

## THE STORY OF BRAVE EAGLE

Many moons ago on the plains of what is now Morris County, Kansas (from Kanza "people of the south wind") there lived an Indian chief named Growly Bear. Chief Growly Bear had a beautiful maiden daughter named Lonesome Sparrow.

Lonesome Sparrow was very much in love with a handsome young brave named Brave Eagle. Chief Growly Bear did not like Brave Eagle and said that Brave Eagle spent too much time playing his guitar for Indian dances and Pow Wows. The Chief thought that his daughter, Lonesome Sparrow, should marry his favorite, Sneaky Possum. The Chief said sneaky Possum was a good hunter and would be able to provide many rabbits and so forth for the tribal parties. But Lonesome Sparrow did not like, much less love, Sneaky Possum and was very sad when the Chief said that was who she should marry.

About that time, the tribes magic Sparkling Stone was lost and nobody knew where it could be. They had to have it because the Sparkling Stone had great power to heal battle injuries.

The Chief did not wish to see Lonesome Sparrow cry and be unhappy, so he said "whoever finds the Sparkling Stone shall have my daughter's hand in marriage."

And so, both Sneaky Possum and Brave Eagle searched long and hard for the Sparkling Stone in order to be chosen to marry Lonesome Sparrow. What nobody knew was that Lonesome Sparrow had hidden the Sparkling Stone in sand on Coyote Creek and one day she asked Brave Eagle to join her there for a picnic.

Sure enough, when Brave Eagle went to get a drink from the creek, he found the Sparkling Stone. Unfortunately, Sneaky Possum saw all this and was so angry that he shot Brave Eagle through the chest with an arrow. As the brave fell an eagle swooped down, clutched the Sparkling Stone in his talons, and flew away. Lonesome Dove realized that the only way she could save Brave Eagle from his injury was to follow the eagle and get the Sparkling Stone.

And, so to this day, Lonesome Dove runs after the flying eagle trying to get the Sparkling Stone so she can heal Brave Eagle and marry him and live happily ever after.

Written by L. Strouts, Nov 1999

(This the story of the eagle clutching the diamond on the necklace that I wear.)