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How old were you when you started riding?

I was 6 years old when I had my first riding lesson.

Where did you ride growing up?

Twin Rivers Equestrian Center in Surrey, BC. I rode with Tosca Kocken.

Were you a good student?

I loved it from the beginning, although it took me until high school to truly understand what being a good student entailed. It wasn't just showing up to ride on lesson days that made me a good student but the days in between spent riding other horses and watching my coach ride and teach lessons.

When did you start showing?

I had my first real show horse at age 13. I did the in-barn schooling shows on lesson horses prior to that.

Did you always want to be a professional rider?

I think when I moved off the school horse string onto a half lease. That was the nail in the coffin for me. RB was an older thoroughbred that had stepped down as my trainer's show horse. He was a really wonderful teacher and though he was extremely well schooled he challenged me enough to really want to figure out what made horses want to do the job to the best of their ability. From then on I wanted to become a professional and show at Spruce Meadows on TV like most young riders dreamed.

Do you get nervous?

Not so much anymore. As a junior I fought nervousness before Equitation classes but had a way of thriving on it for the Jumper ring.

What do you do to help with your nerves?

Hacking in the morning when I know I have an important class has always helped me feel more prepared when the time comes to go to the ring to compete. I don't make it about training hard to change something but more of a understanding of how my horse feels that day. Making sure I have a moment an hour before I need to get on to go over my equipment and course so I don't have any surprises is imperative as well.

What would you do if you weren't riding?

I can't imagine not riding! I could see myself wanting to do a year of working abroad for nonprofit organizations before going back to school.



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When did you buy your first horse?

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What horses do you have now? What are they all like?

I have one semi-retired horse of my own, Charlie. He was my junior jumper and Medal horse and I love him to pieces. I have since ridden many others and no two are alike! Thoroughbreds and some TB crosses made up the majority of my junior mounts. I began riding more warmbloods after becoming a professional and working for different stables in BC and Alberta.

Can you tell us about your business?

I am an aspiring young trainer working in the Northwest side of Calgary. I ride for Concorde Stables, based out of Bradon Equestrian. This is a full training business specializing in the development of riders and horses for the Jumpers, Hunters and Equitation.

Do you have any advice for young riders?

Opportunities are dressed in coveralls and look a lot like work! It's a bit of a blunt statement, though it does emulate what it takes to be a good rider. Whether you are working in the stable to supplement riding lessons or you ride your own horses and have a groom, being involved in all aspects creates the most opportunities to get better and understand all aspects of the sport.

What do you do in your spare time?

I make efforts to visit family in BC when possible and try to get out and do some different things around Calgary.

What could you not live without?

My vehicle. Freedom to travel makes a world of difference with my lifestyle!

What is your most embarrassing horse show moment?

I was at Spruce Meadows with a green horse that was a bit spooky about horses coming towards him in the arena. I was first in and it had rained quite hard the day before, leaving some mud puddles scattered about the mostly dry arena. As I went to mount, another horse 20 feet away spooked and sent mine running for the hills. I landed in one of the few mud puddles and my navy show jacket was now mostly gray with mud. I managed to catch my horse and jump a couple normal fences before I was called into the ring. Spruce Meadows does not wait for wardrobe changes so I competed looking less than stellar



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that day!

Name 3 things most people don't know about you:

I learned how to be a groom by moving to Germany shortly after graduating and spent some time there riding and grooming at competitions.

I have only broken 3 bones in my lifetime and they were all within 6 months of each other.

I helped build a community centre in a small village near Antigua, Guatemala in 2007. It is now holding classes for the people to learn new skills and trades, along with lessons on safe ways to cook and build better homes.

Describe yourself in 5 words:

Intuitive, Enthusiastic, Social, Observant, Motivated