Betsy was sleep when there was a knock at 6:30 am.

Wes was up and standing in the bathroom.

He could not sleep.

He thought Mattie’s situation was so serious and the only other person who understood how serious her situation is was Emma.

He sat and looked at Betsy most of the night.

He thought that he and his father’s twosome has now become a foursome.

He still did not like Harold.

Wes tried flipping Betsy off her stomach, but she kept rolling back over.

He smiled.

He thought about Joshua.

Wes went over in his mind each test, the horrible pain and the long healing process.

His peace was taken.

He paced in the room, thinking there has to be another way to zoom in on the trouble area and run test from that area. He had not been at a hospital in four months, but his skills were still current.

His mind drifted back to the cute house and his chasing Betsy.

Then he begin to think about the little girl. She endured unknown pain and damage to her internal organs and she is alive and her body is mending.

Wes mind went to the dresser with all the different plants and herbs.

He memorized each plant and what it’s function in the healing process.

In his mind he could hear Mattie’s bones being ground and her blood dripped into pans.

He saw the needles in the base of her neck.

Wes could see her paralyzed and in a wheelchair until her immediate death.

He hated what he saw.

His mind drifted back to the dresser of plants and herbs.

The knock on the door pushed his mind out the reality unto the current situation.

Wes cracked the door and saw the man with the hot water.

The man said, “Good morning. 6:30 a.m.?”

Wes opened the door and said, “Good morning. Come in.”

Wes looked at the sleep Betsy.

The man brought the hot water into the bathroom.

Betsy woke and raised up in the bed.

Her beautiful dark curly hair covered most of her face.

The man looked at Betsy and said,”Good morning.”

Betsy said, “Good morning.”

Wes walked the man to the door and locked it.

He walked to the bed and sat.

Betsy fell back on the pillow and fell back to sleep.

Wes looked at her tossing back and forth.

He touched her stomach and wondered at the miracle that was in it.

He stood up and got his clothes and went into the bathroom.

He washed and shaved and his whole mind was on Mattie, until the sharp razor cut brought his attention back to his current situation.

Betsy rushed in the bathroom and startled Wes.

He looked at her as she turned around and around in the floor.

He did not know what she was doing.

She begin to choke and he realized she needed to throw up.

He grabbed her and directed her to the waste bowl.

Wes mind was on Mattie.

He wondered if Emma remembered to give her the yellow top a half hour before the test.

Wes opened the window to let in fresh air and he saw two of the physicians walking to the hospital and he hated them. Because all they wanted to do was experiment on Mattie.

Betsy was finally waking up.

She went to the hot water and washed her face and brushed her teeth.

Wes turned and sat on the windowsill and watched Betsy.

Betsy said, “Mattie will do well because of you Wes.”

Wes was stunned by Betsy’s perception and her care for him.

Betsy crawled in the bed and slept.

Wes put another log on the fire and closed the bathroom door because the window was opened.

He stared into the fire.

He looked at the flipping Betsy and put on his coat and hat and walked out the room.

He walked to the hospital.

Wes was greeted by the head nurse with Mattie’s chart that had all the tests they were to run.

She said, “Dr. Ross, I presume?”

Dr .Ross, said “Yes I am Wes Ross.”

She said, “You’re the new face since yesterday.”

She said ,“I am Nurse Watson. Your patient Miss Mattie Wilson has been assigned to me. “

Wes reached for the chart in Nurse Watson’s hand and said, “Is that her chart?”

The nurse reached the chart to Wes and said, “Yes.”

Wes stood and begin to go through each test over and over again.

He was worried.

Nurse Watson leaned forward and looked up and down the aisle.

Wes saw her.

She looked back at Wes and said, “Everyone is talking about you. That you personally brought your patient here and how you are very dedicated to your patient.”

Wes looked at her and did not make any comments.

Nurse Watson did not know if she spoke out of turn or whether it was inappropriate.

She swallowed and stood tall and looked around at the other nurses.

The city hospital administrator was walking to his office and saw Wes and stopped.

Nurse Watson said, “Good morning sir.”

She stood and watched Wes pour over the tests.

The city hospital administrator realized Wes did not see him.

He said, “Morning Dr. Ross.”

Wes was so concerned with Mattie’s chart he took a double take at the city hospital administrator and said, “Good morning.”

The city hospital administrator said, “Today is a big day. Keep up.”

Nurse Watson looked at the city hospital administrator.

Wes watched the city hospital administrator walk away.

He thought,”Like I have been in a jungle and have primitive medical skills. And yes I will use the herbs on Mattie, because you all will not kill her.”

Wes reached Mattie’s chart to Nurse Watson.

He pulled off his coat and his hat.

Nurse Watson pointed and said, “You can change in the second room.”

Wes said, “Thank you.”

Emma woke Mattie and washed her face and comb and brushed her red thick hair.

Emma whispered in Mattie’s ear and said, “Can you hear me?”

Mattie blinked her eyes for yes.

That’s what they used to do when they were younger to keep their parents from knowing they were talking when the lights were out.

Emma looked around and said, “Take this.”

She raised Mattie’s head and Mattie sip the bitter water.

Emma pretended she was patting Mattie’s shoulder.

Emma said, “Mattie, Wes brought the herbs they use on the little girl to help you.”

Mattie smiled.

Emma saw the people coming in with the stretcher.

Emma touched Mattie and said.”Sleep.”

The orderlies took Mattie to the test room and a number of physicians were in the room.

The physicians saw Mattie was sleep and they did not have to use anesthesia.

Wes said quietly, Thank you God.”

Wes walked over to Mattie and said, “Mattie I am here.”

Mattie blinked her eyelids.

Wes saw it and thought, “I need her to be sleep.”

The city hospital administrator walked in to observe the test.

Wes held Mattie’s hand during the three hour horrible test.

Mattie moved several times and one physician wanted to stop the test and give her anesthesia.

Wes said, “You will not. Continue.”

The physicians looked at the city hospital administrator.

He looked at Wes and said, “Continue.”

Mattie was in recovery for four hours.

Emma was sick.

She had ice and water and the throw up pans and bed pans ready.

Bill, Joshua and Betsy were in the waiting room.

Wes went to Emma and told her, “Give Mattie one teaspoon of the red top every two hours to keep the swelling down and any infections.“

Emma’s voice cracking said, “How is she?”

Wes said, “Bad. And it gets worst. But we can ward off some of it with these herbs. If they find out we are using the herbs they may kick us out the hospital. Be kind but not friendly with anyone. Keep your bag locked and out of view. Don’t talk to anyone. Use the restroom when the nurses are too busy to come in here and Mattie is not here.”

Emma shook her head for yes.

Wes said, “Where are the rest of them?”

Emma said, “In the waiting room.”

Wes said, “Mattie have three more hours there and then you start the pain therapy. Understand Nurse Emma.” He smiled and Emma did not.

She locked her bag and put it under the head of her bed.

Wes and Emma walked downstairs to the waiting room.

Joshua ran to Emma and they hugged.

Bill stood and walked to Wes and Emma.

Wes did not say anything at first.

Joshua said, “Where’s my momma?”

Wes said, “She is in recovery and she has three more hours there. I was with her during the test and the first hour of recovery. I wanted to tell you her condition.”

Nurse Watson ran into the waiting room and said, “Dr. Ross you are needed in recovery.”

The whole family turned and watched Wes run up the stairs followed by Nurse Watson.

They sat and waited.

Bill said, “Betsy. I just realized you will be Betsy Ross.”

Emma and Joshua sat in one chair and she was rubbing his red hair.

Emma and said, “I noticed that last week.”

They all laughed.

Betsy said, “Don’t start. I am pregnant.”

Bill said, “What’s that supposed to mean?”
Betsy said, “I don’t know but I will use it as often as I can.”

Nurse Watson walked to the waiting room on her way home and looked at Emma and said, “You’re the one staying with Miss. Wilson?”

Emma stood up and said, “Yes.”

Nurse Watson nodded to walk out in the hallway.

Emma followed her and she remembered Wes’s words be kind but not friendly.

Emma said,” I am Emma Wilson her first cousin and the eldest of us.”
Nurse Watson was putting on her cape and gloves and said, “Be careful of the two nurses that Miss.Wilson is assigned to, they are not as accommodating as I am.”

Emma said, “Accommodating to what?”

Nurse Watson, “The herbs.”

She stared at Emma.

Emma looked at her and said, “Good night.”

Emma watched Nurse Watson out the building.

She told the rest that Nurse Watson knew about the herbs and she did not know how.

Wes appeared three hours later.

Betsy said, “How did Nurse Watson know about the herbs?”

Wes said, “I told her”

He looked at Emma, “You did as I told you.”

Emma said, “Fine.”

Joshua walked over to Wes and said, “How is my momma?”

Wes was standing with his arms folded and said, “Joshua you know your little friend?”

Joshua looked up at Wes and said, “Yes.”

Wes bent down and said,”That’s how your momma will be for a while.”

Joshua ran to Betsy and fell into her lap and hollered.

Betsy held him tight.

Emma looked back at Wes who was waiting for her smart mouth, “Did you have to say that?”

Wes said, “Yes. And Mattie should be back in the ward right now.”

Emma turned to walk away.

Wes said, “Remember red top means to stop pain and infection. Yellow is caution a half hour before test.”

Emma ran up the stairs to the ward.

They had just put Mattie in her bed.

They laid Mattie on her side.

Emma walked in the ward.

She could see the swelling in Mattie’s back from a distance.

She attempted to run to Mattie, but the second shift nurse, Mrs. Simpson, stepped in front of Emma and said, “Only nurses and doctors run. Who are you?”

Emma was thinking on Wes words about guns.

The stunned Emma said, “Where were you last night?”

Nurse Simpson said, “What?”

Emma said, “I was here last night and will be here every night until Miss Wilson is released and go home.”

Wes walked in and saw the interaction.

Wes said, “Your name?”

She said, “I’m Nurse Simpson.”

Wes said, “Nurse Simpson bring me Miss Wilson chart.”

Nurse Simpson said, “Yes doctor.”

She looked at Emma and walked out.

Emma ran to her bag and pulled out the red top and hurried and gave Mattie a cap full.

Emma checked the time.

Wes thought very good.

Mattie begin to shake.

Emma said, “She is cold.”

Nurse Simpson reached Wes the chart and walked on the side between the beds to check on Mattie.

Emma turned to get another blanket and nearly walked into Nurse Simpson.

Wes stood and watched them.

Emma looked at Miss Simpson and said, “Let us not have any problems.”

The city hospital administrator was passing the ward and saw Wes.

The city hospital administrator walked into the ward.

He saw the tension between Emma and Nurse Simpson.

The city hospital administrator said, “Good evening.”

Wes said, “Sir.”

The city hospital administrator said, “You and your wife come and join me for dinner.”

Wes said, “I need to check on Mattie.”

The city hospital administrator said, “We have to talk. Change clothes. Is your wife here?”

Wes said, “In the waiting room.”

The city hospital administrator said, ”I’ll keep your wife engaged in conversation until you come.”

The city hospital administrator looked at Nurse Simpson and beckoned for her to leave.

He walked out the ward.

Nurse Simpson walked out with him and said, “Sir it is something about her.”

The city hospital administrator said, “Leave her alone.”

Wes was reading over Mattie’s chart. He said, “Emma, they have runners if you need me, tell the nurse to send a runner. Bill and Joshua left to eat dinner and go back to the apartment. I’m going to dinner with him to see what he has up his selves. Be alert and red every two hours. Nurse Simpson will be back once per hour, because of Mattie’s condition. This start all over tomorrow.”

Wes starred at Emma.

Wes walked out and went to quickly dressed.

He had no idea how Betsy would be responding. She was not in the country anymore.

He walked downstairs and saw the city hospital administrator holding Betsy’s hand and they both were laughing.

Betsy looked very nice.

Wes walked between the two and disconnected their hands.

Wes lifted Betsy up and put her shawl around her.

Betsy put on her gloves.

Emma changed into her nightgown and used the rest room before Nurse Simpson returned.

She pulled out one of Mattie’s book and sat on Mattie’s bed.

Emma began to read the book to Mattie.

Nurse Simpson ran over and yelled, “You can’t sit on her bed.“

Emma stood up and looked at Nurse Simpson and said very calmly, “Why?”

Nurse Simpson saw the title of the book and stuttered and said, “The test Miss. Wilson had affects her balance.”

Emma looked at the sleep Mattie.

Emma said, “I do not want to disturb anyone else.”

Nurse Simpson left and returned with a chair and pushed it to Emma.

Emma turned and looked at Nurse Simpson and said, “Thank You.”

Nurse Simpson said nothing but walked out.

Emma looked at the time and rushed to her bag and got the red top and eased the herbs down Mattie’s throat. She put the herbs back in her bag and locked it.

Emma pulled out her socks and turned in time to see Nurse Simpson watching her.

Nurse Simpson saw Emma getting her socks.

Emma acted as though she did not see Nurse Simpson and sat on her bed and put on the socks.

Emma was getting sleepy and got on her knees at Mattie’s bed and prayed.

She said, “God there is trouble here, but please heal Mattie and help us.”

Emma knew Mattie believed in praying.

She decided each morning when they come and get Mattie and every night when they bring her back to the ward they would pray.

Emma nearly missed the third red teaspoon.

She only woke when she heard Nurse Simpson telling Nurse Todd that Miss Wilson will be having a very difficult test in the next morning.

Emma acted like she was sleep and Nurse Simpson pointed and said, “That one is a relative the city hospital administrator let stay in here at Miss Wilson’s physician’s request.”

Nurse Simpson and Nurse Todd walked around the ward going through each patient’s chart.

Mattie began to move because the pain was coming.

Emma jumped out the bed and peeped under the bed to see where they were. She grabbed her bag and poured the herb into the cap and turned and poured it down Mattie’s throat.

Nurse Simpson and Nurse Todd were returning.

She had to wipe Mattie’s mouth with her hand so they would not see the herbs.

Emma turned quickly and put the herb into her bag and locked it.

She jumped in the bed and knocked over the book off her bed.

The two nurses ran and saw the book.

Nurse Todd stooped to pick it up.

Nurse Simpson said, “I would have left it on the floor. She’s not sick.”

Emma was watching them through her squinted eyes.

They walked to Mattie and check for a fever.

Nurse Todd said, “That’s odd she doesn’t have a fever.”

Nurse Simpson was rubbing Mattie’s back with alcohol and put another bandage on it.

Mattie begin to twist her upper body.

Nurse Todd was looking at Mattie’s chart and said, “Why there is no medication for pain?”

Nurse Simpson said, “I do not know. They said her physician did not want her to have any. Because he was afraid of the interaction with the tests results.”

The nurses walked out.

Emma went to sleep and trained herself that once the nurse left every hour she could sleep another hour.

Wes and Betsy walked back to the room.

There was a note on the door as a reminder of hot water at 6:30 am.

Wes shook the note at Betsy and said, “This is your doing.”

Betsy laughed.

Wes saw a different side of Betsy.

He thought she was humorous and had delightful conversation with the city hospital administrator.

He was proud of her.

Betsy changed into her nightgown and washed her face and brushed her teeth.

Wes was thinking about Mattie. He looked at the clock on the wall.

He was hoping Emma was keeping up with the medication.

Betsy came out the bathroom

She grabbed her arms.

Wes put a couple of logs on the fire, which had nearly burnt out.

Betsy straightened the cover and got in the bed.

She knew she made the before she left.

Wes went into the bathroom and washed his face and brushed his teeth.

He walked out and got his clothes ready for the next day.

He locked the room door.

Wes put another log on the fire.

He put lights out from the lamps.

He thought about Richard, whether he was keeping the oil going on the lamp sticks

He wondered if Harold was doing the same thing at the cute house.

Wes laid in the bed and pulled a sleep Betsy to him.

He did not sleep well that night.

He was thinking about Mattie and the little girl.

He knew Dr. Obersteen was an outstanding physician and he did not need their help, because he would have sent Harold.

He was thinking about the herbs and he knew he had to get something on Mattie’s stomach because of the medication they would be giving her to take the test.

A thought came to him, “Liquified oatmeal, oats, honey and milk.”

He said Emma can pour it into her mouth.

He felt much better.

He laid in the bed and slept for a few hours.

Emma was proud of herself for outsmarting the nurses.

She put on her slippers and went and got hot water and came back and washed Matties’ entire body.

She saw Nurse Todd watching her.

Emma did not speak because she wanted them to think she did not see them. But she hurried back to the ward.

She washed Mattie’s face first and then put the hot water on the knot in her back.

Mattie was moving.

The water was hot and the swelling in her back was great.

Wes told Emma they would be testing her neck, which he did not want them to do.

Emma nearly cried.

She finished washing Mattie and put her on another clean gown.

Emma had a thought she looked around and took out he yellow cap and put it in Mattie’s mouth and then she rubbed Mattie’s neck with the red cap pain herb. She rubbed it on the not in Mattie’s back.”

Wes got to the hospital early.

He got Mattie’s chart and went over the test for that day.

He leaned forward and said, “God help.”

The nurses were looking at Wes.

He walked to the station and said, “Get Miss Wilson hot oatmeal, milk and honey. Let her cousin feed it to her.”

Nurse Todd went and put the order in for the oatmeal.

Wes thoughts were Mattie had leukemia or cancer of the blood.

He did not understand the neck test.

He went and changed and walked to the ward with Mattie.

Emma prayed with Mattie.

She said, “Mattie, Wes is here.”

Wes touched Mattie’s hand and then he held it.

The orderlies came in and Mattie begin to cry.

Wes motioned for the orderlies to stop.

Wes looked at Mattie and said, “Mattie are you afraid?”

Mattie blinked her eyelids.

Emma said, “Mattie said yes.”

The city hospital administrator and the two physicians who were to administer the test walked into the ward.

The city hospital administrator nodded for Wes.

Wes looked at Emma and said, “Keep her calm.”

Emma mouthed, “What?”

She walked over to Mattie and put her hands in her hand and rubbed her shoulder.

She whispered in Mattie’s hearing, “Wes went to talk to the doctors.”

Nurse Todd was going over the patients charts with Nurse Watson.

All the nurses were watching the doctors.

It hit Emma to sing the medley Mattie loved.

Emma began to sing just above a whisper.

Wes and the city hospital administrator walked in the ward.

They listened to Emma’s beautiful voice.

Wes walked to Mattie and saw she was calm.

Wes said to the city hospital said, “Please let us do the test I want.”

The city hospital administrator said, “I do not have a physician qualified to do it.”

Wes said, “I observed it once. I can do it. The patient is prepared.”

Wes pointed at Mattie.

The city hospital administrator walked out the ward.

Then he stepped back and said,“I will sign off on it only if you take full responsibility for any damage or death.”

Wes looked back at Mattie then a stunned Emma and turned to the city administrator, and said, “Get the papers for me to sign.”

Emma said, “Wes?”

Nurse Watson walked in with the hot oatmeal.

The orderlies said, “We will come back.”

Wes said, “You stand still.”

Nurse Watson looked at the orderlies.

She walked the tray and put it on Matties’ dresser.

Wes reached for Emma and he walked her to the ward door so Mattie could not hear.

Nurse Watson slowly walked passed the orderlies.

They knew she would report them.

Wes said to Emma, “I believe Mattie has leukemia or cancer of the blood.”

Emma pointing to her neck said, “Why?”

Wes said, “That test and other’s I do not agree with. I thank God, they could not perform it, because an instrument was missing. They wanted to delay the test until after the governor’s inauguration and then do the rest of the tests.”

Nurse Watson had walked up.

Emma said, “Too much on her.”

Wes said, “I told them no. This test will eliminate about half of all the tests.”

Nurse Watson touched Emma’s arm and said, “Her oatmeal is ready.”

Wes said, “Thank you.”

Emma said, “She will still die.”

Wes said, “No the herbs.”

An orderly walked to Wes and said, “Are Dr. Ross?”

Wes looked at him and said, “Yes.”

The orderly said, “The city administrator said for you to sign and give this back to me.”

Wes said, “Remember the baby. The attendant said she only had a drop of blood left in her body.

The blood re-build itself.”

Another orderly walked in the ward and told the other orderlies where to take Mattie.

Wes held onto Emma’s arm and said, “Give Mattie at least a spoonful of the honey, oatmeal and milk.”

Wes told the orderlies, “Wait a minute.”

He said, “Emma make it like water.”

Emma looked at Wes and added a lot of milk and a lot of honey.

She dripped a teaspoon into Matties’ mouth.

Wes said, “That’s enough. Keep the rest for tonight.”

He turned to the orderlies and said, “Now.”

Wes walked down the stairs with them.

Emma looked under the bed and got her bag.

She unlocked it and took out her underwear and locked it back.

She went to the wash closet and washed her body and changed clothes.

She came back and straightened Mattie’s bed and her bed.

Emma crawled into her bed and slept for hours.

Betsy came and sat in the chair.

Bill and Joshua sat on Matties’ bed and played cards.

Betsy did not approve them playing cards. But she was not saying anything to anybody because she was full of sin and was pregnant on top.

She was reading one of Mattie’s books.

Nurse Watson walked in and looked at them and turned around and walked to the other patients in the ward.

They heard someone crying out and they all became quit.

Bill and Joshua put cards away.

Wes performed the test on Mattie, it was four hours long.

The city hospital administrator was present and another physician was assisting Wes.

Wes put Mattie in her room instead of the recovery room, so Emma could give her the herbs.

Bill and Joshua moved off Mattie’s bed.

The orderlies brought Mattie and put her in the bed.

Wes waited until the orderlies and shook Emma’s leg waking her said, “Emma, start now every two hours. Look at the bottle with the green leaves and give her a cap full.”

Emma got off the bed and went under the bed and got her bag and gave Mattie the red and the green leaves.”

Joshua sat in Betsy’s lap.

Wes looked and said, “Joshua you only have about two weeks of sitting in Betsy’s lap.”

Joshua turned his head and looked at Mattie.

Betsy rolled her eyes at Wes.

Betsy knew he was right because she did not say anything to Wes but her stomach hurts.

She knew Mattie and the little girl was more than enough.

Wes said, “Emma give her a spoon of oatmeal.”

Nurse Watson walked in and said, “Doctor her chart.”

The hospital was abuzzed with Wes performing the procedure.

Wes went out and sat and wrote in Matties’ chart for about a half of hour.

Emma added much milk and honey to the oatmeal and dripped it in Mattie’s mouth.

The city hospital administrator left early because he was going to a governor’s inauguration reception.

He stopped by to check on Mattie, that was the first time the hospital did that procedure.

It would put them on the map.

He believed it was successful. It eliminated much pain and suffering on the patient.

He still did not like the prognosis.

They sent it to the lab.

He walked in and said, “Hello.” He”

Everyone spoke to him and saw Betsy and said, “My cherie amour.”

Betsy grinned.

The city hospital administrator said, “Your husband put us on the map today. We never performed that procedure. It will help the patients in the long run.”

He said, “Good evening.”

Emma slip the reed cap into Matties’ mouth as Nurse Simpson walked in.

She was more concerned about the number of guess.

Bill said, “Come on son. Let’s get dinner.”

Joshua kissed Mattie on the cheek and Betsy and then Emma.

Bill brought Emma some rabbit stew. She ate a little bit because she was nervous and sick.

Wes went and changed.

He walked in and check Mattie.

He said, “She has no test tomorrow.”

He reached for Betsy’s hand.

Betsy stood and he put her wrap on her and she put on her gloves.

Wes saw Mattie’s leg.

Emma saw it, she knew she had to get Mattie the pain herb.

Wes said, “nurse Simpson bring me Miss Wilson’s chart.”

Emma hurried and gave Mattie the red cap of the pain therapy.

Emma, did not, have enough time to put the bottle up when Nurse Simpson returned.

Betsy was standing and reading Mattie’s book

Emma was standing with her bag on the bed and her back to Wes.

She was unpinning her hair and put her socks on the bed.

Nurse Simpson was watching Emma.

She looked at Mrs. Ross who did not say anything.”

Wes completed his notes in Matties’ chart.

He closed the chart and reached it to Nurse Simpson.

Nurse Simpson said, “Sir why you did not prescribe pain medication for this patient.”

Wes said, “Take the chart.”

Emma looked back and eased the bottle in the suitcase.

Wes and Betsy left for dinner.

Emma read to Mattie and went to sleep and continued her two hours pain therapy.