## The Story Of Ameera & Rascal By: Joanna Chronister

In the far-off lands of Shadira, there was a beautiful Arabian filly named Ameera. Ameera had a vibrant, purple coat, a star on her forehead, and a long, flowing silvery mane and tail. She was well known throughout the lands for being kind and friendly to all she came across. Some said she had a heart of gold and all who met her loved her.

One bright, sunny day in June, Ameera was trotting down a path in her favorite park when she came across a lonely purple manatee with a beautiful dark purple back that sparkled when the sun hit it and stark white belly swimming in the water of a nearby river. Amused by his coloration, Ameera approached the riverbed to take a closer look at the manatee for she had never seen a manatee with such amazing coloring. Every manatee she had ever seen swimming in the river was dark grey with a light grey stomach.

The lonely manatee looked up and saw Ameera approaching the riverbed. He was intrigued for he had never seen another creature with purple coloring. The manatee stopped swimming and came to the surface with a sad look on his face.

"Are you coming to make fun of me too?" the manatee asked.

"No, actually I was going to say how beautiful I think you are. Why would I make fun of you?" Ameera replied.

"Because that is what everyone else does. They call me names and make fun of my white stomach and purple coloring. They say that I'm ugly. All of the other manatees are dark grey and I'm this horrible purple and white," replied the manatee.

Ameera looked at the manatee flustered. She couldn't figure out why anyone would make fun of such a beautiful creature.

"My name is Ameera. What's your name?" Ameera asked as she made herself comfortable by the riverbed.

"Rascal. My name is Rascal."

"Well Rascal, I think you are absolutely beautiful and exquisite looking. I don't see why anyone would ever find you ugly. There is nothing wrong with being different. Look at me. I'm purple. Have you ever seen a purple filly before?" Ameera smiled as she waited for the manatee to answer.

"Actually, no I haven't. But then you don't have a white stomach either. You're eloquent and slender and beautiful. But me, I'm just a big fat purple and white lump," Rascal said with a sad look on his face.

The two talked for a moment longer before Ameera headed for home. On the way home, she had a great idea which she hoped would make the manatee smile and know that he was not alone in the world. Ameera stopped by the valley of the magical flowers and made a very special wish.

The next day, Ameera trotted back to the same place she met the manatee in hopes that Rascal would be there. Much to her surprise, Rascal was swimming in the same place as the day before. When she reached where the manatee was swimming, Ameera pranced around in a circle showing off her new splash white belly and legs. Rascal saw what Ameera had done and was so touched by the gesture of the filly that it brought tears to his eyes. From that day forward, the two became best friends and were inseparable.