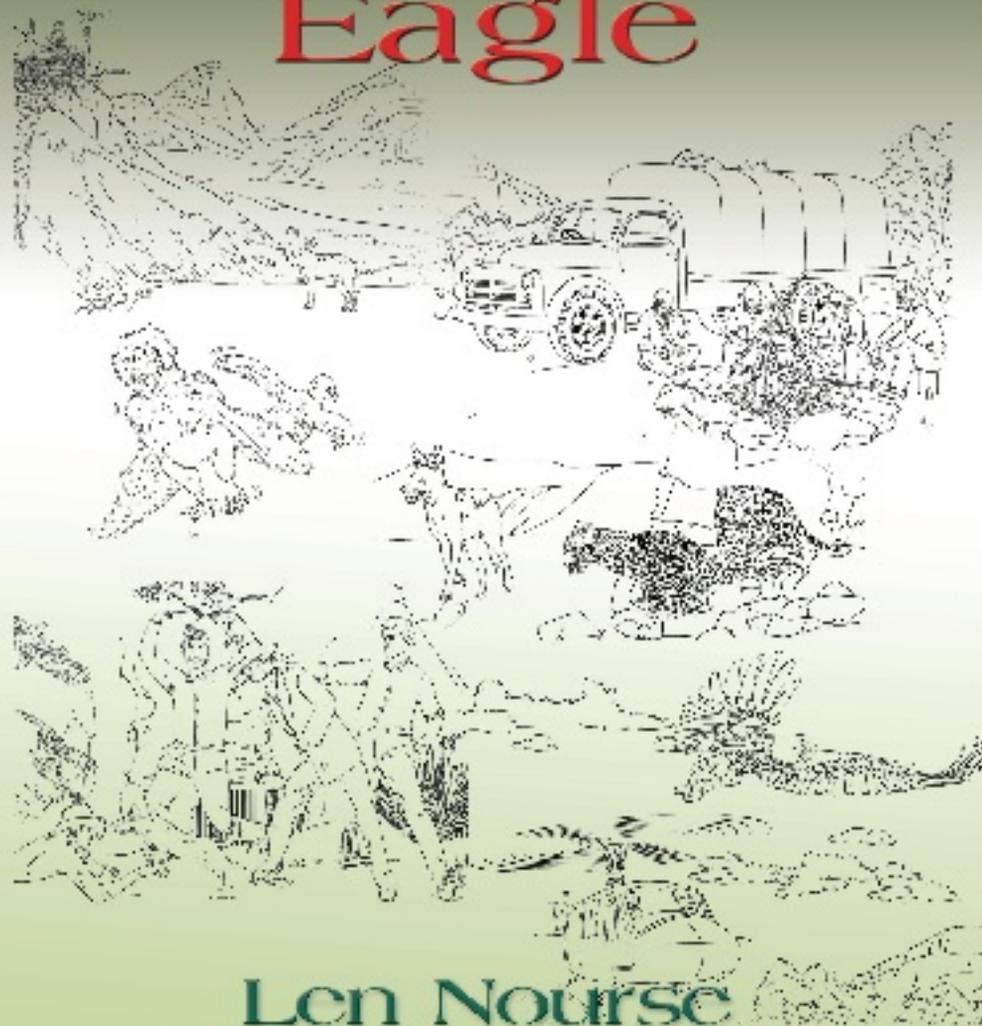


JP and his Animal Detectives

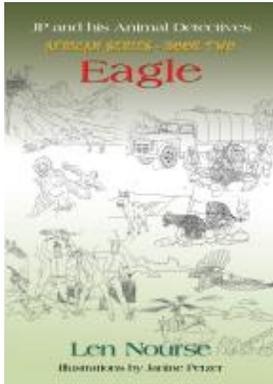
AFRICAN SERIES - BOOK TWO

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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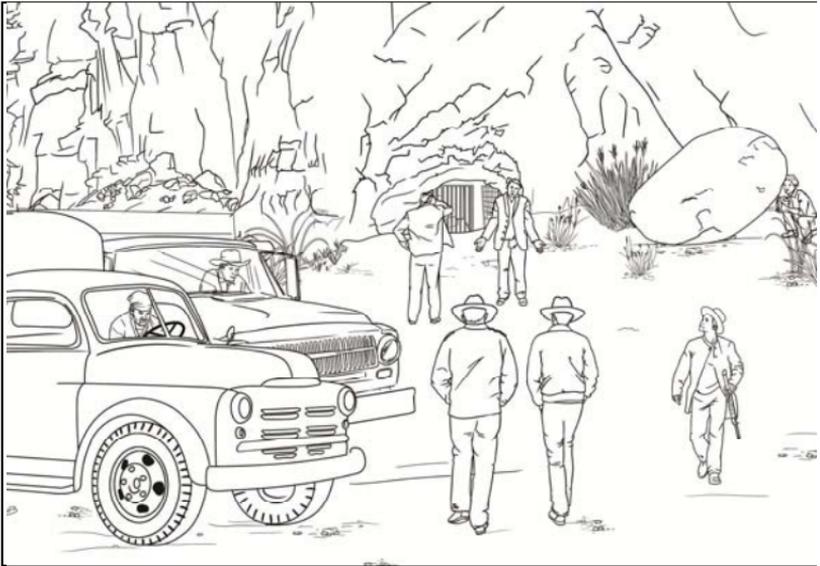
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Final Confrontation with the Crooks

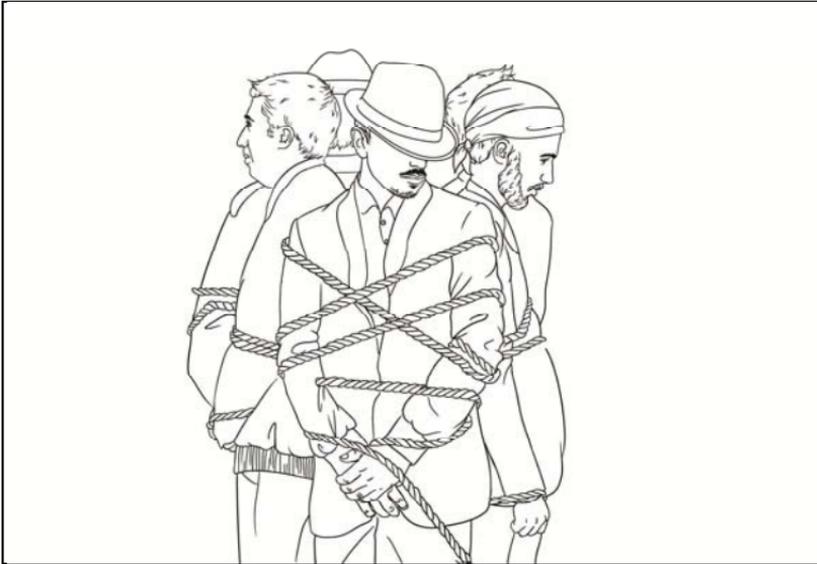
While waiting JP hid behind some boulders until the three trucks arrived on the track leading to the hidden cave. He took more photos when the trucks arrived at the cave, as well as when the crooks got out of the trucks. There were seven men.



On arriving, the thugs looked puzzled to find no guards on duty and a few cages empty. JP and Jakkals heard one of them say, “The other trucks must have

arrived before us and taken the animals in the now empty cages or ...”

The sentence was interrupted with: “Crack! Put up your hands and stand still or the next bullets will be at you, we have you surrounded.” The crooks froze where they were and put their hands in the air. JP then moved from behind the boulders where he was hiding, threw a rope to two of them, and said, “You two tie up the other five.”



Now you mustn't forget JP was still fairly new in this job, and thus still inclined to make mistakes. It had

slipped his mind to take account that there might have been more crooks in the back of these three trucks. The next thing he heard was, “No, you drop your gun,” and with that a gun was jabbed into JP’s back. Another crook said, “We? You’re bluffing, you must be alone or else you wouldn’t have thrown us the rope to tie up our mates.”

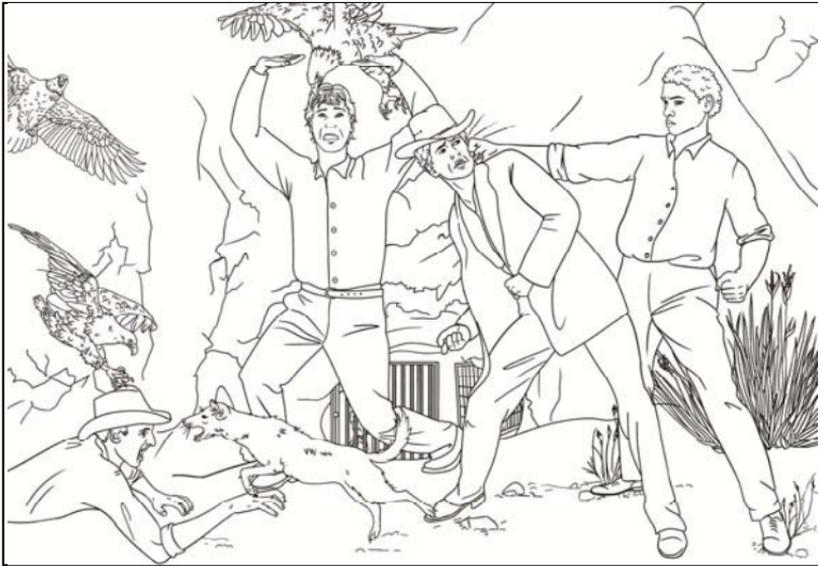


At the same time he also heard “WHOW-kayow-kwow- Don’t worry Mr Human, Mrs Eagle told us to stay behind because you might need some help, so we male eagles waited on the cliff while our wives took the eaglets back to their nests.”

This was accompanied by, “Ouch, ouch,” as the three male eagles tore into the head and back of the lone crook, causing pain that made him drop his gun. A hullabaloo then ensued as the two thugs who had tied up the other five then also tackled JP, while at the same time trying to get to the trucks to get their guns.



JP’s fighting skills, and the eagle’s air attacks, kept the crooks at bay until JP heard “Yap...Hey, JP, I’m back. Isn’t this fun, our first adventure as a fighting team? Thanks eagles.”



Just then a helicopter landed in the tree-enclosed area, and the police, headed by Numa Letaba, took over and arrested the crooks.

Numa smiled when Jakkals commented, as interpreted for him by JP. “Yap... Darn it JP, the police arrived just too soon, I was just starting to have fun. I can’t wait for our next case. I see that you’ve some nasty wounds in your head and arms. You need a good rest to recuperate. As said previously, do you now accept that we need to add some strong animal to our team, like a leopard or lion?”



JP then said, “Numa, a Chinese man, namely Noko Tikia, living in Bloemfontein is head of the organization. I’ve taped evidence of this from the local organizer. Since he might no longer be alive, I suggest you immediately extract information from this group as to further proof that Noko Tikia is the head of the organization. You know my tactics, and my eagle friends, perched in that tree up there will help you. It’s their babies who were held in those cages; they’ll have no mercy. I’ll send you photographs of the situation here to

confirm what was going on. I've already released many of the birds and animals that were held captive."

When they were about to take their leave Numa said, "Just a minute JP, my wife has made you a police jacket and trouser from the skins of the hares that Jakkals brought us. Do try them on."

"They fit perfectly. Many thanks to Mrs Numa," said JP, trying them on and giving Jakkals a glancing smile. "I'll keep them on for our return journey because that will please Jakkals and it'll be a chilly night."

With that JP and Jakkals left then Numas.

In the ensuing year and some months, JP's and the eaglet's wounds healed. In that time the eaglet, named Eagle, grew into a magnificent specimen; this from having care and adequate food as supplied by JP. Before she could fly she played on the beach with JP and Jakkals, strengthening ties as well as strengthening her leg muscles far more than they would have had she grown up in the nest.

During this time JP helped Eagle to learn to fly; and with the help of Jakkals they solved some small cases of petty theft and cruelty of animals in the area – a learning period for the team that also brought in always needed cash.

“Yap...Now what JP? I heard you and the police chief talking about poaching of animals in various parts of Africa; anything exciting for us like we had when we found Eagle. Both Eagle and I are tired of solving cases of petty theft and cruelty to these spoilt people-tame dogs and cats.”

“WHOW-kayow-kwow...Yeah, I echo Jakkals’ feelings. We also feel that since you have indicated we need new recruits in our team, we will only find them in the wild and not in these city crimes we so frequently deal with.”

“Yes to both of you as to what you feel and say,” said JP. “Yet, you mustn’t forget these, you like to call petty crimes, keep us in funds. We will need this money if we are to deal with crimes in the wild.”

“Yap...That’s just an excuse JP, I know that Numa as well our Police chief rewarded you well in the Eagle case. Remember I was with you when they paid you!”

“I agree that you might be right Jakkals, but remember it costs me a lot to feed the pair of you. Until now Eagle was not strong and experienced enough to fly in the wild, where she will be challenged. Now she is, and with saying that. I might have something exciting in line for us that I still need to work out. We’ll tackle and talk

about this after we've dealt with some more local city pet theft cases I have promised to deal with.”

“Yap... WHOW-kayow-kwow...Tell us now.”

“Be patient, I will when the time comes. It's bedtime, at least for me.”