

Joan

Joan stood at the kitchen window watching her teenage daughter preparing to mount her horse. Amanda had to use a special platform to get her foot into the stirrup as she suffered badly with juvenile arthritis.

Joan felt the sadness in her heart as she watched her daughter struggle onto the platform and make several futile attempts at reaching the stirrup. Tears formed as Joan thought how awful it would be if Amanda could no longer ride her beloved Dobbin.

Amanda gave up and struggled into the kitchen, and as Joan quickly hid her tears and said cheerfully "do you want a help onto Dobbin, today Mands" the angry reply came instantly "NO, I want some new bloody jodhpurs; these ones are too tight"

Heather Ridley. August 2010.