



THE

WOUNDED

FALCON

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THE WOUNDED FALCON

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Introduction

You are about to embark on an adventure in which YOU are the main character. The *Choices* that you make as you read will determine your ultimate success or failure.

All you need to start this adventure is a pencil. You also have a *Parchment* to record your progress as you read.

Each *Choices* short story only has one path that leads to success; all the others lead to failure. How long will it take you to find that correct path?

Equipment

You will start the adventure with no equipment at all. It is likely, however, that you will find some items during your travels. You should record any such items under the “List of Equipment” on your *Parchment*.

Notes

There is a notes box on your *Parchment*, which you can use to record any particularly useful piece of information that you may come across during your adventure.

Parting Comments

As you read, you will soon realise that you should not read the pages/paragraphs in numerical order. It is essential that you only read the paragraphs the book asks you to read. Reading other sections will deprive you of the excitement and surprise you would otherwise experience while reading this book.

I hope you enjoy this adventure

J P Barnett

PARCHMENT

List of Equipment

Notes

“Okay girl, let’s go,” you whisper to your falcon, Huntress. You emit her learned ‘take-off-and-hunt’ whistle, gently thrust your arm skyward and she complies. She soars into the air and begins to circle the lake, her sharp eyes scanning the clear water for a quarry.

Your father has sent you away with Huntress to search for some fish for tea. Your falcon is an accomplished and well-trained bird of prey. You normally use her to capture fish, rabbits and sometimes pigeons.

Watching her from the lake edge for a couple of minutes, it appears that she has not seen a likely kill. You decide that you will direct her to a different section of the lake to continue the hunt.

If you want to follow the lake edge around to the north, turn to page -2-

If you want to follow the lake edge around to the south, turn to page -3-

2

You let out one more whistle, this time asking Huntress to stay with you. As you start to slowly walk around the lake edge to the north, she adjusts her flight pattern so that she stays near to where you are.

After a short while you stop walking and whistle to your falcon to look for prey again. Sitting down on a nearby boulder, you carefully watch her for the next few minutes.

Suddenly, you hear a shriek from above and behind you. Jumping up and spinning around, you see the shape of a large EAGLE heading straight for Huntress. The eagle is much larger and stronger than your falcon; Huntress would be no match for it.

Huntress has already spotted her foe and is taking evasive action. What will you do?

If you whistle to Huntress, instructing her to return to you immediately, turn to page -4-

If you decide to do nothing and let Huntress evade the eagle herself, turn to page -5-

You let out one more whistle, this time asking Huntress to stay with you. As you start to slowly walk around the lake edge to the south, she adjusts her flight pattern so that she stays near to where you are.

After a short while you notice your falcon briefly hesitate; it seems she has spotted something down below. She lets herself fall and commences an intense dive to the surface of the lake. Her talons striking the water with deadly force, she emerges with her prize; a brown trout.

You whistle again, requesting Huntress to return to you. Being well trained and obedient, she complies immediately.

*H*untress attempts to return to you, but is cut off by the eagle in mid-flight. Its talons pierce deep into her flesh and she shrieks in pain.

“NO!!!” you yell.

The eagle lets loose its grip on your falcon and she spirals like a corkscrew to the surface of the lake. She hits it with a splash, over one-hundred metres from the shore. The eagle does not pursue her any further, but instead, continues out to the middle of the lake, obviously satisfied that it has dealt with its intruder.

With tears in your eyes, you rip away your pouch that holds *Huntress*' food and dive into the cold water, heading straight for your fallen bird.

The chase between the two has left the lake. They have both flown behind you and are now over a large cliff face that overlooks the stretch of water. Occasionally the massive wall of rock in front of you obscures your view of the birds, thus, you need to move back and crane your neck upwards to see what is happening.

So far, Huntress has successfully avoided the eagle but you wonder for how much longer. Desperate, you scan the ground and find a small rock nearby. You think about the possibility of throwing it at the eagle to scare it off. Better still, you may strike it down. Is it worth the risk, however? You could hit Huntress!

If you want to take the rock and throw it at the eagle, turn to page -8-

If you decide that it is too risky, turn to page -13-

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