

Chapter Seventeen

the great lake, the great sky, the great gray country. They become moody, fanciful. In the face of the silence they have little to say. At Fort Rae were old Jock Wilson, the Chief Trader ; Father Bonat, the priest ; Andrew Levoy, the *métis* clerk ; four Dog Rib teepees ; Galen Albret and his bride ; and Graehme Stewart.

Jock Wilson was sixty-five ; Father Bonat had no age ; Andrew Levoy possessed the years of dour silence. Only Graehme Stewart and Elodie, bride of Albret, were young. In the great gray country their lives were like spots of color on a mist. Galen Albret finally became jealous.

At first there was nothing to be done ; but finally Levoy brought to the older man proof of the younger's guilt. The harsh traveller bowed his head and wept. But since he loved Elodie more than himself—