

IMPETA

Eagle of the Hebrides



Joseph E. Chipperfield

CHIPPERFIELD

LONGMAN

\$3.00

GREEKA

Eagle of the Hebrides

by Joseph E. Chipperfield

DECORATIONS BY LARRY TOSCHIK

IT is a wild kingdom the golden eagles survey from their rocky pinnacle deep in the Hebrides fastnesses. They ride the great winds in effortless flight, glorious play.

The parent birds are anxious and their marvelous eyes keep continuous watch. This causes the bickering, evil hooded crows' defeat. This gives the canny, lazy fox, hunting to feed the dying vixen, a glorious end.

Altair, the female eaglet, makes one long ecstatic flight, seeking the star of the Falconidae. Greeka claims his own kingdom where only the wildcat disputes him. Between the eagle and Roo, the leader of the deer herd, exists a strange kind of sympathy. Winter over and spring approaching, the great call comes and Greeka searches out his mate. Unfortunately, he springs the trap set for the wildcat. Long, long his faithful mate keeps watch before, in regal plumage, Greeka comes winging down through the sunset glow.

So sensitively expressed is this tale that the reader takes away the feeling of having heard a Highland symphony.

To: Steven
Christmas 1964

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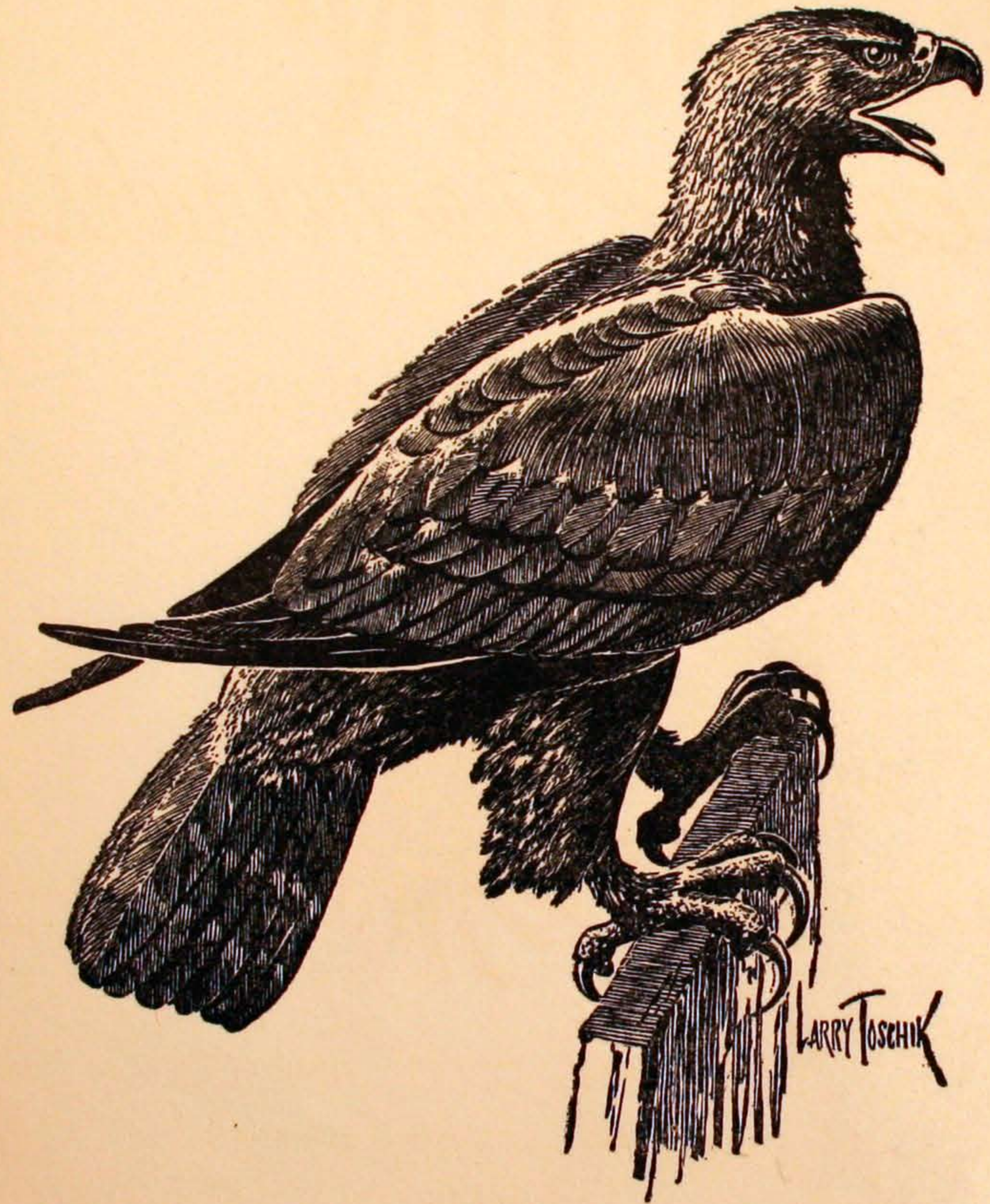
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Greeka

Eagle of the Hebrides

BY

JOSEPH E. CHIPPERFIELD

Drawings by

Larry Toschik



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GREEKA

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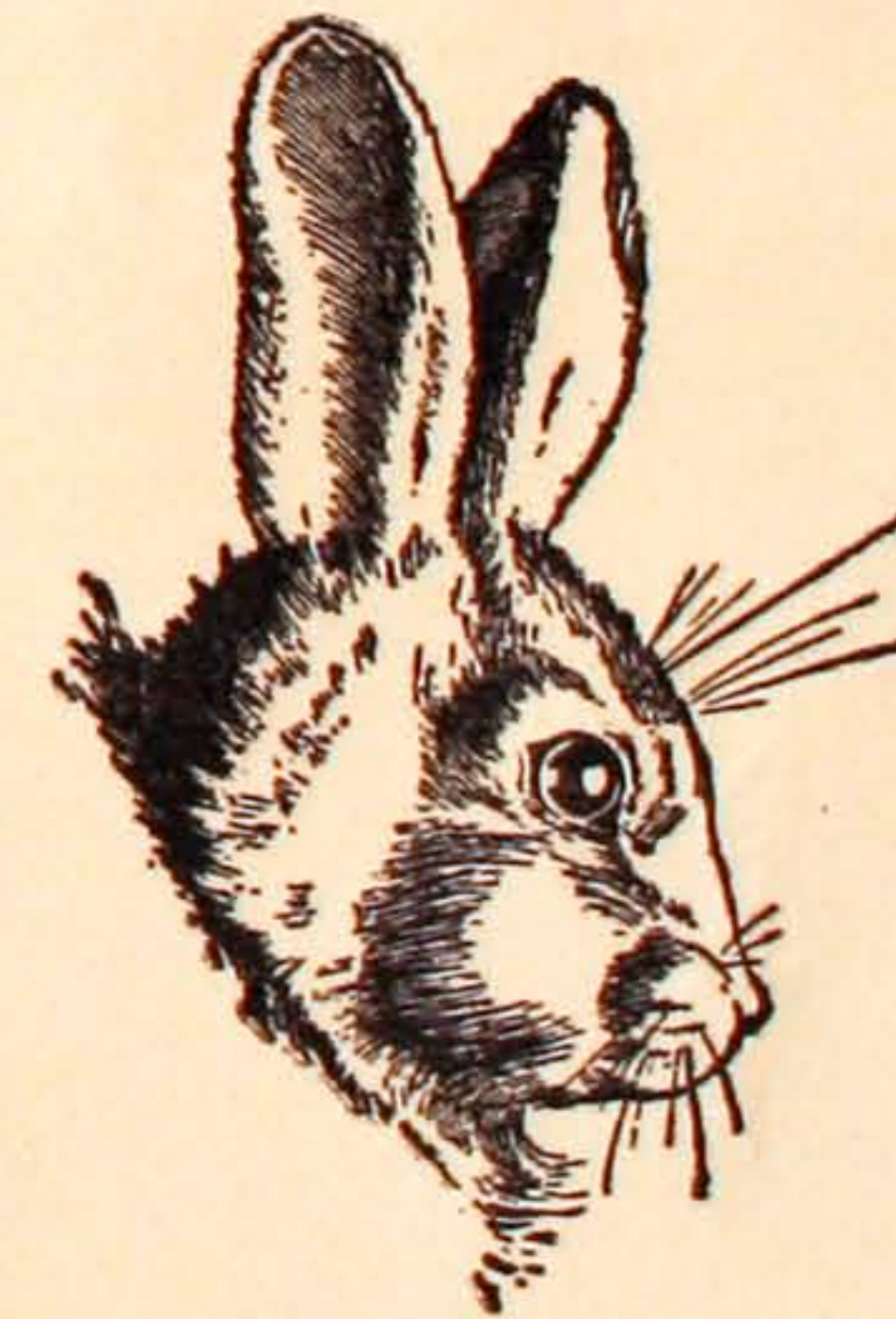
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To
"ABBY" and BILL
my companions in the Hebrides
when searching for the Golden
Eagle
and to the MacLennans of Carbost
and Doctor Colin MacDonald, all
of whom did much to aid my success,
making my stay on the Isle of Skye
such a memorable occasion



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*Thrice the life of a dog the life of a horse,
Thrice the life of a horse the life of a man,
Thrice the life of a man the life of a stag,
Thrice the life of a stag the life of an EAGLE,
Thrice the life of an eagle the life of an oak tree.*

OLD HIGHLAND ADAGE



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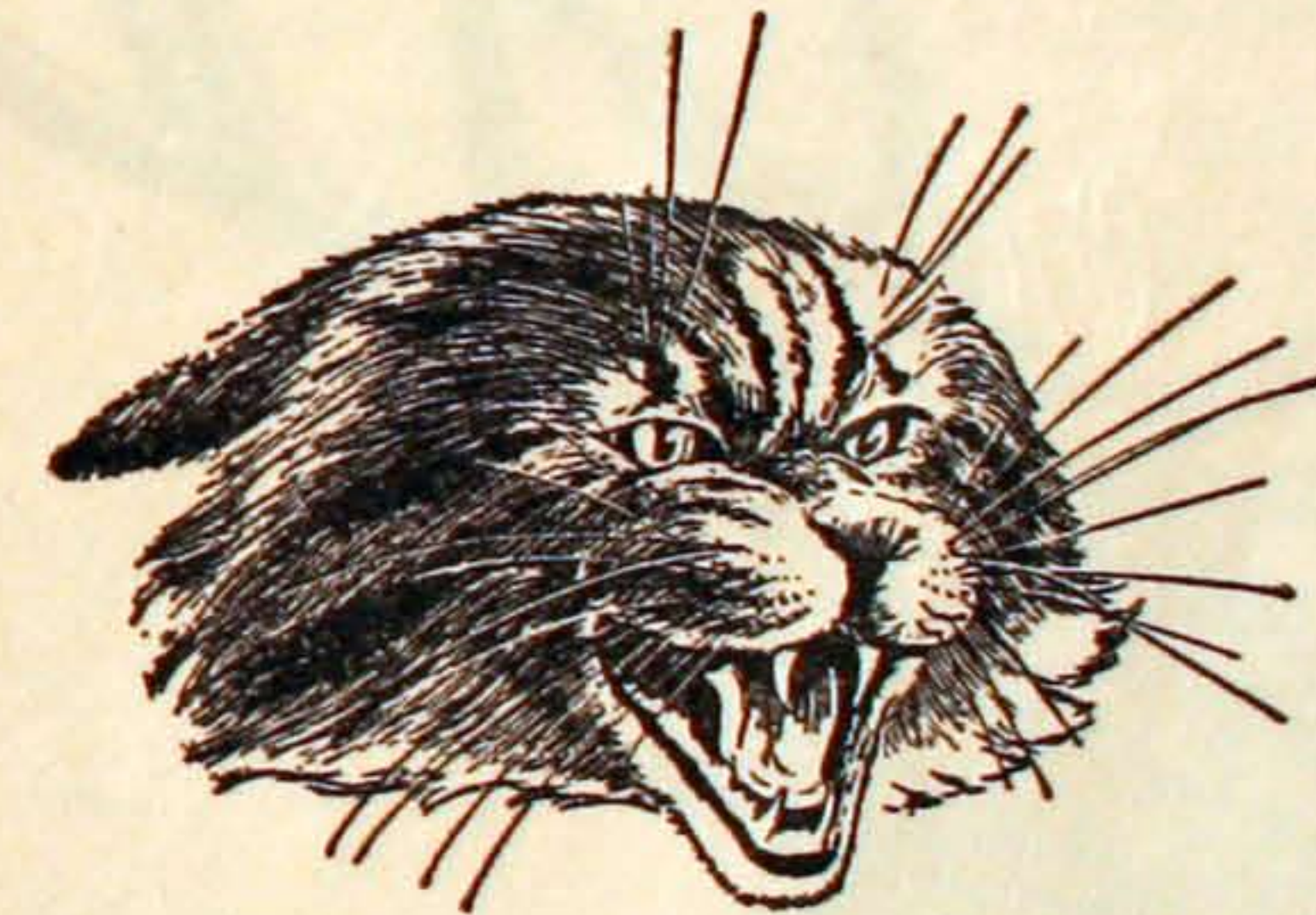
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OTHER BOOKS BY
MR. CHIPPERFIELD

Storm of Dancerwood

Windruff of Links Tor

Beyond the Timberland Trail



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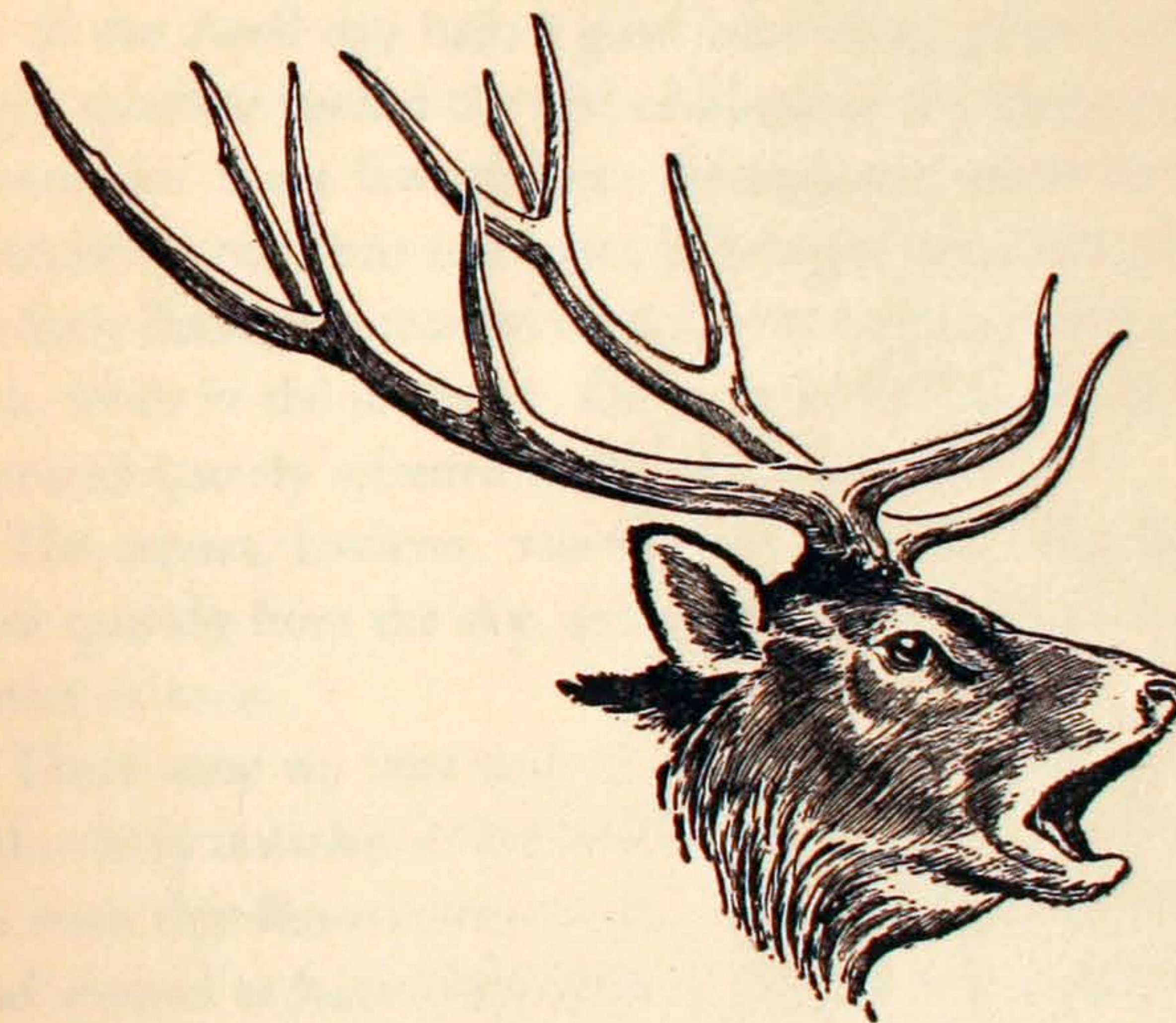
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CHAPTER ONE

THE EYRIE ON ROINEVAL

NIGHT CAME SUDDENLY TO BEALACH MOR — AN EXPANSE of bog and mountain north of Loch Harport on the island of Skye. There was little or no twilight that evening. The last of the April day had, a good hour since, glowed with angry splendor behind the vast tableland of the Trotternish Mountains. For a few minutes, the fantastic sunset found reflection in the tarns and lochs. It brought into stark relief the Storr Rocks that marked the northern limits of the eagles' glen, while in the southeast, the crags of the Black Cuillins appeared queerly softened in the afterglow.

The sunset, however, was of short duration. The light went quickly from the sky, and darkness invaded the moor almost at once.

There were no stars and no moon. The sheep stood in melancholy isolation in the hollows. Nothing moved. Even the burn that flowed down to the falls above the Dunvegan road seemed to have lost a little of its boisterous mirth and certainly all of its spumy chatter.

Towering over Bealach Mor, the volcanic crags of Roineval appeared ominous in outline — a sprawling ridge that

cried out in excitement before soaring higher still, thrusting up and up in easy, joyous flight.

A few seconds later, they dived through the strands of mist torn from the fluttering pennants on Clach Glas, and breaking the stoop just above the summit of Ruadh Stac, made direct for their old eyrie on the Blaven-Clach Glas ridge.

The curlew ceased to call. All was silent save for the symphony of the burn and the soft cry of the wind. Austere in their aloofness, the mountains steamed with mist while, through a gap in the clouds, the bronze shield of the sun went down slowly into the sea.

Here ends the story of Greeka, Eagle of the Hebrides, begun one spring at Carbost, on the Isle of Skye, and completed two years later at Torrison, Ross-shire, in the north-western Highlands of Scotland.

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JOSEPH E. CHIPPERFIELD grew up in one of the most beautiful parts of Cornwall. As a boy he began keeping a record of his observations when tramping around the countryside, especially of the habits of wild animals and birds. His first attempts at writing, short nature studies, were drawn from these notebooks. He traveled extensively in Ireland and about the west of England. Once he began experimenting in writing about animals, he spent long periods in the remote parts of England and Ireland with his Alsatian dog, Max, as his constant companion. Mr. Chipperfield felt strongly that tales in which animals had human thoughts were not animal stories at all. Before he could write about animals he wanted to analyze their code of living, their attitudes toward the things they cared about. To observations of his dog's reactions to the unrestricted liberty of the campfire and the forest, as well as in the quiet home in Surrey, Mr. Chipperfield has added his own rich knowledge of woodlore in three books to delight dog-lovers, *Storm of Dancerwood*, *Windruff of Links Tor*, *Beyond the Timberland Trail*, and *Greeka, Eagle of the Hebrides*.

