

Animal detectives solve crimes of animal poaching.

JP and His Animal Detectives - African Series - Book Three - Bobbejaan - Team Building

by Len Nourse

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JP and his Animal Detectives

AFRICAN SERIES - BOOK THREE

Bobbejaan



Len Nourse

Illustrations by Janine Petzer

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Detectives – African Series -
Book Three –Bobbejaan**

Team Building

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First Edition

Acknowledgements

Dedicated to my 5 children who nightly said ‘tell us a story’ followed by my 3 granddaughters who added ‘write them up for us’ – Dawn Johnson who kindly edited all five of the African series, followed by additional edits by my cousin Hughen Nourse of Wake Forest, NC, US – my wife Amanda and my sons Peter John and Andrew who paid my costs – my peers, now friends, at LinkedIn Children’s Publishing and Writers Groups who guided me about publishing and to self-publishing – thank you Ann-Louise Truschel.

I enjoyed working with Janine who did the illustrations - www.janinepetzer.com - She is part of the stories.

About the Author, retired scientist now writer of kids’ stories can be seen in his website:
www.leonardnourse.com.

The website was designed by Ilana Kapp - www.curiouskittenstudio.co.za.

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Published by BookLocker.com and thanks to Angela and Richard Hoy for their publishing skills and patience.

I highly recommend all of Angela and her team, Janine and Ilana should you need their skills.

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Discussing new recruits

After the team had found and rescued dear old Mabel's pedigree poodle, Jakkals said, "Hey, JP, you were nearly killed that time. Luckily they didn't know I was moving about and able to partly disable those three thugs by biting them in their calf muscles. This gave you the chance to free yourself from them. Then especially again, a bit later on, when you and the one thug were wrestling on the ground, I grabbed and bit the thug's wrist as he thrust at your neck with a knife. That would have killed you. It's also lucky that I can see clearly when it's nearly dark, while you and they can't. They, not knowing what was biting them, became more intent on protecting themselves and then ran away. I want to say it again; we really need a strong animal to help us in these skirmishes. Maybe a leopard or a lion would be a fearsome deterrent to the nasty humans! Why are humans like that? You don't find such among us animals."

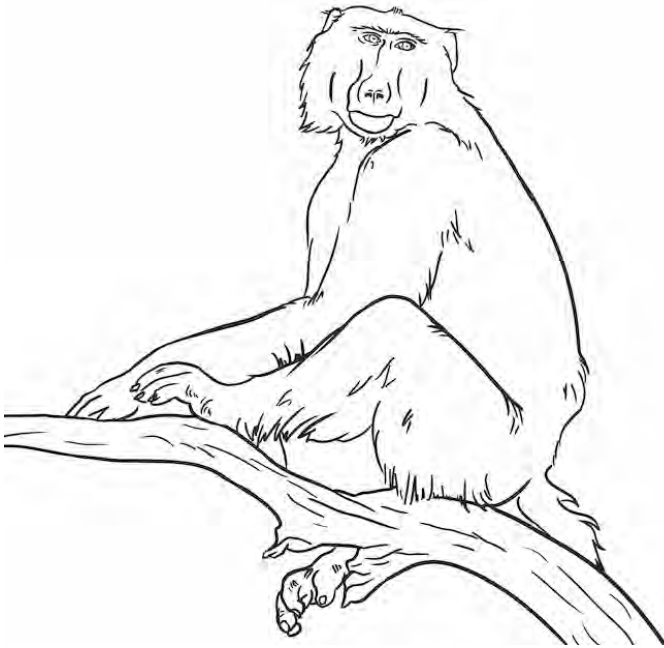


“You’ve a good point there Jakkals, but it would be difficult for me to keep either of those two animals, because, like with you, I’d need to free them every now and again to enable them to be with their families. Furthermore, I would need to feed them meat and that would be very expensive. I’ll certainly keep it in mind. A few more jobs like this rescue of the pedigree poodle belonging to Mabel would be ideal and very lucrative for us. She’s very rich and rewarded me handsomely for saving her best friend, the poodle – much more than the poodle is worth. With more cases like this, I’ll soon be

able to afford that helicopter I've wanted to buy," said JP.

This conversation continued on with Eagle perched on the open door leading outside, when JP said: "Maybe I could get a baboon because it would mostly be able to feed itself - they're mainly vegetarian."

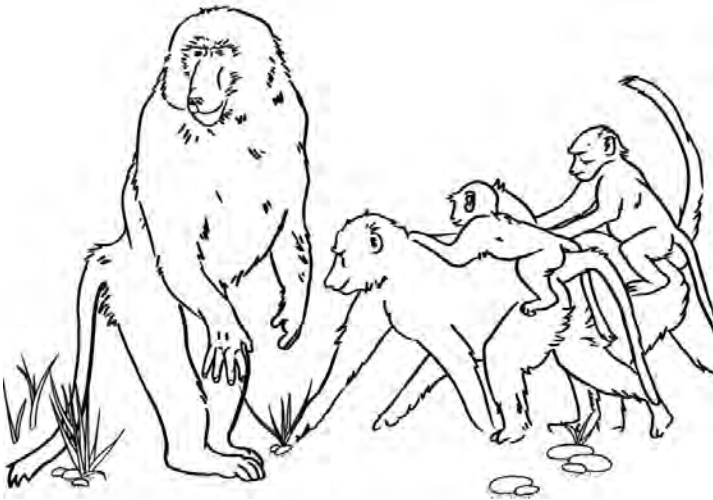
"Yap...No, not a baboon! I don't really like baboons because that animal would keep teasing me."



“WHOW-kayow-kwow...Unlike Jakkals, I think a baboon would be a good idea. Like you humans, they have hands and could be very helpful in doing some of the tasks you have to do JP. You’re whining up the wrong tree now Jakkals; afraid to lose your authority!”

“Now, now you two, baboons are also very intelligent animals and mostly live in troops, with the leader always standing guard. If we got a baboon it would be nice if we could get one who is a leader of a troop, or has been. Getting a leader to join us, though, would be unlikely because he would not like to leave his troop, so we’d have to get a young one. A young one, though, will initially be difficult to train since they’re such fun-loving animals, and as you said, at the beginning might tease you, Jakkals. Also, a young baboon will initially be more of a deterrent to our needs than a help, because their fun-loving antics would alert crooks of our presence.

We’ll see what comes up when next we do a job on the Natal coast, or in the Drakensberg Mountains, or the Cape Peninsula. Once trained, though, a baboon, or even a monkey, will be very useful. It’ll be able to gain entrance to almost any place because of its climbing ability.”



“Yap...Good point there JP, I agree and a baboon would be useful in skirmishes because they are fairly powerful and quick. From Jackal folk lore, we understand that far north of here there is a much bigger type of Baboon – mild in nature but really strong.”

“Yes, they’re called Gorillas. They’d be the ideal strong man. But I don’t know how we’ll get one of them.”

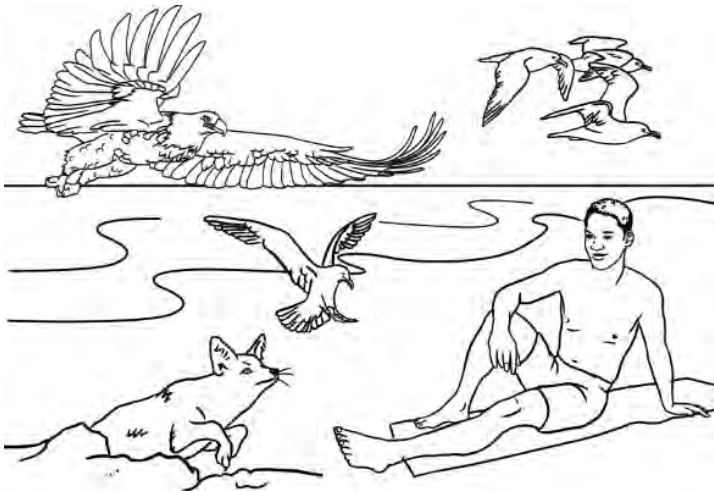
In the ensuing months JP and Jakkals, now with Eagle to help them, carried out quite a number of small rescue jobs of special home pets. This came about from word

of mouth because of JP's rescue of Mabel's poodle. Many of these people, as would be expected because of their association with Mabel, were also very well off. They too donated good sums of money to JP's bank balance when the three of them successfully returned their pet to them. JP invested this money wisely – a necessity for many of the adventures JP and team later carried out.

JP also used these adventures in the further training of Jakkals, and Eagle — and others later recruited to the team.

Approach by Police Chief

One day, when JP was relaxing on the beach after he'd been out training at the local police gym, with Jakkals running along the beach front teasing seagulls, and Eagle, now nearly fully grown, soaring above the sea with the intent of catching fish for their supper, JP shouted. "Come! Let's go home, I've something interesting to tell you."



When Jakkals and Eagle had joined him, JP said, “In the gym I was approached by the head of the local secret service. Now, he never talks to me unless he wants something done.

He said, coming straight to the point without even a hello: “*JP there’s trouble with poaching of baboons. The Durban port officials tell us that they intercepted an assignment of eight baboons being loaded onto a Chinese ship. The experts tell us that they’re a subgroup that originates from the Drakensberg mountain range in Kwa Zulu Natal, South Africa, bordering Lesotho. We’ve sent spotter aircraft over the area, but to no avail. There’s a good reward out for the capture of these thugs.*”

With that he left. The Chief and I are old acquaintances, and I knew why the Chief had told me that.



The Poacher's Trap

To start his investigation, JP, using an unmarked police helicopter, surveyed that area of the Drakensberg Mountains that included the part known as The Amphitheatre. Eagle soared alongside of him.



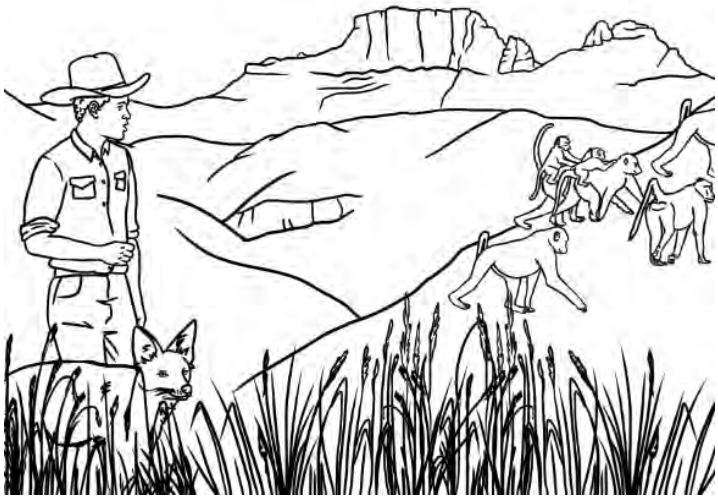
The purpose of the survey was to find where large troops of baboons were located, their likely drinking and eating spots, and whether these would be accessible by the trucks the poachers would need to transport their captured baboons. Although he noted

many places where the animals eat and drink, none seemed likely spots accessible to trucks. Well not until Eagle, who's able to cover areas where the helicopter was unable to fly, said, "WHOW-kayow-kwow...JP, I can see trucks hidden in the trees on that plateau above the mountains, and there's a large troop of baboons heading towards it."

JP immediately landed the helicopter in an opening behind the baboons. Then he and Jakkals carefully followed this troop of baboons on foot. He judged they would lead them to the poachers. Eagle kept contact by soaring high above in the sky.

This secretive vigil continued for several hours. Both JP and Jakkals ate what the baboons ate, and drank at their water holes after they had left. They thought the baboons never saw them. After many hours the baboons stopped and scanned the steep cliffs at the top of the escarpment. JP heard them say, "Utter....Something smells good up there."

It was then that JP noticed smoke coming from the top of the face of the mountain.

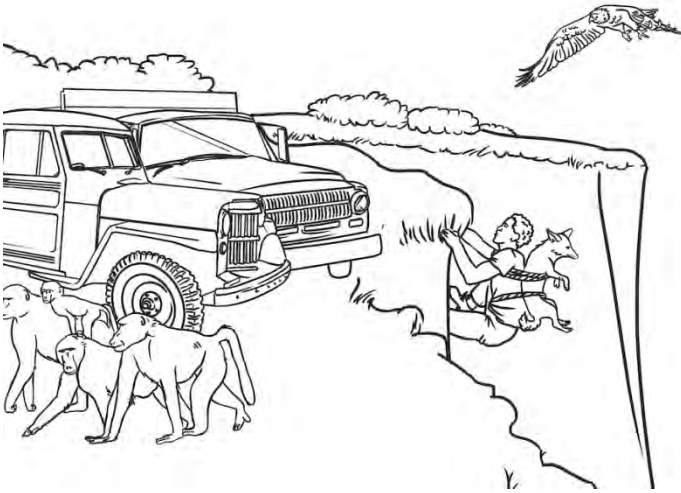


Combat with Poachers

“Drive the trucks between the baboons and the cliff’s edge,” was the order JP heard from the leader of the poachers, as he clambered up the cliff and over the edge onto the plateau with Jakkals strapped to his back.

At the same time Eagle, now soaring above the escarpment, screeched down at JP, “WHOW-kayow-kwow...stop them JP.”

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Not being as agile as the baboons in climbing, especially with Jakkals on his back, JP found that the baboon troop had moved itself some 300 meters ahead by the time he arrived. What JP saw dismayed him! There were men with rifles to their shoulders ready to shoot at the baboons.

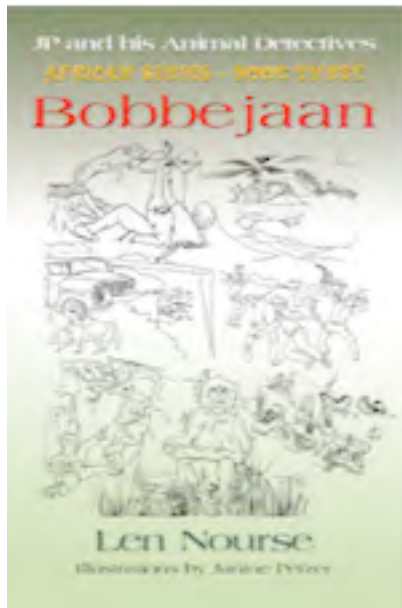


Just as JP shouted in Baboon language, over and over again, “Baboons, get back over the cliff’s edge,” four gunshots rang out, followed by four more in quick succession. These Baboon calls from in front of them, and then the shouting from behind them, caused confusion among the poachers. At this moment, JP hurled himself at the thugs, and a tussle between him and six poachers followed, with Jakkals helping by biting their legs and Eagle clawing their heads from above. The scuffle allowed the baboon troop to turn

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back and gain the security of the cliff's edge. Alas, seven baboons were left lying on the ground!





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