

GET RID of the OLD SHOES

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When you accepted Jesus as Savior, Lord, and Redeemer, All things became new.

The scene opens with darkness, shuffling is heard.

Deep breaths exhausted.

Snapping of a whip.

Child cries in anguish of soul and physical abuse.

A man walks with a belt in his hand.

He looks at the woman who is standing against the wall with her face looking away. She is grasping wind crying and her lips quivering and she is clawing her fingers into the wall.

The man looked at her and hit her hard across her stomach until she bent over and holding her stomach.

A little girl was standing outside the screened door grabbing her books for a safety blanket.

People standing in their yards and on their porches listening to the horrific beating the boy takes several times a week.

The boy's football buddies standing in the street near the house.

One boy strikes out running to the house as the man came to the door with his belt to grab the little girl and beat her as she walks up the steps to run in the house and he would just beat her and she would be screaming and trying to put the books in front of her legs and back to block her father's horrific licks on her legs, back, and arms. She could see her mother and her brother lying on his bed naked and his legs kicking from the pain and screaming.

As the mother was trying to stand up she didn't want to see her son, her baby boy. She loved him so much when he was born. She bragged about how much he loved her and how he told her when he was just three, he was going to be a football player.

They both would laugh and hug each other.

They were inseparable.

She worked in a bakery.

Every morning she would walk him to school.

Everyday during football season she would be at his practices from T-ball to high school.

The football coach loved her for her dedication to her son. The man would watch her. The coach saw him. They lived in a little house her grandmother left her in a run down neighborhood. But the people were proud of their houses. They kept their yards up and helped one another to fix broken windows and torn sscreens and steps.

Over the years some of her school friends moved back into their deceased relatives homes or near the neighborhood.

She met a fellow neighbor who was married and had a little girl by him and he and his wife moved away.

She was devastated. All the time she thought she had won him from his wife. She and the man would sit on her front steps talking and laughing.

The man was watching. The man was a street "nigger". He had no job, but latched onto the neighborhood because people would try to help him out by letting him stay in their homes or do any kind of work for them.

But he had his eyes set on the woman because she had a house and a job. She kept herself up and that brat son of hers.

He would just look at the boy and hated the child. He hated the boy because he was loved by his mother. He hated the boy because he had a good heart and cared for his mother.

He hate the boy because the boy had determination to be a great ball player and he hated the boy because people were encouraging the boy to be great. He hated the child. He hated the child because he was cared for and taken care of. For two years he lurked about the school, the football field, and the neighborhood.

The man finally approached the coach and tried talking football to the coach and said to the coach he could help him out with the kids. The man saw he better get that woman now because if she gets another baby he would not stand a chance to move in her house. Because Ms Betsy, as she feed him bacon and eggs (with her husband reading the paper) and took the dishes to the sink in her blue floral house coat, told him the woman was pregnant and he had to find another place to move because her daughter and children would be moving in after that school year ended.

The man told Ms. Betsy and her husband "I'm gonna get that bitch and beat the hell out of her and her children for breakfast lunch and dinner. I'll break that bitch down and her chillans."

Ms. Betsy's husband looked at the man and they all laughed.

As the man stuck his fork into the wood table, and twisted it in.

Ms. Betsy at the sink looking back over her shoulder said "That's cost you extra."

Her husband looked at her. She said to the man "The Parsons over on Olive Street just got a window air conditioner. I want it for that back room where my grand kids will be."

Her husband looked at the man.

The man said "Alright."

They all laughed.

The man said "Done."

Ms. Betsy and her husband stayed a street over from the woman and her son.

The woman did not know her.

The coach looked at the man and did not say anything.

The man began to show up everyday at practice.

The woman became concerned and went to the coach, along with some other parents.

The woman "Coach, who is that street man you got around my son and these other boys?"

The coach looked at the parents and the grandparents and said "He asked if he could help out."

One of the male grandparents said "Hell nall, he can't help out, get him away from our kids now."

All the parents were shaking their heads in agreement.

The woman looked back to see the man and she caught him rolling his eyes at the group of parents standing around the coach.

The man and one of his fellows were standing at the corner of the school watching the

parents and grandparents.

The man told his fellow "Come on."

They began to walk over to the group.

The woman said "Here they come." She said to the coach "Coach I really respect but does the board know about this?"

The man walked up and tried to change his facial expression and began to smile and flash a slick grin and said "I hope yall not talking about me." Touching his chest and he turned slightly to his left and acknowledging his fellow said "let me correct myself "us."

The coach said to the man "The parents don't want you to be around their kids".

The man seething, tried to keep up his front, said, still placing his hand over his heart, "I understand," looking at the woman.

The coach looked at him and the woman.

The coach said "Thanks for helping out." He reached out and shook both the men hands.

The men turned and was walking away when the fellow said to the man "What're you going to do?"

The man said "Beat that bitch down to nothing."

The fellow laughed.

They walked off the school property as the woman watched them.

The woman said "That's trouble."

The older man looking back at the man said "You got that right."

The man would accidentally bump into the woman at the bus stop until Ms. Betsy went to the bakery and saw the woman working there. She asked one of the stock boys did she work at that location. The stock boy, on his knees, looked around to see who Ms. Betsy was talking about and told Ms. Betsy "Yes, she works here."

Then the man started showing up at her job and lurking around so he could catch the same bus she did.

After a few weeks the woman passed the man and went to the back parking lot and got

into a red suv. The man was watching her.

His mouth flew open when she pulled the lock and drove away.

He stood up and threw his hands over his head and the people at the bus stop was looking at him.

They saw him talking to a woman on the bus.

He told them, "No that bitch don't have a brand new car."

The people looked at him. One of the people who visit the bakery ran to the bakery the next day and told the woman what the man said and how he was acting.

She told the woman he was acting as if he bought you the car and you drove off without him.

All the workers were standing around and listening.

The young stock boy said "You know an older lady came in and asked if you worked at this location and then this guy shows up. Now you are saying he's the one you all told not to come around your children. I bet him and old woman know each other. I bet they are planning something against you."

"You better pray and pray hard." The stock boy walked away.

The manager looked at the stock boy and said to the woman, "I'll keep an eye out. I believe I know who you are talking about. I'll just tell him to leave the store and don't come back. You just have to be careful in your neighborhood. I would just hate to see something bad happen to you and yours".

The man was lying on the bed in the back room with the window air conditioner on.

Ms. Betsy walked in the back and saw the man and was about to say where's my air conditioner until she felt the cold air.

She looked at the man and said "What's wrong?" You got the air conditioner and you got another week before you get out.

The man sits up on the side of the bed and said "That bitch got a brand new car."

Ms. Betsy's mouth flew open and said "What?"

She told the man "There's a yellow house trimmed in white, I saw a bar-b-cue grill and a basket ball goal."

The man said "Alright" as he turned his head.

Ms. Betsy walked out the room.

Her face was one of jealousy and had to find out more about this woman.

For the next week she scoured the neighborhood to find someone who knew the woman.

As she was looking at the houses one evening under the eyes of the neighborhood, she finally saw the brand new SUV. She looked around and saw an older woman at her mail box and she drove down and spoke to the woman, she said "That's a good looking red SUV. The neighbor looked up at the red SUV and smiled.

Ms. Betsy said, " You know those folk?"

The neighbor turned and walked away from Ms. Betsy without saying a word.

The woman and her son were sitting on the sofa looking out at Ms. Betsy. The neighbor looked up at the woman's house. Ms. Betsy drove away and was about to give up when she saw a middle aged man walking up the street.

Ms. Betsy stopped her car. The man stopped and looked at the car.

Ms. Betsy leaned her head out the car and said "Sir, I'm trying to find a friend of mine's daughter, she drives a red suv." The man shook his head for yes.

The middle aged man said "Yeah I think I know who you are talking about. Yeah her mother passed about three months ago and left an insurance policy in her name. That's how she got that car for her and her son."

Ms. Betsy flew home and running pass her husband in the kitchen and yelled to the man "I got news."

Her husband had ran to the back behind his wife.

Ms. Betsy, "I found her address."

The man sat upon the side of the bed.

Ms. Betsy said "Her momma is dead and left some insurance money. It's just she and her kids. You better get to moving before someone else beat you to her."

The man pressing up from the bed said, "I won't let that happen," and passed by Ms. Betsy and her husband exiting the house.

Ms. Betsy turned to her husband and said, " Did he get the bar-b-cue grill and the basketball goal?"

Her husband said, "Around the back."

She snickered and went into their bedroom.

The man began to show up at the boy's games.

The boy and his friends notice the man who had been lurking around two years.

They all would stand around and talk about him. How he would always seek out the boy's momma and try to speak to her.

He even told her he would walk the boy home.

She asked him "Why would you do that?"

He said, "To show you I'm a good fellow."

She said "I don't know. I don't want you near me nor my children."

Other parents and people around heard the conversation.

They had been watching him for the past two years. No one could really pin point what he was, but everyone knew he was evil.

Her baby girl would always be swinging on her momma's legs and be laughing.

The man would look at the baby girl as though he could kill her.

The men ran him away from the school and the field where the children practiced.

The people were trying to find out where he lived.

A few of the people went out into the surrounding neighborhoods to find him. One rainy Saturday a couple of the men were going from door to door pretending they wanted to hand out religious material.

One of the men looked up and saw the man sitting on a bed looking out the window at them.

The man quietly said to the other "There he is over in the purple house." The other slyly looked up and saw the man who slipped onto the floor.

The other man said, "Lets go over and ring the bell."

As they were approaching the house, another set of religious people were going door to door on the other side of the street.

They all looked at each other.

The man had crawled out of the bedroom and met Ms. Betsy who was coming out the laundry room with new sheets to fix the beds in that room for her grandchildren. She had taken down the curtains because she had washed them.

Ms. Betsy said, "What's going on?"

The man said, "They saw me."

Ms. Betsy "Who?"

"Some men from the boy's football."

Ms. Betsy peeped around him as they stood in the hallway.

The dogs began barking.

Ms. Betsy's husband walked through the kitchen passing the living room door as he peeped out.

He said to the man "Where did you put the bar-b-cue grill and basketball goal?"

The man said, "In the corner next to the kitchen."

The man and his wife looked at each other and didn't say anything.

Their doorbell rang. They did not go to the door.

The two men left a brochure in their door and continue their charade until they got to the end of the street. The other religious group was watching them.

The husband and Ms. Betsy and the man watched the two groups until all had gone.

One of the women in the group, while standing and waiting for the men, turned to see the brochure left in the front door and then she began to look at the window with no curtain and she smiled thinking Saturday cleaning until her eyes fell upon the window air conditioner. She continued to look at the window air conditioner until her husband walked over to her and he said touching her elbow, "What?"

The woman said, "See that purple house?"

The man looked over.

He looked at the window, then he saw the air conditioner.

The man stared for a moment and took his Bible and shifted to his other hand and looked both ways and began to walk across the street to the house.

The other two men seeing the man walking across the street walked to his wife and said, "What's going on?"

Wife saying nothing ran behind her husband who walked into the people's yard and went to the air conditioner, which he had engraved his name through the wire. His wife had been complaining about him putting his name on everything, but this time she saw his name.

The three evil workers were sliding back on the wall to keep the people from seeing them.

The other two men told the three women to stay put until they came back.

The two men began to cross the street.

The older woman said, "' Stay put hell."

She ran behind the men.

The two men heard footsteps and when they turned they saw the older lady stepping on their heels to find out what was going on.

The older woman said, "Linda is that you all's air conditioner?"

Linda said, "It surely is Mrs. Gray." "Look here, that's J.R. engraving."

Rubbing her hands across the engraved name.

J.R. turned and walked on the porch and rang and rang and rang the doorbell and no one came to the door.

The husband saw J.R. walk off the front porch and said, " They're leaving."

J.R. went back to the window and removed the air conditioner out of the window and reached his hand into the window and took out the cord.

The husband said, "That nigger is taking my air conditioner."

The other two men were in their car and passing back to verify the address when they saw the man getting the air conditioner.

A neighbor across the street came out and was standing on his porch with his arms folded.

He yelled over there and said "I knew those niggers stole that. That's all they do."

Ms. Betsy was trying to peep at the neighbor and nearly fell. She slid back on the wall.

The two men got out of the car and several neighbors walked out their houses to see what was going on.

The man who was driving started walking around the front of his car and he looked at the man carrying the air conditioner who was passing him and pointed and said, "Need help?"

J.R. didn't say a word, but kept walking back to his truck a few houses down.

The man looked at J.R. and was walking across the street to the house as the others in the group were running behind J.R.

The two men heard J.R.'s wife tell the group, "He worked for over a year to save enough money to buy that air conditioner. He wouldn't take any money from our expenses. He wanted his television room to be cool. He got tired of sweating, he couldn't enjoy himself. And these dirty dogs stole his air conditioner."

Ms. Gray said, "Who lives there anyway?"

The man looking and listening to them walked over to the yard and the second man who was standing outside the car on the passenger side looked at the man as he walked into the yard and went around the back and came back about ten minutes later pushing a lawn mower and the gas can.

J.R. and his group were getting in their cars when they saw the man coming back with the lawn mower and gas can.

The neighbors were sitting on the porches looking on. (Since the rain had stopped)

The husband peeping out the front door peep hole said, "That's not his gas can."

The man standing at the car ran to help the man put the lawn mower in the trunk said, "That's your lawn mower and can?"

The man said, "The lawn mower is mine's".

As he walked to the back door he said "I just needed a gas can, they probably stole it anyway."

The second man looked at him and got in the car. He put his elbow on the car window and said to the driver, "Lets go."

J.R. and his group was still standing across the street looking at the house. Everyone knew the owners were inside.

One of the female neighbors that lived a few doors down came walking up the street with a big and tall young man and yelled at J.R. and his group and said, "What in the hell are you'll doing? I have called the police."

The police turned on the street.

The two men pulled their car over.

The police got out of the car and said, "What's going on? Who called the police?"

The woman and her bad son walked up to the police.

The police kept looking at the young man as though he was familiar. The young man had his hands in his pocket looking at the police.

The neighbor saw how the police was looking at her son, so she began to yell and say pointing at J.R., "They broke into my friends' house and stole their window air conditioner."

The police looked over at the bible group.

Then the woman turned and pointing at the car yelled and said, "They stole their lawn mower and gas can."

The man jumped out the car and walked over to the police and the woman.

He said, "Bitch that's my lawn mower. You probably helped them steal this stuff." Looking at her bad son.

The woman jumped in the man's face.

Her son caught her and the police officer pushed her back.

The man had put his fists up to fight.

The police officer said, "Put your hands down."

The police looked over at the house and saw two cars over in the driveway.

He looked at the woman and said, "How many cars do they have?"

The woman said, "Two."

The police said, "Are they home?"

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

The police said, "But you called the police and not them?"

The woman and her bad son looked at the police because he was insinuating they were involved with the stolen goods.

J.R. walked over to the police officer with his ID in his hand.

The woman pointing at J.R. yelling said, "I saw him take the air conditioner out the window and just reached his hands into the window and unplugged it and get the cord."

Another police car pulls up and two police officers get out.

The woman and her son look at the police officers

J.R. said, "Now it has gone from me stealing my air conditioner to me taking my air conditioner."

The woman yelled, "I saw you."

The police officers all yelled at her and said "Shut up."

The first police officer said to the woman and her son, as he was looking at J.R.'s ID, "Where is you'll ID?"

The woman who was shocked said, "My's?"

The police officer said, "Yes. If you don't have it I am taking you to jail."

She was shocked and he looked at her son and said, "Where's your's?"

Her son turned and began to run down the street and hit a wet slick spot and fell.

The two officers who arrived second ran behind him and put the handcuffs on him and jerked him up.

His mother yelled, "Don't hurt my baby."

The police was bringing her son back up the street and putting him in the back of the police car.

The first police officer said to woman as she was watching her son, "Where's your ID?"

The woman was seething and looked at the police officer and said, "At my house."

He said, "Not good enough."

He grabbed her by her arms to put handcuffs on her.

She yelled, "Francis, go bring my pocket book from off the kitchen table."

Her son was peering out the police car window.

A fat young woman ran into her house and ran up the street and brought her purse.

The woman said, "Can I get my license?"

The police officer looked at her and turned her a loose and said, "Get the damn license."

She saw in the eyes of this police officer he despised her.

Francis wind was knocked out of her.

She reached the woman her bag.

The police officer looked at Francis.

Francis looked at the police officer and ran back to the house and went inside and closed the door.

The woman looking in pocketbook and handed the police officer her license.

One of the other police officers walked over.

The first police officer didn't take his eyes off the woman, but reached the police officer who was approaching her license.

The police officer staring at the woman as he got her license out of the first officer's hand and walked back across the street to run the license.

The woman being nervous kept watching the police officer with her license.

The first police officer kept watching her, hoping something would come back on her.

Her son's license was taken and they prepared to take him down town.

The man in the house slipped out the back door.

The dogs began barking, the police officers all turned to look.

The police officer at the car got out.

He ran to the top of the street and the man had ran down another street.

He called for another car to look out for him.

The first police officer stared at the woman.

She looked at him.

He was determined to put her in jail.

The police officer was radioed they could not find him.

The woman smirked.

The officer got out of the car and walked over to the first police officer turning his back to the woman whispering in the first officer's ear.

A padded transport pulled up.

The officer who whispered in the first police officer's ears, turned and grabbed the woman and put handcuffs on her.

The woman started yelling and jumping up and trying to look at her house began to yell "Francis! Francis! Somebody tell Francis to call my lawyer!" The police officer put her in the transport vehicle with the son.

The two police officers walked over to the first police officers.

The first police officer had J.R.'s license in his hand.

He was tapping J.R.'s license in his hand.

He said "What's your story?"

The religious group walked over and J.R. said "My wife and I saw this window air conditioner today and I rang the door bell several times and no one came to the door. So...."

Police officer said, "So you took it?"

J.R. said, "It's mine. I engraved my name on it. I worked like a dog to buy this."

His wife walked over and grabbed her husband's arm and the police looked at her.

The police officer said, "Engraved. Show me the air conditioner".

They all walked over to the air conditioner and J.R. showed them his name engraved across the brand new air conditioner.

The first police officer said, "We have to take this in as evidence."

J.R. was stunned.

He couldn't speak after a moment of silence, J.R. fumbling couldn't speak clearly.

His wife said, "Sir, but that is my husband's air conditioner."

The first police officer said, "I believe you ma'am. But procedures are procedures."

J.R. began to breakdown.

He said, "All my life, I work so hard and something wrong always happens."

His wife began to rub the back of his neck.

The other members of the religious group began to say, "That's just wrong. He worked so hard for that air conditioner."

The police looked at the man who got the lawn mower.

He walked away from J.R. and over to the man and said, "Give me your ID."

The man reached into his back pocket.

The man gave the police officer his license.

The police handed it to the same officer.

The officer walked away to his car to run his license.

The man had a look on his face like he was trying to remember.

The police officer looked at him and said, "What's your story?"

The man still thinking said, "I left my lawn mower at a friend's, two streets over. And it

disappeared.”

First police officer looking at the man’s wedding band said, “Why didn’t you report the lawn mower was stolen?”

The man looked at the police officer.

The police officer said, “A female friend. Huh”

The other man heard the story.

The police officer said to J.R and his group and the two men, “Give your statements to the officers and leave. You can take your stuff with you.”

J.R. said, “Thank You JESUS!!!”

The first officer and one of the second officers walked over to the house.

Ms. Betsy and her husband were peeping out the peep hole.

Another truck drove up and a young man got out of the truck and said, “Where’s the house with the stolen stuff? I got a bar-b-que grill and my son’s basketball goal missing.”

Everyone turned and looked at the young man.

The neighbor across the street yelled, “Purple house. Check around the back.”

The police looked at the neighbor.

The neighbor shrugged his shoulders and said, “What?”

The young man walked to the house and the first police officer put his hand out to stop the man.

The police officer said, “Sir, what are you doing?”

The young man moved back from the police and said, “I heard that stolen goods were over here. I want to see if my bar-b-que grill and my son’s basketball goal is here, somebody stole it from my house. My son has leukemia. On those days he can sit outside we grill. The few days he has any energy the two of us shoot baskets.”

The man became emphatic, pointing his fingers downward.

He burst out into tears.

He said, “I want my son to be happy.”

The man crying said softly, "He deserves to be happy. He's a good kid and I love him. With the medical bills, I just don't have enough money to go and buy this stuff again."

The police, J.R. and his group and the two men became silent.

The neighbors began to chant, "Let him look. Let him look."

The first police officer looked around at the people.

He said to the young father, who now was sobbing uncontrollably.

The police said, "Just wait. Go and sit in your truck."

The police officers watched as the young parent went and got in his truck. He leaned over his wheel and began to cry.

The other police officers said to the first police officer, "You know if they open the door they won't know nothing."

The first police officer rang the doorbell and began to bam on the door.

Betsy with her arms full of laundry and her husband went to the front door.

The police said "We are investigating a case of stolen goods found here at your home. "What do you know about it?"

Mrs. Betsy and her husband looked at each other and shook their shoulders they did not know anything.

The other police said, "We saw a man run out of this house. Who is he?"

The husband standing looking as if he was shocked said, "Just someone we took in from the street."

Mrs. Betsy shaking her head in agreement.

The first police officer said, "You have no knowledge of the window air conditioner and the lawn mower were stolen?"

The husband and Mrs. Betsy shook their heads for "No."

Acting as though they were in shock.

The first officer said, "We are going to look around."

Mrs. Betsy was about to protest.

The police officer said, "Do you mind?"

Not a question but a statement.

Husband grabbed Ms. Betsy and they both said, "No."

The other police officer looking at them.

The two officers went through out the house and was joined by the third police officer when they went around back and saw the bar-b-que grill and the basketball goal.

The second police officer said, "What are we going to do with this?"

The first police officer said, "Give it to him. I'll take the heat."

By that time as they were getting the bar-b-que and basketball goal, the mother of the child drove up and the father got out of his truck and walked over to talk to his wife.

She had the sick seven year wrapped up in the back seat, who was listening to his mother and father talk, and his nine year old sister was sitting next to him holding his hand.

The boy looked as the police officers brought their bar-b-que grill and basketball goal from the back.

The boy pointed and in a very weak voice said, "Dad look."

The mother saw the grill and goal but knew the police would keep it.

The police officers saw the frail little boy peeping out the window.

The second police officer said to the boy's daddy, "Sir, you want this in the truck?"

The man began to cry and say, "Thank you. Thank you" as he walked back to his truck.

He helped the police put the bar-b-que grill and basketball goal in the truck.

The little boy waved at the police as his mother drove off.

The man continued to bump into the boys over the next few months.

The boy was enjoying his football team mates and his new baby sister.

When he was not practicing after school football, he would call his mother and beg her to go by his baby sister's day care and play with her until his mother would come and pick them up.

His mother would smile and say, "Go ahead."

The boy would be ecstatic.

His mother would grin through the phone, as she put the old black phone back on the wall, and one of her co-workers passed by her grinning and patted her on the shoulder.

The manager looked up and smiled as he helped the stock boys break down boxes.

The mother grinned at the co-worker and picked up the old black phone and calling the day care. Ms. Maggie would pick up and in the midst of the room full of crying, hollering, playing and loud talking babies and toddlers. The mother standing with her arms folded across her stomach, laughed at the noise behind Ms. Maggie.

Ms. Maggie nearly screaming would say, "Hello, who is this?"

The mother would say, "Ms. Maggie, I haven't said anything yet."

Ms. Maggie said, "What? You want your boy to come by?"

The mother said, "Yes ma'am." Laughing, she hung the black phone back on the wall.

Laughing walked away and back to decorating her cakes.

One of her co-workers said, "I love that boy."

The whole crew laughed.

The manager looked up and smiled as he and the stock clerks removed the boxes out of the aisle.

Ms. Maggie had just sat in her rocking chair to feed one of her babies when she heard rumbling and laughing outside.

She stood up and with the six month old in her arms and looking around at the other babies and toddlers, as Nancy her aide was working with the children.

The children were watching Ms. Maggie and as she went to the door and unlocked the door, the babies could hear the boys laughing and playing coming up to the door.

The boys would always help out with the babies and toddlers. The babies recognized their voices.

The boy's sister had just turned two years old. Her father showed up at the bakery with a gift in his hands, but her mother did not see him because she was in the back with her

head down as she put the last daisy on her baby's birthday cake she was taking to Ms. Maggie in a few minutes.

The manager was bringing some supplies to the bakery when he saw the man standing with a wrapped gift. He looked at the man but continued to help the crew put up the supplies.

One of the co-workers realized who the man must have been. She stood and looked at the man.

The woman was so pleased with her baby's birthday cake that she added butterflies and bumble bees.

She stood up and applauded herself for the fabulous birthday cake, and when she throw up her hands up in the air she looked up in his eyes, as he smiled.

The manager looked from her to the man then realized the man, in his work uniform, must have been the baby's daddy.

The manager looked at the man and said "Sir, can I help you?"

The man looked at the manager.

The manager raised his eyebrows and said, "What you need help with?"

The woman looked at the man and saw the gift.

She looked at the man and said to her boss, "It's ok."

The manager looked at her then the man and the manager saw his wife approaching them. He walked out to the aisle and greeted his wife with a peck on her lips.

The man looked back at the manager because he thought the manager might have been eyeing his baby's momma.

The woman walked over to the counter. The man looked at her and reached her the gift.

They did not exchange words. She did not smile. The man smiled and turned and walk away. The woman stood and looked after the man. The evil man had made it to the store and arrived just in time to see the exchange between the woman and the man.

The man passed by the evil man and stared at him. He huffed at the evil man because he looked at him and saw he was trash and not knowing he had set his eyes on his baby's momma.

The woman looked after the man until he walked out the door, then she saw the man she despised. He looked at her and she turned her back and went back to her baby's cake.

The co-worker was still but watching everything.

The man walked up to the bakery and was watching the woman and trying to see what she was doing.

Another co-worker walked over to help him, but he was so intently watching the woman that the co-worker turned to see what he was looking at, then she realized he was watching the woman as she packed up her baby's birthday cake.

The other co-worker was watching the man and so was the manager and his wife.

The manager knew the evil man was up to no good, but he could not put his hands on it.

The manager was watching the two co-workers, and he began to understand what was going on.

The manager walked over next to the evil man and said, to the co-worker who had been standing in the back watching everything.

The manager said, "Help her and then you can go early."

The woman heard it and looked and got chills when she saw the evil man standing and looking at her.

The manager looked very good at the evil man and at his employee, he said "Lola, help the customer."

Lola turned and looked back at the manager, as her two co-workers walked out the bakery, passing them and exited the store.

The woman said, "I hate that man."

The co-worker said, "I hate Lola."

The woman looked at her co-worker, as she walked her to her car.

She noticed her tires were flat.

The woman screamed and the co-worker ran over and the two walked around the car and noticed all four tires were flat.

The baby's daddy had been sitting in his car and making phone calls and was about to pull off when he saw the woman with her hands up in the air crying. He stopped and backed up and drove over and the co-worker ran into the store and told the manager.

One of the stock clerks who worked also as the store security had been standing watching Lola and the evil man. He saw the co-worker running to the manager and his wife. He heard her as she told the manager the woman's tires were flat. The stock clerk heard what the co-worker said and saw Lola smirked and he saw the man stare him down.

The manager told his wife to go and shop and he walked out with the co-worker and when they got outside the baby's daddy was walking around the car and examining the tires. He was stooping down, the manager walked over and was looking at the tires.

He looked at his crying employee. The manager said to her "I told you to keep coverage. Did you?"

The baby's daddy was looking up at the woman when she shook her head.

The evil man eventually came out of the store, leering at the small group of people around the woman's car and he kept his slightly down as he ate a doughnut. The manager saw him and kept his eyes on him. The young security stock clerk pretended he needed to get some boxes so he could hear the evil man and Lola's conversation, but they were whispering and watching him. So he got the boxes and left, but stood around the corner listening.

He heard Lola say "Yeah, I'll help you."

The evil man said, "Give me your phone number."

Lola was looking around to get a piece of paper and saw the image of the security guy on the refrigeration unit.

She said to the evil man, nodding her head in the security guy's direction, "He's been listening."

The evil man looked up and saw the security guy, who heard them and walked out and stood and looked at them.

The evil man said to Lola, while he and the security guy stared down each other, "It doesn't matter."

Lola handed the evil man a piece of paper with her name and telephone number on it.

She looked at the security guy, as she handed the evil man a doughnut.

The evil man starred at the security guy and began to eat his doughnut and slowly walked out the store.

The baby's daddy saw the man and said, "Who is that nigger?"

Everyone turned and starred at the evil man.

The evil man slowly walked away, under all of their stares.

The manager leaning over the baby's daddy, with his hand on the car, watched the evil man out of sight.

He said, "He's after her."

Everyone looked at the woman. She looked at her boss and pointing to herself.

The manager shook his head for yes.

The baby's daddy had called for the automotive club and they were arriving.

He said, "I have to go. You be sure to keep up this car service and make sure you give her, her gift."

He touched the woman's arm and kissed her on her forehead and the co-worker smirked as the man walked passed her and got in his company's car.

The baby momma looked at her co-worker and said, "There's nothing there."

Co-worker said, "Right."

The automotive club employee pulled up and got out his truck and examined the tires and he said, "All tires have been cut.

The manager looked and he saw the evil man sitting at the bus stop but standing watching them.

The baby's daddy pulling out to go one direction backed up and turned and passed by the evil man who rolled his eyes at the baby's daddy and looked back at the store.

The baby daddy looked at the evil man and jerked and stared at him and said out loud, "This nigger want me to do him."

The security guy walked to the front door and held it open and looked at the manager.

The manager saw him and asked the man changing the tires, "How long do you think it will be?"

The automotive club employee, getting his tools out said, "About thirty minutes, because I was told the type of tires she has and picked up four before getting here."

The manager said, "Good thinking. I need people like you working for me."

The automotive club employee about to bend over looked at the manager then back at the store said, "Thank you."

The manager began to walk back to the store and the security guy opened the door for the manager.

Lola was bending over in the bakery case.

The security guy was talking to the manager and nodded to Lola.

The manager looked back at Lola.

Part II

The woman got in her car and drove away with her co-worker.

Ms. Maggie was running around trying to gather up each child as the parents were walking in to get them.

The football team were having a great time outside with Ms. Maggie's aide and the children.

Ms. Maggie looked out the window and wondered where boy and baby momma was.

She was speeding pass the evil man and she and her co-worker didn't look at him.

But the woman looked up at him in the mirror as he stepped forward at the bus stop and looked at her pass him.

She asked the co-worker where she lived and she lived the opposite way.

The woman turned around and passed the evil man and speed down the highway and got the co-worker and asked the co-worker to call Ms. Maggie and tell her she was on her way.

The co-worker took the phone number and shook her head for okay.

The woman speed back by the store but the evil man was not there. She just shook and shivered "Yuck!"

The manager's wife had finished her weekly shopping and looked around for her husband. She saw him talking to the security guy and walked over with her buggy.

The manager and the security guy looked at the manager's wife.

She looked at both of them and said, "I am intruding. Excuse me."

Looking at her husband said, "I need your money."

The manager was feeling his pockets and then said, "Didn't I give you some yesterday?"

The wife batted her eyes at her husband.

The manager said to the security guy, "Give me about 10 minutes."

The manager's nosey wife waited until the security guy walked off and leaning over her buggy said, "That sounds like trouble, exciting."

The manager looked at his wife and said, "I don't have any money on me, use your own damn money and then go home."

The wife jerked her head and said, "What the hell?"

She turned her buggy around turning her nose up at her husband.

He turned his back and walking into his office closed his door under the eye roll of his wife.

Lola knocked on the manager's door. The security guy passing behind her, because he told Lola the manager wanted to see her. The manager was looking at the surveillance company and writing on a piece of paper when he said "Come in."

Lola opened the door and walking inside the office closing the door behind her, as the manager's wife and several cashiers were looking at her.

The manager looked up at Lola and cut off the video.

He handed Lola her termination papers.

She began to shake as she began to read the termination papers. Then she began to cry.

The manager said, "You have any questions?"

Lola finally looked up at the manager and her hatred showed in her face.

The manager sat back in his chair and stared at Lola.

Lola looked at the manager and said "You bastard. I hate your guts. You don't care that I have children to feed and take care of."

Manager said, "Lola, it's apparent you don't care about your children, I have been told. Get out of my office and do not come back into this store for any reason. Get all your stuff quickly and leave."

Lola jumped up out of her chair.

The manager jumped up.

Lola screamed, "You bastard."

The people outside were all looking at the manager's office door when Lola flung it open and slammed it as she was cursing all the way back to the bakery.

The manager sat down to his desk and finished his papers.

The manager's wife was scared and was nervously pulling out her wallet and her check book.

The cashiers and baggers were quiet.

The manager's wife finally was able to compose herself and write the check.

The manager was watching Lola on the surveillance camera.

The security guy finished breaking down the rest of the boxes and he stood up and walked over to the bakery and was standing looking at Lola.

Lola got her stuff to put it in a box.

She saw the security guy standing with the boxes.

She said, "You snitch. Give me a box."

The security guy still watching her when she reached for a box, he threw it on the floor without taking his eyes off Lola.

Lola was shocked that the security stock boy was so cruel.

He didn't blink.

Lola said, "Bastard."

She bent down to pick it up. The security guy still did not blink.

Lola stood up and said "Kiss my ass. I don't need your box."

She turned and walked back to the bakery and got several store bags and put her stuff in and walked out.

The other co-workers in the bakery were looking from the security guy to Lola.

They could hear Lola cursing all through the store.

The manager was sitting sideways and was watching her on the surveillance monitor.

The security guy picked up the box and stared at Lola as she left the bakery area.

He walked away to the back storeroom.

He knew he had to watch his back because of the type of person Lola was.

The manager's wife was at her car putting in the groceries when Lola was lugging her bags to the bus stop.

Lola saw the bus and was trying to run to stop the bus.

The bus driver saw her running but pulled off.

Lola started back cursing.

Lola looked around.

The manager's wife quickly turned her head and would slightly peep at Lola through the windows.

Lola made it to the bus stop.

Now her wait began.

The woman made it to her baby's daycare and her son and his friend saw her and ran to help her.

She caught most of the kids and they all shared the beautiful and artfully decorated birthday cake.

The baby girl was such a happy birthday and her brother was the love of her life.

She reached and grabbed his face and kissed him.

Everyone laughed.

The mother told all the boys "Hop in."

She would take all of them home but Sam and Reggie because they lived across the street and would run across the street, as she watched them.

The evil man followed the woman's boy one day and beat her eight year old son and people saw him and did nothing and he dragged the boy home, one of his friends looking out the window and ran to his door and was trying to open the door and his mother was pushing and fighting with him to keep him in the house.

The boy was screaming and yelling help to his friend through his bloody eyes and lips.

People on the streets saw the evil man dragging this child and would not help.

One of the girls in the boy's class stood frozen with her books in her hands as she stood

by the opened car door.

The boy was looking at her and pleading said "Please."

Her mother turned to see why her daughter had not closed the car door.

And her mother stood up in shock because she knew that was the man they had ran from the children.

Her son threw a ball at his sister and yelled, "Get it."

He saw his mom and sister stood still and was looking at the sidewalk.

The boy turned and saw his friend, he broke and ran out to the evil man and threw his football and hit the man in the head with the football and the boy's mother was a teacher at the school, she began to run and say, "Stop! Stop! Stop!"

The boy's mother red SUV was turning down a street from picking up her baby girl.

The teacher and boy saw her SUV and tried to wave at her.

The evil man was still dragging the boy and two men saw the kidnapping and the yelling neighbor schoolteacher.

The men ran out of their houses with bats and one of the men was able to bust the evil man in the back of his head.

He turned the boy loose to reach for his gun.

The boy was laying on the sidewalk crying and screaming from pain.

The schoolteacher ran to get the boy and her son ran to fight the evil man.

The other older male neighbor had reached the evil man and swung at him as he pulled out his gun.

The older male neighbor pushed the boy back with one hand, keeping his eyes on the evil man and his had gripping the bat.

The school teacher was yelling calling her son.

The evil man turned his gun to the boy and shot him in the chest looking at his sophisticated momma.

He grinned and turned his eyes to her.

She knew what he was thinking, he was jealous of her son and wanted him dead.

And the men beat the evil man knocking the gun out of his hand.

They heard sirens.

There were screams everywhere.

The boy's sister and other neighbors began to run to the scene.

The boy's other friend whose mother fought him ran with the wind and ran past everyone and saw his schoolteacher leaving his friend on the street and running to her nine year old son.

The evil man dropped the gun and running past people who were running to the scene, looking back with a grin on his face.

The boy's momma reached her dead son.

Holding her son, she screamed and his sister still with her books in her hand slid on her knees next to her brother with his eyes closed and extremely bloody shirt.

The men with the bats dropped to their knees.

The boy's friend ran past the first boy and fell on his knees at the second friend and he began to cry as the police ran out of the cars and as they radioed.

One cop looked up and saw the evil man running through people back yards and he ran trying to catch him.

The streets were blocked and ambulances were on the scene, which took the boys to the hospital.

And the boy's mother was in their house.

Her son's friend and beating on her door as she was laughing and talking to her daughter.

She leaned backwards and saw her son's friend and said, "He's not here yet."

Boy yelled at his dumb mother and said, "He's dead!"

She stood in the kitchen and then she saw behind the boy people running up the street.

The mother leaving the two year old in the kitchen slowly walked to the door looking at

the people running up the street to the scene.

She walked out the house and slowly walked off her porch and began to move slowly through the crowd that was running to the scene.

She slowly began to run.

Her two year old baby girl walked to the door.

The boy's ten year old friend picked up the baby girl as she pushed the door opened to follow her mother.

He picked her up and ran behind her mother.

He caught up to her.

She stood still as she saw the ambulance pulling out with a body and she recognized the schoolteacher sitting in the back.

The two men saw the woman and the police turned to see the woman and the boy holding the baby girl.

The boy saw the police turning to come towards her and he shifted the baby girl to his left hand, as she was reaching for her mother, the boy grabbed his friend's mother hand with his right and pulled her away from the police who was yelling, "Stop."

She saw her son being wrapped in a blanket and was being placed in an ambulance.

She screamed.

The ambulance attendants turned and looked at her.

She stood frozen.

One of the ambulance attendants reached her at the same time the police did.

One police officer pushed the boy holding the baby back.

His mother saw it and yelled "Don't touch my son."

The police officers looked around.

The woman was in shock as she looked at her baby's face and she began to moan.

The lead police officer looked at her and taking her hand walked her to the ambulance, helped her get in.

He put his hand on the boy's shoulder to stop him from approaching.

The boy said, "What can I do with her baby?"

The police looked at the baby girl who was reaching for her mother.

The police said, "You can't go in the ambulance."

The boy's mother and grandmother walked up to the boy.

His mother putting her hands on his shoulder at the same time said, "Son."

He turned and yelled at his mother and grandmother, "They wouldn't be dead for you two. Get away from me!!"

The boy began to run away with the baby in his arms and crying and screaming.

The two men saw the boy running and crying.

The principal of the school was called.

He, his wife and daughter got out of the car.

The girl saw her friend still holding her schoolbooks standing with blood stain clothes on.

The girl was trying to run to her friend who was surrounded by neighbors but her mother yanked her back.

The principle looked at his wife and then at his daughter who was staring up at her mother.

The principle said to his wife, "Let her go."

His wife stared at him.

He walked over and rend his daughter's hand from his wife's hand and the girl staring at her evil momma with tears in her eyes.

The principal told his wife, "Go back to the car. You're right, you don't belong here."

He gave his wife a bone chilling stare and walked towards her daughter's friend.

When he saw the ten year old boy holding the baby and the principal was trying to figure out why he had the baby.

Just as the principal's daughter grabbed her friend and began to hug her, the baby's

father arrived.

The police officers gave him information and the hospital his nine year old was taken.

He was extremely sad and sorrowful.

He turned and was watching his eight year old daughter.

The police officer said, "I'll give you an escort to the hospital."

The father looked at the police officer and said, "Sir, I thank you very much." Biting his lips and crying.

The officer said, "We're here for you."

Patting the girl's father on the shoulder.

The father walked over to his daughter, who was quiet and holding her books.

He bent down in front of his daughter and looked at her bloodied clothes.

She caught her father's face and dropping her books grabbed his neck and hugged his neck so tightly and they both cried and cried.

Her father's mother and father arrived, they stood and watched them.

The father picked up his daughter.

The grandparents were patting her.

Her friend (the principle's daughter) picked up her books.

The grandparents said, "We're going to the house and we'll be at the hospital."

The father nodded and looked at his daughter.

He said, "Baby,"

Before he could say another word,

The girl said in between sobs and tears, "I want to be with mommie."

He walked away carrying her to the car and strapping her in as his parents looked on.

He drove away.

The principal's daughter's was crying as she walked over and handed her friend's

grandparents her books.

The grandparents looked at the little girl and between cries and tears said, "Thank you."

The principal walked over and touching his daughter on her head reached his hand out to the grandparents saying, "I'm their principal. I am truly sorry."

The grandparents nodded.

The grandmother was holding the girl's books to her chest.

The grandfather with tears and sniffles just looked out at the crowd.

The grandfather saw the boy with the baby girl and the two men talking with the boy and the principal who stopped and bent down and was talking to his daughter.

He gave his daughter a kiss on her forehead and a big hug.

Under the envious eye of his wife.

The boy's mother and grandmother had reached the boy.

His mother said, "Whose baby is this?"

The boy, "My friend's sister."

His mother said, "You can't have the baby."

The boy said, "If you would not fought me they would not be dead and I would not be holding the baby."

The men looked at the mother and the grandmother.

The police escort of the father passed them.

The grandfather heard what the boy with the baby said to the mother.

The grandfather was not saying anything but comforting his wife.

The men said, "We're going to the hospital."

The boy said, "Take me."

His mother said, "You can't go."

The men looked at her.

One of the men said to the boy, "Do you know where they live?"

The boy said, "Yeah, why?"

The man said, "Is anyone else in the house?"

The boy said, "I don't think so, why?"

The man pointing at the scared baby said, "She's going to need some food and clothes."

The boy looked at the baby.

His mother and grandmother stood watching because they knew it was a ploy to get the boy away from them.

The middle aged man with the bat still in his hand said to the older neighbor, "Why don't you get your car and follow me."

The older neighbor shook his head for okay and slung the bat up on his shoulder.

His wife was standing in their driveway.

He walked to his wife and was talking to her and she shook her head for yes.

He reached her the bat.

She reached him the keys to the car and his bat.

They were returning after a long day at the hospital for chemo therapy and dialysis.

The middle aged man handed the bat to his wife and walked the half block to the boy's house.

They walked slowly so the older man could catch up.

They stood in the yard.

The older man saw them and pulled up in front of the house.

They all walked to the now dark house.

The boy and baby went in.

The boy turned on one light.

The men walked through the quaint house and looked around.

They made sure lights were on.

The boy saw the little girl's diaper bag.

They looked in it to make sure she had diapers.

The baby went over to their refrigerator and tried to pull it open.

Two police officers walked in the house.

One said, "What are you'll doing?"

The little girl began to cry as she tried to open the refrigerator.

The boy said, "She's hungry. Feed her."

The middle aged man turned and looked at the boy and said, "I want you to be quiet. I know you have been hurt because of your friends. We need to find some relative for them to come and see about them and especially that crying baby." Pointing to the baby girl.

The boy looking at the police officers said, "Do you mind if I give her something to eat?"

The police officers were looking around the house and finally saw pictures of the woman and the boy.

Then they looked for her purse. One of the police officers saw it and saw her driver's license.

The older man was looking for the baby's clothes and diapers and he pointed to the other room.

And the police officer said "Go."

The boy opened the refrigerator and the little girl was grabbing a cup cake.

The middle aged man saw them eating cupcakes.

He said, "Don't eat cupcakes."

At that time the boy's mother and grandmother were knocking on the door.

The police looked around at the door and walked over to the door and recognizing the woman that yelled to him not to touch her son.

He looked at the other police officer who nodded his head for yes.

The police officer opened the door and said to the woman, "Stand there."

The woman rolled her eyes at the police officer.

The grandmother said, "Come on and let's go home. They can do this."

The middle-aged man looked at the woman then turned his head as the older man came out of a room with the girl's blanket and a cup, diapers and her toys.

The baby girl smiled and reached for her small doll and a stuffed horse.

She followed the older man into the kitchen where he was putting her stuff in a diaper bag.

The police officer said, "We have to take the child to child services."

The other police officer looked up at him.

The older neighbor stopped packing the bag to look at the police officer.

The boy heard some of his friends talk and say terrible things about child services.

The boy looked at the back door.

The middle-aged man said, "No you are not."

The boy yelled, "She got a momma. I tried to put the baby in the ambulance but no, you pushed me back."

The police officer was on the phone and stood up and looked at the other officer.

The police officer had the phone to his ear and said, "Mrs. Gray, I am police officer Steven Bill."

He explained what the facts were on the case and told the hospital her niece and her son was at. And he asked about the two-year-old. The baby looked up at the police officer.

The police officer "I'll give you thirty minutes to get here."

He hung up the phone.

Everyone stood in silence and looked at each other until they saw a car pull up outside.

The baby girl walked to the door and looked out the screen.

An older lady was running to the porch and the little girl looked at her as she pulled the screen door opened and looked down at the smiling little girl, whom she picked up.

The police officer said "Ma'am, ID please."

The police officers looked around the lady and saw two police officers rushing to the house.

The older woman said, "These are my sons."

The police officers told them what happened.

They looked at the now crying little girl.

The aunt got her and went into the bedroom and changed her diaper.

The older man said, "Whew. Whew. I thought for a minute I had to change that diaper."

Mrs. Gray's sons walked over to the neighbors and were shaking their hands and expressing gratitude and thanks.

The middle aged man reached for the ten year old friend to come and meet the police officers.

The police officer put his hand on the boy's shoulder, as his mother and grandmother were watching.

Mrs. Gray got baby Alana and her diaper bag.

Mrs. Gray said, "Somebody knows how to pack a bag."

She kissed Alana on the cheeks and showed the police officer her ID.

They all walked out the house.

Mrs. Gray's son had her niece's purse and he locked the door.

The other one went to her car and locked it, taking the baby car seat.

Both of Mrs. Gray's son told the ten year old how brave he was and thanked him for being such a great friend to their cousin.

They each gave him their cards.

One of them said, "Do you need a ride home?"

The boy's mother said, "No! We can walk."

They looked at her and nodded their heads and walked away.

The one was putting the baby's car seat into his mother's car, while she stood holding Alana.

The other son was talking to the middle aged man and the older neighbors.

As the police officers were in their cars watching as the boy, mother and grandmother passed them.

The evil man was peeping through a hole in one of the neighbors back yard fence.

The dogs began to bark.

Everyone looked up.

The police got out of the car.

The evil one began to run and ran into a metal garbage can.

One of Mrs. Gray's sons before pursuing rushed to his mother and put her and Alana in the car and said "I'll come to the hospital. "Go."

Mrs. Gray pulled off.

When the neighbor heard the dogs barking and the metal garbage can noise, he came out of his kitchen and was looking when the police ran passed him causing him to jerk around and kicking his leg up in the air and throwing his arms up in the air.

The police officers ran pass by him.

First the three and the one.

The boy ran home in front of his mother and grandmother.

His father was waiting in front of his house.

The boy saw his dad, after months of trying to see him.

The mother and grandmother saw the man and walked pass him.

They went into the house.

The man and his son sat and talked for hours.

The man stood up and said, "I will come to see you more."

He walked his son up to the door.

And walked back to his car and disappeared down the long dark street.

The sophisticated teacher, her firefighter husband and their daughter moved out of state, after the burial of her son.

The police could not find the boy's killer.

But everyone knew it was the evil man.

The ten year old friend was frequently visited by his estranged father.

The boy opened his front door, the next day to go to school and saw his father standing on the sidewalk in front of his house.

The boy's mother who was standing with her mother in their family's house, did not allow the boy's father to set foot on the property, so the father stood on the sidewalk.

The boy was never told if his mother and father were ever married.

He was never told why they broke up nor was ever told what his father did that both his mother and grandmother forbid him for setting his foot on their property.

But they did not say anything to the boy's father when he came to comfort his son.

The ten year old boy was so happy to see his daddy after the night his friends died. When the boy saw his daddy his eyes bucked wide open and he ran down the steps and leaped in his father's arms.

His father held him.

A group of kids were walking to school and one of the girls said, "Who is he Josh?"

The father looked at the girl and smiled.

All the kids had stopped and was looking at the man because the police had gone from door to door throughout the whole area telling the children if they saw a strange man or woman around any child to call the police.

The police chief on the television the night before and told the city of the murder of the nine year old child and how brave the child was trying to help his friend, when many adults saw the brutal beating the man put on the eight year old and was dragging him

down the city streets.

As the police chief was talking, the ten year old boy was in his bedroom laying across his bed crying.

He raised up and looked at the picture of JESUS on his wall.

He folding his hands in prayer said, "JESUS help my friends. Stop the beatings and killing of us kids. We haven't done anything wrong to be beaten like this and killed and shot down on the streets."

He burst out sobbing in his room.

His mother and grandmother sitting in front of the TV turned quickly in shock when they heard the boy crying.

His mother sitting on the sofa next to his grandmother jerked around and putting her right arm on the sofa sat there.

Her mother said, "Go and see about your child."

The mother with her eyes on her son's bedroom door stood up and walked to the bedroom.

She put one hand on the door knob and leaning her ear to the door and hearing her baby cry with much hurt opened the door quietly and being watched by her mother, stepped softly into the boy's bedroom.

She sat on the boy's bed next to him.

He didn't realize she was in the room until she rubbed his head and patted him on his back.

The boy was so shocked he jerked around with his eyes swollen with tears and lips quivering.

He could only see his dead friend's face.

His mother looked at him and said, "I'm sorry your friend is dead. But I didn't want that to happen to you."

Before she could finish, her ten year old son said with a very cold voice, "Get out."

His mother was shocked at her son's response to her.

She tilted her head to understand what he said and why.

Her son in a rage looked at his mother and said, "Don't you ever speak to me again."

His mother's mouth flew open and she gasped.

She said. "Is this what your father put in your head?"

The boy said, "No. I don't even know him. My friends would be alive if I could have helped them and you threw me in the house on the floor and did not even call the police. You are evil, leave my room. NOW!!!"

He stared at his mother as he lay on his side.

His grandmother quickly turned around and stared at the television.

She was afraid, because she did not know how to address the problem.

Her daughter in total shock at her son slowly got off his bed and walked to the door.

The boy said, "Don't stop, keep moving."

The mother turned and walked out the room, with her head slightly down because of embarrassment.

Her mother was pretending to look at the television and when her daughter walked in the living room, she folded her arms across her chest and just stared blankly at the television.

The grandmother was scared to turn around and look at her daughter so she was cutting her eyes at her from the side.

They were silent.

The boy jumped up from his bed and they heard the locks on his door.

The locks seemed so loud that their ear drums were burst.

The boy's distrust of them and the fact he was shutting them out of his life.

The mother said very bitterly, "His father turned him against me."

Her mother turned and looked at her angry daughter and said, "What happened tonight to his friends will affect him forever."

His mother very angrily said to her mother, "Don't you know I know that."

Grandmother said, "Know this also, you're going to ask him and GOD to forgive you for not helping that baby."

The grandmother stood up and cutting off the television she tossed the remote on the sofa.

She pass her daughter touched Josh's door.

He was standing with his back to his door and said, what she had said to him for the past five years, "Good night my true love."

Josh use to always respond back by saying, "You're my true love."

The grandmother leaned her ear to his door.

But there was no response nor any sound in his room.

She began to cry silently and walked away.

Her daughter still standing with her arms folded.

The grandmother went into her bedroom and locked her door.

The daughter heard her lock her door.

Josh heard her lock her door.

She would always keep the door unlocked so Josh could always sneak in.

She and Josh would lie on her bed and laugh and talk until they both would fall asleep.

His mother would check in his room before she went to bed and seeing the empty bed made of his pillows under the cover, sometimes she would smile sometimes she would be frustrated because her mother would help Josh be disobedient to her rules about his bedtime.

Josh was shocked at his grandmother and his heart broke.

He went and putting his knees on his bed he cried until he fell asleep.

His mother went and called Josh's father who worked at night.

They had a very heated argument about him trying to poison Josh's thoughts against her.

Josh's father said, "You are a liar." You always lied against me. Why!?"

Josh's mother said, "What lies?" Everything I ever said about you were true. A womanizer, a thief, and a liar and an unfit father."

Josh's father said, "You made me to go and find love. You called me a thief and a liar. I never stole anything my entire life. I work hard for my money and you called me a liar. The only time I lied was to you. Telling you I loved you when I didn't. There! You must be happy with yourself. Our son is going through hell and you calling and screaming at me about you."

Josh's mother was devastated and couldn't say a word. She hung up her phone.

Josh's father looked at his cell phone and realized she had hung up the phone and smirked. He hung up the phone and went back to work.

Both Josh and his grandmother heard part of the conversation.

Josh's mother went in the shower.

Josh's grandmother unlocked her door.

Josh tipped down the hall to his grandmother's bedroom, he leaned his ear to her door and whispered, "Grand momma."

His grandmother said, "Come in my baby."

Josh turned the doorknob and smiled when he realized it was no longer locked.

He opened his grandmother's door and running in he fell on his knees by her bed.

He began to cry and she turned over and held and comforted the true love of her life.

After a while his mother went to bed.

Josh left his grandmother's room and returned to his bedroom.

Falling asleep in his clothes on top of his bed.

The father looked at his son and his son said, "This my daddy."

The girl looked at the man with her arms cradling her books.

The father thought, "Good."

When he looked up he saw people on their porches and saw the police car in front of the boy's house, he lowered his head.

His son perceived his father's pain, but he needed his father to be strong for him.

Children were on the sidewalk to pass the deceased boy's house but stop out of fear and sorrow.

The police had parked on the street in front of the house.

One little boy was so scared he ran pass the house screaming.

The boy's grandfather was quietly standing with a cup of tea in his hand, looking out at the children.

He put the cup up to his lips and sipped the tea but marked the little boy who ran and was screaming.

His wife standing behind him with a cup of tea watching other people's children and grandchildren living, walking, afraid, fearfully and sad.

The boy's mother walked through the hall with her arms wrapped around her waist and her mother and father turned to look at her.

And they instantly ran to her and she sobbed uncontrollably.

The daughter was laying on her bed and her father was lying on her bed and holding his daughter.

They heard her mother.

The father's parent had just arrived and had to show her identifying information before he allowed them to drive up to the house.

The teacher was trying to sit down and looked back and saw the car driving up and said "Who?"

Her mother and father were helping their daughter to sit down but looked up to see who she was talking about.

The teacher looked at the children and how afraid they were and some did not want to pass the house, which made her very sad.

The police officer got out of his patrol car and walked over to the group of children.

Her father stood tall and looked out of the window.

His wife rose up slowly and looked at her husband and then out of the window.

The husband's parents and two of their grandchildren were running to the house.

But her mother was watching her husband.

The doorbell rang.

The boy's grandfather walked to the door and unlocked the door.

The grandmother was still had her eyes on her husband then she looked out the window at the police officer and the children.

The grandfather, opening the door had his eyes on the police officer.

He stepped out onto the porch and held the door opened to let them in, but still watching the police officer.

The grandfather slapped him on his shoulder as they passed him and walked in.

The grandmother was watching her husband who was standing on the porch and let the door close, so he could hear what the police officer was saying to the children.

The police officer said, "It's ok. Go on to school."

One little girl said, "Will you be here tomorrow?"

The police officer looked up and saw the grandfather standing on the steps said, "Yes."

The kids cheered and he said, "Go on to school."

The kids began to run and play.

But the principal across the street was standing on his porch and drinking a cup of coffee but was watching the grandfather.

His wife walked out the house with her hand held out for his coffee cup. He handed his wife the coffee cup and she handed it to the maid that was standing in the front door.

The grandfather was standing in the yard now.

The police officer looked around at the children and neighbors that were watching out for the kids.

He liked that, but he thought, "It should have been done before this baby died."

The police officer waved at the grandfather.

The grandfather did not respond but turned and walked back towards the house.

The principal and his doctor wife looked and she said, "Huh."

Her principal husband looked at her and grunted.

She looked at him.

The maid opened the garage door and he held his wife by her arm and walked around to the garage.

They both got into their Mercedes and drove away.

The principal made sure he caught the grandfather's eye as he did not speak as he passed by.

The grandfather marked the principal.

His wife was watching everything from the window as she stood in front of her daughter.

The boy's father and the group of children were coming into view of the grandmother. The father walked the kids to school.

The grandfather had reached the porch and reaching for the doorknob, when his son-in-law walked out of his daughter's room and seeing his parents yelled and said, "Get the hell out of my house."

His mother rushed to him with her hands up pleading with him and saying, "Please, Please, Jason."

His daughter jumped up and standing ran off the bed and grabbed her father's leg.

He felt his daughter's tight squeeze.

He looked down at his daughter and reached back and hugged her.

His mother and father looked at the daughter, because they never saw her.

The two adopted family members kids (both males one were twelve and one fourteen).

The son looked at the boys and pointed at the boys and said, "Who children are you bastards fucking now?"

The boys just stood still.

The wife just sat on the sofa with her back facing the window.

The mother's father said, "Come on you'll, lets go."

The mother said, "I'm not leaving."

The grandfather was stepping to her, but his wife ran and grabbing her husband pushed back.

The boys were standing still.

The daddy still looking at the boys said to them, "Have they been fucking you?"

His wife looked from her husband to the boys.

Her mother and father looked from his parents to the boys.

His parents looked from him to the boys

The boys didn't say anything.

They were afraid to answer.

The police had let his window down because he heard a yell and was peeping up at the house.

The other boy's daddy was returning from walking the kids to school.

He purposefully came over to the neighborhood to walk his son to school.

He walked up to the house of the older man that was a witness.

The older man saw him coming into his yard.

The older man looked around to see where his ill wife was.

He tipping out of the house motioned to the boy's father to stop.

He went out the house.

HE and the boy's father had a very long conversation.

They stood and talked until the nosey postal delivery man drove up, who was glad to see somebody out.

He hopped out of his truck with the older man's mail in his hand.

The older man said, "We'll talk again."

The boy's daddy looked around at the postman and walked off.

The postman stopped and looked at the boy's daddy, as he walked away.

The older man's wife was calling for him from the house.

The man turned and looked back at the house.

The postman approached and had the couple's mail in his hands, just some junk mail he had gathered just to have the time to try to find out some news.

He reached the mail to the older man and the older man looked through the mail and said "Dennis, I told you many times not to bring no damn junk mail. You're not smart you only pulled this together so you can get out of the truck to ask me about what happened."

Using the junk mail he pointed at the mail truck and said, "Now you gone."

The older man's wife beeped him on his cell phone.

The older man ran into the house and throwing the junk mail into the garbage can near the garage as he entered the house for his wife.

His wife looked at him, as she felt on the sofa to find her pills.

The older man got on his knees and his hand on the sofa and looking under the sofa finding her pills.

He heard the angry Dennis drive away.

He handed his wife her pills and walked into the kitchen getting a glass and opened the refrigerator door and pulling out the orange juice, he poured a large glass of orange juice.

He walked into the living room and pulling a chair up to the sofa, where his wife had made her bed, he slowly passed her the pills and held the glass of juice to her lips for her to sip after each pill, until she became sick and he helped her to the bathroom.

The postman was mad and cursing through most of his morning route.

The boy's father was walking back to his car that he parked on the street so he would not block his wife's car.

As he walked to his car, he saw her in the driveway opening her car door.

He stuck his tongue out at her, got into his truck and pulled off.

She stood at her car and rolled her eyes at him and was slowly mouthing at him.

Her mother was standing in the doorway and saw the spectacle.

She stepped out of the door and had difficulty locking the door because she had her brief case and several cannisters that enclosed blueprints of a building her architectural firm had designed and her daughter's construction company was building.

The daughter pulled her Mercedes out of the driveway and waved at her mother as she turned and went to work.

The mother looked around at her humble neighborhood and got to her classic car and loaded it up with work items and drove away.

The girl still gripping her father's leg was being carried forward by her father rushing with his hands out to choke his daddy.

The girl's mother jumped off the sofa and rushed to her husband and said, "Hubby please, our son is laying on a slab, Please, please help me."

Her husband was so enraged that made him even more angry and she was holding his hands in the air and their daughter was grabbing his legs and screaming, "Daddy! Daddy!"

The boys were afraid and standing by the door.

The police officer just opened the front door and walked in.

He looked at the boys and had a funny feeling in his stomach.

He looked around at the scene before him.

He said to the man's parents, "Leave, Now."

They turned and walking passed the police, the mother said to the boys, "Come on." in a very sad and soft voice.

One boy tapped the other boy.

They did not move.

She looked back at the boys and said very sternly, "Come on out of this house."

The man had half ran out of the house to get to the car.

The police officer looked at the boys, one looked up at the police officer the other boy had his head down.

The police officer instantly knew the boys were sexually abused.

He pushed the boys back into the house. And he ran behind the man and woman. The grandfather and grandmother ran to the door.

The wife and husband and their daughter ran to the door, rather the girl was still riding her father's leg.

The police said, "Stop!"

They ran to the car.

The police slung open the woman's car door and said, "Get out."

The grandfather, who had his hand on the car door raised his hands in the air.

The principal's maid was looking out the window and ran out the house to get the mail, to get a better look.

The police officer put handcuffs on both the man and woman and called for help.

The transport arrived and took the grandparents to the precinct.

Another car arrived from children services and carried the boys away.

One boy was crying and shaking very hard.

The other boy was angry and said, "Why did you'll wait so long to help us?"

The mother's father looked at the boy.

The children service worker said, "We're sorry, but let us help you now."

The grandfather, mother and her husband were walking down the steps and taking boxes to the cars and trucks.

The little girl had a box full of her brother's things.

When her parents were in the kitchen months earlier arguing about his stuff, she hid in the hallway and listened to both parents.

Her grandparents were sitting at the dining room table the little girl burst into the kitchen.

Her grandmother saw a little dot.

Her grandfather just stood up to excuse himself.

He was just as torn about what to do with their beloved son's toys and things.

The little girl started yelling at her parents and throwing her hands up in the air, "He was my brother. You don't have the right to say he doesn't live any more. He lives with JESUS."

She began to cry and scream in pain, both parents and grandparents rushed to the little girl and her mother and father held her as she screamed and hurt for her brother.

The mother and father holding their daughter cried with her and cried because of her pain of losing her brother.

Her mother said, "Baby, I am so selfish. I have been thinking about my pain."

Little girl said, "Yes you are mommie."

Her father slipped a half smile through his tears and pain.

The little girl looked at him and said, "You too daddy."

He held his head down and cried, he missed his baby boy.

The little girl said, "You forgot his birthday is tomorrow. I invited all his friends over for his birthday party and told them they can take his things."

The mother said, "You did what?"

The father looked up at his daughter's face.

Her grandmother said harshly, "You didn't have the right to do that without talking to your parents and letting them decide."

Her husband touched her elbow, she jerked her arm away.

The little girl looked at her grandfather with a primed mouth and tears flowing down her cheeks.

Her grandfather could not scold the only grandchild he had left.

He reached his hands to her and pressed by his wife, who meet his angry eyes at her, and picked up his granddaughter.

Her mother sat on the kitchen floor silently in deep thought and her husband was on one knee and he was thinking.

The grandmother folding her arms walked away down the hallway.

The mother began to touch her stomach and looked down at it.

Her husband was rubbing his mouth, which he did when he was very upset and couldn't think, he caught a glimpse of his wife's actions.

He began to think back over that painful two days his wife was in labor. Her father threatened him for causing his princess pain. But when she delivered the baby boy and she placed him in his father's arms. He began to cry at this wonderful gift of a person GOD had just given to them. He promised GOD he would watch over him and do the best he could to raise him up in JESUS and when he would fall short, he asked GOD and JESUS to step in and bridge the gap to show him how to be a good man and a better father. He touched his heart with his hand.

The little girl hugging her grandfather's neck turned his neck loose and slide to the floor, she went down the hall and standing in the hallway, she turned on the wall light.

The light caught her mother's eye, but she did not turn to look.

The girl walked into her brother's room and laid on his bed and began to look around.

She looked up at his closet and opened her mouth with an expression of great surprise.

Her grandfather had followed behind her and was standing in hall.

He walked to the door he saw his wife standing looking out the hallway window.

He stood in his best friend's doorway and was a coward, because he had not entered the door for months.

They would keep the door closed like shutting him off from them.

And they all know he was not the type of person you could ignore.

The family was trying their best to forget this boy who was all of their lives.

The grandfather saw the look of a big surprise on his granddaughter's face, he followed her surprised look.

He looked at the top of his closet and grinned and stood on his tip toes to reach it.

The girl was on her knees on the bed reaching for his football helmet and her grandfather tossed it to her and she couldn't catch it, but it landed directly in front of her.

She giggle.

The grandmother standing in the hallway window, slightly turned her head to see the light in her baby's room and to hear giggles that weren't his.

Her daughter caught her eyes for a brief second down the hall and looked over at her husband and he looked at her and said, "Let's do it."

His wife nodded her head in agreement.

She glimpsed her mother's silhouette moving through the hallway.

Her husband saw her too and jumped up and beat her to his son's room. And touched her on her shoulders.

The little girl and her grandfather were sitting on the bed and looked up at the grandmother, who was known to have fits of anger.

The grandmother looked at him.

The wife walks to the room door and her father looked at her.

She said to her daughter, "Well missy..."

The girl knew when her mother say, "Missy" she would get what she wanted.

The girl smiled big.

The mother continued, "...What time is the party?"

The girl jumping on the bed in excitement said, "4:00 pm."

The grandfather laughed and catching his granddaughter said, "You better be still or you'll be tumbling off this bed."

The grandmother stomped off.

The father removed his hands off her shoulder.

Her daughter peeped around her husband's back to see her mother's face, as she

stomped pass her.

The little girl said to her grandfather, "She does not like me."

The grandfather said, "Who cares. I love you!"

He pulled his granddaughter to him and hugged her planting a big kiss on her temple.

Everyone heard the grandmother slam the bedroom door.

They all looked at the grandfather.

The grandfather said. "That's my cue."

He began to push himself off the bed.

The little girl on her knees was trying to help her grandfather up by pulling on his arm. Her father looked at the grandfather with concern because he was having difficulty getting up.

He winked at his daughter and her husband, because he was giving his granddaughter the chance to "help him."

The grandfather was grunting as he used his hands to push himself off the bed.

The girl looked around into her grandfather's face and said to him, "You're fooling me."

They all laughed.

He kissed her on her forehead and getting up he kissed his daughter on her forehead.

And her husband leaned over for the grandfather to kiss him on his forehead.

The grandfather said, "We're not there yet."

He patted him on the shoulder and was about to pass out the room.

Then the little girl said, "I didn't invite him."

The mother stopped smiling and looked at her daughter because she knew the "him" her daughter was talking about.

The mother said, "Who?"

The little girl looking down and rolling the hem of her top up and biting her lips.

The father having a questioning look on his face looked at his daughter.

The grandfather with his back to his granddaughter, leaving the room looked at his daughter's face.

She slowly walked into the room and sat next to her daughter.

The grandfather turned around to watch.

They heard the grandmother stomp upstairs.

They cut their eyes upstairs.

They knew she did that when she was angry and wanted to be pampered

No one ran to her.

The mother looking at her daughter's knuckles pale from her anger and pain rolled her hem so tight.

She took her daughter's tight hands and said to her "What have you done?"

The girl looked at her grandfather and father.

She began to bite her lip.

Her father began to get a pain in his stomach.

Her mother said, "Tell me, now!"

The little girl with her shoulder shrugging and her head leaning towards her mother and looking down.

The little girl said, "I didn't invite him to the party."

The father exhale and smiling at the grandfather.

His wife looked at him.

The grandfather had a very intense look on his face and said to his granddaughter "You did something."

The mother looked at her father and jerked and looked at her daughter.

She jerked her daughter up from the bed and holding her and looking into her face and shook her said "What have you done?"

The father said to his wife, "What are you doing?"

The mother said, "Shut up!"

Her husband said, "What!"

And made a step into the room.

The grandfather grabbed him by the hand.

The husband was enraged and didn't notice the grandfather had his hand.

The mother rolled her eyes at him.

The little girl knew she was in troubled and her mother shook her again.

The girl looked at her father then her adoring grandfather.

Then she reached her hand out to her grandfather.

The father looked.

The grandfather very stern said, "No. Tell us what you have done."

The little girl said, "I hate him. I told all the kids at school not to have anything to do with him."

The mother said, "Why?"

The little girl said, "If it was not for him my brother would not be dead. I told him I wish he was dead not my brother."

The father put his hands up to his head and closing his eyes held his head back exhaling loudly.

The grandmother had come back downstairs and was standing behind her husband when she heard her granddaughter confession.

Her mother said, "You told another child that?"

The girl primped her mouth.

The mother looked up at her husband and said, "Go and get her electronics.

The father said, "What?"

The mother said, "Dad!"

The grandfather, "Right."

The grandmother looked at the granddaughter with displeasure.

The granddaughter whined and held her head down.

The father walked over and sat next to the mother and bent over looking at his daughter.

They sat in silence.

The grandfather emerged from the granddaughter's room with her electronics.

He passed the grandmother who walked in the room after her husband.

He grandfather reached the electronics to his daughter.

She and her husband went from page to page and they were appalled.

The grandmother stood and gave her granddaughter an icy glare.

Her daughter looked up at her mother and reached her one of the texts.

Her grandmother rolled her eyes at granddaughter.

The little girl became scared.

The grandmother said to her granddaughter, "What the hell are you doing?"

Her daughter said, "Momma don't curse my child."

She and her mother stared at each other.

The father jumped off the bed and began to grit his teeth and swing his arms.

He said, "If anyone finds out about this, you know you can go to jail?"

The little girl jerked back in fear and said, "He's poor. He doesn't have these things."

Her mother slapped her.

The father looked from mother to daughter.

The grandfather did not fletch.

The grandmother turned and went into the kitchen and they heard her go upstairs and slammed her door.

Her father said, "How dare you call anyone poor?"

The girl rubbing her face, "Because he is."

The mother grabbed her and shook her. "You are poor."

She took all the electronics and handed them to her father.

She said, "Dad, can you erase all of that stuff?"

The son-in-law looked at his wife then the grandfather.

The grandfather said, "Sure."

The girl leaping to snatch her stuff from her grandfather was pushed into the bed by her mother.

The father taking one of her phones and was reading it.

He just shook his head and trying to keep all of it in, he began to stomp his feet and covered his face, he wept.

His wife looked at her husband and got up and walked over to console him he turned and hugged her and cried.

The daughter was sitting on the bed and her grandfather came back in thirty minutes and reached the electronics to the mother and the father turned her wife loose.

The mother turned and walked over to her daughter and stood over her.

She said, "You have no business calling no one poor. Some people were able to go to college and get a better paying job. That's what happened to me and your father, we were determined to make a better life for our children. That's why we took on additional jobs for you to have your parties, your electronics, (she shook in her face) and your good shoes and clothes. All of that stops now! Never again will I work this hard to get you extra, little girl."

The little girl sat there.

Her mother said, "You sent out texts against this little boy. You bullied him. You told him to kill himself, so you won't have to do it. You told all the kids to stop being his friend and don't play with this child!!"

Mother screaming.

She said, "You can go to jail! Maybe you should go so you won't have good shoes, good clothes and all of these cell phones and computers. So you can wear the same clothes

every day and work from morning to night. And don't go to school and skating and to the malls. Who told you, you had the right to judge that little boy to destroy him! He was your brother's friend from nursery to the day my son died."

Hitting her chest.

The mother said, "You don't make any decisions on who is to die or who is to live! You hear me little girl?"

The little girl began to cover her ears and scooted back to her brother's headboard to escape her mother's anger she never knew her mother had.

The mother said, "I love that boy. I loved him as I did your brother. Your brother loved him."

The mother had moved over to the head of the bed screaming at her daughter.

The grandmother had come back and was standing in the door

The father was standing and looking.

The grandfather was standing and not saying a word.

The little girl had her ears covered and looked around the room at her father.

Her mother was in a rage, "You are no better than that dirty dog that killed my son..."

Pointing to her chest.

The mother said, "You are a murderer just like that dog. That baby was hurt and he already feel guilty and you had to add to it. Just evil."

The mother reached and snatched her daughter off the bed and said, "Get your shoes."

Everyone looked at the mother.

She walked out her son's room and went to her bedroom and into the bathroom.

And leaned over the sink panting and trying to calm herself down.

Her husband ran into the bathroom and stopping at the door then he ran to his wife and putting his hand on her back.

She lifted up her head and looked at herself in the mirror.

They drove over to the boy's house.

His mother's van was in the driveway.

It was late evening.

There was a knock on the door.

The mother said, "Honey, get the door for me while I put your sister's clothes on."

The little boy was doing homework at the kitchen table.

He put down his pencil and scooted out of the chair.

His mother laughed.

His head was down.

She looked at him and frowned up.

She was peeping around the corner at the door.

He opened the door and saw the little girl and the other people with her.

The little boy said, "What do you want? You hate me, why are you here?"

His mother ran into the living room to the door, putting down her half dressed daughter and telling her to stay by the sofa.

His mother pulled him away from the door and putting him behind her.

The neighbors were watching.

Josh and his grandfather were driving by.

Josh yelled to his grandmother and said, "Stop!"

Pointing at the boy's house.

He said, "That's the girl that has been bullying my friend. Are you gonna keep on driving granny like my momma?"

She pulled the car over and parked.

She said, "No, I am more concerned about my car."

Josh jumped out of the car and ran up the pathway to the door.

Everyone turned and looked at Josh.

The little boy peeped around and saw Josh and smiled.

He had not seen Josh for several months because after the hospital and rehab, he just went to school and back home.

His police cousins had been helping his mother out by picking him and the baby sister up and taking them home.

The boy missed his beloved football and his friends, especially the one that tried to help him.

The boy's mother said, "What is going on?"

Josh's grandmother had walked up but kept looking back at her car.

The boy's mother said, "Ma'am, no one is going to steal your car."

Josh's grandmother said nothing but cut her eyes at the boy's mother but to her car.

The father said, "Ma'am, we just wanted to talk to you for a minute."

The boy's mother looked at Josh and said, "Come in Josh."

Josh ran in and the little baby girl began to do a little dance, because she was happy to see Josh.

The mother looked at her son, who moved closer to his mother.

She said, "Shirley, I have known you for a long time, what is going on?"

Shirley held her head down slightly and lifted her head up and looked at the mother and the eight year boy.

She smiled.

She said to the boy, "I really love you. You know that?"

The boy said, "Not your daughter."

The mother looked at her son.

Josh sitting on the sofa said, "Tell your momma what she had been doing to you."

His mother looked at him then at the little girl whom the father was holding in front of him.

His mother began to get anxious and Josh's grandmother stood on the side so she can see everything.

The parents of the little girl said, "Can we come inside?"

The mother stepped back and said to her son, "Let them in baby."

He looked at her then the little girl.

He walked over and went into the kitchen and sat at the table to do his homework.

Josh picked up his baby sister and went and sat down with him at the kitchen table.

Everyone came in, including Josh's grandmother, but she stood in the door. But the boy's mother said as Josh's grandmother was peeping out the door, "You can't stand in the door."

She looked at her and stepped inside and the boy's mother smirked, as she closed the door.

The mother sat and pulled out one of the electronics and the boy's mother was reading it.

She was baffled.

Josh's grandmother was trying to keep an eye on her car and the cell phone the boy's mother was reading.

The boy's mother shaking her head turned and looked at the little girl.

The father was still holding her.

The grandmother was sitting next to her daughter.

The grandfather was standing next to his son-in-law near the kitchen.

The mother not really being able to speak said, "You hate my son. My boy."

Pointing to her heart.

Shirley touched her hands.

She moved Shirley's hand.

She looked at Shirley and said, "Shirley, no one can ever know what you are going through."

Shirley looked at the boy's mother and said with a broken voice, "I wanted you to know, because your pain for your son is as great as the pain I have. We share like pain."

She swallowed and turning slightly to the boy's mother and said, "I don't want any harm to come to your son from my daughter's actions".

Josh's grandmother was listening.

Josh, yelling from the kitchen, "It's too late, she made everybody, but me hate him."

Josh's grandmother snapped around from peeping out the window, "Hush Josh."

Josh said, "But it is the truth."

Shirley said to her daughter, "Apologize."

The daughter held her head down and primped her mouth and said to the boy's mother, "I'm sorry."

Shirley said, "Now you turn around and apologize to him. Come here baby."

The boy got out of the chair and walked over to the little girl.

Shirley said, "You better apologize."

The girl started crying and wiping her face.

Shirley said, "Aint nobody got time for that, dry it up and apologize."

The girl said, "I'm sorry."

The little boy said, "That aint an apology" and walked away to the kitchen.

Josh said, "Nall that's no apology! With all that stuff you said and done. She jumped in his face coming from the cafeteria and spit in his face."

Josh kept playing with the baby.

The boy's mother jumped up.

Shirley jumped up.

The father was stunned.

The grandfather turned his head from Josh to his granddaughter.

Josh's grandmother looked over at the little girl then at the grandmother and grunted

and continued to look out the window.

The father said, "I don't believe."

The mother raised her hand up for her husband to be quiet.

He looked at her.

She said, "I believe it because a few teachers began to act very funky towards me. They must have thought I was teaching you this."

The daddy looked down into his daughter face.

Josh's grandmother said "Josh, lets leave."

Josh said, "But granny,"

She looked at him son.

Josh put the baby girl in the seat and playing with the boy walked over to his grandmother.

Josh hugged the boy's mommy and said to the boy, "I'll be here with you tomorrow for your birthday party. I won't go to the party they are having."

And josh winked at the boy.

That made the boy happy.

Shirley turned quickly to the boy's mother and said, "That's right. They have the same birthday."

Shirley looked at her husband, her father and her mother, who looked back her.

She said, "Can we combine the parties?"

The boy's spirit had picked up some, as he held his pencil in his hand.

His mother looking at the little girl said very dry, "No."

Josh's grandmother was standing at the door to see what was going to happen.

The boy's mother walked over to the door opening it said to Josh, "Come over about 4:00 pm."

Josh hugged her and said, "Yes ma'am."

The boy's mother said, "Catch the bus."

Josh's grandmother smirked and the boy's mother watched as they got into the car.

The boy's mother standing at the opened door said, "Honey you have anything to say?"

He turned his head sideways as he twirled the pencil.

He said, "He was my best friend. He helped me that day. He saved my life. I will always love him for that. Why him dying and not me, I don't know. I could have told on you, but that would have made him sad. I don't want him to be sad. But don't hurt me again!"

Shirley had her hand over her heart and cried.

Stunned by the sensitivity of the small child.

His mother said, "Good night."

The girl and her family left.

The next day, the boy, his sister, Josh and his mother were eating birthday cake and cupcakes and ice cream and listening to music and laughing.

Shirley and her family had a very large crowd of children and parents.

The little girl made a presentation and gave away some of her brother's stuff to his teammates and friends.

As the four celebrate his birthday, he was blowing his horn and got choked.

Josh looked at him in fear.

His little sister continued to laugh and giggle.

His mother rushed over and began to hit her son in his back and then he began to cough with tears in his eyes.

The knocking at the door turned into a banging.

The boy's mother frantically yelled, "Josh get the door."

Josh jumped up and ran to the door and but peeped out the curtain and saw his mother and his grandmother.

He saw his mother put her hand over her heart in relief and breathe out.

Josh knew she thought it was him.

He rolled his eyes and walked back into the kitchen.

She said, "Josh who was at the door?"

The grandmother rang the doorbell.

His mother pulled out her cell phone and called the house phone.

The mother said, "Please Josh."

Josh picked up the phone on the living room coffee table.

He said, "Hello."

His mother said, "Josh get over here and open the door, she needs help."

Josh hung up the phone and said, "Telemarketers."

The boy was sitting with tears in his eyes, looking at Josh.

His baby sister was looking at her cupcake and playing with her frosting.

They heard car doors closing outside, then muffled voices.

A knock on the door and then keys.

The boy was peeping around Josh.

The little girl slid out of her chair and ran to the door as it was opening.

Their two police officer cousins walked in front and saw their little cousin having an attack.

The baby ran to her cousin, he picked her up and kissed her and his eyes watered and stepped outside with the baby for a few minutes.

Josh grandmother had stepped inside with Mrs. Gray who had gifts.

Josh's grandmother looked at the police officer who walked in, then she realized the boy's condition was worse than they knew.

She looked at her daughter who found a seat on the sofa and sat blinking her eyes at the other cousin.

Josh said, "Can I see?"

The grandmother wanted to see also, she coyly walked into the kitchen ahead of Mrs. Gray, who looked at her because she knew the grandmother wanted to see the scars and damage to her sister's grand baby.

The boy's mother said to him as she put one hand on his shoulder and was still rubbing his back, "Do you want him to see your back?"

The boy looked at Josh and said to his mother, looking deep into her eyes, "It's okay."

She knew he meant his hurt and pain was okay and she did not have to worry about him.

She bit her lips.

Motioned to Josh.

Josh's grandmother beat him over to the boy.

Josh looked at his grandmother and said, "Huh."

Josh mother had just caught the police officer's attention, who immediately turned his attention back to his cousin's little boy.

The other cousin was walking back into the house with the baby girl, and saw Josh and grandmother looking at the boy's back.

The baby jumped towards the floor and she ran into the kitchen and was looking at his back and went into the living room and got on her knees and got the oven mitt she use to rub his back and ran back into the kitchen and looked at her cupcake.

She rubbed his back.

The cousin who walked in from the outside said, "Why are you showing his back?"

The grandmother said, "I'm sorry."

She walked out the kitchen and sat next to her daughter.

His brother turned and looked at his brother.

His mother, Mrs. Gray said, "He told his friend he could see."

The little boy leaning forward and looking at his cousin said, "You brought me a gift?"

They smiled.

The cousin said, "Yeap."

He went into the shopping bag his mother brought into the house and got a bright colored gift bag.

Josh said to the boy, "Man."

He looked at his mother and thought, "If she would have helped him."

Josh's mother turned and looked at him and could see in his eyes his hate for her because of the boy's injuries.

Josh dropped his head and was silent for a moment.

The baby ran back to her chair and was about to hop up in it until her mother said, "Baby" and nodded at the oven mitt.

The baby slid off the chair and her mother said, "Give me a kiss."

The baby gave her a kiss and picked up the oven mitt and ran and put it back on the coffee table and ran back to her chair and Josh helped put her up in the chair.

The baby got on her knees and began to dive into her cupcake.

Her mother laughed.

Her brother laughed.

Her aunt and cousins laughed.

Josh was quiet.

The boy noticed Josh was quiet.

Josh's grandmother and mother politely smiled.

The boy looked in the living room at them.

The boy said, "It hurts all the time, sometimes more than others."

He took a big bite of his birthday cake.

The police officer cousin said, "Open it."

Josh said, "Are you coming back to the team?"

Josh stumbled backwards.

The cousin said, "No."

The boy looked up at his cousin and held his head down.

His mother said, "Open your gift."

She stood between Josh and her son and touched Josh on his shoulder.

The boy pulled out an official football helmet.

The boy jumped out the chair and gave his cousin a high five.

His cousin got on his knees and helped put the helmet on the boy.

He thought if she had bought it maybe his skull would not be cracked.

The boy's mother was thinking at the same time, "If I had bought that helmet he may have had it on and that could have protected his skull."

As the boy slept that night, he had his helmet next to him.

His mother rubbed his head.

She sang over him and said, "JESUS loves all the children in the world."

Then she said, "JESUS, please help him."

She sat there and just looked at her boy.

Then she got up and looked at his gifts and moved everything to his desk.

She turned off his wall light and as she walked out the room, her doorbell rang and she peeped around the corner and walked to the door and peeped out.

She opened the door and it was the boy's father, mother, sister, his uncles and aunts, a very large group of people.

She turned to see her son and her daughter were awake and standing in their pajamas.

She was startled.

Shirley was peeping around to see the children.

Shirley said, "Hi babies."

The little girl began to do her dance and everyone laughed.

He was looking for the girl.

Her father knew he was looking for her.

He pushed her out and said, "Speak!"

The little girl looked in her father's eyes.

She walked over to the boy and said, "Hi."

He said, "Hi."

He looked at the gift box she was holding and said, "You gonna give that to me?"

Her grandfather laughed and looked at his wife.

She was holding onto his arm and smiling.

He had not smiled since the day her baby had died.

The mother was looking at the people who was coming into her house and she saw her cousin rushing to the door.

Cousin looked around said, "Who these people?"

Shirley said, "My cousins."

Her cousin looked at her.

He said, "It's nine o'clock."

Shirley said touching his elbow, "I know, but I want him to have it."

The little boy screamed when he saw the helmet.

He said, "Look, I got another one."

His mother laughed and said, "I see."

The boy said, "Wait. This's not new."

He was turning the helmet over and over until he saw his friends name in it.

He said, "Mom. It's his helmets."

The little girl said, "I want you to have it."

The door bell rang.

It was pizza being delivered.

The boy had a plate with a piece of pizza on it.

And he sat with the helmet on it and was swinging his legs and the little girl walked over and was talking to him.

The little boy was looking for his mother and when she finally looked around and saw him, the boy said, "My best birthday."

His mother laughed.

Josh was at home talking to his grandmother about the boy's injuries and scares.

Josh's mother walked into the living room and kissed her son on the top of his head.

Simultaneously the doorbell rang.

Her mother looked up at her daughter.

Josh's mother picked up her purse and coat.

Slinging the coat over her arms she walked and open the door.

The grandmother and Josh saw it was one of the police cousins.

He stepped in the door and said, "Good evening."

Josh waved.

Josh's grandmother said, "Good evening."

Josh's mother said, "Don't put the hook on."

As she slung her hair back and walked out the door.

The cousin closing the door said, "Good night."

Both Josh and his grandmother looked at each other.

Josh said, "What are we going to do?"

His grandmother looked at him and said, "Go to Bed!!!"

Josh said, "That works for me."

He got on his knees where he was sitting and folded his hands in prayer.

He elbowed his grandmother's leg.

She got on her knees.

She looked at Josh and said, "Thanks, I need to be reminded HE is GOD. Especially today."

Josh grabbed her hand and said, "JESUS help us. Don't let me hate my mother. Please help him, because my best friend is with you and he is good. Help us to be good so we can be with you when it is time."

Josh's grandmother heard the door while Josh was praying and turning looked into the 'face of her daughter who looked at her son when he said 'Don't let me hate my mother' tearing up she tipped toed over and picked up her scarf and went out the door to her waiting gentleman.

The moving day was finally there.

The police cruiser was parked in front of their house.

The neighbors were standing in their yards, on their porches, and some walking on the sidewalks.

The principal was standing on his porch sipping coffee.

His wife was standing in the door.

Josh ran down the sidewalk and in the yard waving.

The boy's sister saw Josh and waved as she stood on the ground holding her baby dolls in her arms.

The grandfather was coming down the steps with a loaded box in his arms passing his granddaughter and looked at Josh and said, "Good morning Josh."

Josh said, "Good morning."

He looked at the two moving trucks and said, "You'll sure got a lot of stuff."

As Josh spoke the smaller moving truck drove down the driveway and turned right and proceeded down the street.

Josh looked with a questioning look as he took her brother's football in his hands.

He mother and daddy passed by with the last of the boxes.

The grandmother walks down the steps dressed up and placed her sunglasses on and was swinging her purse.

Josh peeped around the sister and said to the grandmother, "You look good this morning."

She smiled as she stopped on the last step and exhaled, "Josh, I look good every morning. It's the rest of the day that gives me a fit."

Her husband looked at her and reached his hand to her.

The principal's wife joined him on the porch and sat on the arm of the chair he was now sitting in.

She said, "Did you ever find out anything on the grandfather?"

The principal, "Not a damn thing."

The wife, who used to be military intelligence said, "That's strange."

The principal said, "Yeap."

The grandmother took her husband's hand and proceeded to their car.

The boy's doorbell rang.

As he was opening the door, he saw a big truck then the uniformed employees.

One of the employees said, "Hey call your mom."

The boy said, "Mom."

His mother came around the corner in a hurry, and reaching the door, she pulled it open and saw the uniformed employees. She peeped around them, at the truck.

She said, "Hello."

One of the employees looked at her up and down and then grinned.

The other employee with a clip board in his hand elbowed the other employee.

He said "Ma'am, we have a delivery for you."

The mother said, "What delivery? I haven't bought anything."

The employee with the clip board handed her a note and said, "I was told to give this to you."

The mother took the note and began to read it when she looked at the grinning employee, who winked at her.

The boy was standing next to his mother and winked back at the employee.

The employee was embarrassed and just stood still.

The mother opened the note and it said, "I know it is too little for your kindness and this is our way of saying Thanks to you and your wonderful boy. Shirley."

The mother said, "What is it?"

The clip board employee said, "Wait and see. We have to come in and check things out.

The two men stepped inside and looked around and took out of the house the old living room furniture.

The woman ran and got her broom and begin to sweep the living room.

The men entered carrying an expensive sofa.

The woman and her son mouths flew open and they looked at each other.

The men came back carrying the tables.

The mother smiled and said, "Now I HAVE TO PAINT."

The clipboard employee looked at the winking employee.

The winking employee putting down the sofa table looked at the woman and said, "Ma'am, I can help. Help paint."

She looked at him and said, "Alright."

The mother and daddy stood and looked at their house for the last time.

Josh hugged them.

Then he hugged the little girl and walked down the driveway to go home with his head down.

As he was passing by the people on the sidewalk his mother touched his shoulder and he looked up and his mother, father, and grandmother who turned and walked home with

him.

The little girl turned and waved to her brother who was in the window.

She looked over at the principal and his wife, who was looking at her startled.

The little girl ran and got in her parents' new luxury car.

The car went down the driveway.

The boy smiled as his little sister turned back and looked at him.

His father was looking in the mirror and nearly stopped the car.

The little girl realized her father saw her brother and her mother said, "What?"

The father said, "We're leaving our son."

The mother said, "What are you talking about!!?"

She said, "Stop the car>"

He stopped the car.

Her parents were behind them.

The mother got out the car and stood and looked back at the house and she threw her hands over her mouth.

Her father said to his wife, "She finally sees him for the last time."

His wife turning to look back said, "Yeap."

The principal and his wife ran into the house and locked the door.

The other neighbors thought she was upset to be leaving.

Her husband got out the car and walks over to his wife and held her.

She said, "My baby."

Her husband kissed her forehead and helped her to her seat.

He walked around the car and got in.

Their daughter was looking back and grinning as they pulled out of the driveway.

The moving truck employee, the woman, her son and baby girl were shopping for paint and a rug.

They were all walking together in the parking lot when the mother and boy stopped.

They saw the murderer in a pickup truck.

He saw them and told the person driving to speed up.

The mother grabbed her son.

They looked at the pick- up truck license number.

His mother was so nervous she was looking through her purse for her gun.

The employee looked at her and turned at the boy and his mother and said, "What's wrong?"

Neither said anything.

Then the boy said pointing at the pick- up truck, "That man hurt me."

The employee thought the mother was nervously looking for a phone.

He gave her his cell phone.

She called the detective on the case.

He answered the phone, but realizing it was the boy's mother, exhaled, leaned back into his chair and began hitting his pen on his desk.

The boy's mother would call him three to four times per day, every day and on Saturdays and Sundays.

The mother screamed, "He's here at the store!"

The detective jumped up and said, "What store?"

The woman said, "Paint Depot on 11th."

The detective said, "Don't pursue. I'm on my way."

She found her gun and she looked at her children.

The employee said, "He's not worth you not being with your children."

The detective walked back to the woman and her children with a CD in his hand. He

raised the CD up and said, "He's on the tape. I'll work on it."

He got into his car and left.

The woman was leaning on the car.

The man was watching the little girl.

The woman was holding on tightly to her son.

The employee said, "Lets go."

He looked at the detective scuffling.

They got into the car and drove away.

The boy's family was driving around.

The principal and his wife were driving.

The grandparents were driving back home.

Josh and his father were in his father's truck and they were driving to a baseball game.

Josh's mother and grandmother and his mother's new boyfriend were driving to a sushi bar.

The evil man was walking on a street.

He looked around and walked to a car and pulled the handle on the passenger side opening the door he slid over to the driver's side.

He hot- wired the car and drove off as the people ran behind him.

He smirked his evil smile and huffed.

The police detective was passing across in front of him.

The evil man stopped and watched the police detective drive away.

The police detective looking around and observing his environment saw people running down the street.

The evil man watching the people and the detective.

He ran the traffic light.

The detective looked at the car and person in the car and at the traffic light to see the light had not changed for the driver to go and in his mind he was processing the image in his mind and when he zoomed in he realized it was the killer.

People ran up to him because they saw the car and knowing it was a police car.

Another police car pulled up and the officer was getting out.

The detective began to run to his car.

The police officer looked.

The detective wildly swung his car around and drove with great speed and carelessness to get to the evil man.

The evil man had pulled over to the side between two buildings and sat and waiting, saw the detective pass him.

He smirked.

He started the car up and drove across the street to another expressway.

The evil man continued to drive through the night and sleeping in the car he hid away from sight on the expressway.

He got up the next morning stepping out of the car and stretching.

He returned to the car and continued to drive passing through mountains.

The detective was sitting at his desk with his arms stretched out before him.

The police officer the day before walked and said, "Here's the video surveillance from the car theft."

The detective said sourly, "Put it on."

The police officer looked at him because he was thinking, "Who is he talking to?"

They both watched the video.

The detective's cell phone rang.

He looked at the block telephone number.

The evil man driving with his left elbow on the rolled down window and smirking had the cell phone to his ear and said, "You lost again."

Laughing, hung up the cell phone.

The detective threw his cell phone against the wall breaking it.

The detective's captain passing by his office said, "You better stop, you know how much you get paid."

The captain looked at him and said,

“Was it him again?”

The detective said, “Yes sir.”

The police officer looked at the two of them and walked out.

As he walked out the detective’s office he began to remember the case, because he was the one that sat at the boy’s house in his patrol car.

The evil man driving was smirking to himself.

Then he began to laugh out loudly passing through the mountains with a gun by his side on the passenger seat.