

## TO END AN EAGLE

This story follows that plot of a hero's journey, the following stages:

1. Begins life in the "ordinary world", it's natural setting
2. Call to adventure; a journey or mission chocked full of risks and potential rewards
3. Refuses at first to accept "the call"; reluctant, apprehensive and afraid
4. Seeks and commits to counseling or guidance
5. Crosses the threshold from the "ordinary" to the unnatural, extraordinary place
6. Endures tests...encounters with both enemies and allies—not always sure of who's who
7. Reaches the pinnacle of both risks and rewards
8. Incurs the greatest ordeal, problem and paradox
9. Acquires the reward
10. Must leave/return to the "ordinary world", the "reward" tenuously kept—the risk still of losing it
11. Incurs a relief or resurrection experience
12. Returns with given reward and possible more

The hero is an eagle, Eli.

In the beginning, Eli is faced with a life-changing experience; the only opportunity to extend his life, vis-à-vis his offspring, is jeopardized when both his mate and their eaglets go missing. As eagles are renowned for their joint-caring/rearing of their young, this event is certainly a crisis and could ultimately be a tragedy.

The reward is the restoration of his family—the risks that they are dead or otherwise gone forever. But with the limitations of the eagle—that must cross-over from the natural to the unnatural world ("Daddy-Dumb")—is the crucial decision to enter and then embrace the *adventure* and still the many uncertainties that await those who dare enter this world, **IN THE DAYS OF DADDY-DUMB**.

The story is packed with other characters, both friend and foe, that are largely but not altogether birds. Some birds provide guidance and support, such as the wise owl, while others are menacing—even maniacal—aimed to undermine Eli's mission and thwart any change of achieving a reward, the recovery of his family.

Eli is an eagle that naturally lives without either friends or foes. Such nature has been overturned (In Daddy-Dumb) however and in the undoing Eli must find friends to combat a host of foes, even arch enemies, that have taken his family and threaten his existence.

It is an ugly time and place in the sense that much of nature, and the bird as a part of it, have taken on a very corrupt condition with circumstances that most resemble mankind—its own kind being its most formidable foe. In such a difficult and distressful setting, the eagle is more a prey than a predator; it's offspring in grave danger.

