now take your time when you get in the center. It's time for you and Sshameless," he said.

Next to Jack, my husband Jerry in his Sshameless leather jacket, as always the best



"You may have heard the world is made up of atoms and molecules, but it's really made up of stories."

—William Turner

horse-show husband ever. He was living every moment of this experience right along with us. Just in time, my trainer Chris Culbreth headed across Wendell's upper deck, the purposeful length of stride unmistakable, in his hunter clothes fresh from a class in the Equidome. Our team was complete.

Off we went, the first to hit center ring, my 18-year-old stallion in a ring of 5- and 6-year-olds. Sshameless did his job, his soulful eye ever watchful on me, his poise and pride amazing. As we trotted off, he was happy to show everyone what he was about. His fans came to see the Sshameless show, and he was not about to disappoint them. He delivered, and then some, the stands went wild. He was just warming up when we got to the east end of Wendell, and then the most incredible thing happened. People got up from their seats to come and see him, to follow him. Some with cameras, many to say how amazing he looked, that they'd always loved him and were happy to see him again. All were so happy to see how loved he was. Even a fellow exhibitor walked from the rail with her horse, "I have always

loved Sshameless, he is amazing and I'm so thrilled to be here with him," she said.

The most memorable statement of all came from friend and breeder David Swanson. "After seeing Sshameless enter the ring, now I understand the difference between a good horse and a world-class Arabian. I am so proud to be a part of the Sshameless legacy."

We chatted with our old and newfound friends as we moved around the arena, inviting them all back to the barn afterward to enjoy an Absolutely Sshameless Martini that Jerry had created in our boy's honor.

Every year we have a Christmas party at our barn for the families who are being served at Homeward Bound. Sshameless is the "host." He is always so gentle and loves the attention of "his" kids. They rooted for him too that day, watching the show online. It is the Sshameless effect.

With my hand on his sun-warmed wither looking into the stands, I feel the embrace of all the life-changing friendships that have transpired because of this incredible animal. All he has given to me, all he means to me, every day, in every way. I am Speechless.