

The younger doctor approached his beloved Betsy.

She stood at the yard with the torch they used for the outside.

Her hair was down and resting on her shoulders.

Wes was so happy to see her.

He leaned forward to kiss her lips but Betsy held her head back to keep him from kissing her.

He looked at her and saw she had on her nightgown and her beautiful dark hair was down and curled on her shoulders.

He looked at her and knew he had to tell her.

He could no longer pretend that Harold had a sexual relationship with her.

She would kill him and Harold for just putting him in the equation with her.

Wes knew he could not pretend he never touched Betsy.

He touched her beautiful hair and kissed her on her cheek.

He smelled she had throwing up.

He thought about that Natalie.

Wes knew she had not told Betsy.

He thought I thank her for that.

Betsy said, "I was coming from the bathe shed when I heard the whistle. I thought you were in trouble."

Wes said, "I'll be in trouble if I don't tell you."

Betsy could not imagine what the younger doctor was talking about.

He took Betsy by her right hand and they walked to the porch and sat.

Natalie walked to the door to see what was going on and she looked at both of them and then back at Betsy.

Wes turned and said to Natalie, "What?"

Betsy said, "Wes."

Wes looked at Betsy because she did not like for him to talk to Natalie ugly. Natalie was now her friend. Because she loved her baby like she loved her baby.

Natalie still did not want to give away the big secret, just yet said, "Dinner?"

Wes stood up and gave her the small kettle.

He went to the black pot and started a fire and put the grill over it so they could heat the stew up.

He felt the cold in the air.

He lit the fire outside of his tent and gave his horse water and oats.

He spent a minute trying to think how he was going to tell Betsy she was pregnant, with his child.

Wes closed his eyes and said, "God she's going to kill me. I can't take her being angry with me. God do I have an argument because I thought she was barren. Does it count that I wanted to marry in the spring. Well I really did not know what woman I would marry. I thought I might marry one of those strikingly beautiful women in the big city. If this. If Betsy is who you have for me then I won't argue. Especially now that she is pregnant. I can't play innocent nor put her pregnancy on Harold. Because I know she has not been with him."

He turned and saw Betsy watching him.

The slim rowdy woman was standing in the door eating her stew with sweet potatoes.

She scraped her bowl with the spoon and then again licked her bowl and spoon.

Wes wanted to scream, but he knew Betsy would choke him.

He started to walk to Betsy and then a horrible thought hit him, "Suppose she does not want me. I never thought that could happen. She hates my arrogance and I have been working on that."

He looked at the slim rowdy woman.

She reached him her bowl and spoon.

She knew he hated her ill manners and he hated for her to lick the dishes.

He took the bowl and spoon from her and walked to the black pot and placed the bowl and spoon in the wash basin they kept in the black kettle.

The slim rowdy woman stood behind Betsy with her arms folded and looked at Wes with a defiant look.

He knew he had to tell Betsy.

If he did not tell her and if he did not tell her how he know, she would hate him.

He sat next to Betsy and reached over and grabbed her by her neck and brought her to him and kissed on her forehead.

Betsy was getting a sick felling in her stomach.

She learned over her life to wait for rejection and don't give them the opportunity to use your explanation as their road out.

She whimpered.

Wes pulled her head back and looked her deep into her eyes and said, "Betsy don't cry."

The slim rowdy woman closed the front but stood with her ear to the door.

She made her mind if Wes did not tell Betsy she would that night.

Wes might kill her but at least she will tell her one true friend.

Wes said, "Betsy. I love you. You give me strength. Give kick my butt and you remind me that I am a physician. A person who wants to heal people and give them hope. I always wanted this beautiful woman I could flaunt on my arms t parties and dinners."

He stopped.

The slim rowdy woman was appalled and was about to open the door.

Her angel held the door.

Wes said, "I have never known any woman more beautiful than you."

Betsy still was stiff and not changing her facial expressions.

Wes continued, "Betsy, I want to marry you."

The slim rowdy woman was not pleased.

Wes held his head and said, "God give me strength."

Betsy was waiting for the "let go" part.

She was too hurt to say anything.

The strange mand and the new commander watched them.

Wes said, "Betsy you are pregnant."

Betsy said, "You are cruel."

Betsy jerked from the younger doctor.

She stood up and walked to the front door.

The slim rowdy woman ran on her tiptoes to her chair and sat.

Betsy opened the door.

The slim rowdy woman turned to see Betsy's face.

She did not liked her true friend's face.

Wes ran to Betsy and caught the door.

Betsy turned and looked at Wes.

Natalie turned around in the chair and looked.

Wes only had a little courage.

He got his courage from Betsy's love for him with all of his faults and their sin.

He knew he was losing her.

Wes grabbed her so tight that it frightened her.

He looked at Natalie.

Natalie turned all the way around and stared at him.

He went and closed the door.

Wes got on his knees and said, "Betsy you have been sick. Stomach problems. I examined you one day."

Betsy said, "what?"

Wes continued, "You passed out the other day when Dr. Obersteen was here."

He held onto tight to Betsy's hands and shook them he had his eyes closed.

He said, "Betsy I had Dr. Obersteen examine you. I did not think you were pregnant because you told me you were barren."

Betsy was trying to pull away from Wes.

Natalie opened the door and stepped out.

Wes did not care about the slim rowdy woman.

He thought the both of them probably can beat me.

He refused to let her hands go because he felt he would lose her.

Wes shook his head.

He shook Betsy and said, "Betsy I thought you were really sick and I was afraid. I could not bare for you to be sick. I did not want to lose another woman I love. Maybe I should have asked you first but I was too scared to lose you and I did not want you to tell me no."

Betsy looked at Wes with terrible pain.

Wes grabbed Betsy by her hips and would not turn her loose.

He said, "Betsy I know my fear doesn't make all of this right. But please, please forgive me."

Betsy was trying to get her hands loose.

Betsy turned to the slim rowdy woman and with a broken heart said, "Natalie, did you know?"

Natalie lowered her head and said, "Yeah."

But she pointed at Wes and said, "They threatened me. I told them not to touch you."

Betsy said through tears, "Natalie did not make it right. Friend."

Natalie began to boo hoo.

Wes looked at Natalie then at Betsy and said, "You're angry with her?"

Betsy said, "No."

She snatched her hands from Wes.

Betsy went to the living room and put on her boots.

Wes crawled into the living room and he looked at Betsy putting on her boots.

Betsy told him he had to become more observant of his patients.

Because his patients may not be able to explain their conditions.

Wes crawled over to Betsy and was tapping her on her thighs.

Betsy looked at him through her tears of broken heartedness.

He tried to smile.

Betsy looked at Wes and, "You I don't forgive."

She got up and hit him in the head with her fists.

Wes reeled from her strike.

Betsy walked to the door.

Natalie ran behind Betsy and put her head on Betsy's shoulder.

Betsy said, "No Natalie. You betrayed me."

Betsy walked out the door and began the mile walk home, in the dark and in the cold.

Wes sat on the sofa.

Natalie looked and saw Wes sitting on Betsy's shawl.

She pushed him off her shawl and ran out the door.

She caught a distraught Betsy who did not stop walking.

Natalie still crying put the shawl over Betsy and saw her figure walked down the road.

Natalie waited for hours and stood in the road and cried.

Then she thought about her little princess.

She turned to walk back to the cute house.

Natalie kept looking back for her only friend Betsy.

No Betsy.

Betsy made it to her family campsite.

She told them Wes and Dr. Obersteen examined her and she was pregnant.

Bill, Emma and Mattie were excited for Betsy's baby news.

Bill started to walk to the cute house, but realized how dark it was.

Joshua said, "We got to get this guy."

Emma and Mattie hit him and told Joshua to go to bed and don't sneak down the road.

Emma slept with Joshua that night to make sure he did not move.

Emma put a distraught Betsy to bed and covered her with blankets.

Mattie and Bill sat around the fire and talked until it was late.

Bill said, "Why did not he come looking for her?"

Mattie said, "I don't know."

Bill said, "We ain't going nowhere with him. He's trying to clean up his mess so he can be presentable."

Emma listened to their conversation and said, "You'll she is pregnant and with his child. Let's be happy for her. I know how it is to barren and then finally have a blessed child."

Joshua was playing with his wagon said, "Amen."

And looked at Emma who said, "Joshua go to sleep"

Joshua said, "Then stop talking."

Mattie looked.

Bill turned his head.

They heard whomp.

Then Joshua began to cry.

Betsy laid in bed and could not sleep because of her broken heart.

Natalie sat, in her chair, and cried all night.

The younger doctor sat on the sofa holding his hands under his chin.

He thought about what he did wrong.

He knew he could not make it go away.

Wes sat on the sofa until daybreak.

He walked outside and stood on the porch.

The air was cold he felt that was punishment for all he did wrong.

The attendant stood on the porch.

JESUS walked in the yard and went into the cute house.

The HOLY GHOST was already in the house.

The HOLY GHOST spoke the scripture to the little girl.

He explained the Word of God and He blew His breath of life on God's Word which changed into light and then life.

The word of God went into each of the little girl's and the life of those cells burst open with new life.

Natalie's eyes were heavy with sleep and her heart was heavy with sorrow.

She bowed her head and slept.

Wes stood on the front porch and saw the breaking forth of a new day.

He could only think of each day he want to see with Betsy.

He knew that was over.

The younger doctor stepped off the front porch. He started the fire.

He feed his horse and gave it water.

The younger doctor went to the house and got the three water pails.

He took the pails to the brook and filled two pails of water and placed them inside the house on the stand.

He went back to the brook and got a third pail of water and filled the black pot.

He stood and looked at the black pot and wondered how Betsy would survive with a child.

Wes thought about a dying Mattie ad Betsy probably would spend half of her time helping Joshua.

He said out loud, "I'm so sorry for everything."

He took a deep breath and looked into the sky.

He thought, "I can't leave her with nothing. But I have nothing to give her. I have to provide for my child. There's nothing here. Will my wife accept or reject my child? Will she allow me to send Betsy money? Will that wife be barren?"

He stooped down and stared in the fire.

JESUS stood by him.

Wes thought, "I don't want Harold to have her. But I can't tell her what to do."

His voice cracked as his heart broke.

He said, "I still need to take Mattie into the city and be tested. I have to figure out how to pay the bill. I'll stay in the city. Bill knows the way back. There is no one here to provide these people with medical care."

The little girl began to scream.

He turned and listened and slowly got up and walked into the house and washed his hands and dried them.

Natalie was patting the little girl with her hand.

The younger doctor sat down and turned to the herbs and gave the little girl the herbs to sedate her.

He sat and watched the little girl calm down.

When he bathed her. He noticed she had new skin growing under the scar tissue, he thought that was odd.

He thought whether she needed the paste, but the attendant did not leave anything else to help with scar tissue and infections.

The younger doctor made the paste and put it on her legs and back.

He pulled the cold sheets over her little body.

He opened the dresser drawer passed his envelope and took out his journal.

HE wrote his observations of the new skin under the scar tissue.

The younger doctor was very sad.

His eyes drifted to the closing pages of his journal and in between the pages he saw Betsy's tea cup.

He could not contain his pain any longer.

He stood up and take and dispose of the herbs.

Wes discarded the little girl's bath water,

He brought fresh water in the house and added more water to the black pot.

He filled his water basin and went into the bath shed.

He stood and thought about Natalie.

The younger doctor thought if he goes into town who could possibly take care of the little girl.

Then he thought about who would deliver Betsy's baby. But maybe she could move to the city a month before so the child can be born at the hospital by Dr. Obersteen and he could see it.

The younger doctor said, "Whether boy or girl they will have beautiful hair and my brains.

He said, "This is why I lost Betsy."

He bathed in cold water and changed his clothes.

He cleaned the bath shed.

The younger doctor walked out with his water basin.

His mind was full of, "The thing I feared the most has overtaken me."

Dr. Obersteen rode into the yard.

He was wondering why Joshua and Emma did not reply to his greeting.



He saw Wes wondering in the yard with his head down.

He knew then Wes was in trouble with Betsy.

Dr. Obersteen said, "Come and have coffee."

He held up the coffee pot.

They walked over and sat on the front porch.

For an hour they sat in quietness and sipped their coffee.

Wes allowed his mind to get to Mattie.

He told Dr. Obersteen Mattie was in trouble and needed many test and they had no money.

Dr. Obersteen asked, "What do you think is wrong?"

Dr. Obersteen did not bring up Betsy since Wes did not.

Wes said, "I know it is not good. She says her body is hot and she sleeps out in the cold to cool her body down."

Dr. Obersteen said, "You know I have heard of something like that"

Wes, "I have also."

Dr. Obersteen said, "Let me thin on it. Maybe we can narrow down the type of tests. Will you go into the city with them until I return?"

Wes said, "Yes."

Dr. Obersteen said, "You can stay at the doctor's housing. But we have to find a place for her family.

Dr. Obersteen turned towards the door and said, "Any news from the little girl?"

Wes said, "I noticed new under her scar tissue."

Dr. Obersteen said, "Fascinating."

He stood to leave and said, "I read an article the other night on leukemia. That symptom maybe in that article. I am going back to read it again. Do not worry about the money. I will go and talk to city hospital administrator and appeal to his charitable side. "

They both laughed, because they knew the city hospital administrator will squeeze every dime.

Dr. Obersteen put on his hat and mounted his horse.

The younger doctor said, "Dr. Obersteen, drink inside your tent."

Dr. Obersteen tilted his head and said, "Point well taken."

He turned and rode to his tent.

The younger doctor sat and wondered.