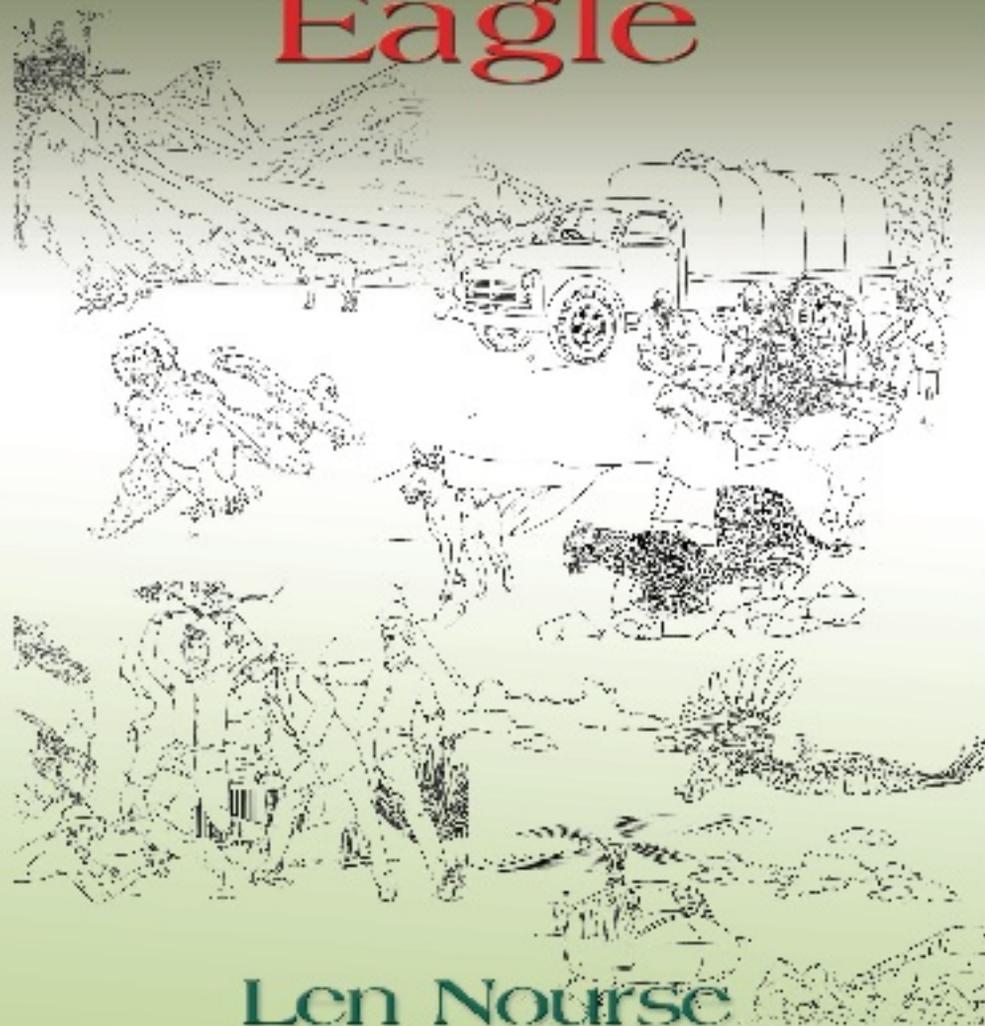


JP and his Animal Detectives

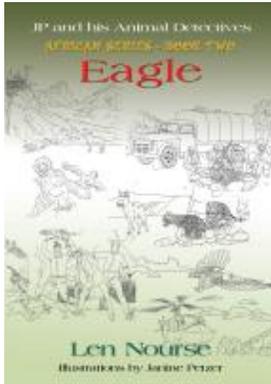
**AFRICAN SERIES - BOOK TWO**

# Eagle



**Len Nourse**

Illustrations by Janine Petzer



*JP, watching the play of Fish Eagles, thought such would be a welcome addition to his team. The opportunity arose through a request by the head of Lesotho police, Numu Letaba, to solve a crime of poaching of their wild life in his country. JP and Jakkals in an action packed adventure solved this crime. One episode is how they saved the lives of two Eaglets and one became his second lieutenant - Eagle.*

**JP and His Animal Detectives –  
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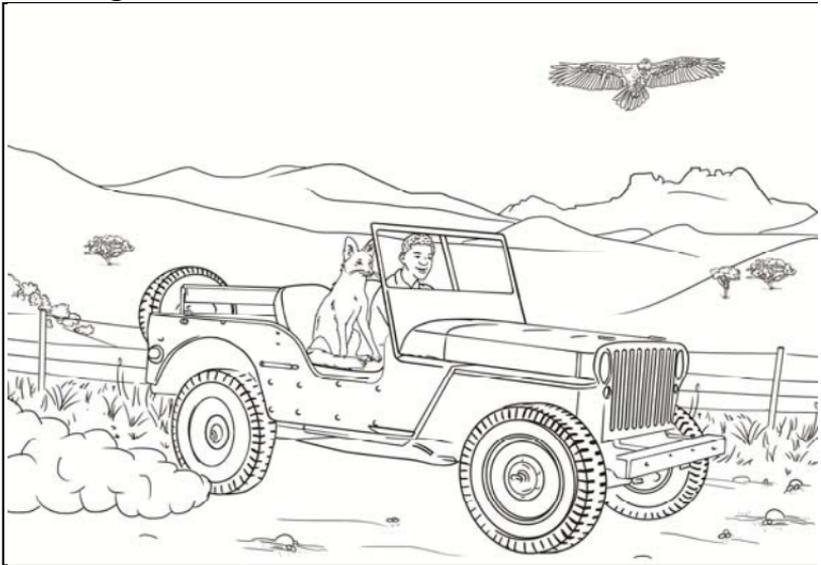
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## Sunrise awakening

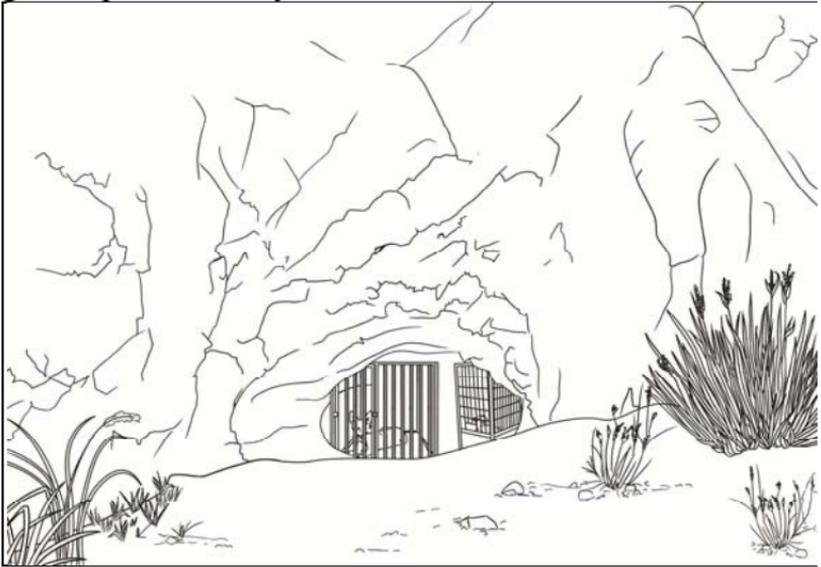
“WHOW-kayow-kwow...” woke JP and Jakkals at sunrise. The mother eagle was back. They soon made off following her to where the stolen animals and birds were caged.



Lady eagle led them further down Tsedike creek to a dense forested area with an overhanging cliff forming a cave.

“Jakkals, run down there and check what’s in this cave, and report back to me.”

Jakkals returned with this answer: “Yap.... there are many cages erected in the cave. The cages house many baboons, eaglets of various ages, and a couple of jackals, one with two young leopards, and one with a variety of the local birds. We need to hurry because I see they’ve already loaded some cages on a big trailer. Do be careful and don’t make a noise because there are two guards posted. Can you do that?”



“First we need to deal with the two guards. Could you show me where they’re posted?” JP had no trouble in dealing with the two guards because they were asleep on

the job. He then took photographs of the location, after which he quickly released the baboons, jackals, and the numerous local birds.

He then said, “Jakkals, I want you to lead the leopard cubs back to their parents when I release them.”

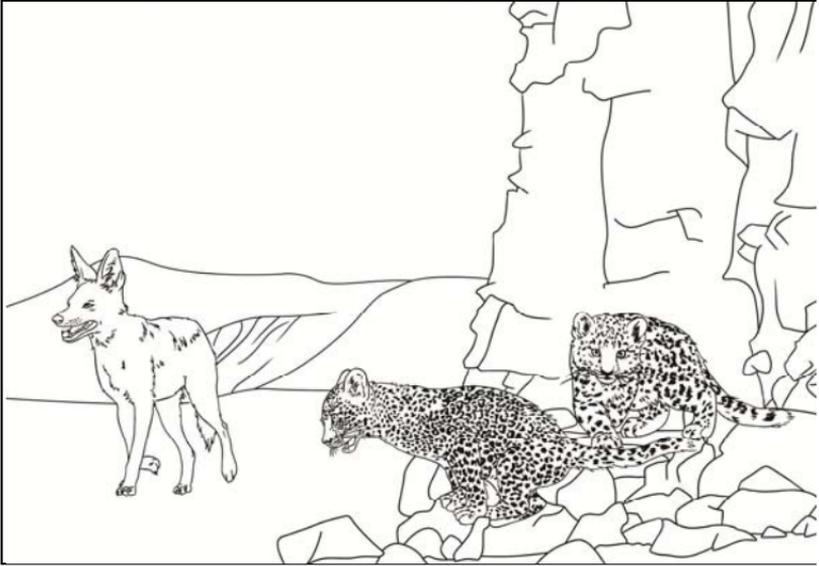
“Yap... No, I can’t do that. Their parents will catch and eat me. Can’t you do that, or maybe lady eagle can? Can’t they make their way back on their own?”

“Their parents shouldn’t bother you now that they’ve had a good feed. They only eat when hungry. In any case, they’ll be grateful to you for bringing back their cubs. The cubs aren’t yet old enough to make their way home alone. I want to wait here to confront the rest of the crooked humans when they come to fetch the animals and birds they’ve captured,” said JP.

With a roar, JP said: “Leopard cubs, when I release you I want you to follow this jackal who will take you to your parents. Tell your parents that I sent Jakkals to take you to them. This, because I’m sure you have no idea on to how to find your parents by yourselves. Tell them that should they harm Jakkals, I’ll go back and shoot them.”

“Growl...! He’s growling at us and we can understand what he’s saying. I wonder if he’ll understand us.”

“Yes, I can understand you. Be off now and follow the jackal I’ve been talking to.”



On your way now, Jakkals, I don’t want the leopard cubs to be here when the crooks arrive.”

“Mrs Eagle, would you know the parents of these five eaglets?”

“WHOW-kayow-kwow.... I’ve already sent high pitched shrills to those parents that have lost their chicks. I’m sure they’ll be here any moment.”

A little later three eagle pairs swooped over the cave’s edge and settled on the cage containing the five

eaglets. JP quickly released the eaglets and their mothers carried them off. The three males flew to the top of the cliff's edge and settled there waiting.



As they flew off one screeched, “WHOW-kayow-kwow.... On our way here we passed some large trucks headed this way. They’re probably on their way to pick up our babies as well as the other birds and animals. Thanks, you have just arrived in time, we are most grateful.”

Using his walkie-talkie, JP called Numa Letaba, in the Sehlabathebe National Park, and said, “Numa, we

have the poachers. Will you please send a strong contingent of your police force to about 16km downstream! Once there, seek an eagle flying in the sky. This eagle will guide you to the hidden tract where you'll find me waiting for you. By the time you get here it's probably more than likely I'll already be in confrontation with the poachers. I don't know how many there'll be, but I've information that three trucks are on their way here, so I expect at least six — probably more than I can handle.”

Speaking to Mrs Eagle, JP said, “Will you please fly above us, and when the police in helicopters arrive guide them down to where we are.”

