Andrew walked out the lobby of the training complex.

He unhooked his gun and continued to walk.

It was getting dark.

He could walk the whole headquarters in total darkness.

He would blindfold himself and earned the entire headquarters complex.

His mother use to play with him and Bruce.

She would blindfold them and have them learn their house in total darkness.

She had a friend when went blind and had to have people lead her through her house.

Shirley could not cope with her friend being so helpless.

Skip did not say anything because he saw Shirley would not move from having Bruce and Andrew learn their house.

The boys had become so good, they learned their back and front yards.

They would play with their friends blindfolded and Shirley taught them to recognize sounds.

Andrew and Bruce would lay out in the backyard with their eyes closed and listen to sounds.

Shirley and Skip would be talking but watching the boys.

Andrew and Bruce had become so good at naming the different type of birds and flying insects and snakes.

Skip was so proud of his boys, he turned to Shirley and hugged and kissed her.

Skip said, “At first I was against this, but you my love have trained our boys not to depend on anyone or anything. I love that about you.”

Skip was holding Andrew and Shirley was holding Bruce’s hand.

Andrew was running around the headquarters blindfolded.

The soldiers, including the commanders were complaining about Andrew knocking them down or bumping into them.

Skip said, “He’s just learning his environment.”

When Danny was in training with Skip at the headquarters, he would watch Andrew.

Skip would watch Danny watching Andrew.

Danny would grin as Andrew felt his way around headquarters.

Andrew would walk with his hands in front of him.

He would be poking soldiers in the eyes or the back of their heads or their private parts.

The soldiers would watch out for Andrew and run out of his way.

Andrew would especially poke them with his fingers when he wanted to jump line and get his food.

Skip would watch Andrew scam and told him to stop before the soldiers jump him and he was not going to discipline the soldiers because of his dishonesty.

Andrew would pull the blindfold up to eat his food.

He had not learned to trust the cooks.

He could trust floors, walls and steps because they would not change.

But the cooks would play tricks on Andrew with his food.

They would fill his food with salt or hot pepper or garlic.

The cooks knew he was Skip’s son and was training to become a commander.

They knew Skip would not say anything to them, because Andrew had to stand on his own two feet.

Andrew would normally eat the messed up food and leave.

He would hear the cooks laughed and say,”Spoiled rich boy.”

One day Andrew had enough.

Bruce was sitting with Adam, Danny and Cal.

They were watching Andrew.

Bruce yelled, “Andrew over here.”

Skip and the other head commanders were sitting by themselves.

No one would sit near the commanders.

Skip was watching the twelve and Andrew.

Arnold and Harold were watching the soldiers.

Arnold was sitting with his arms folded and rearing back in his chair.

He saw when Bruce, Adam and Danny and Cal stood and was looking at Andrew.

Arnold did not know what was happening.

He said, “Skip!”

Skip was talking to Harold and Malcolm, he looked up and saw his twelve moving to Andrew.

Skip jumped over three tables and stood behind Andrew and made Bruce, Danny, Adam and Cal go and sit down.

The soldiers in the dining hall stopped because they wanted to know what was happening, that caused Skip to jump over all those tables to keep those soldiers from his son.

Harold looked back and kept sitting.

He said to Arnold and Malcolm, “Bad ass boy.”

Malcolm had turned around to see what was happening as Skip jumped over the tables.

Malcolm looked at Harold then back to Skip.

Arnold was still sitting with his arms folded and rearing back in his chair.

Commanders Greene and Montgomery stood up to see, because they were short but vicious in battle.

The rest of the commanders continued to sit and eat like nothing was going on.

The soldiers watched the commanders who were still sitting.

They continued to eat but watched Bruce and the rest of the group.

Arnold caught Bruce’s eye and nodded his head.

Bruce was angry but he said to the others, “Let’s go. We have drawn attention to ourselves.”

They eased unnoticed from the dining hall.

Skip called them to the office that day and sent them out to different troops that day.

Skip did not want the other soldiers to remember their faces.

Skip was not particular concerned about Andrew.

Andrew had been in many fights and was placed in jail or military detention.

Andrew had been in the hospital or at home with broken arms, fingers, toes and legs and damaged neck.

Skip was thankful Andrew made full recoveries and did not have any deformities.

Because that would have tormented Skip that his son was deformed.

Shirley was born with deformities.

She was in constant pain and misery.

Skip could not bare it when Shirley she was hurting and in pain.

Andrew and Bruce grew up with Shirley having such horrible pain.

It was their life.

All of her life she was sick or in pain.

Sometimes the pain or sickness would be so great she could not play with Andrew and Bruce.

They learned to climb on her bed and play on her bed.

She never shooed them away.

She enjoyed that time with them, even though she could not move but she heard their laughter.

Skip could see a little life come into Shirley’s face and knew she was enjoying the time with her family.

Michael and Eugenia would stop by often.

They could hear Skip, Bruce and Andrew all the way outside.

Skip would come out the bedroom to the top of the stairs to see who was at the door.

He beckoned them upstairs.

Michael and Eugenia would run up the stairs and join in the fun with Andrew and Bruce and give Skip a few minutes with his beautiful wife.

Most of the time Shirley was not conscious.

Skip would sit in the chair or on her side of the bed and he would be leaning over in the chair and looking at Shirley.

Bruce and Andrew learned what their mother’s grunts and different breaths meant.

When Skip was home he and the boys would play in the bedroom so Shirley could hear them and know they were happy.

Skip loved Shirley with his whole heart.

He did see her as a deformed person but a whole wonderful and beautiful woman GOD created for him.

She gave him two vivacious boys.

Shirley heard Andrew and Bruce when they fell off the bed or ran into the doorknobs.

She lived every moment of her life.

She knew she would die when they were young.

She prayed to GOD and said, “Father would you let me stay here with my boys and see them grow up and not be under the footstool of man. Show me how to be a beautiful mother of God to them and let them grow up in the nurture and admonition of my Lord and Savior JESUS. I don’t know I am sick and in pain all the time, can You ease this pain a little so I can enjoy this wonderful life You gave me to have a loving husband and two…”

She laughed.

Shirley said, “High strong little boys. If You say no. I thank You so much for what You have given me my whole life, a family that I can feel their love for me. I thank You God for being such a wonderful God. In JESUS’name. Amen.”

When Shirley felt good, everybody wanted a part of her.

Especially Eleanor, Bruce and Andrew.

Skip would get whatever time with her that was left over.

Eleanor felt responsible for Shirley’s deformities.

She fell on her stomach when she was pregnant with Shirley and knocked herself out.

Eleanor waited a number of years before she had any children.

She was completed dedicated to Shirley.

Eleanor and Bruce had four healthy boys.

The boys would help out with Shirley.

It took Shirley ten years to learn how to walk.

The doctors broke her legs twice to try to straighten them out.

Shirley father Bruce would not allow his baby to go through such torment anymore to be normal.

Bruce and Eleanor were standing in Shirley’s bedroom door watching the doctors attend to her after the last surgery that they broke her legs.

Bruce told Eleanor, “No more. We love her the way she is. Don’t keep on taking her through this torture to make her alright. You fell and was unconscious for hours until they broke the door down and got you. It is not your fault that you fell. Don’t blame Shirley anymore or I will take her away from you and leave. I want Shirley to be happy for how long she is here. You are making her life terrible. I can no longer bare you trying to feed her or dressed her or comb her hair and getting mad with her because she is not like the other perfect children. I will take her on walks and to the park and activities with normal people and I am going to put her in school.”

Eleanor said, “Would you leave me and your boys?”

Bruce said, “Absolutely. I will not continue to let you abuse Shirley because of your guilt. You and the boys can continue to live in this house. I will buy a suitable hose for me and my Shirley.”

Eleanor and Bruce stood and waited for the doctors to leave.

Shirley had another one of those bones breaking surgeries that were a failure. She was running a high fever and the doctors could not bring the fever it down.

Shirley was absolutely tormented.

Eleanor would not let the four boys go near Shirley.

Shirley was isolated in her own torment.

She had no one but her father and that little boy Michael.

Michael was seven years younger than Shirley.

He wait until everyone was sleep and he would sneak in Shirley’s room with a book and read to her.

His father was up one night and saw the light from Shirley’s room and wanted to know what was going on.

He listened outside the door and he could barely hear because Michael was whispering.

He was reading a book to Shirley.

His father walked away from the door and went to bed.

Bruce would wake most nights and see the light on in Shirley’s room and knew it was Michael reading to her.

Bruce stopped by early one morning and looked in on Shirley.

He held her hand and it felt cool.

He kissed her on her forehead as he normally did and Shirley wasn’t hot.

Bruce could not believe it.

He thought,”Could God have heard my prayers?”

Bruce looked around the room and found the thermometer.

He checked her pulse.

He read the thermometer and her fever was down.

Bruce dried and kissed Shirley on her head.

Shirley was twisting her head under her father’s kissed.

Michael ran to Shirley’s room.

He would wait every morning after his father would leave or work and sneak into Shirley’s room and hold her hand and pray for her.

Shirley could not hold his hand but he could feel a little movement in her hand.

He would take both of his hands and hold her hand.

That morning Bruce was so happy that his child was not dead.

He sat on her bed and held her near lifeless body.

Michael ran to her doorway and saw his father holding his sister and wailing over her.

Eleanor heard her husband and jumped out the bed.

She ran to Shirley’s room and saw Michael.

She saw Bruce holding Shirley and thought, “She can’t be dead.”

Eleanor pushed Michael out the doorway and closed and locked the door and locked the door.

Michael heard her lock the door.

He ran to arch in the hallway and got the key to Shirley’s bedroom.

Shirley was in Eleanor’s room when she was a girl. The same room that the door locked and her parents had to break to get to her.

Eleanor kept the key to the bedroom in the arch enclave near the door.

Eleanor put the key to the bedroom in the arch enclave so they could always get in.

Michael was watching them bring Shirley home from the hospital one day and saw his mother lock the door and put the key in the arch enclave.

Michael ran to the arch enclave to get the key.

He kept jumping up until he got the key to the bedroom.

His grandmother was awake downstairs in her bedroom.

She heard a noise but did not know that it was Michael jumping up and down trying to reach the bedroom key.

She said, “Patrick. Wake up something is wrong.”

Patrick was sleep.

He woke and raised up on his right side and tried to shake the sleep from his eyes.

He and Brenda moved downstairs to the main suite after Eleanor finally decided to have more children.

Patrick and Brenda were old and did not want to be walking up and down the stairs anymore.

They had been with Eleanor through her pregnancy with Shirley.

Patrick was angry and did not want her to be with Bruce, but he saw Bruce was with her and especially when Shirley was born with the deformities of the legs and arms.

Patrick saw Bruce loved her and was going to be with her.

Patrick respected Bruce when he did not want to experiment on Shirley anymore when Eleanor insisted on having a whole child.

Michael ran and unlocked Shirley’s bedroom door.

He stood with his hand on the doorknob and watched his father looked at him.

Michael looked at his mother and screamed, “Mother, no more!! You will not keep me from Shirley.”

Michael rolled his eyes at Eleanor.

Bruce turned and looked at Michael.

Bruce said, “Michael, Shirley is alive.”

Eleanor looked at her son with surprise.

Michael walked to the other side of the bed and saw Shirley barely open her eyes.

He crawled on her bed and held her hand.

Eleanor took a step to run Michael off Shirley’s bed.

Bruce looked at Eleanor and said, “No.”

The other three boys woke and heard Michael talking in Shirley’s bedroom.

They jumped out their beds and ran into Shirley’s bedroom.

Shirley’s grandparents slept downstairs.

They heard all the noise and was fearful that the child was dead.

Patrick and Brenda eased up the stairs and stood on the staircase.

Brenda looked into the bedroom and saw Bruce holding his daughter and kissing her.

Brenda saw Shirley’s finger wiggle.

Brenda ran up the stairwell and into Shirley’s bedroom.

Patrick walked into her room.

Everyone was crying tears of joy.

Shirley whispered, “Daddy hurt.”

Bruce said, “No more. I promise.”

Shirley whispered, “Promise.”

Bruce held Shirley’s head to look in her eyes and said, “I swear.”

Michael was holding Shirley’s hand in his and said, “Shirley daddy swear.”

Eleanor did not know what to say.

Shirley’s nurse and maid came in and the butler and maids were standing outside the door and was so happy Shirley was alive.

The nurse said, “Sir, you know there is a place that can help Shirley to walk without surgery.”

Bruce said, “No more pain.”

The nurse said, “I just left there and came home to marry. They are very good.”

Michael said, “I’m not ready for Shirley to leave. Can you help her?”

The nurse looked at Michael.

Bruce said, “You heard him.”

The nurse said, “Some of the physical therapy I can help her with until she gets stronger then she really need to go there.”

Bruce kissed Shirley on the forehead and held his daughter and said, “Fine. I’ll pay you extra.”

The nurse said, “No sir you pay me plenty.”

Michael said, “He will pay you extra.”

Shirley never went to another hospital ever.

The nurse and the maid helped Shirley every day to use her arms and hands and feet and legs.

The nurse would ease out of Shirley’s bedroom and cry.

Bruce would watch the nurse.

Michael would snuggle up to his daddy and watch the nurse through the staircase.

The nurse told Bruce and Eleanor,” Shirley is a something else. She lives for Michael to read to her. She is spoil and does not want to work for herself. She needs to leave now and go to the place I told you about.”

Michael was in his bedroom with his door opened so he can hear.

His father started to leave his bedroom door open so Michael could tell him what happened while he was at work.

Michael was smart and caught on to his father.

Bruce hired a whole extra staff to attend to Shirley.

He hired a governess to teach Shirley and prepare her to go to school.

Shirley never went to school, but the governess worked hard with Shirley every day.

Eleanor was fussing about spending money on a governess.

Bruce yelled at Eleanor and the whole house heard him.

Michael was in Shirley’s room and he ran to the door to hear his father yell at his mother.

He said, “You want her to die. You are waiting for her to die. That’s why you are fussing about the governess. Shirley is my daughter and I love her. I am going to take her to Philadelphia to the place for them to work with her and give her a better chance at life. You stay here with your perfect boys.”

Michael stood and watched his father walk out of his bedroom and down the staircase.

The maid walked behind Michael and watched Bruce walk down the staircase.

Bruce went to his father-in-law and mother-in-law bedroom suite.

He knocked on their door.

Michael ran down the staircase and tiptoed to his grandparents’ suite.

He hid behind the door.

The butler saw Michael but he did not say anything to him.

The butler re-stocked the bar and walked back into the dining room and into the kitchen.

But the butler stood still in the dining room to hear what he could.

The maids eased out the kitchen and stood behind the butler to try to hear.

Bruce opened the suite door fast and Michael ran to hide.

The butler called Michael and they all hide in the dining room.

Michael was first, then the butler two of the cooks and three of the maids.

Bruce walked into the dining room.

Michael saw his father’s pants legs and tried to pretend he did not see his father.

The other three boys were standing at the staircase listening.

Eleanor was sitting on her bed crying.

Shirley’s maid was standing at the staircase.

The governess and the nurse were in Shirley’s room.

The staff tried to turn their heads like they did not hear anything.

Bruce said, “I know you all heard. I am not angry with any of you. I will be moving to Philadelphia with Shirley. I will leave Thursday so we can arrive in Philadelphia and go to the place that nurse Newsom told us about. I don’t know how long we will be there I will open a company’s office there. I know I will take the governess…”

The aid in the hallway pointed at the governess and she was happy and jumped that she will have a job and she will be with her grandparents.

Bruce continued, “We live at the hotel until I decide about Shirley’s future. I will need to take nurse Newsom for a short period of time to help us get use to what is going on.”

The maid turned and gave the nurse a thumb’s up.

The nurse was pregnant and wanted to be with her husband when she delivered the baby. She had to talk to Bruce.

Bruce said, “I need two maids to go with us to help with food, shopping and transporting Shirley back and forth and sitting with her at the place, if she has to stay.”

The maid upstairs ran down the stairs and missed a step and did a split and slid into the foyer.

Bruce did not turn around.

The head butler exhaled and out of embarrassment turned his head.

Bruce said, “Angelica are you volunteering to go?”

Angelica was still in a split position and said, “Yes sir.”

Then all heard her say, “Oh!Oh!” and drop to the floor.

Bruce said, “I need another maid. The maids were all married with children. The man that kept the stables said, “Sir I know I am not a maid, but I can be.”

Bruce had to leave Thursday and he needed a staff for Shirley.

Bruce said, “You can come temporarily Henry to help out, but I know I will need another maid. When I hire another maid, you will come back here. Understand?”

Bruce said, “Ok. Let’s pack. And do cook some delightful food. I heard the food on the trains were boring. We should arrive Sunday. What am I talking about we own the railroad.”

One of the cooks said, “Sir I can go and come back when the train returns.”

Bruce said, “Fine. People let’s get this job done.”

Bruce turned to walk out the dining room.

Michael was perplexed and ran behind his father.

He said, “Daddy.”

Bruce looked back at Michael and he ran next to his daddy and said, “Father what about me?”

Bruce smiled and sat on the step and put Michael on his lap and said, “good sir I am leaving you in charge of the house.”

Michael looked into his father’s eyes and said, “Good father. I am a child. a child that wants to go with his sister. Good father.”

Bruce said, “Michael what about school and your friends and your sports and your other brothers?”

Michael sat and looked at Bruce.

Bruce said, “Good sir convince me to take you.”

Michael said, “Good father.”

He pointed and said, “You have a governess. My friends will be happy I have gone on an adventure. They have sports in that major city and my brothers…”

He leaned forward and looked into his father’s bedroom.

Bruce looked around and peeped into the bedrooms.

Michael whispered, “They can run mom crazy all by themselves.”

Bruce hollered.

Shirley was listening and said, “Daddy let Michael come so he can read to me.”

Bruce sat for second and tears filled his eyes.

Michael looked at his father.

Bruce sighed and with a trembling voice said smiled at Michael and said, “That’s how you convince me.”

Bruce kissed Michael on his forehead and said, “Go and pack.”

Michael jumped from his father’s lap and nearly fell down the stairs and Bruce caught him.

Then Michael ran up the stairs and saw his mother blowing her nose and said, “Mom father is taking e to Philadelphia with he and Shirley.”

Eleanor cold said, “You nor your father are going anywhere.”

Michael stood for a minute and looked at his mother and turned and looked back at his father.

Bruce said, “Michael go and pack.”

He walked to Shirley’s room and closed the door and said, “Shirley, Nurse Newsom and governess Washington you all heard. I will be leaving Thursday for Philadelphia. Can you go?”

Nurse Newsom said, “Sir only for a week or two because I want to have my baby with my husband.”

Bruce said, “Fine.”

The governess was so excited and jumped in and said, “I can go and take on Michael.”

Bruce said, “We leave Thursday at six am.”

The maid and Henry were courting and did not want to be apart.

The butler caught Henry and pulled him aside and said, Bruce is going to take care of his sick daughter. Don’t mess up. If you do then don’t come back.”

Henry looked at the butler and snatched away and walked into the kitchen.

The senior maid looked at the butler and walked into the kitchen.

Bruce leaned over and kissed Shirley on the forehead.

Shirley said, “Father I don’t have any clothes.”

Bruce said, “My dear you are so right.”

He sat on Shirley’s bed and said, Let’s see.”

Eleanor walked into the door and said, “She doesn’t need clothes. She has plenty of nightgowns and slippers.”

Brenda and Patrick were standing back behind the staircase, so they could hear.

Shirley turned her head and looked at her mother.

Bruce leaned over in Shirley’s face to draw her attention from her mother and said, “My dear beautiful daughter you are so right. We will see about that.”

Bruce sat back on the bed and patted Shirley’s hands and said, “Ice cold.”

He blew on her hands and Shirley laughed.

Bruce never heard his daughter laugh.

Eleanor stood in shock at her daughter’s laughter.

Brenda held onto Patrick as they heard Shirley laughed.

Shirley’s brother ran to her bedroom to hear her laugh.

Michael pushed Eleanor out of the door and ran into Shirley’s bedroom and stood and started making funny faces and Shirley laughed.

Michael started making sounds and faces from the books he read to Shirley over the years.

Shirley was trying to guess the characters of the stories.

She had f that day with Michael.

She said, “Michael you and daddy kept me from dying.”

The nurse became weak.

The governess thought, “I am going to get this man.”

The nurse and governess walked out Shirley’s bedroom and downstairs and left.

They had a lot to do since they would be leaving in two days.

The governess sent telegrams to her family and friends.

She went and ordered school supplies that she picked up the next day.

She sent a telegram to her grandparents that she wanted to stay with them and introduce the man she will marry to them.

The grandparents were excited especially when they asked a round and found out he owned the railroad.

The grandfather said,”Why she did not mention him before.”

The grandmother said, “Because he is married.”

The grandfather said, “This is not good. Why would he go with anybody being married?”

Her grandparents readied her bedroom and tried to make their house presentable for one of the richest men in the country that was to wed their granddaughter.

Brenda beckoned to the butler and said, “Have buggy ready in the morning after breakfast to take us shopping for Shirley. Say nothing to no one.”

The butler said, “Understood.”

Patrick placed his head on Brenda’s head and wrapped his arm around her shoulder.

Brenda placed her head on Patrick’s chest and she patted his chest wither right hand.

They both smiled and felt good about Shirley.

He walked in the kitchen and told Henry to have a buggy for Stiths in the morning after breakfast.

Shirley began to yawn.

Bruce kissed her on her head and said, “Get some sleep.”

Michael kissed Shirley on her cheek and he walked out the bedroom and passed his mother.

Bruce was passing Eleanor and she put her feet in Bruce’s pathway to keep him from passing her.

Bruce grabbed Eleanor by the throat and lifted her off the floor and said, “I have it with you Eleanor. I don’t love you anymore. I will no longer bow to your demands. I want a divorce. I will send you the papers to you. I will be quite happy with Shirley.”

The four boys were looking at their parents through the staircase.

Michael said, “And Michael.”

Bruce realized his children were looking and he said, “Eleanor sleep in another room. The master bedroom is mines.”

He dropped Eleanor on the floor outside Shirley’s room.

Bruce looked back in the room at a sleeping Shirley and closed the door.

He walked over to the arch enclaved and got the bedroom key and looked Shirley’s door.

Shirley was not sleep but pretending to be asleep.

She was listening to everything.

She was glad she and daddy were leaving her momma.

Bruce bent down and said, “Eleanor I dare you to go into Shirley’s room or say anything to her.”

Michael yelled, “Or Michael.”

Bruce said, “Or Michael. Better yet go and sleep outside in the guess house and don’t come back upstairs.”

Eleanor was so physically hurt and confused.

She sat outside Shirley’s room and was bewildered.

Bruce saw his sons and said, “Let’s go to dinner.”

They went and had dinner with their grandparents.

The grandparents called the butler and said, make the guess house comfortable for Eleanor and walk her out to it.

The butler said,”Yes ma am.”

The butler said, “Ma am Shirley have not eaten all day.”

Brenda and Patrick exhaled.

Patrick said, “Well she will be hungry in the morning.”

Brenda laughed.

Patrick said, “Pancakes. She loves pancakes.”

Brenda said, “A send off party.”

The butler rolled his eyes at Brenda and twisted his mouth.”

Brenda said, “I see you. Do a full Italian dinner tomorrow for them.”

The butler did not say anything.

Brenda said, “Is that better?”

The butler bowed his head and said, “Much ma am.”

The butler went into the kitchen and told the cooks to prepare an Italian send off party for Shirley.

Bruce walked the boys to their bedrooms and dressed them for bed

He walked into Michael’s bedroom and went into his closet and folded his sweaters for the maids to pack.

Michael had turned over and heard his father going through his closet.

Michael said, “Daddy can we have lamb chops on the train everyday?”

Bruce had a pair of Michael’s pants in his hands to fold and thought for a second, “Not everyday.”

Bruce went downstairs and poured him a whiskey and went into his study and worked on papers all night.

Patrick like brandy and he and Brenda sat in the parlor and discussed business issues and enjoyed their brandy.

They went to their suite and knocked on Bruce’s opened door as they went into their bedroom.

Bruce always left his door open so he could hear what his children were doing.

Bruce looked at the two who weathered all types of storms and managed to stay married for forty years.

Not like him.

He told them he was divorcing Eleanor after fourteen years of marriage. But he was not willing to allow Shirley to suffer any more.

Bruce told her parents that he would go to Philadelphia and establish an office there and live with Shirley.

Patrick and Brenda were heartbroken.

They knew Bruce mind was made up and he wanted Shirley to have some type of life.

She had no friends.

She did not go to any functions or festivities.

Eleanor would not take Shirley to church.

Eleanor was ashamed of Shirley deformities and did not want anyone to see her.

Bruce finished his work early in the morning hours.

He walked up the staircase and unlocked Shirley’s door and peep at her.

Shirley said, “Daddy I am hungry.”

Bruce opened the door and said, “Baby that’s right you did not have dinner.”

He walked over to her bed and said, “Let’s get you something to eat. The staff is sleep.”

Bruce picked up Shirley and he carried her into the kitchen.

Bruce sat Shirley in a chair and he was turning around in the middle of the floor trying to find out where the food was.

Shirley laughed.

Shirley said, “Daddy you don’t know your own kitchen?”

Bruce said, “Miss smarty pants you show me where the food is.”

Shirley was laughing loud.

Bruce was opening cabinets and not shutting them.

The head maid and her husband, one of the cooks, could not pretend they were sleep anymore.

They walked in the kitchen with the other cook.

He woke the servants, who was not happy.

The butler and Henry did not move.

The cooks said, “Ma am what are doing?”

Bruce was embarrassed he said, “Food.”

The cook said, “Ma am what do you want to eat?”

Shirley said, “Pancakes.”

Bruce made a funny face to Shirley.

She laughed.

The cook made pancakes.

Shirley and Bruce sat and enjoyed their pancakes.

He carried her back upstairs.

The cook looked at the menu for breakfast and saw pancakes.

He left the ingredients for the next cook. Who went back to bed.

The cook looked over the dinner menu request. He looked over the ingredients and made a grocery list and put it on the board for the butler to go to the grocer that morning.

He and his wife went back to sleep.

The next morning Patrick and Brenda, Michael, and the three boys were waiting for Shirley and their father for breakfast.

Neither showed up for breakfast.

Their father put Shirley to bed and watched her fall asleep.

Their father had bathed and shave and went to work.

The boys wet to school.

They were so excited about Shirley finally leaving the house.

Brenda and Patrick left after breakfast and went shopping for Shirley.

They bought her many outfits.

The sales clerks asked Shirley’s size an Brenda and Patrick did not know.

They bought two of each.

They went home and tried the new outfits on Shirley.

They sent the larger size back to the store by the butler once he walked back in the house from the grocer.

He handed the groceries to the cook.

H went upstairs and got all the dresses and took them back to the store.

The cooks prepared a beautiful dinner for Shirley.

Shirley wanted to put on one of her new dresses.

The maid that was going to Philadelphia help her get dressed.

Shirley looked very nice.

Their father came home in time for dinner.

He ran into the house the boys and Shirley laughed.

Bruce was standing in the doorway and said, “I made it.”

The children laughed.

The governess was on her way out and stopped and stood next to Bruce.

Brenda looked at her.

She did not like what she saw. She knew Bruce was not interested in her nor any woman, He wanted Shirley to live.

The family had a very nice dinner absent Eleanor.

Patrick and Brenda sat and talked to Shirley for a long time.

Bruce took his boys upstairs and talked to them. He told them to be obedient, do good in school and watch out for their grandparents and when the summer comes he will send for the to spend it with him, Shirley and Michael.

The oldest boy Percy who was nine said,”Do we have to obeyed Eleanor?”

Bruce said, “She is your mother and yes. Get in the bed.”

He looked at his sons and cried.

His son Bruce said, “Your own the world and you are crying?”

Bruce tears were flowing down his cheeks and he nodded his head and said with quivering lips, “The thing I want to own is the hearts of my sons.”

The youngest son yawned and said, “You own it.”

Bruce grinned and watched his sons fall asleep.

He went to Shirley’s room and saw her room full of clothes.

His mouth flew open.

He looked around.

Shirley said, “Grandpa Patrick and grandma bought these clothes.”

Bruce said, “How are we going to take all of this?”

Shirley yawned and said, “Grandma said they will get everything to me.”

Bruce looked confused.

Shirley said, “Good night daddy.”

Bruce shook his head and said, “Good night baby.”

The next morning the staff had carried all the luggage to the wagons.

Michael was hugging his brothers.

He had several books in his saddle bag.

He was so excited.

He ran down the staircase and forgot about Shirley.

Bruce stood at the top of the staircase and looked over the house he called home for fourteen years.

He walked to Shirley and tearfully said, “Baby, are you ready for a new life with daddy and Michael?”

Shirley was fully dressed and jumped on the bed and held her arms outstretched for Bruce to pick her

Bruce picked up Shirley and walked to the top of the staircase.

It was a sight.

All the servants, Shirley personal staff and her brothers and both sets of grandparents and her uncles and their wives and children had sneaked in the house to wish her happiness.

Shirley and Bruce were overcome with peace and joy.

Bruce did not see Eleanor. He thought, “she’s probably drunk.”

He took his time and walked down the staircase with Shirley.

Michael reached and held Shirley’s hand.

The three walked out the door.

Bruce parents looked at the governess who was a step behind Bruce.

Brenda and Patrick watched her.

Bruce parents saw the governess position herself right behind Bruce.

The butler opened the door.

Bruce stopped.

Shirley looked at her daddy.

Michael stopped.

Shirley turned and saw Eleanor dressed and standing in the front of the house.

Michael looked at his daddy.

Shirley heart sank.

The smiling governess stepped around to peep in Bruce’s face and she saw Eleanor standing in front of the house.

The governess was shocked. She did not know if Eleanor was there to saw bye or going to the train or going to Philadelphia.

Claressa and Alvin were standing out front with Eleanor.

They told Eleanor she was wrong.

And that young governess wanted the opportunity Eleanor was giving her to go after Bruce.

Brenda and Patrick walked out the door with Bruce’s parents.

They saw a polish Eleanor standing outside.

Brenda looked around in the governess’ face.

Bruce kissed Shirley on the forehead and walked off the porch and passed Eleanor and went to the buggy.

The governess was training to get in the buggy with Bruce, Michael, Shirley and Eleanor.

The butler pointed to the next buggy and said, “It is improper for an employee to sit with their employer.

Nurse Newsom was in the house kissing her husband. She walked out the house and they were holding hands.

She looked at the governess and stepped into the buggy.

Bruce’s parents said, “That’s a mess right there.”

Brenda said, “We know. But we will be visiting often.”

Bruce’s parents said, “That’s a good vacation spot.”

Patrick was still mot loving towards them but tolerated them.

Bruce grabbed Eleanor by the arm and walked her on the other side of the buggy away from everyone sight and said, “What the hell are you doing?”

Eleanor knew she could not be smart with Bruce, he told her he wanted a divorce.

Eleanor said to herself, “I am twenty nine years old with four boys and a trust fund. I don’t want to lose my true friend and my love. Even he said he doesn’t love me anymore.”

Eleanor said, “I want time to change Bruce. I won’t say anything to the children.”

Bruce bent down and looked at the porch full of family and friends.

He peeped in the wagon at Michael and Shirley.

Michael was scared and holding Shirley’s hand.

Shirley was terrified.

Shirley yelled, “Leave her daddy. You promise I won’t hurt anymore. Momma makes me hurt. Momma makes me hurt.”

Claressa and Alvin looked at the traumatized Shirley and were stunned.

The grand parents were shocked at Shirley and Michael’s reaction to Eleanor.

Bruce said, “Look at your children.”

Eleanor would not look and Bruce snatched her arm.

Eleanor looked in Bruce’s eyes and saw his hate for her.

She looked into the buggy and saw the terrified Shirley and the scared Michael.

Eleanor slowly looked back at Bruce.

She said, “I want to go,”

Bruce said, “I can’t stop you from going to Pennsylvania. I can’t stop you from going to the city of Philadelphia.”

Eleanor said, “You can’t stop me from staying in the hotel nor visiting Shirley in the hospital or whatever that place is.”

Bruce said, “I can. I will. I anticipated your move and stayed up to three in the morning and wired everything yesterday. I bought the hotel for Shirley and blocked you from staying there or even dinning there.”

Eleanor was stunned and stood there.

Michael turned to a terrified Shirley and said, “Daddy bought you a hotel.”

Shirley did not hear Michael. All she could think about was Eleanor near her.

Bruce said, “I bought the health facility. You have been banned.”

Eleanor said, “You used my family’s money.”

Bruce said, “Bitch. I work and I got paid. I used my money. You are not allowed near Michael nor Shirley. If I want you to have any time with them, I’ll send you a message. The divorce is still on. If you say anything to either child Eleanor anticipate my next move.”

 Eleanor stared deep into Bruce’s eyes.

Bruce said, “You like to play the game of chance. Chance this.”

Everyone knew they were having an argument.

Bruce shoved Eleanor into the buggy.

Since Shirley could not use her legs, Michael started kicking Eleanor.

Bruce waved to everyone and got in the buggy.

Eleanor said, “Stop kicking me Michael.”

Bruce was getting in the buggy and looked at Eleanor and saw Michael kicking her.

Bruce said, “Get in the buggy with the servants.”

Eleanor said, “No.”

Bruce said, “Be kicked.”

Bruce leaned over to Shirley and said, “Baby close your eyes.”

Brenda said, “They better hurry to catch the train.”

Everyone turned and looked at Brenda.

Brenda thought and said, “Oh.”

The caravan went down the street to the railroad.

Bruce had moved across the buggy and sat Shirley in his lap.

Eleanor tried to cover her legs to keep Michael’s kicks from hurting her.

Bruce sat there all the way and rolled his eyes at Eleanor.

They arrived at the railroad.

The butler helped the railroad employees with the luggage in the wagons.

Bruce had a car reserved for his staff.

The owner had a luxury car.

The car was unused because none of them travel.

All the servants jumped out the wagons and buggies and ran to their car.

The stewards came and opened the buggy doors to help Bruce and his family out the buggy.

They saw Michael kicking Eleanor.

Eleanor jumped out the buggy.

The governess walked to Bruce’s buggy and stood.

The butler saw her.

Nurse Newsom walked to the governess and said, “Let’s get good seats on a private car.”

The governess said, “I’ll wait.”

Nurse Newsom looked at the butler.

The butler watched the governess.

The stewards helped Bruce out the buggy.

The chief steward recognized Eleanor and said, “Ma am we did not know you were coming. We have to rearrange the suite.”

Bruce said, “No. Put her in a sleeper. Since her family own the railroad.”

Eleanor looked at Bruce and saw the governess standing outside the buggy.

Eleanor wanted to say something but Bruce was not playing with her.

She reached her bruised hand to Michael and he reached his hand to the chief steward.

The chief steward helped Michael out the wagon.

Eleanor walked behind Michael.

Michael turned and went on the side with his daddy.

Eleanor walked over and stood a stepped in front of the governess.

Bruce took his time and got out of the buggy and then he picked up Shirley.

The two women walked behind Bruce.

They walked passed the private car for his staff.

The cook who had a whole booth to himself said, “Look at this shit yall.”

The staff ran to the windows and saw the governess walking behind Bruce.

The butler watched the governess tried to out step Eleanor to get on the train behind Bruce.

The chief steward escorted Michael to the train and to the owner’s car.

He opened the door and Michael loved it her ran around the car and looked out all the windows.

Shirley finally opened her eyes and saw the car.

She smiled.

They had her wheelchair and Bruce put her in it for her to roll around.

Eleanor stepped in the car and looked around.

Bruce was watching Eleanor like a hawk.

The chief steward told another steward to prepare the other for Eleanor and the governess.

Eleanor heard the chief steward and said, “She is the current governess. Put her with the staff

The chief steward looked.

The butler made sure he brought Eleanor train case to her last so he could see where the governess was.

The governess Miss Washington had stepped into the owner’s car.

Bruce saw her but did not pay any attention to her, because he was watching Michael and Shirley’s excitement of being on the train.

Eleanor and the chief steward were standing outside the car watching Miss Washington.

The butler was standing and watching the governess.

Bruce turned and saw everyone watching him.

He stood to see why they were watching him d he saw her standing the parlor area of the car.

Bruce said, “Why are you in here?”

Miss Washington was stunned and could not come up with an excuse.

The chief steward was confused. The governess acted as if she was Bruce’s wife.

He said, “Ma am this way.”

Eleanor and the butler watched the chief steward escort the governess to the private car with the other staff members.

The chief steward said, “Ma am this car is fully equipped. It is a sleeper, dining and bath car. You are not to come out of this car and wonder around.”

He pointed straight ahead and said, “If you want you can go that way to the lounge. This is the best train on the rails. I am glad to be working on this train.”

The governess said, “We will see and walked away.”

Nurse Newsom and the cook looked at each other.

The maid and Henry had selected their both in the back so no one could see them.

Eleanor looked at the butler and reached for her train case.

Bruce closed and locked the door to the car.

Eleanor looed at the door.

The butler said, “Have a good trip.”

Eleanor said, “Even he knows it is a trip or me.”

Eleanor said,”That you.”

The whistle blew.

The cook, the nurse, the maid and Henry ran to the windows and looked out as the train pulled out and people were waving bye to the train.

Eleanor was walking her car and looking around.

The car was very nice and she was satisfied with the quality of the products in the car.

She and Brenda and spent months trying to pull those cars around.

Eleanor thought and pointed and said,” I want to change that. I’ll see what Bruce will say, that’s if he doesn’t kill me. I got to get rid of that damn governess.”

Eleanor heard the whistle blowing and ran to the window and looked out at the waving people.

Eleanor thought, “How can I get their money?”

Bruce and Shirley and Michael were in the windows looking out the window at the waving people.

Michael said, “Daddy.”

Bruce said, “Yes son.”

Michael said, “I like this.”

Shirley was struggling to see from her wheelchair.

Bruce picked Shirley out of her wheelchair and sat her on his lap.

Michael said, “Yes daddy I like this.”

Bruce said, “What part?”

Michael said, “All of it. Packing. Riding to the train station. Getting in our private car, eating lamb chops everyday and the people waving us bye. Shirley what part do you like?”

Bruce looked over in Shirley’s face and she thought and said, “Like all of it but the lamb chops everyday.”

Bruce laughed.

The three sat and enjoyed hours of scenery until Shirley and Michael grew tired.

Bruce took them to their room which was across the parlor from his room.

Eleanor heard Michael and Shirley having a good time.

Eleanor went and laid in the bed so she could hear them laugh and talk.

She fell asleep hearing their voices.