

Yes, this one is about a horse, a dependable old field hunter to be exact, but we think the analogy to one's favorite old dog is applicable. And no one describes the bond between man and animal so well as Ogilvie. Even if you're not a horseman, you'll understand.

"The Horse of Your Heart", by Will H. Ogilvie

When you've ridden a four-year-old half of the day,  
And, foam to the fetlock, they lead him away,  
With a sigh of contentment you watch him depart  
While you tighten the girth on the horse of your heart.

There is something between you that both understand,  
As it thrills an old message from bit-bar to hand.  
As he changes his feet in that plunge of desire  
To the thud of his hoofs all your courage takes fire.

When an afternoon fox is away, when begins  
The rush down the headland that edges the whins,  
When you challenge the Field, making sure of a start,  
Would you ask any horse, but this horse of your heart?

There's the rasping big double a green one would shirk,  
But the old fellow knows it is part of his work;  
He has shortened his stride, he has measured the task,  
He is up, on, and over as clean as you'd ask.

There's the water before you -- no novice's test,  
But a jump to try deeply the boldest and best;  
Just a tug at the leather, a lift of the ear,  
And the old horse is over it -- twenty foot clear.

There is four foot of wall and a take-off in plough,  
And you're glad you are riding no tenderfoot now  
But a seasoned campaigner, a master of art,  
The perfect performer, the horse of your heart.

For here's where the raw one will falter and balk,  
And here's where the tyro is pulled to a walk,  
But the horse of your heart never dwells or demurs  
And is over the top to a touch of the spurs.

To you who ride young ones half-schooled and half-broke,  
What a joy to find freedom awhile from your yoke!  
What bliss to be launched with the luck of the start  
On the old one, the proved one, the horse of your heart!