

The Emerald Flyer by *Sloane Duffy*

The morning smelt of dew and budding flowers. The Peony blooms had opened up almost overnight. Burton, The Commodore, says his family brought them home directly from China nearly 100 years ago. They are all still vibrant and strong, welcoming Spring to the Cotswolds on this late May morning.



Miss Sloane Duffy and The Emerald Flyer

The Emerald Flyer was waiting down at the paddock. She saw me and knew what was next. The groom had already attached her Roadster, a small two wheel cart — not unlike those used for racing. The Flyer, as she is also known, was once a Show Horse. A trotter. Regal in gait and appearance.

She was well known throughout the valley and had won many awards. Unfortunately, there is no longer time for such things. Her owner had fallen into hard times, as so many have. The Commodore had paid him fairly and promised his family they could come visit whenever they liked. He meant it. That's how Burton is.

Today we are taking the road into town. While The Chairman loved his cross-country gallop, The Flyer was at her best doing laps around the track, which was where we are heading.

The Tripod Graveyard.

The Machine Graveyard was along the way. They arrived here, just North and East of The Manor. They came together and huddled in groups of two's and three's — eleven in all.

Two years ago, when they were at their strongest, they traveled in packs of three. Three groups of three. Three legs, three arms. Three of everything until something had gone terribly wrong for them. Their formations became ragged, confused. They stopped short of Hearthcombe, seemingly unsure what to do next. Then the machines began to topple — one by one, until all eleven were laying on their sides. Dead.

Enough of that. Now on to the track. Emerald Flyer needs her exercise...

Sloane Duffy is a fictional character and co-founder of the Duffy & Ward brand universe, created by Sloane Duffy Media LLC. She rides every morning, manages the books every afternoon, and has never once missed a brew day. © 2026 Sloane Duffy Media LLC.

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