

T. EDWIN DOSS

the story of
Rocky's Run

Anyone who has a pet knows the attachment between pets and owners is a deep and rewarding bond. They become our non-judgemental friends, always there when we need a lift or a need to smile and put life in it's proper perspective. Their loss is often devastating in spite of the short period of time that they grace our lives. So is the story of Rocky, T. Edwin Doss and his wife Patricia. How they turned loss into a lasting tribute to a dear friend is the real story.

My wife Patricia bought Rocky, a German-bred Trekhener, when he was four years of age. She schooled him in dressage with a French-Canadian trainer. For a period of eight years Patricia and Rocky worked together routinely almost every day, not only developing the muscle and skill to perform dressage movements, but also developing a spiritual bond with each other well known in the world of dancing horses.

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It was a release for Patricia to have a place to go, to be with a horse that was compliant, trustworthy, and loving, especially after long hours of daily work in our pet grooming business.

She constantly was urging me to get back into my music, performing and writing more songs. She often said, "You're best songs are still inside you. I'm experiencing my dream every day...It's not at the end...It's the journey that is important."

Sometimes tragedy is what it is because it's never expected, and that's how it happened with us.

We had bought a seven acre property, on the water, at Lake Anna, Virginia with four acres in pasture. It was an exciting time watching the beginning stages of the house under construction, and anticipating a barn and riding arena to be there for Rocky. It was to be a home for all of us. Then, out of no-where, we received a frantic phone call from the boarding facility. Rocky had been discovered in the pasture, on his side, unable to get on his feet. We rushed there and saw him thrashing about and struggling in vain to rise.

He was pulled onto a trailer and rushed to Leesburg to be diagnosed and treated. Unfortunately, he had several seizures, and was euthanized the next morning



I can't fully express what Patricia went through...how she suffered...the pain and sorrow of losing her friend...her dreams. I can say she lost a piece of her self during this time. She lost interest in the construction of the house, and became withdrawn and discontent.



As months went by, the house was taking shape, winter had come and gone, and Spring was in full bloom. We had named the property "Rocky's Run" in honor of that talented and big-hearted horse. I came down to the lake alone one week-end with my guitar, thinking about writing a few songs, and getting away for a while.

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On a peaceful, late afternoon, it was a picturesque sitting from the screened porch watching the sunset, listening to birds sing, almost encouraging me to join in the chorus. I wrote three songs that evening, all of which are on the CD: "Out On Rocky's Run, Everybody Believes That But Me, and "The Strength To Carry On". It was



a week later I garnered the courage to play "Out On Rocky's Run" for Patricia, and it was several weeks after that I finally played it without both of us crying.

What makes an assumed drowning victim come to life unexpectedly? Who can say why a person in a coma can, at an uncanny time, all of a sudden, open their eyes and ask, "Where am I?" All I know is, within the following weeks, Patricia was more involved, energetic and positive. She conceived the idea of creating a rental apartment out of a portion of our walk-out basement, self-contained with full kitchen, bath, 2 bedrooms and separate entrance. She called it, "Rocky's Run Getaway", now in its third successful year of

providing a wonderful, peaceful place for vacationers. It is one of the most successful rentals on the lake, and we have met so many happy families, and made many friends with that accomplishment.

Patricia gained the courage and the will to find another horse. After one year of searching, she found a mare in fold. She thought the mare was the right horse, and would sell the baby when the time came. Instead, as she saw the colt grow, she began to change her mind. Eventually, it was evident that the colt was "God-sent" due to the uncanny connection with Patricia at such a young age. He loved her, and came to her from a herd of others when she called for him. She named him "Rio".....full name, "Impresario". He is smart, fearless, playful, comical and hugely friendly and loving.



We conceived the idea of sharing our house with friends and acquaintances by building a small stage in a portion of the walk-out basement, and having house concerts. We installed professional lighting and sound system.

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We provide cushioned chairs for at least fifty guests who bring a dish for a potluck dinner before the show. From a curtained backdrop behind the artist, there is a neon sign in the shape of a guitar, with these words inside: "Rocky's Run House Concerts!"

Things were better and life was beginning to feel good again for both of us. Patricia encouraged me to make the calls, find an engineer and studio, and start a CD project. Reluctant at first, I conceded, realizing that this energy had brought me to a realization of my own, experiencing the courage and strength that Patricia possessed to continue her passion of riding and reestablishing a friendship with another horse.

Two years later, with a huge amount of work and planning, the product was shipped to me. The title song? What else? "Out On Rocky's Run!"

"Although I still feel hopeless, I'm beginning to realize...the courage my wife must have when I look into her eyes."

*"I'm so thankful that she taught me what no one else could say....
The journey to your dreams is greater, than any pain along the way."*

From the song 'Out On Rocky's Run'



Through the despair of losing something close to our hearts, and with the grace of the Divine as each of us may interpret, we can make choices, change direction, pull ourselves up by the boot straps and move on. With good fortune, determination and the destiny of meeting others walking on the same road, you can realize the end is not your goal. It's the journey that is of significance. The interaction, the creativity and the passion of sharing with others is where the action will always be. Who needs rainbows? There is no pot of gold. Put those in your pocket as you walk.

Rocky's Run Getaway is the perfect spot for vacationers

looking for a tranquil retreat at Lake Anna. Four can sleep comfortably with one double and two twin beds inside. This quiet cove offers the ultimate in relaxation, while still providing all the comforts of today, fully equipped with high speed internet, satellite television, XM radio, and much more. Rocky's Run also has a beautiful fireplace, washer & dryer, and DVD/video library for your viewing pleasure. Plus, there is always a bottle of Lake Anna wine waiting for you at Rocky's Run.

www.rockysrungetaway.com