

CAN HE SEE ME?

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Chapter 1

I was brought to this big place by a man.

The man had his left hand on my back.

We walked to this huge door that seem to go on forever.

I was looking around and wondered who could live in such a big place, and what was in there?

I did not know anyone this far away from our home.

I had never traveled this far without mom and my little brother.

My daddy left just as my new brother was born.

He told mom he was going to find work and come back for us.

It's been five years.

My baby brother is five.

Mom would go about to neighbors and beg for bread for us.

I could not go to school because we had to pay.

But mom knew how to count and read.

She would teach me every day.

We would have a good time counting.

We would count everything from the number of butterflies we saw or the different colors of the birds and at night we would count the number of croaks from the frogs or the number of lighting bugs.

In the day we lay on the grass and behold the glory of God at the beautiful blue skies and white clouds.

Mom has an old bible.

She read from that bible every day.

She taught me and my little brother the alphabets and how to pronounce words.

We could read real good.

Better than the children who went to school.

So their parents would ask my mom to teach their children how to read and count.

Mom did.

The parents would give us old bread or sugar cakes and old clothes and shoes.

But we were happy.

I could hear mom crying at nights and I went to her me and my brother and we would hold her and we would pat her on her back.

Our house was made by our daddy.

It was the largest one in our community.

He was big and strong.

He made two large rooms.

One room was the family room and kitchen.

The other room was the bedroom and closet, that had a tub for our baths.

He made our beds, two small ones for us boys and a larger one for he and our mom, out of the logs that were left were left from building our house.

Mom sold all we had to the neighbors but the tub (so we can take baths) and the axe (to cut wood for winter) and the fishing pole (because she was really good at fishing).

The house was big for us and sometime the neighbors tried to force us out, but mom fought them off. And some of the men ran after them to keep them from coming back.

If they would have made us leave our home we would have been on the road or woods like so many kids.

Mom would go and look for kids when it started to get cold.

Some of the parents would have died and mom would run and tell the neighbors and the men would come and bury the dads.

Some of the moms would be very sick with coughs.

Mom would go out in the woods and find berries and boil them in water and give to the moms and the kids and they would feel so much better.

Mom would take us and the kids that were in good health and carry anything Mom would take with us and leave the bigger kids to help their moms.

WE would hunt for wild berries and fruit.

We found a good place where there were several apple trees.

Mom told us not to tell the neighbors.

We found a spring of water.

It took two of us to carry a pail.

We would drop a lot of water out of the pail, but Mom would not fuss but smile because as long as we brought the people a cool drink.

We had been out all day.

It was getting dark.

We had such a good time with the kids.

We got back home and saw a horse and buggy.

We were so excited because we rarely see one of those.

The kids ran from all over the neighborhood to look at the horses.

A man walked out of our house and looked at the kids.

It was dad.

I dropped the water pail and ran to him.

The other boy did not know to drop the water pail or not.

Mom was so shocked she stood with her mouth opened.

The other boy with the pail of water looked at Mom for help.

She could not move.

I ran to the porch and leaped in the arms of my dad.

My younger brother did not know dad because he was a baby when dad left. But he ran behind me and reached up to dad.

Dad held both of us.

He yelled to Mom, "Come here woman."

She dropped everything and held her hands up to her heart.

Dad ran to her with both of us in his arms and kissed mom very hard.

She smiled

She said, "I thought you were dead."

He said, "I know. It has been bad. I prayed everyday to God to let me make it back home."

Dad turned and looked back at the horse and buggy and nodded.

Mom said very hesitantly, "Ours?"

Dad said, "Yes."

He looked down at my water pail helper and put me down.

I grabbed the handle of the water pail and he did also and we walked to the house.

Dad had unloaded the wagon.

He had been talking to the lady and her two kids. One was a big kid and the other was her youngest.

Dad brought a lot of stuff.

He brought us pillows, blankets, quilts and pots and pans (because mom sold the ones we had).

Dad brought a lot of leather and a machine.

Mom asked him what that was for.

Dad said he knew people did not have shoes, so he was getting into the business.

He grabbed Mom by her waist.

She smiled.

He kissed her.

The lady and her five kids laughed and giggled.

They stayed with us the whole winter.

They had a good Christmas.

We had giant candy canes and oranges and nuts.

Dad worked taking people in town two days.

He dropped a letter at the post for the lady and her five kids living with us.

They had become my brothers.

Each day we all prayed.

At night Mom or the lady would read the bible to us.

Dad had bought a lot of fabric.

Mom and the lady would sew all night long and talk.

Dad asked Mom did she mind if he was gone for four or five days per week.

Mom smiled and said, "I won't mind if it's not five years."

Dad smile.

Dad and Mom were sitting on the front porch.

The lady was standing in the door looking at them.

She was really good at sewing.

She figured out how to sew fast and easy.

She and Mom sewed themselves several pretty dresses

They made all of us men, nice shirts and trousers.

Dad made all of us nice shoes.

We were able to go to church, not every Sunday, but every other Sunday, because Dad would take some of the neighbors to town and be paid by them.

He made enough money he bought another horse.

Mom was so very happy.

I heard her tell Dad, "It's like a dream. We went from dirt poor and rejected to having something and being respected."

She began to cry.

Dad wiped her tears and told her he did not want to add to her burden and he had some money but the people stole it because he could not read and write.

He said, "Thank you for teaching our boys to read and write. Now teach me."

Mom smiled and nodded her head for yes.

Dad went into town with his two horses.

We were so proud of him and glad we had horses.

He told mom he trusted old men to bring he stuff he bought. But he found out through his boss they were selling his stuff and working in other parts of the state to make dad think they brought the stuff to us.

When Dad's boss man found out he told dad.

Dad said he was hurt and angry.

He had planned on killing the five men.

They took advantage of his trust and that dad could not read nor write.

The boss man knew dad was going to kill the five men.

So the boss man sent dad to another job, where he was taught how to take care of horses and make horse shoes. They taught him how to make man's shoes too.

He said he was really good and all he could think of us was us with nothing and he wanted to immediately leave and come to us but he had nothing.

He could not write mom because he could not read nor write.

In his mind he could see himself on the back of wagon with stale bread coming home with nothing.

Mom touched his face and said, "We would have welcome you home."

Dad began to cry, "I was just a failure."

Mom said, "No you are not."

Dad old mom the new boss man knew what the men had done because the old boss man told him.

The new boss man told dad if he work for him two years he would give him fair wages and a brand new buggy and a horse to get him home.

Dad agree and he worked and hid all his money.

When he got ready to leave the boss man had brought all new tools for his horseshoe business and gave dad all his old tools.

The boss man's wife loaded dad down with all kinds of materials to make nightgowns, shirts, dresses and trousers.

Dad would work extra with the town's shoemakers. So he learned to make shoes. They gave dad a lot of their leather and gave him a set of new tools to start his own business.

The town people gave dad new pots and pans and blankets and pillows.

Dad hurried home before the winter.

All the cold and bitter times we forgot when dad came home.

He made everything easy for us and especially mom.

Chapter 2

When dad returned three days later from town he had some faces with him.

There was a young lady and an older man and an older woman.

They had a lot of bags.

Mom looked.

We looked at mom.

Dad jumped off the buggy and called our winter guess.

When they came to the door, the lady ran to the strangers and hugged them.

The older man and woman were her mother's brother and sister.

They were prominent newspaper people and her niece was a successful dentist, all from Philadelphia.

Her niece was her Aunt's daughter, who took up being a dentist after her father and mother who both died young.

So she was raised by the same uncle and aunt.

They came with much goods for mom and dad because the lady wrote and asked them to send some goods.

The niece spoke to all of us.

The lady introduced her five boys from the age of two to ten to her prominent Philadelphia family which was small.

They did not believe in having large families.

The uncle was shocked and said, 'five boys.

He looked at the aunt (his sister) and said, "Well we can double up."

The niece said, "Where is the bed?"

Mom laughed.

And dad called us men to help carry all the goodies in.

He loosed the second horse from the buggy to have him pull a separate cart.

Dad had to buy rather the prominent uncle.

Dad had just finished our new table.

Mom and the lady cooked a large dinner that evening. We all sat on cans and logs around the big table.

The lady said grace.

And we ate and it was good.

We all sat out on the porch.

Dad and the prominent uncle feed and watered the horses.

Dad tied the buggy to the end of the porch.

Dad said, "All fellows, we sleep on the front porch. The rest we have to figure out."

The prominent uncle looked around.

The prominent niece said, "Where do I sleep?"

They all laughed.

She did not.

Mom said she could sleep in my bed. She walked inside and pull off her clothes and put on her night gown and slept until the next noon.

The prominent uncle was about to get in my little brother's bed when dad said, "All fellows outside."

The prominent uncle said, "I thought I could sneak by."

Mom slept in my little brother's bed. And the old lady and her prominent aunt slept in mom's and dad's bed.

All of us kids felt good. We each had a pallet and blankets and dad made a fire and we all were good.

The prominent uncle was wide awake, and he mumbled and said guess house.

Dad said, "What house?"

The prominent uncle said, "In the morning."

The next morning dad the prominent uncle woke and walked around the settlement.

They brought water back for us to wash our faces and for the women to cook and wash clothes.

We tried to wake the prominent dentist, but she shooed us away.

It was noon by time she got up and washed and dressed.

All the grown ups were sitting at the table.

The prominent dentist was sipping tea.

The lady said she finished school to be a teacher and her first year teaching she met her husband, that her mother and father did not approved of him.

So they ran away with no money and lived where ever they could even in the woods.

The prominent uncle became angry and pushed his chair back and stood up, and said, "You didn't have to live like that. Your mother and father went to their graves wondering if their only child was alive or dead."

The lady said, "They don't have to worry. Since they are dead, they know I am not dead."

Everyone looked at her sharp tongue.

Mom, touching her hand, "That's not necessary."

The lady said, "Well he is dead. They buried him out there at a clearing last fall."

The prominent uncle said, "Well I'm sorry for your loss. You and the boys shaking his head can travel back to Philadelphia and live in the family house."

The lady leaning over the table said, "I'm not going back."

The prominent aunt said, "What? Your letter."

The lady said, "I wrote for help. I know if you all saw this settlement you would want to do something to help these people."

The Prominent niece said, "What? You had us to travel a week by train to get down south only to tell us you are not coming home."

The prominent uncle said, "Well sure with five boys."

The lady said, "You can build a school here with our family name. We can help these people and help this settlement to become a town or city that bare our family name."

Mom and Dad looked at each other and dad said, "What about our name?"

Pointing to him and mom.

The prominent dentist giggled and sipped her tea.

The lady said, "And you be the dentist?"

The prominent dentist very calmly said, "No."

The lady looked at her and said, "Maybe part time."

The prominent dentist said, "I am set to marry Derek Greene. Of the Greene clan and ain't nobody going to mess that up."

The lady yelled, "Perfect!!"

Everyone jumped.

She said, "You can do your honeymoon here."

The prominent dentist said, "You are crazy. Living in the woods have made you crazy. I'm going to Paris. Paris, France in case your brains have woods on it."

The prominent aunt laughed.

The lady looked at her prominent aunt.

The prominent aunt said, "That was funny."

The lady said, "He's one of Greene's heir. They are very bourgeois."

The prominent dentist said, "I have all intentions to be one of those bourgeois ones."

The lady said, "snob."

The prominent dentist turned her hand up in the air as if she was twirling a noise maker "I will be invited to all fashionable luncheons and dinner parties and go to all club events."

The lady said, "Do you love him."

The prominent dentist said, "Hell, Yes."

The lady looked at her.

The prominent dentist said, "Love does not have to poor destitute. What you did. Running away with him was an act of rebellion against your mom and dad that back fired. Eleven years later and five boys later, you lived in woods, and have nothing for your boys, acting and living like slaves. Our grandparents worked hard to get the stench of slavery out of their noses for you to come and slammed all up in their noses and said it was love."

The lady jumped up from the table.

The aunt and uncle (who was still standing) looked at the lady.

The prominent dentist said, "sit down."

The uncle hurried and sat down.

She continued "I will not spend my time where maybe we, meaning me and prominent physician husband can get the university to send students down on break."

The prominent uncle, snapping his fingers and pointing at the niece said, "That's a good idea. I am trying to get on the board at the university. If I get on I can make this happen."

The prominent niece rolling her eyes at her prominent uncle said very bitterly, "Shut up."

He looked at her with surprise.

She stared him down and said, "You dragged me down south and I could not sleep thinking about these poor people. I do not want to be around poor people, that's why I worked so hard and put myself on the next level. I didn't want to be like you aunt, a preacher widow."

The prominent aunt said, "We were happy."

The prominent niece said, "Because you thought you had made it."

She looked at her cousin and said, "You let your two oldest boys come back with us. Do you have birth certificates for them?"

The lady shook her head for no.

The prominent niece continued with a fire in her heart, "They can go to the Philadelphia preparatory, just like you. They can go until summer. You come to Philadelphia the last week of June and bring the other three boys with you, to attend my wedding to Dr. Derek Greene. You make sure you get there in time to get you a dress made and your boys have outfits."

She continued, "You go to the different families and ask them for suggestions to help this settlement and let them volunteer advise. Then they will give you donations. You decide if you want your oldest boys to continue at prep or come back here with you."

The lady said, "I have never been apart from my boys."

The prominent dentist, putting her cup on the table said, "You make the decision, the rich always like to feel they are the decision makers and not the played."

The uncle and aunt looked at the lady.

The prominent dentist went out and sat on the front porch steps and looked around the settlement.

One of the five boys was out playing in the dirt and came and attempted to sit by her.

He put his dirty hands on her to help him sit.

She rolled her eyes and removed his hands.

The uncle standing and looking at them he turned and walked back to the table and said, "That's a good proposal. You need to think about it."

Mom and Dad looked at the lady.

The prominent uncle said, tapped on the table and said, "People need to have a place to sleep and eat."

He looked at mom and dad and said, "There are companies that send people to build houses. Who can finished in a month or two."

Dad yelled, "A company?"

The prominent uncle and aunt looked at dad.

Mom pulled dad down.

The prominent uncle and aunt both whistled.

The prominent uncle looked at mom who was embarrassed because that was apparently the type of company he worked with the evil workers.

The prominent uncle said, "Do you think you can run a guess house for visiting doctors and dentist meaning cooking their meals and cleaning the guess house."

Mom did not hesitate said, "Yes."

The lady was still perplexed.

Chapter 3

The prominent dentist was on the train to return to Philadelphia with her aunt and uncle and the two oldest boys of the lady.

The prominent dentist was sitting like a princess and looking out the window as she sipped tea.

Both the boys sit on the train seat with her, that had a table.

The uncle and aunt were seated on the seat directly in front of her.

One of the boys jumped down and ran to the door that separated the black and white passengers.

They heard a loud noise and the boy screamed.

The uncle turned and rushed to the boy who was holding his face.

The uncle bent down and saw the hand print of the white conductor on his nephew's face.

All the prominent blacks held their breathe, as they sat in the dining room.

The black attendant stood behind the train conductor, holding his breathe.

The uncle stood up and put his hands on the nine year old shoulders.

He looked at the train conductor and said, "He's just a boy excited about a train ride."

The uncle pushed the boy towards his aunt who put a cold compress on the boy's face.

She said, "We promised her nothing will happen to her children and now this."

The older ten year old was peeping over the table looking at his brother's face and he stared at the white train conductor.

He did not turn his eyes away from him.

The uncle was very mad.

The prominent niece said, "I hate them."

She sipped her tea as she looked at her aunt doctoring her nephew.

An older fat prominent black woman got up from her seat and brought her prominent aunt an ointment to use on my cousin's face.

While she introduced, "Mrs. Ida from Philadelphia."

The white train conductor bumped her out of the way and said to the prominent uncle, "Quiet that boy."

The ten year old moved from his seat was pulled back down by the gloved hand of his aunt and the older fat woman slightly moved to cover the opening and keep the boy from moving from his seat.

The older fat black woman looked at the prominent dentist with fear.

All the blacks in the black cars were holding their breathes.

The younger well suited man sitting at the table with the older fat woman was drinking his coffee and looking over at the table.

The uncle looked at the white train conductor's name tag P. B.

He said, "You better move. You have done enough."

White train conductor P. B. said, "Who're you talking to boy?"

The black attendant came and stood between the uncle and white train conductor.

He tried to smile and pointed to the other end of the train for him to get the tickets.

The other blacks were looking through the curtains that separated the first class blacks from the second class seating for blacks.

The blacks closed the curtains as the white train conductor approached.

The uncle continued to drink his coffee and watching the white train conductor over the rim of his coffee cup.

The white train conductor kept looking back at the uncle who was watching him.

The fat older black woman turned to watch the white train conductor.

Because the prominent family switched their trains to get home three days sooner, they did not have a sleeper car so they had to sit at the dining room table for two whole days.

The boys stretched out in the prominent dentist's lap and the nine year old had his head in in his aunts lap and his legs in the uncles lap.

The prominent dentist was awaken just in time to see the white train conductor walking towards their table and bumped into the ten year old legs.

The prominent dentist quickly moved the ten year old body to her lap and held him tight.

The prominent dentist's quick movement jolted her aunt and uncle awake they both looked at the white train conductor as he walked back by their table.

The older fat black woman was playing solitaire and the younger black man had his head on the table sleep.

The older fat black woman had the cards in her hand and she was watching the white train conductor.

The prominent dentist looked at the older fat woman with a puzzle look.

Her aunt followed her look and saw the look of the older fat black woman.

The prominent dentist did not say anything.

The boys ran into the back and played the boys and girls in the second class seating.

They had a good time.

They had an eight hour delay before they entered into Philadelphia.

Everyone was happy.

Everyone jumped off the train.

The whites went into the white area of the city.

The blacks went to the black area.

They were ready for the train patrons.

There were dresses on display along with shoes and men's suits.

The kids got off the train and went with the older kids to play softball.

The uncle got off and was trying to stretch his body. He was miserable.

The white train conductor P. Brosch bumped into the uncle as he passed him.

The aunt and prominent niece pushed the uncle on as he stood looking at the white train conductor.

As they passed the older fat black woman and the younger man with her the prominent family passed and greeted them.

The older fat black woman and the young black male spoke.

The uncle went to a bath house and got a shave.

The aunt and the prominent niece went shopping and found beautiful fabric to make the niece's wedding dress and the lady's dress for her wedding.

The prominent niece said, "I'll go get the boys."

She saw an ice cream shoppe and said, "And I will treat them all to ice cream."

The aunt turned around and saw the shoppe and they both laughed.

The aunt turned to get on the train and saw the white train conductor looking.

The prominent niece turned to walk to get the boys and their playmates and saw the white train conductor.

The uncle was exiting the bath house and was feeling good and fresh and he saw the white train conductor.

The black attendant was loading the supplies and he saw the white train conductor.

The older fat black woman and the younger black male were walking back to the train and saw the white train conductor.

The assistant train conductor saw the white train conductor.

The aunt entered the train and ordered tea but kept the packages with her.

The prominent niece treated all the kids to ice cream.

The kids sat on the wooden walk way and enjoyed their ice cream as the rest of them and the prominent dentist sat on the benches until the whites came to buy ice cream.

The prominent dentist got the kids up.

The nine year old said, "Why we have to move?"

The prominent dentist said, "Just move." Under the snares of the white patrons.

They ate their ice cream.

The younger white ice cream patron who was staring at the prominent dentist with jealousy over her clothes and shoes accidentally bumped into the prominent dentist and her ice cream got all over the prominent dentist's jacket to her dress.

All the whites laughed.

The blacks from the train saw it and held their breathes.

Her aunt and the ladies were looking from the train.

The prominent dentist accidentally partial slipped and her ice cream cone smeared the younger white woman's dress all around the neck and front.

The white male with her was about to grab the prominent dentist then he saw the black men coughed he stopped and grab the white screaming woman and walked back to the white section of the train.

The aunt said, "She's not going to let anything mess up her wedding."

The prominent dentist had her nephews to say good-bye to their new friends as all the kids got back on the train.

The prominent niece said, "I hate them."

The older fat black woman said to the prominent niece, "Good thinking."

The niece pulled off the jacket, that she had turned inside out, because she did not want her jacket to be dirty. The stain did not come through.

They all sat for dinner.

The boys had returned to the table.

The next day the train will be rolling into the big city.

The uncle looking around and out of the window.

The aunt quietly begin to look around.

The other blacks begin to look around.

The train stood still.

Then commotion from the outside drew everyone's attention to the opposite side of the train.

The uncle, the aunt and the two boys jumped up and ran over to the older fat black lady's table and looking out the window.

The prominent niece was doctoring her jacket and did not care about the commotion.

Then the uncle and aunt pushed the boys back to the table.

The prominent niece looked at them and said, "What?"

She perfectly cleaned her jacket.

One of the boys said, "I couldn't see. What was that?"

The prominent niece looked at her aunt.

The aunt quietly said, "The white train conductor's body."

The prominent niece looked at her aunt.

The ten year old boy leaned his ear over to hear what the aunt said.

The prominent niece saw the ten year old boy and said, "Stop and sit up."

After an hour the train whistle blew and the train begin to move.

The black attendant came through to take the black patrons' orders.

Everyone leaned to the aisle and asked the black attendant what happen.

The black attendant looked back quickly and said, "He was stabbed."

The assistant train conductor walked in and the black attendant pretended to take the older fat black woman's order.

The attendant said, "Meatloaf, creamed potatoes and green beans."

The older fat black woman said, "That's his order. Where is your mind this evening?"

She knew the assistant train conductor Smith was listening.

Smith walked over to the older fat black woman and said, "Tickets."

The older fat black woman and the younger black man handed the assistant train conductor their tickets.

Smith said, "I am the new train conductor."

He turned to the rest of the blacks in the dining car and the blacks in the second class seating who were looking through the curtains.

He said, "I'm your new train conductor. Mr. Brosch has passed on rest his soul."

The aunt, uncle and prominent niece looked on.

The new train conductor winked his eye at the prominent niece, as he checked their tickets.

The aunt and uncle looked at the niece and said, "What's that about?"

As the new train conductor looked back at the prominent niece as he went into the second class black seating area.

While the new train conductor passed by their table, he stopped, said nothing looking at the prominent niece and walked back to the white only car.

The black attendant was bending over and serving the aunt and uncle table.

As he was serving them their chicken pot pies.

He said, "The train conductor was stabbed."

All the blacks in the car leaned towards the aisle to hear.

The only person eating was the young black male at the table with the older fat black lady.

He ate his meat loaf dinner.

She was holding her folded hands under her chin looking at him.

So was everyone else.

He said, "What? You'll didn't care no more about him then I. You're just want to be nosey. I just don't care."

He continued to eat his meat loaf.

The black attendant said, "His body was found a few yards from the railway. They said the way it looked. Like he slipped and some kind of way fell on his own pocket knife and bled to death."

The ten year old said, "Good."

The nine year old said, "God got him."

The prominent niece said, "Can we start our own train car business?"

The uncle said, "I have been thinking about that. We have to use their tracks and go by their schedules."

He sat with his hands folded under his cheeks.

The prominent niece saw the ten year old playing solitaire with the older fat black woman.

The prominent stood and walked over to the table and took the cards out of the ten year old hands and very politely reached them to the older ft black woman.

The young black male was leaning against the wall looked at the prominent niece.

The prominent niece said, "We don't teach them card games."

The older fat black woman said, "Oh, I'm sorry. A prominent black boy has to learn chess and checkers."

The prominent niece said, "Really a Christian boy has to be raised under Christ guidelines."

The prominent niece leaned over and whispered in the older fat black woman's ear, "I saw him sneak over and ask you to show him how to play."

She touched the older fat black woman's shoulder and smiled.

The younger man turned to the older fat black woman and said, "Regrets?"

The older fat black woman smiled and said, "No."

The next morning the train pulled into Philadelphia.

The boys were excited.

They were in the windows looking out.

They hurried and said bye to their new friends.

They waved to the older fat black woman and the young black male.

The prominent niece bid them fair well.

The aunt and uncle greeted them and went to their wagon.

The driver was getting their luggage.

The prominent dentist bent over and put the boys in the buggy.

The ten year old said, "Where are they going with them?"

The prominent dentist turned to see what the ten year old saw.

The aunt walked around the buggy to see what the ten year old was talking about.

The uncle, the helper and the black attendant stood up next to the luggage and looked.

Six armed police had handcuffed the older fat black woman and the young black male.

A white plain clothes officer was walking behind them.

The new train conductor walked outside and was standing on the train steps to watch.

He looked at the black attendant, the helper and the uncle and said, "That goes to show you, you never can spot a ruthless killer. They were wanted for a number of murders of white folks. They probably will hang in a week. Who knows they might have killed the train conductor..."

He looked away and then said, "Or someone else."

He looked at the prominent niece.

The uncle turned his head, in shame for the older fat black woman and the young black male.

Then he thought about the new train conductor looked towards his niece.

Then he turned back to the white train conductor who walked back into the train.

The uncle said, "That's what that bas*** was winking his eye at her about."

The older fat black woman looked for the ten year old.

He waved at her.

She smiled at him.

The ten year old some how she was going to die.

All the blacks were looking on.

The police took them to the police buggy. The six armed uniformed police surrounded the buggy and held onto it.

The white plain clothes police rode in a separate buggy and followed them to the police department.

Chapter 4

The prominent family piled into the buggy and went home.

The boys had their heads looking out the windows.

A car passed them the boys were excited.

The pulled in front of the family townhome.

The lady's parents owned the townhouse next to the family's townhouse. When the lady's parents died and they did not know the whereabouts of the daughter. They combined the two townhouses.

The prominent family had the largest townhouse in the entire area.

The boys jumped out the buggy.

The neighborhood children saw the boys they walked over to them to play.

The boys looked at the prominent niece she said, "Go ahead."

The boys ran off with the other children.

The housekeeper peeped out the door.

Every helped carry the luggage inside the house.

The housekeeping looking at the prominent niece and mocked her saying, "I see you had a fun trip."

The prominent niece said, "I see unemployed and soup line."

The housekeeper turned and walked from the front door and went into the kitchen.

The uncle walked to the front door and looked outside.

He closed the front door.

He called the aunt and the prominent niece into the parlor and closed the parlor doors.

The housekeeper and the helper ran into the kitchen and put their ears to the wall to listen to their conversation.

The uncle picked up the rub board from behind the sofa and stroke the walls several times.

The noise from the rub board caused the housekeeper and the helper to put their fingers in their ears and shake their ears.

By the time the housekeeper and the helper were able to hear and put their ears back to the wall, the conversation was finished.

The prominent niece walked out the parlor.

The aunt and uncle were still in the parlor. The aunt was seated on the sofa and the uncle were standing by the sofa.

The prominent niece had an angry look on her face as she walked upstairs to change and bathe.

The aunt walked out the parlor and to the front door.

She opened the door and stepped out on the porch to look for the boys.

She saw them and called them home.

The ten year old was looking at the gold cross the older fat black woman gave him.

The ten and nine year old ran across the street to their aunt.

The saw the gold cross and asked the ten year old, "Where did you get that gold cross?"

The ten year old said, "That lady gave it to me."

The aunt remembered what the young black man said to the older fat black woman, 'Regrets?'

She did not know what the young black man meant by 'regrets?'. She prayed and asked GOD in JESUS' name to show her what the regrets meant.

She said, "FATHER thank YOU. YOU always give the answer."

The aunt is thinking, "Who killed the train conductor?"

She closes and locks the front door.

The uncle is replaying the meeting he held with his sister and niece.

He told them he believed the conductor killer was on the train and they both looked at the prominent niece.

The prominent niece was not listening to them.

When she caught them looking at her she figured out what they were saying.

She said, "How dare you think I am a killer. I will never kill and I will not let anything..."

The uncle and aunt together screamed, "Stop you from marrying Derek Greene!"

The prominent niece stormed out the parlor and leave one of the doors opened.

She did not come down for dinner but bathe and slept.

She wanted to rest because tomorrow she would be meeting with her wedding dress maker.

The uncle, aunt and the boys sat for dinner.

The ten year old put the gold cross on the table.

The uncle saw the gold cross.

The aunt saw him looking at the cross and said, "The lady from the train gave that to him."

The uncle said, "That is very expensive. Son put that up so you won't lose it."

The ten year old said, "Yes sir."

The uncle introduced the ten year old and nine year old to the housekeeper.

He said, "No more meatloaf for the month."

The nine year old said, "And chicken pot pie."

The uncle smiled.

The aunt grinned.

The housekeeper looked at the aunt and said, "Meatloaf was going to be tomorrow's dinner."

The aunt looked at the housekeeper.

The aunt looked at the boys and said, "We got a surprise for you."

The housekeeper smiled and nodded her head for yes.

The aunt said, "Come on."

The boys jumped from the table.

The ten year old left the gold cross on the table.

The uncle saw the gold cross and he knew the ten year old purposefully left the gold cross on the table.

The uncle wondered why.

They all ran upstairs and the aunt opened one of the doors upstairs.

She said, "Come in."

The boys walked in this beautiful room.

The aunt said, "This was your mother's bedroom. I thought you might not get home sick as bad."

The boys ran around the bedroom and looked.

The uncle pointed to the bookcase and said, "Those were her study books."

The uncle heard a noise.

He stepped backwards into the hall and he turned his head to listen.

He walked next door to the prominent niece's bedroom and put his hand on her doorknob to tell her to stop snoring.

He twisted the doorknob and saw she locked the door.

The uncle knew for the prominent niece to lock her door she was very angry.

The aunt looked at the uncle and then at his hand on the doorknob.

The aunt said, "Come on boys get ready for bed. You have school tomorrow."

The housekeeper snapped her fingers and ran downstairs.

The uncle looked downstairs at the housekeeper.

The aunt peeped out the boys' bedroom at the housekeeper.

The boys quickly pulled off their clothes and left on their shorts and jumped in the bed.

The aunt had their pajamas in her hand and stood in the doorway.

The housekeeper ran back and handed the aunt a letter from the Board of Education.

The aunt held the letter to her heart.

She took it away to open it and put it back to her heart.

The boys said, "Read it."

The aunt said, "Get out of bed onto your knees and pray. Then you put on these pajamas."

The ten year old she gave a pair of police pajamas.

He shook his head for no.

The aunt looked at the ten year old and realized the police had taken away his friend.

She handed him the fire truck pajamas and she handed the nine year old the police pajamas which was bigger.

They all laughed.

The aunt took a deep breathe and sat on their bed.

The boys sat in the bed.

The uncle walked back in the room.

The aunt opened the letter.

The letter said, "Congratulations."

She got the job on the school board, which mean she moved up a notch in their society.

They all cheered.

The prominent dentist was awoken.

She walked out her bedroom and realized the boys were next door to her.

She walked back to her bedroom and locked her door.

Her uncle was saying, "Good news," as she locked her door.

The prominent niece said, "I'll find out tomorrow."

The ten year old said, "She doesn't like us."

The aunt said, "That's not true she loves you, but you are not prominent yet."

The nine year old said, "Prominent?"

The aunt and uncle laughed.

The aunt and uncle walked in the room with their noses up.

The ten year old said, "That's it?"

As he pulled the cover over his head.

The prominent dentist heard them and pulled the cover over her head.

The aunt and uncle went downstairs.

They sat in the dining room and told the housekeeper and the helper every detail of their trip. The murder, arrests and all things.

They all ate butter rum cake and drink coffee.

The woman cleared the table and washed the dishes.

The men went out on the back porch and smoke some cigars the uncle picked up on their stop.

Both were delighted with the cigars.

They all locked up and went to bed.

The prominent dentist was angry because she could smell the cigar smoke in her room and all she could think of was her wedding dress fabric.

But her uncle was still thinking about the murdered train conductor.

The aunt was sleeping on her side with her mouth wide open and snoring.

The prominent dentist fell asleep going over all her wedding details in her head.

Everyone was running late the next morning, even the housekeeper.

The bed felt good after four days on a train.

The boys were fast asleep.

Chapter 5

The aunt walked to their bedroom door and placed her hand over her heart.

She did not have the heart to wake them, but she had to.

The prominent niece was up and had her bath and was dressed, as she exited her bedroom, she was pinning her hair.

She looked at her aunt and stopped and looked at her sleeping cousins.

The aunt said, "Now we get busy."

She said, "Oh, dear."

Turning looking at her niece who was standing against the wall papered hallway looking at her.

The aunt said, "I got accepted to the board of education."

The prominent niece was trying to calculate, that in terms of where it fit in her efforts in the family to push them upward.

Her aunt was looking at her niece's face trying to figure out what she was thinking.

The telephone rang.

They both jumped.

They had not heard a telephone rang in three weeks.

The prominent niece ran downstairs saying, "Derek!"

Her screaming woke the boys.

They said, "Huh."

The aunt turned around and walked into the bedroom and said, "Good morning, in Jesus' name."

The boys looked at her.

She said, "We have a very busy day today. First thing you have to wash and brush your teeth and dressed and come down to breakfast. We always have breakfast together and prayer asking God in Jesus' name to help us get through the day and He will."

The ten year old jumped out the bed and ran to the bedroom door and peeped downstairs at the prominent cousin.

He heard the prominent cousin said, "Hello, this is Alice."

The nine year old said, "I wish we can talk to mommy every morning."

Then the aunt realized that was what the ten year old was thinking.

She said, "Come on baby and get dressed. You can write mommy tonight and we can drop the letter in the post tomorrow. Will that be okay?"

The nine year old jumped on the bed to move the cover off him and said, "Yeah. Right Wayne?"

Wayne walked back into the room with his head slightly down.

The aunt grabbed him by the chin and kissed his forehead.

They heard the prominent niece said, "Who?"

She yelled, "Uncle, it's the worker from the train."

The black attendant heard her and was mimicking her, with a turned up nose.

The uncle was flushing the toilet downstairs.

The prominent niece grabbed her nose and the uncle looked at her.

She said, "Uncle please don't smoke your cigars on this side of the house because the scent came into my room and I do not want my wedding fabric ruin."

She turned and was walking back upstairs and the uncle was mimicking her and he mumbled, "I am sick of you and that damn wedding."

The black attendant heard the uncle and began to laugh.

The uncle picked up the telephone and heard the black attendant laughed.

He said, "Man I tell you she is working my last nerve with that damn wedding. It won't surprise me if that high yellow negro not marry her."

The black attendant said, "You don't mean that."

The uncle said, "Sure."

The black attendant said, "That means she will be with you and start hating him and saying evil things about him all the time."

The uncle said, "You are right."

The black attendant said, "I got some bittersweet news for you."

The uncle looked around and spied to make sure no one was around and said, "Go ahead!"

As he took the writing pad off the table and sat in the chair and began to write.

The prominent niece came back up stairs and said, "I'm so glad we renovated these houses, that each house was a toilet and a bath that way we don't have to run. Bring water in the house for the next person to have water to bath and flush the toilets."

The aunt was putting the boys undies and socks on.

She said to the niece "Come and help me get them ready."

The prominent niece said, "Why? They are going to leave at the same time."

The ten year old said, "You don't like us."

The prominent niece said, "That's not true. I brought you ice cream."

The ten year old said, "Buying something doesn't prove your feelings."

The prominent niece bent down in the bedroom doorway and said, "I'm really sorry for not being a friend especially since you are away from your mom and brothers. I will do better okay?"

The ten year old said, "We gonna hold you to that. Now hand me the shoes."

The prominent niece shook her head to shake her back into reality that this is a little boy and he didn't bat an eye and said it with a dare.

She thought, "I don't have to do anything but I did bring Tarzans out of the woods."

She bought the shoes over and got on her knees and helped them put on the shoes.

She exclaimed, "They fit!"

The aunt was getting off her knees and said to the prominent niece, "Who was on the phone since it was not Derek."

The prominent niece getting off her knees waved the aunt off and said, "The black train attendant from the train."

The aunt said, "What did he want?"

The boys turned around and tried to make up their beds.

The prominent niece and the aunt went to the bed and helped the boys.

The nine year old said, "Mommie said always make up our beds."

The prominent niece said, "In the woods?"

The ten year old looked at her and said, "That's not nice."

The nine year old said, "Sure wasn't."

The aunt said, "Apologize."

The uncle walked to the bedroom door with the writing pad in his hand and he waved at his sister.

He said, "Well, well don't you two look like little gentleman. Your coats are downstairs. I just hope it does not snow for another month."

The uncle moved away from the bedroom and he led the procession downstairs.

The prominent niece looked at her two beloved parents and thought they helped everyone else and now they should be able to live better lives.

The aunt looked back at her niece, and said, "You're coming?"

The niece slowly walked down the stairwell.

They left the upstairs hallway in tact when renovating the house.

Several weeks later the uncle could not stand all the noise and dust he left and stayed at the men's center but came on Sunday's to eat.

The walls were knocked out downstairs and opened the town houses up to have a parlor, music room a large dining room and large kitchen.

The smaller bedrooms were combined to make large bathrooms with running water and flushing toilets.

They were very pleased with their home.

The prominent dentist stopped on the stairwell and looked out the big window and remembered it was the day that both her parents died.

They had purchased a new car and driving it home in 1910 and something went wrong and they crashed and left her an orphan.

Here it is ten years later and she doesn't ride in a car.

Derek had tried to coast her out of the mind set but he left her along because he knew she was upset about the car took her parents from her.

The uncle and aunt stopped on the stairwell and looked at their beloved niece.

The uncle was trying to think what she was doing.

The aunt pinched him on his back and said, "Today, Evelyn and Louis die."

He dropped his head and walked into the kitchen and joined the boys at the table with bacon, eggs and biscuits.

The aunt stopped by the front door and waited for her niece.

The housekeeper stood in the kitchen and looked in the living room at them.

The uncle poured a cup of black coffee and picked up his newspaper as the housekeeper put fresh squeeze orange juice into the boys glasses and made them plates of bacon, eggs and biscuit.

The niece made it to the bottom of the stairs and the aunt grabbed her by the waist and leaned her face to her niece's face and walked slowly with her niece into the kitchen.

The nine year old look at them and said, "Somebody die?" with a mouth full of biscuit and strawberry jam.

The uncle said, "Both her mommie and daddy."

The little boys looked at her as the aunt sat her in a chair.

The aunt walked over to the buffet in the dining room and was making herself a plate of eggs and biscuits when the door rang.

The housekeeper was placing a cup of tea in front of the prominent dentist when she stood up and looked at the front door.

The prominent niece was about to go to the door when the uncle said, "It's too early. I'll get it."

He went to the front door and it was Derek Greene and he a couple dozens of red roses.

Derek said, "Good morning Mr. Hammond is Alice up?"

Alice slightly turned her head at Derek's voice, the uncle opened the door for Derek to walk in.

Derek saw her shoulder at the kitchen table.

He waited and allowed the uncle to walk in front of him and invite him to the kitchen where they were having breakfast.

The aunt was peeping from the buffet and walked out and said, "Good morning Dr. Greene you care for breakfast?"

She was observing the red roses.

Derek turned to her and said, "Good morning Mrs. James I have eaten and on my way to the hospital."

The aunt just loved to hear him say the hospital.

The housekeeper was grinning, because Derek was a doctor.

The aunt said, "Come on and meet our new guests."

Derek followed her into the kitchen where the uncle sat back down in his chair.

The aunt said, "Dr. Greene let me introduce you to our nephews. This is Wayne and he is ten and this is Joshua and he's nine years old."

Derek said, "Good morning, Wayne and Joshua. I see you have on the same sweater with my school on it that I attended. It's a very lovely school."

Wayne said, "It's a what type of school?"

Derek said, "That's just an expression."

Joshua said, "An expression of what?"

Derek bent down on one knee and said, "Alice these are for you. I want you to have a good day and good memories today."

He kissed Alice on the cheek Alice slightly smile.

The aunt and the housekeeper looked at each other.

The aunt placed her plate at her chair and stood.

Derek got up and said, "Good morning all. And Mrs. Hammond good news travel fast. I understand congratulations to you for being appointed to the board. My mother's brother, the pharmacist, is also on the board."

The housekeeper said, "Is he married?"

The uncle put down his newspaper and was flabbergasted.

Derek looked at Mr. Hammond and said, "He is a widower. Aunt Natalie passed away over five years ago."

The aunt turned to walk Derek out.

He said, "Hint, you might want to have a soiree and invite uncle over."

She smiled and winked.

The ten year old said, "What's wrong? Mommie said you want to know something ask?"

The uncle shook his head.

The aunt exclaimed, "That's new?"

Derek smiled and said, "Yes ma'am."

He peeped back at Alice.

Alice was listening.

Even though Alice hate cars, she took the money from their life insurance policies, after she paid for education and mortgages and remodel the houses she had enough to buy two cars and hired two drivers to run as taxis for the people.

As the aunt was shutting the door she had her hand behind her beckoning for the housekeeper.

The housekeeper ran to the door and saw the beautiful new car of Dr. Greene.

He saw them and waved as he drove off.

The aunt told the housekeeper, "He suggested a small soiree and invite his uncle."

The housekeeper said, "It has to be a week-end I'm in town."

The aunt said, "Next Saturday."

They began to walk to the kitchen.

The aunt said, "It will be fun to plan. I'll get the names and address of the other board members and post them a R.S.V.P and invite Dr. Greene's father and his mother and us. Small."

The housekeeper said, "I'll help and later be off, to my business."

The aunt said, "Wait you wanted to meet his uncle."

The uncle folded his paper and said, "This is a disaster waiting to happen. All of those snobs."

The aunt said, "She will fit in."

The uncle shook his head.

The housekeeper said, "Why me and not you?"

The aunt said, "I'm lonely for Wilson."

The uncle blurted out, "The black attendant Woodrow called and said," looking at his niece.

Her aunt and housekeeper looked at the niece.

He continued, "He saw the assistant conductor looking at you Alice. Alice?"

She slightly turned and looked at her uncle.

The uncle continued, "Woodrow said the engineers and the assistant conductor were looking around the train and checking everything out when they saw the white people wanting you and the children to move. And when the white woman accidentally tried to ruin your outfit. The train conductor pulled out his pocket knife to stab you. When they all ran under the train to stop him. He had pulled out the blade and began to slip on the stones and gravel around the track and fell hard. They thought he had just fallen, so they did not go to help him up and when everyone was onboard but him they knew exactly where they saw him last."

The prominent niece said, "So he killed himself?"

The uncle said, "Yes. That's why no police."

The prominent niece said, "I hate them."

The uncle looked at the older fat black fat woman and younger man, "They were wanted."

The aunt said, "For what?"

The uncle looked at the boys and said, "Go upstairs and brush your teeth and then we will be ready to leave."

The housekeeper helped the boys up from the chairs and scooted them to the hallway so she can hear.

The uncle looked to make sure they were upstairs and said, "They killed six white men and boys. Last year during the red summer of 1919. The lady's son and mother were murder by a white mob. She went home and buried them and investigated who killed them a father and son. She killed them."

The uncle peeping for the boys hurried and said, "The young man's mother and father were with his wife and three little boys were killed. He found out who killed them and killed four of the ones in the mob that killed his family. He and the lady were not related but met on the trains as they were going back and forth. They will be executed this week."

The prominent niece closed her eyes.

The uncle said, "They confessed to it all. They said they are ready to die. And the white jailers are mad as hell and they know everyone is watching them and can't do anything to them. They got their burial plots already picked out and grave away all of their belongings. They said they don't have anything to live for."

The boys were running down the stairs.

The prominent niece said, "I hate them."

The uncle said, "All of those blacks murdered last year. Red summer 1919."

The boys ran in and he said, "Y'all ready?"

He folded his newspaper.

The aunt got up and didn't touch her food. She put on her coat. She previously changed her handbag and it was ready.

She helped the boys put on their coats and gloves.

The uncle and aunt got the boys registered for school.

The uncle met the national organization about the case.

The aunt went to her new job and got the addresses of the other board members and she went by the stationary shoppe and selected invitations.

They all got home around four pm.

The boys said they had a good time at school and met new friends.

The uncle and aunt sat in the parlor and talked about the visit to the NAACP and they will visiting the two the next day.

The aunt and housekeeper said they wanted to go.

The uncle said, "I don't know."

The niece went to her office and came home early and got her wedding fabric and went to the dress maker.

She was walking down the street when she saw her family. (Her uncle, aunt and two cousins.)

Joshua and Wayne ran to her and hugged her.

They said, "We're sorry for your lost."

She didn't say anything but gently kissed the boys on their foreheads.

Wayne and Joshua saw the big bags she had.

They tried to help, but they could not and her uncle walked over and got the bags and pulled them in the house.

He said, "What is this. You must be stronger than me. You walked all the way with this?"

The prominent niece said, "Yes"

They all went into the house.

The uncle said, "Where you want this?"

The niece said, "In the parlor."

She went upstairs and ran bath water.

They all knew that meant to leave her alone.

The housekeeper really did not have too much to do but cook and keep the kitchen clean.

She did laundry sometimes twice a month because the prominent niece bought so much linen and towels they only had to be washed one per month.

As she sat on the rim of the tub putting bubble bath in the tub, she thought about her mom and dad and said, "I know those white people who sold you that car did something to it that caused you to crash. I do not want to dwell on it. But it has been hard these past ten years. But uncle and aunt have been great. I love them deeply and want both to get married and be happy. Like me." She laughs.

She continued, "I hate white people. I know I have to release it but they are always doing something to make me hate them. I know you see all this mess down here. What does God and Jesus think about it?"

She got in the tub and her thoughts went to the colors of her wedding and type of flowers.

The housekeeper cooked fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, string beans and rolls. She set the table in the dining room.

The boys ran and sneaked at the niece's bags and they were excited about toys and books they saw.

Wayne said, "Who she got these for?"

Joshua said, "Yeah"

The prominent niece could hear them upstairs.

The aunt walked out of the parlor and looked.

She said, "Remember she told mommie that she would send some school supplies."

Wayne and Joshua began to sniffle at the thought of their mother and brothers.

The aunt said, "She and your brothers will be here soon, wait and see."

She shook her head for yes.

She said, "Come and let's have dinner. Wash your hands. Once you eat, we will write your mother a letter and I will drop it off at the post tomorrow."

The boys went into the bathroom with the aunt and they all washed their hands.

They sat to the table.

Wayne said, "Where's Alice."

The uncle said, "She's still a little sad and won't be coming down."

Joshua said, "Huh."

They all sat and said grace.

The aunt helped them to write their mother a letter, a separate letter to their brothers and their friends they stay with.

The uncle went into his study and began to write his article.

The aunt put the boys to bed.

She pulled out their clothes for the next day.

She pulled out her nice suit to wear to the jail.

The housekeeper put out her suit to wear.

She completed the cleaning of the kitchen.

And started on the next day's dinner because she knew, if they got to see them, dinner would be late.

The aunt sat down in the dining room and wrote the invitations to the soiree.

She put all the letters together to drop off at the post.

The next morning was busy.

The prominent dentist helped the boys get ready for school. She dropped them off because she knew her uncle and aunt were going to the jail.

The housekeeper had prepared the oatmeal, toast and pan sausage with fresh squeezed orange juice.

They all exited the house at the same time.

The prominent niece walked out and saw several cars of prominent blacks waiting for her uncle, aunt and housekeeper.

The young attorney with the national organization had gotten out of the car and pulled off his hat to greet them especially the dentist.

Alice noticed. So did her aunt and uncle.

Then Alice thought, she did not hear from Derek last night.

She had to catch a ride with the neighbor to get the boys to school on time and to get to her office.

When she took the boys to school and told them she would pick them up.

She could not think well at work.

She stayed until noon and left. She wondered if she should call Derek.

But she decided not to call him but went home and packed the stuff to ship her cousin.

She had the male helper to help her put the box into the buggy and realized she needed to divide the items into two boxes.

They re-packed all the stuff into the two boxes. And made it to the shippers and sent them off.

She sent her cousin a telegram that the boxes were on the way.

She used a white name therefore the stuff would not be stolen.

Chapter 6

The prominent dentist put the roast on before she went to the shippers.

She and the male helper had to rush to pick up the boys.

They made it in time.

They went home.

The boys wanted to go and play with some of their friends, who went to the same school.

She let them play.

When she got in the house and walked into the parlor she saw all the letters.

The male helper was ready to leave and he was standing in the hallway.

She saw him and asked him, "Are you able to take these to the post on your way home?"

He said, "Yes."

She handed the letters to him and went to the door and called the boys home.

They wanted to play some more she said, "No."

They came into the house and the first thing they noticed were the bags were gone.

Wayne said, "Where's the bags?"

Alice said, "I sent the stuff to your mom."

Joshua said, "Where's the letters?"

Alice said, "I sent them to the post."

Alice said, "Do you have homework?"

Wayne and Joshua stomped through the house and said, "Yes ma'am."

Alice said, "Dinner is just about ready. Wayne you and Joshua are smart and would finished quickly. Then we will have dinner and listen to a radio program.

The boys were so excited.

They began to do their homework.

Alice was in the music room, playing the piano.

The boys were intrigued and walked in the music room.

They heard the front door open and they all jumped up and ran into the hallway.

The aunt, uncle and housekeeper all looked as if they had been whipped.

Wayne and Joshua ran and gave them a hug.

The uncle hugged the boys.

He said, "I need a drink."

The housekeeper said, "Me too."

The uncle looked at the housekeeper.

They walked into the living room to the bar.

The uncle began to pour both of them a drink and still had on their coats.

The aunt walked in the hallway in a daze.

The niece said, "Bad."

Alice looked at the boys and said, "Finish your homework so we can eat dinner."

The prominent niece helped the aunt out of her coat.

She took her purse and gloves.

The aunt walked into the living room with the housekeeper and the uncle.

The prominent niece went into the kitchen and sat a casual dinner table and took all the food out of the stove and set the table.

The uncle had a second drink.

So did the housekeeper. She went to her bedroom next to the kitchen.

She didn't want to eat.

They sat and said grace.

They were quiet during dinner.

Wayne said, "Can you teach me to play that piano?"

Joshua said, "Me too."

Alice said, "Sure I can teach you to play the piano."

They finished dinner.

Alice looked over the boys' homework and it was good.

She put it back in their book satchels.

She took them upstairs and got them ready for bed and brought them back downstairs to hear the radio program.

The boys laid on their stomachs with their feet up.

The uncle came in and sat in his chair and fake laughed with them.

He was heavy.

The housekeeper went out on the back porch and smoked.

The niece looked at her, as she cleared the table and washed the dishes.

She could hear Wayne and Joshua laugh.

The aunt said, "We saw both of them. They were beaten terribly. They had no food nor water since they got off the train. They said they were ready to die. They have no family nor friends, and they have made their peace with GOD and JESUS. Above all they said the revenge felt good. The execution was moved up to tomorrow. Because the police got a party to go to the next day. We did not know their names."

The aunt began to cry, "His name is James Anderson and her name is Audrey Finch. They have no one, they are all died. And they are ready to go."

Audrey said, "I'm ready to die. Am I scared? Sure. But where I am going is a place of peace. They have moved the execution up tomorrow. The sooner the better. Some of the killers have arrived for the execution. I want them there. So they can feel the same satisfaction I felt when I killed their husband and brother for killing my son and my mother. My boy."

She began cry.

She said, "He didn't bother nobody. He was slow. You know. Slow. They killed him. They hanged both of them and set them on fire. The neighbors said he was waving at them and smiling until they started beating him and he began to cry and say 'What I do wrong? What I do wrong?'

The police and jailors were standing and listening to that point and walked out.

Audrey continued, "My mother who was crippled crawled out to him and threw herself on top of my son. They beat her until they separated them and my sweet boy was half-dead and they hanged him and my dead mother and burned their bodies with life still in them. My sweet, sweet boy."

The aunt said, "Miss Finch fell on me and I held her."

She continued, "One of the police came to break us up and the head police officer said, 'leave them alone'".

The aunt said, "I held her. We both cried for hours."

One police officer asked the chief, "What we do?"

The chief told him, "We do nothing, but god will have his day against of us all."

The aunt continued, "Mr. Anderson said his parents had come up to be with his wife and three sons while he was away working on the railroad, six months a year for three and half years.

My family was walking from evening church service the white mob ran upon them and snatched my six month old boy and threw him on the ground and stomped him to death and year and a half and three year to death while my wife was fighting them to get her children. They shot my mother and father Many, Many times. When they went to put their bodies on the wagons, they say bullets were falling out of bodies. They stomped my babies until their guts were coming out of their mouths and ears."

She said, "I asked him what about your wife?"

He said, "She had one dressed. I bought that dress when we were working in New York. She would wear that dress to church every Sunday. We would joke and say 'you gonna be buried in the dress.' He laughed and it turned to crying."

He said, "They took the dress off her and hacked her to death. Pieces of her were found for days. She didn't even have the dress to be buried in."

He just cried.

He said, "The people went and found an old dress to bury her and my mother in. They couldn't find anything for my daddy and they just buried him in his underwear. Could you imagine going to JESUS CHRIST in underwear? My three babies they put in the casket with my wife. Since she was just pieces. Yeah I'm ready to go to JESUS CHRIST. I took my case to JESUS. I am fine. I don't want anyone here tomorrow. I want to face all their hate by myself."

The aunt said, "But tomorrow the has about three dozens pastors and other community leaders that will be out there all day. We prayed for them and left tonight. They want to make it through the night so they can face them at the execution. I don't believe GOD will let them be executed."

One of the dirty police officer hit the young black attorney in the stomach.

He was about to grabbed the young black attorney until the police officers grabbed the dirty police officer and pulled him out of the room.

The black men went to the young black attorney and had him to sit down.

The aunt said, "I can't believe this. But I still believe in GOD and JESUS. I want Mr. Anderson and Miss Finch to have a peaceful night. We will see what tomorrow will bring."

The aunt had a glass of red wine.

The back door opened and the housekeeper walked in smelling like smoke.

The boys ran into the kitchen and the aunt said, "I'll take them upstairs."

She put her glass in the sink.

The uncle walked out of the living room and the boys were happy and jumping on the stairs as they went yelling, "Good night, yall."

Everyone said, "Good night."

The uncle said, "I'm going back in the morning."

The housekeeper, "I'm not."

The young black attorney the police officer punched in the stomach told the director that the police officer was watching him. Even when everyone was gone home.

The young attorney went to the room he was renting and laid on the sofa.

A little before midnight two cars pulled up.

The young black attorney rolled over and peeped out the window blinds.

He saw two cars and four white males getting out.

One went and popped the trunk.

He laid back down.

He heard the squeak of the outdoor porch then he saw their shadows under the door.

They tried the knob and slowly opened the door and when they all were in the room.

There were six men in the room.

They all had bats and guns.

The black men knocked the guns out of the white police officers' hands and beat them with bats and clubs.

The young black attorney got off the sofa and got the police officers' guns.

The noise of broken bones could be heard even outside.

One of the men said, "You gonna kill my son and put him in your trunk."

The men put the four white police officers in the blankets they had on the floor.

The boy handed the four guns to his dad and said, "Thanks dad."

His dad grabbed his son by the back of his neck and walked out the room.

The black men took the four white police officers and them in the trunks of the two cars.

They drove the cars until the cars ran out of gas.

They all got out of the cars and pushed the cars into the Delaware River.

They men got into separate cars that followed the two white police cars.

The black men drove away.

Chapter 7

The young black attorney got up and locked his door and put his chair behind the door and read his bible and got on his knees and prayed.

He fell asleep for a few hours and he woke and bathed and shaved.

He put on a clean and pressed white shirt and the same suit.

He cleaned his shoes.

He stood and looked around his rented room and everything was in its' place.

He walked and closed and locked the door.

He went and got into his car and drove to Mr. Hammond's house.

Mr. Hammonds was washed and shaved.

There was a knock on the door.

Mr. Hammond went to door and looked. He saw it was the young black attorney.

Mr. Hammond opened the door and said, "Come in."

The young black attorney walked in.

Mr. Hammond said, "How are you feeling?"

The young black attorney touched his stomach.

The housekeeper walked into the hallway.

The young black attorney spoke to the housekeeper, "Good morning."

Mr. Hammond turned to the housekeeper and said, "Can you get him some breakfast while I get dressed?"

The housekeeper looked at the young black attorney and said, "Come with me."

The young black attorney was walking through the house he was impressed.

He stopped at the music room.

He looked at the housekeeper who was in the kitchen making him breakfast.

He ran into the music room and pulled the doors close.

He sat at the piano and played.

Everyone in the house was looking around to see where the music was coming from.

Alice put on her robe and ran downstairs.

She did not like for anyone to touch the piano.

The boys were awoken by the piano music.

They sat in their bed and listened to the music.

Wayne and Joshua ran downstairs behind Alice.

Alice looked back at the boys.

The uncle was putting on his tie listened.

The aunt was on her knees crying. She heard the piano music.

She stood and washed her face.

She put on her robe and walked downstairs.

The housekeeper walked to the music room with a skillet in her hand.

The prominent dentist ran to the music room and pushed the doors opened.

The young black attorney was playing classical pieces.

The housekeeper peeped in the music room.

The prominent niece watched the attorney.

She was impressed.

She turned to walk out the music room and the boys were right behind her, she caught the boys by their heads and put her finger to her mouth and said, "Be quiet."

She looked back at the attorney and walked the boys back to their room.

The aunt passed them and walked to the music room and sat next to the attorney.

The young black attorney jumped up.

The aunt said, "No sit."

He sat.

She looked at him and said, "Continue please."

The housekeeper walked back to the door with the skillet and said, "Eggs."

The young black attorney looked at the aunt and said, "Good morning."

He followed the housekeeper to the kitchen.

The housekeeper placed a plate in front of the attorney and placed two eggs, two toast, orange juice and black coffee.

The young black attorney tore into the food.

The housekeeper put on the bacon and said, "When was the last time you ate?"

He smiled and enjoyed his food.

The aunt began to play the piano.

The telephone rang.

The uncle picked up the telephone and said, "Hello this is Ben."

He said, "Are you sure? Okay I will let him know."

The uncle hung up the telephone.

The young black attorney heard the last part of the uncle's comments.

The housekeeper was listening.

The aunt was listening.

The attorney sat up.

The housekeeper turned from the stove and watched for the uncle to enter the kitchen.

She watched for the uncle to pass the music room.

She played until she saw him.

She stopped playing the piano and walked out the music and followed her brother into the kitchen.

The uncle was at a loss for words.

He stood in the kitchen and stared for a minute.

He said, "They both are dead."

The young black attorney said, "What?"

The uncle said, "Mr. Thomas got a call from the police an hour ago. He rushed to the jail He confirmed both are dead. There will be no execution today. The undertakers are there and waiting for the bodies to be released. Let's Go!!!!"

The uncle ran through the hallway.

The housekeeper was placing a strip of bacon on the young black attorney's plate.

He grabbed the piece of bacon and ran behind Mr. Hammond and out the door.

The aunt went and sat in the parlor and thought, "GOD knew we needed to start this terrible day with grace that is what the music was."

The housekeeper went into the living room and poured her a drink.

She went back to the kitchen and drank while she was cooking.

Wayne and Joshua went and dressed.

They came downstairs.

The aunt was impressed Wayne and Joshua dressed by themselves,

She gave them hugs and kisses.

They all sat for breakfast.

The boys enjoyed the bacon and the strawberry jam on their toast.

The prominent dentist ate dry toast and orange juice.

She was rushing.

She passed the music room and looked at her piano.

She put on her coat and ran out the door.

The aunt rushed and bathed and dressed.

She got a ride to the boys' school.

The aunt told the boys she would pick them up from school that day.

Chapter 8

The jail iron gates opened and the two wagons were exiting around noon.

The prisoners were to be transferred to a state prison early that morning to be executed by the state.

But instead the prisoners died during the night, and it both the city and state officials to examine them and sign off on the death certificates.

It took nearly seven hours.

The old white man for the state saw all the prominent well dress black men and said, "I was looking for a hanging."

The young black attorney looked at him.

The police officer said, "I have four police officers that are not on duty. Find them."

The black men left the jail, after the undertakers confirmed it was Miss Finch and Mr. Anderson.

Everyone assumed they were beaten to death.

As the coroner and the police chief were standing a few feet away from the back door, looking at all the colored men and women standing outside to see what happened to the colored man and woman that were to be executed that morning.

The police chief had called for all the police to come to station. Four were missing. He sent another police officer to go and look for them.

As the coroner looked out the glass window on the door at the negroes he said, "I hate all of them. I wish we could execute them all."

The police chief closed his eyes and sighed.

He looked at the coroner with his medical bag in his left hand.

The police chief's assistant walked up.

The police chief turned around to see who it was.

The assistant looked between the police chief and the coroner as the bodies of the colored woman and man were put in the funeral wagons and the drivers shut the doors and walked to the front and pulled the reins of the horses and rode away.

The black people got into their cars and drove home. Following the undertaker's ambulances.

The police chief said, "Well."

The assistant said, "We didn't find them."

The police chief turned back around to watch the funeral wagons eave.

He turned back to his assistant and said, "You can go back to work."

The assistant said, "Yes sir."

He turned around and rolled his eyes and walked away.

The police chief said, "Poisoned. Huh?"

The assistant heard the police chief and closed his eyes as he continued to walk away.

The assistant remembered he took the last supper to the colored man and woman.

He got to the man's cell first.

He had the plates from the diner.

They ordered for them, fried chicken, collard greens and okra, macaroni and cheese and rolls, tea and a slice of apple pie.

The other prisoners looked on.

The assistant balanced the two plates.

The assistant thought of his heart wrenching story and as if he could see the murder of the young's man family tears began to swell up in his eyes. He briefly turned away his head and turned back and said very nastily to the young black man, "Come and get your last supper."

The young black man said nothing but continued to pray.

Another prisoner down the hall had his hands hanging out the bars yelled, "Eat the food!!"

The assistant looked down the hall and yelled, "Shut up!"

The young man said nothing but he continued to pray.

The assistant put his plate on the floor in front of his cell.

He turned and walked over to the older colored woman's cell.

She was sitting on her cot with her back on the wall and her legs stretched out along the bed.

He looked at her as he thought she was talking to herself with her eyes closed. But when he looked closely he saw her mouth moving and she was saying something over her rosary.

He thought, "Where she got that from. We took all Christian things from them. I didn't know she was Catholic."

He said to her, "That's not going to help you where you are going."

She said nothing.

She kept rubbing on the rosary saying, "JESUS forgive me. I repent of all sin. Receive me into heaven."

She kept repeating the words over and over.

The assistant put her plate on the floor and kicked it and made the tea spill over on her collard greens.

She said, "I asked for green beans anyway."

Letting the assistant know she was not going to eat the food.

He got mad and walked away from her.

He looked at the young colored man and kicked over his food and hissed and walk away.

As he walked by the cell where the man yelled for the young colored man to eat the food, he reached for his night stick and hit the man's hands so hard he thought he broke his hands.

The man hollered in pain.

The assistant walked out laughing.

The man grabbed his hands and fell on his cot with his knees to his chest.

He heard the assistant laughing as he locked the door.

They all heard him laughing as he walked down the hall.

The young colored man still sitting on the end of his cot turned his head to listen while he was still praying.

The older colored woman continued to touch the rosary and turned her head slightly as she continued to talk to her son and her mother.

She said, "I'll be there soon. I'll see yall tomorrow. Yeah momma's baby son. I love you."

The young colored man was sitting on the edge of the cot and was listening to the woman who was talking to the dead.

He was thinking about tomorrow and how she would be up front of all of their enemies.

The families and friends of the killed were arriving in town.

They stopped at the jail and talked with the police chief and told him to make sure nothing went wrong because they wanted to see them die.

The police chief was sitting in his chair behind his desk and his assistant was standing to his right side with a room full of families and friends of the dead.

The police chief assured them the woman and man would be executed tomorrow by noon, because they had to be transported to the prison where it would be done.

The young colored man was thinking he did not want the woman to lose her mind and breakdown at the execution to give those murders any joy.

He stood up and was stretching his back and had his hands on his hips

He thought about the pain in his back and then he thought, "No more pain."

His eyes fell on the plate on the floor that had the assistants foot prints.

He was listening to the woman across the hall talking to her baby boy and her mother.

He stood for a moment looking at the food.

It seemed like a million years.

He walked over to the food and looked down at it.

He stooped down and picked up some collard greens in his hand and smelled them.

He thought.

The man had gotten off the cot and looked back towards the locked door and yelled to the young colored man and the older colored woman, "Eat the food!!"

The young colored man understood.

He had to think for a moment.

He had the collard greens in his hand and went and sat on his cot.

He bowed his head and prayed to GOD in JESUS' name and then he slowly threw the collard greens in his mouth.

He ran to his cell door and leaned over and saw the older colored woman sitting on her cot and talking to herself.

He said, "Eat the collard greens."

She replied, "I hate collard greens. I asked for green beans anyway."

He coughed.

The other prisoners were listening.

The other prisoner smiled and went and sat on his cot. He was smiling and holding his hands and rocking.

The young colored man began to cough roughly and badly.

He began to hold his throat.

The woman continued to sit on her cot.

The young colored man grabbed onto the wall as he began to fall.

He slid down the wall and his eyes were opened as he was breathing was vehemently violent.

The older colored woman slightly turned her head to hear.

The young colored man stopped breathing.

The woman slid off her cot and bent down and grabbed the collard greens.

Miss Finch said, "I hate collard greens but if they can get me to JESUS and my baby boy and mamma I love them."

She threw the collard greens in her mouth.

She said, "I hope that tea didn't mess them up."

She coughed.

Miss Finch begin to laugh.

She said, "Let me eat all of these to make sure it works."

She grabbed all the greens and swallowed them.

Miss Finch went and laid on the cot and began to cough very hard.

She begin to laugh between the hard breaths.

The other prisoners were crying.

One of the prisoners begin to say the LORD'S Prayer out loud.

The other prisoners begin to sing, "Swing low sweet chariot coming to carry me home."

When the night police officer came to collect the plates he saw the prisoners were sleep.

When he walked to the young colored man cell he realized he was dead.

He turned and ran across to the older colored woman cell and he fell back on the wall.

She did not move and he figured she was dead.

The prisoners were not asleep but pretending they were with their eyes closed.

They heard the police officer run out of the area and locked the door back as they heard him stumbled down the hall.

The prisoners laughed and went to sleep.

The police officer ran and told the other police officers the colored young man and the older woman were dead.

They all ran to see.

They bent down and looked at the food.

They got the food up and called the police chief.

The police came down with the coroner and were there all night until the next morning and when the bodies of the colored young man and the older woman were taken away.

The police chief looked out the closing doors of the jail at the large group of colored people who gathered to know what happened to the young colored man and the older colored woman.

It was a quiet and somber processional to the funeral home.

About five p.m. everyone went home.

The young attorney was dropping Mr. Hammond at home.

The housekeeper was looking out the window for Mr. Hammond because she called the undertaker and asked if Mr. Hammond was with him and he told her he had just left.

The housekeeper ran and put an extra place setting on the table.

She had fired pork chops and made cinnamon apples, salad and muffins.

She opened the door and ran out to the car and told the men dinner was ready and said to the young attorney, "That mean you too."

Everyone was home.

The young attorney said, "Me?" pointing to himself.

Mr. Hammond said, "You heard her, come on in. Besides it's Friday and they will have service tomorrow."

Everyone sat including the housekeeper and ate.

They had a very enjoyable evening.

Wayne and Joshua asked the young attorney to play some songs with Alice.

He did.

The boys and the aunt enjoyed the music.

The telephone rang the aunt leaned back and picked it up in the hallway.

He said, "Hello this is Ben."

It was Mr. Thomas of the national organization and he said, "There were four police officers who did not show up for work today."

The uncle said, "So."

Mr. Thomas, "One was the police who punched Earl, very hard yesterday. One of the neighbors said two police cars are outside his place. They had been there all day. So I'm guessing they want to question Earl about the police officer."

The uncle said, "I'm not going to let him walk into a death trap."

Mr. Thomas said, "Nor I. I have about three dozens men stationed in the dark in the neighborhood."

The uncle said, "I'll ride with him and spend the night."

Mr. Thomas said, "Well, I'll follow you'll."

The uncle said, "Good."

Mr. Thomas, "I'll bring my two sons."

The uncle walked to the music room and stood.

The prominent dentist looked and said, "Come on boys tell the great musician goodnight."

Wayne said, "We don't have school tomorrow."

Alice said, "Come on."

She took them upstairs and dressed them for bed.

They got in their bed but she did not try to put them to sleep.

The uncle told the young attorney and the aunt the police had staked out his apartment.

And have four police officers that did not show up for work and that Earl might have something to do with that.

The uncle said he will ride with Earl and stay the night because the funeral services will be at eleven am. And they need to leave him about eight am.

The uncle said, "Come on and let's go."

The young attorney and uncle left and passed by Mr. Thomas' house, who followed them.

When they arrived at the young attorney's house, Mr. Hammond got out of the car.

The police opened the door and got out and yelled, "You niggers are under arrest."

The cars they thought were empty people were sitting low, and everyone got out.

The police officers looked around.

Mr. Thomas and his two sons got out their car.

Neighbors turned on lights and showed the guns they had.

The police officer said, "You'll get back into the cars."

He looked at the black men and up at the windows at the image of shot guns.

He looked at Earl, the young attorney, "I have four cops missing. Have you seen them?"

Earl, "No sir."

The police got back into the cars and drove off.

The uncle and Earl went inside and rested.

They got up the next morning and Earl dressed.

The uncle went home and dressed.

The aunt, housekeeper, uncle and Earl went to the funeral services and then to the cemetery.

Afterwards everyone went home.

Alice finally received a call from Derek.

She was happy.

Chapter 9

The boys played with their friends for a very long time.

The lady and her three boys sat on the front porch and longed for her other two sons.

The boys missed their older two brothers.

I would play with them and help them learn to play games.

Their mother was very good teaching us arithmetic, writing, spelling and reading.

We sat on the porch like we were in school and she stood in front of us and would teach.

She was very happy teaching us.

She took her time with each of us and waited until we got it right.

That made her so happy.

Mom and dad would laugh and clap.

She received a telegram that her box was coming.

It took nearly a month for the box to come.

Dad went into town and got there the same day the packaged arrived.

It had been opened and rampage through and stuff was taken.

The second box that came was not opened.

Dad said whoever stole our school stuff was so dumb they needed it.

The lady was not happy.

She had not been happy for months, because her boys were gone.

Her boys would send her letters each month.

She would be happy and read the letters silently and then to her three boys and she would turn to me and my baby brother and read the 'hello' from her sons to me and my baby brother.

Mom and dad would grin.

Mom was teaching dad to read and write, because the postal service needed people to deliver the mail to the little settlements like ours.

Dad wanted the job.

When he was very angry and upset when the workers opened the lady's stuff.

So mom was busy helping dad to read and write.

Dad was really learning.

Sometimes he would get upset because he was not understanding and knock the books off the table and walk out.

Mom would go and find him and hug him and tell him that is what the devil wants for you to give up.

She would say, "Beat him!"

Dad would slowly turn to mom and shake his head and say, "Ok."

Mom would go away for a few minutes and walk or sit on the porch.

I would always join her.

I would give her my hand and hold my head towards her.

She would always take my hand and pull me towards her and kiss the top of my head and put her chin on the top of my head.

She said, "What am I going to do. It's wearing on me. I want him to read and write."

She said, "JESUS help."

We sat there that day and a thought came to me.

I sat up from mom's embrace.

She stopped patting and holding me and pushed me away for her to get a better look at me.

She said, "What's wrong baby?"

I did not know how to tell her.

I looked away and then back at her.

She said, "Baby are you ok? You are scaring me."

I looked in front of us.

She looked in front of us.

I could not talk.

Mom said, "Baby I am scared. What is it?"

I could only point.

Mon slowly looked at my pointed finger.

She said, "Baby let's go I don't see nothing."

I began shaking my pointed finger.

I could not talk.

Mom jumped and ran in the door and then remembered I was still on the porch.

She ran out the door picked me up and ran into the door and closed and locked it.

Everyone looked at us.

My mom was still walking around still holding me by my waist.

I still was not talking.

Dad was scared.

The lady was scared.

She had one hand on the doorknob and a basket of teacakes in the other, she was talking to some of the neighbors with her three children behind her.

She stopped and looked at me and mom.

Dad was sitting at the table with the homework in shambles.

He had his hands folded under his chin.

He stared at me and mom.

I could not talk.

Dad said, "What? What's wrong?"

The lady was frozen in fear.

I could not talk.

Mom was scared. She could not talk.

My mom took me and my baby brother into our bedroom and we all got in bed and she shut the door.

The lady had promised the teacakes to the neighbors and dad got up and walked with her and her three sons through the neighborhood.

Mom told us to get out of bed and pray.

I still could not talk.

Mom said, "FATHER, please help us. I don't know what this is nor do I know what to do. In JESUS' name."

We got in the bed.

Mom tucked us in the bed.

We just laid in the bed.

We heard dad, the lady and her boys coming back

The boys were laughing.

They opened the bedroom door.

The lady was trying to keep them from coming in the bedroom without knocking.

She was trying to catch the door but it was too late.

The boys ran over to the bed and tried to pull us out to play.

We laughed.

We got out of bed.

We played and ran around the bedroom.

Dad gave the three boys me and my baby brother's bed and put us in the bed with mom.

Dad got a cot for the lady and put it over by the window so she could be next to her boys.

Dad most of the time slept in the big area over by the back door on a cot.

Sometimes he would bring the cot in the bedroom.

Dad sat on the bed and said to mom, "Hey. Can you talk?"

Mom nodded her head for yes.

The lady brought a candle in the room and put it on a little table that her aunt sent her.

She shared everything with us and treated us, me and my little brother, as she did her children.

The lady said to mom, "Can I stay?"

Mom nodded her head for yes as the lady sat on her bed.

I looked at the lady and we kids stopped playing and gathered around the bed.

I could scream and holler but not talk.

Dad picked up the lady two year old and put him on his lap.

Mom said, "I was sitting on the porch, really upset about your behavior of knocking the books off the table and having a fit and especially in front of the children."

She looked at dad and said, "Your behavior is evil. And it is getting worse. You are not wanting to stop displaying it around the children. It won't be tolerated."

She stared at dad, who did not say anything but looked at the baby he was holding.

Mom continued, "I said to my baby, who came out and sat with me and comforted me. What am I going to do?"

Dad turned to me with a look of surprise on his face.

The lady's seven year old boy said, "Like this?"

He made a funny face and we all laughed.

We began to hit at each other and laugh until mom continued.

She was not laughing.

Mom said, "I asked him what was wrong because I knew something happened. No one was on the porch but us and a few neighbors were milling about in their yards. So he pointed and I followed his little finger and I did not see anything. I was scared. I ran into the house and left my baby."

I nodded my head for yes and got up and ran with my hands in the air, like mo.

All of us kids laughed.

The adults did not laugh.

Mom continued, "I ran back out and got my baby."

She touched my face.

Mom said, "He saw a vision and now he can't talk."

I pointed to my mouth, all my brothers were examining my mouth.

The lady said, "Baby can you tell us what you saw, if not can you write it?"

Mom said, "Great idea. I did not think about that."

I ran into the family room and came back with a piece of paper and a pencil.

I leaned on the bed and stretched the paper and patted it to have wrinkles from the bed everyone waited.

"JESUS!!"

The lady's mouth fell opened.

Dad gasp for air and got off the bed and handed the lady her two year old.

Mom looked at dad as he went into the kitchen area and put his hands on the table.

The lady looked around the door into the kitchen at dad.

Mom said, "What did JESUS say?"

I wrote, "I love you. Be good. I'll come for you soon."

Mom read it.

She smiled and leaned over the bed and kissed my forehead.

She patted the bed and I jumped on the bed and helped my little brother jump on the bed.

We laughed and mom cuddled us in her arms

We fell asleep.

The lady read my note.

She put her boys to bed.

She got on her cot and I could hear her cry.

Dad stayed in the kitchen area and did not come back.

He did not know what JESUS said until the next morning I showed him the paper.

He snatched the paper from me and balled it up and threw it down.

The lady was standing in the door with her two year old and she saw it.

Mom was standing in the bedroom door folding up the blankets as my little brother ran into the kitchen.

I began to cry.

Mom said, "Get out."

Dad yelled at mom, "Get out!!"

Me and my little brother were crying and were trying to have dad pick us up.

Because we felt we had done something wrong to have them yelling.

Dad pushed us away from him.

The lady just stood still and held her boys back.

Mom finished folding the blankets and put them on the bed.

Mom slowly walked pass the lady.

She came into the kitchen and picked me and my brother up in each arm and kissed us.

She said, "You all are good boys. You have done nothing wrong. I love both of you so much."

She rubbed her nose to our noses.

BANG!!!

The lady screamed.

Mom was falling with us boys.

BANG!!! BANG!!!

I fell on top of mom.

My little brother fell under mom's shoulder.

I got up.

My mom did not move.

My little brother did not move.

The lady was screaming.

Some of the neighbors ran into the house.

Dad was whistling and put on his jacket and put his shoulder bag over his right shoulder.

He placed his hat on his head and walked out the back door with his pistol in one hand and his rifle in the left hand.

I could not talk.

I heard dad's wagon pull away with the two horses.

I heard Mr. Jack say, "Stop! Now!"

Dad kept rolling his wagon.

Mr. Jack shot dad with his rifle two times.

The horses kept going for a few feet and stopped.

People rushed into the house and covered their mouths and began to cry.

They pulled the lady and her children out the house.

I thought, "How come they did not get me?"

Chapter 10

A man with a white dress on, like JESUS, stood in front of me.

He didn't scare me.

He bent down and said, "Joshua, JESUS sent me to bring you to HIM."

I nodded my head for yes.

He took my hand and we walked into the sun.

We ended up at a large place and the doors in front of us were very large.

We stood there for a minute.

The doors opened wide.

I said, "Wow!"

JESUS smiled.

HE took my hand and welcomed me inside.

When I walked inside this big, big place I saw mom and my little brother and I ran to them.

They were smiling.

We all hugged each other.

The man who brought me to JESUS was standing and telling JESUS about my dad.

JESUS touched the man on his arm and they turned and began to walk and talk.

Me, mom and my little brother were having a great time.

Some men walked up and told us we had to go to the assembly and to follow them.

Mom caught us by our hands and we followed the men.

The place was so big with many people.

I yelled to mom, "Where do we go?"

I realized I could talk.

Mom was surprised.

We looked at the many men standing along the wall.

They were not upset with me but smiled.

One man walked over and bent down.

He placed his hand on my back and pointed to some chairs JESUS reserved for us.

The chairs had our names on them.

Another man walked over and took me by the hand and walked to the chairs.

We sat down.

I looked at the man who walked us over to the chairs and the one who bent over and told us JESUS had reserved the chairs for us.

I said to mom, "JESUS has some nice people."

The men looked at me and smiled.

I thought, "I was not talking loud but they heard."

JESUS walked to the front of this big big place and there were papers on a high table.

Me and my little brother stood in our chairs so we can see JESUS.

And we could see HIM.

One of the nice men walked over and told me and my little brother if we sit we could still hear and see JESUS.

He winked his eye at us.

Mom whispered to the nice man, "What is this?"

The nice man said, "The general assembly and the church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and of GOD..."

Mom began to say it along with the nice man, "...the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect."

The nice man smiled.

Mom said, "Hebrews 12:23."

The nice man walked and stood on the wall.

Mom looked scared.

I looked around and saw other children who smiled at me and I smiled back at them.

I could see JESUS all the way up front, even though I was little and sitting down.

I thought, "Can HE see me?"

JESUS said, "YES JOSHUA I CAN SEE YOU."

I was surprised and said, "Wow."

And looked at mom and my little brother and at JESUS' nice men who smiled at me.

I said, "Mom, I don't see dad. Where is he?"

Mom held her head down.

I didn't understand.

JESUS began to read one of the papers.

I remembered it was from the bible because mom would read it to us all the time. The exact number of times she read it to us came into my mind.

Me and my little brother said, "Wow", at the same time.

JESUS nice men looked at us.

We were little kids but we understood everything JESUS was saying and we were not twisting and turning in our chairs.

It was very quiet there.

After JESUS finished teaching me and my little brother ran over to the other little children and wanted to play.

JESUS nice men took us out into a beautiful play area.

Mom was sitting there crying.

I knew it was about dad.

I ran over and kissed her and my little brother.

JESUS was walking to us and all of us children ran and hugged HIS legs.

HE laughed and HE laughed.

HIS nice men took us all out to the play area.

Mom bowed her head to JESUS as she got up to leave.

JESUS said, "Sarah I want to talk to you."

HE held HIS hand out for her to be seated.

I was looking back and I saw the nail prints in HIS hands.

My mom sat down.

JESUS sat next to her.

HE said, "You did a wonderful job to train your sons up in the word."

I ran out the area with the other kids.

I played and played with our new friends.

We looked and saw JESUS and mom walking to the play area.

Mom was sad but smiled.

JESUS nice men had set up a table of food and we all ran and sat down.

Mom and JESUS sat at the table with us children.

JESUS blessed the food.

We all ate.

The food was sooo good. It didn't taste like anything I ever had.

Me and my little brother walked over to our mom and JESUS.

We just knew to walk over to them.

JESUS put HIS hands on our shoulders and a man appeared out of no where.

JESUS said, "He will take you to your new home."

We walked with the man.

Me, mom and my little brother were looking back at JESUS.

HE stood and watched us.

We came to a street.

I didn't know what a street was, but instantly I knew.

We went to the third house which was big with a big porch and rocking chairs.

The house had a beautiful flower garden on both sides of the yard.

JESUS man walked to the porch and knocked on the door.

We could hear laughing and talking inside.

An old lady came to the door and opened it.

The man said, "Hello, this is Sarah, Joshua and John."

The old lady looked at us and ran out the house into the yard where mom was and hugged her.

The lady said to mom, "You made it!. I'm very happy."

Mom looked down.

The lady said, "I've been told what happened. It's over."

People ran out the house and kissed us and called mom inside.

I looked at JESUS' nice man and said, "Thank You."

He said, "You are welcome."

We went inside and grandma and grandpa showed us our rooms.

The rooms were big and fun.

My room had train wall paper and train bed cover and rugs.

John's bedroom had boats on the wall and hanging from the ceiling.

Mom's room was lavender and had butterflies everywhere.

Mom loved butterflies.

But no outhouses nor bathrooms.

JESUS sat at HIS desk.

I was in my bed but I could see JESUS in HIS house.

I saw HIM with books on HIS desk.

One book HE had closed, John was written on it.

The next book had Joshua on it.

HE opened it to a blank page and began to write.

JESUS wrote, "Joshua was shot by his father. He lived for fifteen minutes before he died."

HE wrote other stuff.

I saw mom's name on a book, "Sarah" that was on JESUS's desk.

I saw everything JESUS was writing.

When HE finished writing HE closed all the books and put them up.

HE said, "Good night Joshua."

I turned over and went to sleep.

JESUS stood.

HE walked to a large window and looked out over heaven.