Brenda told William to have a large pound cake made the Sunday’s brunch as a birthday cake for Shirley.

The family ran to the family dining room for a snack of a boiled egg and orange juice.

Brenda and Patrick dressed for church and left early to make it to church by nine. Brenda thought it was eight thirty.

Eleanor had the formal dining room table set for thirty people.

The mayor could not attend. He always spent Sunday with his mother.

The Gibson’s were invited, they were invited to the count’s luncheon.

Eleanor did not invite any of Bruce’s family.

Gen and Ben were invited.

The governor and his wife always attended church and spent that day together.

Patrick and Brenda invited Mag, Roger and Josiah.

They invited old friends they had not seen in years.

Patrick and Brenda were excited that morning as they left for church.

They had not attended church in nearly three years.

The house was cleaned and ready for guests from the Thanksgiving holiday.

Brenda allowed Thomas to decide the brunch menu, but for Shirley’s birthday cake.

Eleanor worked most of Saturday on her business plans.

The only problem she was having was the men to put in the barbed wire fence.

Mr. Gibson was depending on them to put in the fence.

Eleanor would go into town Wednesday to sign her divorce papers and buy the land to the left and right of their house.

She knew she had to move quickly.

She thought she might go into town on Monday then back on Wednesday, since that was the only way she spent time with the count.

Eleanor thought, “He seems quite please.”

Lorraine was off duty.

Meredith was at work and took on Shirley.

Lorraine told Meredith to bring them food for that day.

Lorraine made a hot bath with her bath toiletries and she shampooed her hair.

She cleaned the house.

She knew she needed a horse and buggy or carriage.

She stayed in the house all day treating herself especially her skin.

Ruth and Vivieene always told her how beautiful and glowing her skin and hair were.

Meredith had a hard time with Shirley that morning.

She wanted Lorraine.

Eleanor walked in and said, “Shirley. Lorraine is completely dedicated to you. She needs time to herself, to read, pray, bath, shampoo her hair and get ready for the next week. I want you to stop being selfish. Meredith is Michael’s nurse, she is gracious to help you because I don’t have physical strength to help you Shirley. Every since I was sick I have been weak and sick most days. The physicians said it will take years for me to recover. That’s why you must do for yourself. We are all here to help you. Now stop being bad and help Meredith help you.”

Eleanor walked out the door and went and bathed and dressed.

Shirley was outdone.

She did not know Eleanor heard her scolding Meredith.

She was surprise Eleanor was sick everyday and not strong anymore.

Shirley realized she had to do for herself.

Shirley looked in amazement at Meredith, who was on her knees next to the bathtub.

Shirley looked at the pretty winter green dress, Eleanor and Brenda bought her.

She was being mean when she told them the color dresses she wanted.

Eleanor knew she was being mean but did not fuss.

Percy contained himself and ate one boiled egg and drank one glass of orange juice. He wanted an empty stomach for the brunch.

Patrick and Brenda enjoyed themselves at church.

They greeted the new preacher.

When they left the church.

They looked ahead of them it was Roger, Mag and Josiah.

Patrick and Brenda laughed and sang hymns all the way home.

The weather was changing quickly.

Brenda kept blankets in the buggies.

She covered up until they got home.

Roger and Mag pulled up to the house and stared in wonderment at the house.

Patrick and Brenda pulled up behind Roger and Mag and walked to their wagon.

They startled Roger and Mag.

Mag laughed and said, “We love your house!”

Benda said, “Come on you’ll.”

Roger, Mag and Josiah got out the wagon and walked in the house with his parents and Patrick and Brenda.

Josiah was looking around.

Brenda wondered why he was looking around.

Brenda said, “Josiah what’s wrong.”

He shook his head.

Patrick stopped and looked at Josiah and said, “If there is something wrong tell us.”

Roger said, “Josiah.”

Josiah said, “I feel danger.”

Mag patted him on his arm and said, “What type of danger?”

Josiah said, “It is very bad. But I feel if you lay low and pray it will be destroyed.”

Roger said, “He has not been wrong yet. It started when he was about five and that’s how he saved his whole troop.”

Patrick said, “You have to tell us what happened on the train with ‘Freed men’? Come inside you’ll and meet the family.”

Brenda looked around and said, “I feel it to.”

William opened the door and Patrick held out his hand for everyone to enter.

He thought he saw movement, ”Out aways from the house.”

Patrick and Brenda called everyone downstairs and introduced Roger, Mag and Josiah to everyone but Eleanor and Shirley.

Shirley wanted Eleanor to help dress her and make her pretty like she did on Thanksgiving.

Patrick introduced Roger to the liquor table and said, “Only if you want it.”

Eleanor and Shirley were about to walk downstairs.

Brenda had on her new earrings.

She and Patrick and the boys ran upstairs.

Percy, Bruce, Thomas and Michael ran behind Brenda and Patrick to see what they were going to do.

Josiah and Roger and Mag were in the billiards room.

The count walked through the hallway and saw everyone running upstairs.

He heard the billiards and peeped around and saw people.

He walked into the billiards room and introduced himself to Roger, Mag and Josiah.

They were laughing and talking.

There were knocks on the front door.

William knew the people who were invited.

William thought he said movement in the tall grass a good distance away.

Eleanor made Shirley’s hair beautiful.

She put lip gloss on Shirley.

Shirley was smacking her lips.

Patrick and Brenda walked in and Patrick purposely held the box behind his back.

Shirley always loved crawling behind his back to get the gift.

Patrick did not do that this morning.

Shirley said, “Grandpa!!”

Everyone laughed.

Patrick reached Shirley the box.

Shirley was so surprised.

She opened the box and her mouth dropped opened.

Percy, Bruce, Thomas and Michael ran to see.

Thomas was not excited and said, “It’s some earrings.”

Michael said, “What about my birthday?”

Patrick grinned at Shirley’s facial expression.

Meredith was cleaning up Shirley’s bath.

Meredith exhaled and said, “My God what a grand gift.”

Patrick said, “Shirley, that is your birthday gift from your momma, your grandma and me. Those are very expensive and you pass them to your daughter.”

Shirley looked at her grandpa and grandma and said, “I’ll hold these in my heart forever.”

Patrick said, “Give me a kiss so we can greet our guests.”

Shirley kissed her grandpa and grandma,

Patrick and Brenda went downstairs with Thomas and Michael to greet their guests.

Lance and Hilary just walked in with their four grandchildren.

Their son, Mike died in the civil war and his wife was very sick and pass before the war started. They adopted their four children and moved in their home to raise them.

The two oldest were girls, fifteen and sixteen. The two boys were fourteen and thirteen.

The girls would be going away to school in the fall to become teachers like their mother.

Patrick and Brenda had not seen them in over ten years.

Eleanor was putting Shirley’s diamond earrings on her ears.

Meredith and Ruth were taking out her bathtub.

Ruth said, “My princess.”

Shirley grinned and put her head on Eleanor.

Eleanor, Shirley, Bruce and Percy walked down the staircase to their guests.

Lance and Hilary told their grandchildren the oldest girl was deform and not to stare at her.

Bradley and Cynthia arrived with their son and his two children. One a boy and one a girl, his wife died two years earlier.

Bryce and Stephen arrived.

They were Patrick’s coal digging friends.

They never married and had children.

They drank, gambled and ran behind women even until that day.

Bryce believed in clothes and boots and was always well dressed.

Stephen always believed in showing women his money.

Gen and Ben walked to the house with the final brunch guests, Timothy and his wife Laura and their only grandchild Daniel.

Daniel was fifteen and was very handsome.

Everyone was in the grand foyer laughing and talking.

Bruce and Percy helped Shirley down the stairs.

Eleanor walked down behind her children.

The count walked out the billiard room and greeted them and held his arm out for Eleanor.

Eleanor saw Mag and greeted her and Josiah and Roger.

Ben was trying to laugh and talk.

But he kept walking to the door and peeping out.

Roger walked to the door and peeped out.

Patrick and Brenda saw them.

Brenda walked to them and put her arms in their arms and escorted them to the formal dining room.

Eleanor had other china and crystal pulled out to use.

Mable did an outstanding job on the floral arrangement.

Thomas had rested up over his two days off.

He made omelets, quiches, pancakes, biscuits, scones, warm apple compote and warm peach compote, crepes, ham, salmon and grits.

Everyone loved the warm apple and peach compote.

Much food was left over.

Thomas was sitting and reading a book.

Everyone told Thomas of the great job he did on the brunch.

William told Thomas he did an outstanding job on the brunch.

William made a plate of omelet, salmon and biscuits with the peach compote.

William said, “For dinner?”

Thomas slowly lowered his book and looked at William.

The guests asked to take some food home.

Mag said, “Brenda do you mind if I take some of this delicious food home?”

Before Brenda could answer.

Roger said, “Stop Mag. They won’t invite us again.”

Brenda said, “Now Roger. Yes Mag can take what she likes. It is only a few of us here. But the food was very good.”

Gen heard Mag and leaned over the table and said, “I was waiting for the answer because I wanted something for later.”

Ben said, “Gen, I’ll cook you dinner.”

Gen said, “I love you Ben.”

Ben said, “I know.”

Patrick was eating his eggs Florentine and grinning at Shirley.

He pointed his fork and said, “Good to hear Shirley laughed.”

Roger said, “She is a good looking kid.”

Patrick thought, “Roger always see beyond anybody.”

Josiah and Daniel introduced themselves and were watching the teenage girls and talking.

Eleanor was so proud of Shirley.

The count said, “Shirley makes friends easily.”

Lance watched the teenage girls and he saw Daniel and Josiah.

He smiled.

Bruce and Percy got along will the other boys.

Meredith ran in the kitchen and made her and Lorraine full plates and hid them.

Earle saw Meredith making two plates of food.

He went in the kitchen and made him a plate.

Earle saw Margaret with Stanley while she was at work on Saturday.

They disappeared for hours.

He was so angry and upset.

The count looked at him and was telling him what he wanted to wear at the brunch.

Earle did not respond but snatched the count’s jacket.

The count looked at Earle and said, “Problem?”

Earle did not hear the count talking to him.

The count stood and looked at Earle.

He knew it had to be a woman.

The count walked out his suite and went to the liquor table and got scotch that he held onto through out the whole day.

The count decided he had to stop drinking.

Earle walked in the servants’ dining area and saw Gary eating so much food. He was disgusted.

He sat at another table.

Gary was embarrassed.

He tried to say something to Earle.

Earle said, “Your mouth is so full you can’t talk!”

Earle hit his knife and fork on the table and said, “You are so selfish. You did not tell me to come and eat.”

Gary did not say anything.

Mable and Denise walked out and sat with Gary.

Earle rolled his eyes at Gary.

He mouthed to Gary that he was going to tell the count.

Gary turned his head.

Gary started to talk to Mable and Denise.

Brenda saw Timothy and Laura’s grandson and said, “Oh God he is gorgeous.”

Timothy and Laura laughed.

Laura said, “We have to keep an eye on him.”

Shirley was talking to Lance and Hilary two teenage granddaughters,

They were talking and laughing.

Eleanor found some unattractive dishes and put them out in case anyone wanted to take food home.

Bryce reared back in his seat and said, “I loved the food. But I have a dinner date.”

Stephen said, “Wanda.”

Patrick nearly lost it and yelled, “Wanda! After all of these years.”

The three laughed.

Shirley and the two teenage girls and Brad and Cynthia’s granddaughter went into the parlor and played games.

Josiah and Daniel played billiards.

Bryce and Stephen sat on the staircase and had drinks with Patrick.

They told Patrick they bought small houses and retired.

They love their lives.

Bryce said, “Ole brother I really don’t regret not marrying Wanda. She was having as many men as I was having women.”

Patrick hollered.

Dan and Peter came and lit the torch lights and got the water ready for Monday and Tuesday.

William paid them and they walked out the house to go home.

Gary ran and helped with the water.

Denise and Mable finished eating and went back to washing the dishes.

Wyonna helped washed the dishes along with Vivienne.

Ruth was in the formal dining room.

Gary was waiting to go into town and buy him several pairs of boots and another coat and gloves.

He was the poorest of the count’s servants.

The count knew Gary could never afford to take the trip to America on his own.

The counts parents were paying for the trip and he decided to bring Gary.

Gary earned more money since he was at the house than a month with the count.

He was having second thoughts about going back to Austria.

Thomas looked through the kitchen and found a beef roast and vegetables he prepared for dinner.

Thomas exhaled.

William snickered that he got Thomas that upset.

William was happy he and Wyonna would be off until Wednesday.

He was glad Bethany and Robert moved out Saturday.

They gave William their resignation letters.

William gave them to Patrick and Brenda.

Brenda closed out the book on them.

She decided she did not need any additional maids, until Meredith tells her what she will do.

Meredith helped Ruth clear the formal dining room.

Meredith heard Shirley laughing and having a good time.

Ruth looked at the children and said, “It’s better than Thanksgiving.”

Gen said, “Bren, I don’t know where Bruce and Sharon and Sis and her husband are. They did not come to me unless they went to the big house.”

Ben said, “Why cares. For them to act like that. Gen did you know your sister was like that?”

Gen stood and walked away.

Brenda and Ben looked at each and followed Gen.

Gen walked to the liquor table.

Patrick looked at Gen.

She looked through the bottles and got the bottle of brandy and poured a large glass.

William looked at her because he planned to take that half of bottle home that night.

Gen put the glass up to her mouth and cried.

Patrick turned and looked at Gen.

He knew it was trouble.

Bryce said, “We better go.”

Stephen said, “Patrick we should do this again, but at Wanda’s.”

They all laughed.

Bryce and Stephen told everyone good evening.

Patrick walked them to the door and saw Peter and Dan lighting the torches.

Bryce and Stephen rode their horses.

Lance and Hilary and their grandchildren were leaving.

Shirley walked them to the door.

Lance said, “Eleanor I would like to have any pancakes and compote that maybe left.”

Thomas made them a big plate.

Brad and Cynthia asked for apple compote and quiche.

Eleanor had Thomas to make them a plate.

They servants ate.

Timothy and Laura left with Daniel who was talking to Lance and Hilary oldest granddaughter.

The count smiled.

It was a beautiful brunch and a wonderful day.

Eleanor walked to Mag and said, “Momma and daddy want you to come and go through the storage area to see if you want anything.”

Josiah said, “They, rather we need blankets and quilts tonight.”

Roger said, “Josiah.”

Eleanor said, “Come with me and to the storage area and I will have Thomas make you a plate.”

Everyone looked at Josiah.

Josiah leaned to Eleanor and said, ”Everything.”

Eleanor laughed.

She took them to the storage area.

She walked to kitchen and told Thomas to fix a plate.

Thomas said, “Not much left.”

He filled a plate with quiche and ham and biscuits.

They all helped wash the dishes and clean the formal dining room.

Mag and Roger got six blankets.

Eleanor came back with their food.

Josiah said, “Thank you.”

Eleanor was walking with them to the front of the house.

Eleanor said, “Josiah how did the ‘Freed men’ do?

Josiah, “I think they are going to make it. The children looked after one another. The people met the train and took them to a housing place. I got heir names and location and gave me information to Danny and Joe Jr.”

Eleanor said, “In a week I will have the supplies to put up a fence. Let me know if you know someone who needs work.”

Josiah said, “Me.”

Eleanor said, “Really.”

Josiah said, “After the civil war I can’t find work. Before I was in school, but now I can’t find work.”

Eleanor said, “Once the train come in then I need men to help put that fence up.”

Josiah said, “Yeah that will put a lot of stuff to an end.”

Patrick and Brenda walked them the rest of the way to the door.

Eleanor walked to Shirley and said, “You were the social person today.”

Shirley said, “Momma can I have a tea party and invite Ginger, Alice and Mary. I like those girls?”

Eleanor said, “Momma we got another party girl.”

Brenda turned and looked at Eleanor and smiled and turned back to Mag.

Mag said, ”What about Tuesday? I still wear out quick. I can get Josiah to drive me in the wagon.”

Brenda said, “Sure. What about eight.”

Mag looked at Brenda and they laughed.

Mag said, “Around nine.”

Brenda said, “Sure.”

She and Patrick stood on the porch and watched them leave.

Patrick and Brenda looked around and went back inside and Patrick locked the door.

He and Patrick joined the boys in the parlor.

Eleanor and Shirley sat on the stairs and laughed and talked.

Eleanor said, “Momma I am going into town tomorrow and but that land to the left to the Wilsons line and the property to the right that goes to the houses.”

Brenda said, “After you buy it what are you going to do with it?”

Eleanor said, “Right now nothing. I don’t want unwanted traffic and people coming near us.”

They smelled the pot roast Thomas was cooking.

Shirley said, “I smell cornbread.”

Eleanor said, “Not tonight.”

Shirley laughed.

Michael yelled out and said, “Dr. Ralph let Shirley have a spoon of cornbread in a cup of sweet milk.”

Shirley said, “It’s good.”

Meredith was getting ready to leave.

She walked in and “Said do you have anything else.”

Eleanor was about to say get Shirley ready for bed.

Patrick said, “No Meredith go home and be safe. Who else is leaving now?”

Meredith got scared and “Ruth and Vivienne.”

Brenda said, “That’s it for the night.”

Brenda said, “Meredith tell William I say come here.”

Meredith went into the kitchen and her two plates and told William Brenda wanted to see him.

Meredith looked at Ruth and Vivienne and said, “They act like they are scared for us to leave by ourselves.”

Ruth said, “It’s bad stuff all around us.”

William back and looked outside and saw Peter and Dan getting on their horses.

He walked to them and said, “Please wait a few minutes for Meredith, Ruth and Vivienne to leave with you.”

Dan could not stand Vivienne. He said she was nosey and tell everything.

William walked back in and said, “Ladies ride out with Dan and Peter.”

Vivienne said, “I am not ready to leave just yet; I’ll be out in fifteen minutes.”

William said, “I am not having this from you Vivienne. They are off duty and they are not being paid by you to escort you off this property. You either leave now or leave whenever you want to leave!”

Vivienne looked at William.

Wyonna walked out the formal dining room into the kitchen and stood.

She saw William was angry.

Earle and Gary eased their doors opened and listened.

Meredith and Ruth ran out the door.

Meredith ran to the buggy and Ruth ran and got on her horse.

They rode out with Dan and Peter.

Vivienne slowly put on her shawl and gloves.

William walked out.

He passed Earle and Gary and went back to Patrick and Brenda and said, Vivienne decided to leave later.”

Brenda said, “She is being stubborn.”

William walked away.

Shirley said, “Grandma did you know momma is still sick from the baby?”

Brenda looked at Shirley and then at Eleanor and said, “No.”

The count heard Shirley but continued to talk to the boys.

Eleanor leaned over to Shirley and said, “Who told you to tell?”

Michael yelled, “Don’t give her the treat.”

Shirley yelled, “No lamb chops for you.”

Thomas looked back at William.

Thomas looked in the icebox and found a lamb chop for the night meal.

Thomas said, “William I know I put the lamb chops on the supply list. One is missing.”

Mable was washing dishes and stopped and walked over to Thomas.

Thomas looked at Mable.

He said, “Yes Mable.”

Mable said, “I fried that piece of meat yesterday su.”

William looked and went to his schedule.

Vivienne laughed and walked out the door.

Thomas said, “You did not know. But those little chops are for Michael. Since I know you like them I will order you some also.”

Mable looked up at Thomas.

Thomas said, “Finish your dishes. You want have that many dishes from the dinner.”

Denise was looking and her heart was racing.

Gary was standing back in the hallway ready to pay for the lamb chop.

Mable looked at William who was working on his schedule for the next week.

She turned and walked back to the dishes.

Thomas said, “Mable, I will put your name on your package of lamb chops.”

Thomas went and sat down and continued to read his book.

Brenda, Patrick and the rest of the family ate dinner in the family dining room.

Shirley enjoyed the cup of broth from the pot roast and her cornbread in sweet milk.

Eleanor and Patrick ate only the vegetables and small pieces of cornbread.

Brenda looked at Eleanor and said, “Your stomach hurts?’

The count looked at Eleanor.

He thought, “No babies from her.”

Eleanor did not look up because she would be looking in Patrick’s eyes.

She said, “Somewhat. Shirley what did you eat at brunch?”

Shirley said, “Grits and a piece of salmon.”

Michael said, “That was ok.”

He continued to eat his lamb chop.

The count grinned at how in control of Shirley he was.

After dinner Shirley sat and needlepoint.

Shirley said, “Momma I want to go to college like those girls.”

Eleanor said, “Lorraine can’t go with you so you need to continue your therapy so you can do as much as you can for yourself.”

Eleanor told the count she was leaving at eight to go into the town.

He said he would be ready.

William walked in the parlor and asked Brenda was there anything she wanted because Thomas would be going into town for food supplies in the morning.

Michael looked at William and said, “Make sure you get my lamb chops.”

Denise and Mable walked out to go to the re-modeled supply shed.

Brenda said, “No.”

William walked to the back door and locked it.

He watched Denise and Mable walked into their building.

William cut off the lights in the back of the house.

Wyonna told William for them to stay the night there and leave in the morning and go to town to take care of their business.

The mansion was closer to town that their house.

Earle was reading.

Gary was practicing his poker game.

Shirley said, “I’m ready for bed momma.”

Eleanor said, “Bruce and Percy walk Shirley to her room. Shirley I’ll be there to help you dress for bed.”

Bruce and Percy walked Shirley up the stairs.

Eleanor said, “Good night.”

The count looked at Eleanor.

Patrick and Brenda went to their suite.

The count said, “Thomas and Michael, go to your rooms.”

Michael said, “I’m not sleepy.”

Thomas said, “He did not say go to bed. He said go to our rooms.”

Wyonna and William were in their room.

Thomas was in his room.

The count went to his room.

Percy and Bruce went to their rooms.

Eleanor went to Shirley’s room and helped her put on her nightgown.

Shirley got into bed and immediately went to sleep,

Eleanor dressed for bed and went to sleep.

She and the count rose early on Monday and dressed and left the house before breakfast.

The count asked Eleanor of her health and if she is able to have children.

Eleanor told him she did not know.

She said, “The big question was whether she wanted anymore.”

She and the count finished their private time and rode into town.

The count was thinking.

Thomas saw them driving in and smirked.

He saw the carriage on the side of the road and he passed them.

Thomas went to the general store and ordered his housewares.

Eleanor went to the clerk’s office and bought the land.

She went to the bank and came back and came back and paid for it and took it to be recorded and notarized.

The clerk told Eleanor, “A man in a brown coat came in after you left to buy that same land and I told him it had been bought. He went crazy. I told him to get out or I would go and get the sheriff. Then he asked me who bought it. I told him none of his business and get out. Mrs. Simons you beat him by a few minutes. If you would have been a few minutes late he would have that land next to you.”

The count went to the window and was peeping out to watch for the man in the brown coat.

Eleanor and the count finished everything by lunch.

The count said, “My dear Eleanor can I invite you to lunch?”

Eleanor said, “Sure.”

They saw Thomas going to the different supply stores.

Nathan and Stanley drove two wagons into town and went to the feed shop.

Eleanor looked and said, “They are stocking up for the winter to the spring.”

The count said, “You have to give me a tour. I did not see any chickens.”

Eleanor said, “I don’t like going out. The smell makes my stomach hurt.”

They were entering the restaurant and saw Louis bring another wagon.

Eleanor and the count ordered lunch and sat by the window.

They enjoyed their lunch and watched the people pass by.

Eleanor and the count were exiting the restaurant at the same time. Nathan, Stanley and Louis and the feed store clerks were loading the wagons.

Eleanor and the count stepped to go to the carriage.

They heard thundered and everyone turned and was looking around and then everyone saw an army troop riding into town and blew the horn.

Everyone ran.

Eleanor and the count ran to the carriage.

Eleanor turned the carriage around and flew.

The count was holding on and peeping back at the troop as they stopped on a dime.

The count said, “Can you imagine what that civil war was like?”

Eleanor became mad because she could only think of how such evil was allowed to exist in this great land. She determined at that moment she wanted the railroad to go down south and take that money from the plantation owner and hire the ‘Freed men’.

Eleanor cried all the way home.

The count tried to comfort Eleanor.

Then he realized her tormented crying was about him.

He could never fit into this life she loved.

He loved her with all his heart.

He knew he could not replace that part of her heart that is tormented over her people and the evil they endured.

He did not know what to do.

People passing them stared.

William and Wyonna passed Eleanor and the count going into the town.

They looked at Eleanor then the count.

They arrived at the house.

Patrick and Brenda was outside taking inventory of the feed and seeds for the house.

They were walking through the formal dining room when they saw Eleanor flying to the house.

Brenda said, “Patrick.”

Patrick said, “I can’t find anything wrong with Joseph either. I think he fit Eleanor perfectly.”

Eleanor jumped out the wagon and was running to the door.

Patrick ran to the door and opened the door.

A screaming Eleanor ran upstairs.

Her boys ran behind.

Shirley was doing her needlepoint and saw Eleanor ride up to the house.

Robert and the maids on that side of the house ran and looked uo at Eleanor.

Then everyone turned and looked at the count who was standing by the carriage.

Patrick said, “Joseph?”

Brenda looked at the count.

Earle ran to the front of the house.

The count turned his head and could not speak it.

Earle stared at the count. He knew it was over and the count could not speak of his dream of marrying Eleanor and taking her back to Austria in the spring to marry at the castle.

Earle turned and walked back to his room.

Brenda and Patrick walked to Joseph.

Patrick closed the door.

Shirley was watching them.

Joseph said, “She loves her people. She is tormented by the evil they have endured and feel she has to get revenge. That would make her feel better.”

Brenda said, “Did she tell you this.”

Joseph shook his head for no.

Patrick said to himself, “Then there’s hope.”

Brenda said, “I sure don’t want her to go back to damn Bruce. I should have beat him with my shotgun.”

Shirley was sitting in the parlor and trying to figure out what made her momma scream.

Shirley stood and said, “Robert take me to the door.”

Robert looked at Shirley and thought, “Here you come telling me what to do.”

Shirley looked at him and said, “Please Robert take me to the door.”

Robert thought, “That’s better.”

He said, “Gladly Miss Shirley.”

He wanted to know what was going on to.

Robert carried Shirley to the door and held her there for a few minutes.

Then Patrick looked back at the door.

Robert dropped Shirley on the floor and he ran down the hall and into the hall where the library was.

Shirley was in shock at Robert.

Patrick opened the door and he saw Shirley and he looked around and saw nobody but a few maids.

Shirley stood and in complete shock at Robert.

Patrick said, “Shirley who brough you here?”

Shirley could not talk. She knew she was not going to tell on Robert.

She looked at Patrick with her big blue eyes.

Patrick looked around and saw Robert walking across the hall and said, “Robert come and take Shirley to her room.”

Robert turned and walked to the door and stooped to pick up Shirley.

Shirley just looked at him.

Patrick said, “Find out who brought Shirley to the door.”

Shirley said, “I crawled grandpa and pulled up by the doorknob.”

Robert stopped and looked at Shirley and cut his eyes at Patrick.

Patrick thought for a minute.

He said, “Fine.”

Shirley said, “I don’t want to go to my room. I don’t want to hear momma cry anymore. I thought he was going to stop her from crying.”

The count heard Shirley.

Benda saw the pain Joseph was in and said, “Miss lady go to the parlor or library.”

Shirley said, “That room.”

Shirley could hear well from the sitting room she was in.

Robert was taking Shirley to the sitting room.

Patrick closed the front door.

Shirley watched Patrick closed the door.

Shirley stared at Robert.

Robert did not say anything.

Shirley said, “A thank you.”

Robert said, “If you did not demand me to take you to the door I would not be in trouble.”

Shirley said, “Robert how could you drop me on the floor and run off and leave me? You could not hide in one of those rooms like everyone else does?”

Robert sat Shirley on the seat with her needlepoint and closed the door while she was talking.

Shirley yelled and said, “Rude Robert. You’re just rude. You walked away and closed the door while I’m talking to you.”

Robert turned around, and saw Chasity, Ruth, Nadine and Natalie staring at him.

He could not say anything but turned and walked to the kitchen and looked over the schedule.

Nathan, Stanley and Louis were returning from the feed store.

They took the feed to the supply shed.

Then they put the supply wagons back and took the horses to the stable.

Nathan walked in the house and saw Robert.

Robert looked at him and peeped down the hall.

Thomas walked in the house.

Robert peeped at Thomas and said. “What happen to Eleanor and the count in town?”

Nathan said, “I don’t know I only saw them when she drove out of town.”

Thomas said, “I don’t think anything. I passed their carriage she had pulled off the road.”

Robert and Nathan looked at Thomas.

Nathan said, “Why?”

Robert peeped down the hall and said, “She ran screaming in the house and went upstairs. She has been there ever since they came back.”

Nathan said, “An army troop thundered in town. Which sent everybody running for cover.”

Thomas said, “I did not see them until I was coming out of the clothing merchant.”

Robert said, “Thomas what were you doing coming out of the clothing merchant’s shop?”

Thomas said, “Minding my own damn business and not trying to get into the family business.”

Gary ran into the house and was excited.

Thomas said, “Come out to the wagon.”

Nathan said, “My pay.”

Robert said, “I don’t know why they don’t put you on staff.”

Nathan did not say anything but held his hand.

They herd Gary screaming with excitement and he ran into the house with his bags.

Denise and Mable looked at Gary.

Gary went into his room and tried on his coat, gloves and hat.

Thomas had enough to get two pair of boots for Gary and several pairs of socks.

Thomas knocked on Gary door and handed him the receipts and his change.

Thomas said, “It get very cold on this side of America and you need to prepare for the winter and get some thermals and sweaters and some scarves.”

Robert was counting Nathan’s money and peeping back in the hall to listen to Thomas and Gary.

Denise stopped washing dishes and listened.

Nathan looked at her and she jumped and turned around and begin to wash the dishes.

Denise did not trust Robert that much.

She wanted Thomas to help her.

Nathan counted his money and gave Robert the extra five dollars back and looked at him.

Nathan walked over to Denise and looked at her and she was so afraid and said, “You want something?”

Thomas was walking back in the kitchen and saw Nathan over with Denise and Mable.

Robert held his breath.

He did not want him to upset Denise and Mable especially with that shotgun toting Brenda.

The servants were still shock and looking at Brenda.

Thomas said, “Nathan?”

Nathan looked at Denise then cut his eyes at Mable who held her head and was shaking.

Nathan said, “Denise wanted something.”

Thomas said, “Denise what you wanted?”

Denise was shaking.

Robert was back by the wall ready to run if a situation broke out.

Denise passed out.

Nathan just stood in shock and finally looked down at Denise.

Robert saw Denise hit the floor he flew up the backstairs.

Thomas said, “Damn.”

Brenda, Patrick and the count walked in as Denise was falling out.

Mable was standing at the sink and calling Denise.

Gary walked in the kitchen to say thanks again to Thomas and he saw Robert running and looked back at him and pointed.

Patrick and the count ran to Denise and brought her to.

Mable was crying.

Brenda looked at Nathan and said, “Nathan.”

Nathan looked at Thomas.

Thomas said, “What are you looking at me for.”

Patrick said, “Somebody better talk fast.”

Nathan said, “I was getting my money from Robert.”

They looked back and did not see Robert.

Brenda said, “That coward has fled.”

Nathan said, “Denise walked over. When I counted my money I came over here and asked her what she wanted. She and Mable begin to shake.”

Gary walked in the kitchen and looked down at Denise as she was coming to.

Gary looked at Nathan and said, “Why you do that?”

The count looked at Gary and when he looked down again at Denise, he saw Gary’s new boots.

Brenda followed the counts’ eyes.

Brenda said, “Patrick can Gen and Ben run everything?”

Patrick turned and looked at Brenda and said, “Are you crazy. We got all of this going on, Brenda.”

Brenda said, “Call me crazy again I still got my shotgun.”

Patrick sit Denise up.

The count looked at Brenda and he was disturbed at her fighting that woman and man.

Patrick said, “Denise sit here for a minute.”

He looked back at Brenda and said, “I know how to run from you they did not know to expect that from you.”

The count looked at Brenda and was holding Denise up.

Gary said, “Nathan you know they just came out of slavery.”

Nathan said, “I fought to get them free. I saw first hand the evil of slavery. I had to scout through the south and find where they hid the slaves. It was not something you could ever imagine.”

Gary said, “Hid them.”

Nathan said, “Yeah, so when we left they can go and get them and put them back in slavery.”

Gary could not understand what Nathan said.

The count was bending down holding Denise and looking at Nathan.

He knew Eleanor was somewhere in there but could not figure out where.

Brenda said, “Denise.”

Nathan said, “She passed out from nerves.”

Brenda said, “Mable what is wrong with you?”

Mable said, “I want my babies.”

Patrick said, “Do you know where your babies are. You are mighty young to have babies.”

Mable said, “They are the tree. That big oak tree waiting for me.”

Patrick said, “Are they are on the plantation?”

Mable said, “Yes su.”

Thomas said, “How is he going to get them.”

Gary was looking at Mable and said, “She is young.”

Peter and Dan walked in from the smoke house and saw Denise on the floor.

Da thought, “I did not do that.”

Mable said, “All five of them I buried together at the big tree.”

Brenda said, “Damn. This is what is wrong with Eleanor.”

She stormed out the kitchen.

The count could not understand what Mable said.

Gary said, “Mable you got five children.”

Patrick said, “I know you’ll don’t have slaves and your country was not torn up.”

Nathan said, “That’s one of the evil of slavery. The women did not have control over their own bodies. Mable’s body could not carry those babies and God saw fit not to have her children brutally tormented in slavery.”

Nathan said, “Denise what did you want?”

Denise said, “Yarn to make the soldiers winter scarves.”

Gary said, “That caused you to faint?’

Everyone looked at Gary.

Thomas said, “Why don’t you go back to your room?”

The count helped sit Denise in the chair and he looked around to see how to leave.

Thomas, Peter and Dan pointed towards the back hall.

The count walked through and saw Gary’s room and his packages.

Earle walked into the count and saw Margaret running to him.

The count moved.

Margaret ran to Earle.

The count looked and was about to get jealous.

He remembered the words of his mother and said, “You will always wonder.”

The count kept walking and passed the billiards room and he turned and walked through and saw the liquor.

He saw someone standing and pouring and drinking.

He walked and looked and it was Brenda.

He poured a tall glass of scotch.

Brenda said, “That’s the wrong glass.”

The count looked at her and said, “It’s better than taking twenty shots.”

He and Brenda burst out laughing.

The count said, “Look at me down here laughing and my wife is upstairs dying.”

Brenda said, “I’m her mother.”

They burst out laughing.

Patrick stood in the door and said, “What are you lush talking about when my daughter is being tormented.”

Shirley yelled, “Make me laugh.”

Patrick walked and opened the door to the sitting room and saw Shirley.

Patrick yelled, “Robert!”

Robert was in the kitchen.

He walked slowly to the sitting room and peeped in the sitting room and Shirley was sitting with her arms on her hips.

Patrick said, “Did you throw Shirley in this room and closed the door?”

Shirley said, “He’s rude grandpa.”

Robert said, “Sir I brought her in here and sit her down and closed the door so she can have quiet.”

Patrick said, “Robert I know you are lying to me. She covered for you when you dumped her on the foyer floor. One more thing Robert.”

Brenda and the count were still drinking.

Brenda said, “He means it Robert.”

Patrick ran and took Brenda’s shot glass out of her hand.

Patrick reached for the count’s glass and the count twisted away from Patrick.

Patrick said, “We got problems and you’ll are drinking like drunks.”

The count said, “Call Nathan.”

Brenda hollered.

She said, “He does not have no feelings.”

She was mocking Nathan’s harsh words.

Brenda and the count laughed.

Robert rolled his eyes at Shirley.

Shirley said, “Grandpa.”

Patrick looked back.

Robert walked away.

Patrick blew his breath.

He said, “We got to solve some of these problems.”

Brenda reached for her glass.

Shirley said, “I want to solve the problems grandpa.”

Patrick walked back and closed the door.

Shirley blew and folded her arms.

Earle walked to the billiards room and peeped to see where the count was.

The count saw him.

He told Brenda, “Earle wants to know where I am so he can mess with that woman.”

Brenda laughed.

Patrick said, “Brenda go to bed. I’ll see you in the morning.”

Brenda jerked her head and said, “Who are you telling to go to bed.”

Brenda passed out on the floor.

The count was so drunk he looked down at Brenda on the floor and was still holding his glass from Patrick.

Patrick said, “Earle come and pick up Mrs. Stith and take her to our bed. Then come back and get your count and take him to his room.

The count said, “I can walk.”

Earle walked out the billiards room.

He left Margaret in his room.

He looked at Patrick and said, “You can’t pick up your own wife.”

Earle bent over Brenda he had a hard time picking her up.

The count was still drinking.

Patrick looked at the count.

He wanted to knock him out.

Earle finally bent down and threw Brenda over his shoulder and wobbled down the hall.

Patrick said, “She ain’t that light is she?”

Shirley was in the sitting room and yelled, “Grandma , grandpa is calling you fat.”

Patrick had to think who that was in the sitting room, then he remembered Shirley.

Patrick looked back at the count.

The count said, “I can walk.”

Patrick said, “Let’s go.”

The count started walking and drinking his liquor and fell out on the floor.

Patrick caught the glass.

Shirley heard it and opened her mouth in shock.

She crawled off the sofa and to the door and opened it and saw the count on the floor.

She was shocked and crawled out in the hallway so she could see. Better.

Patrick caught the count’s glass and stood there and looked down at him.

Shirley said, “Good catch grandpa.”

Patrick looked back at Shirley sitting on the floor.

Earle heard the count fall.

He closed his eyes and continued to Patrick and Brenda’s suite.

Earle opened the door and threw Brenda on the bed.

Brenda rolled off the bed onto the floor.

Patrick was standing in the door and Earle closed his eyes.

Patrick said, “Get you’re a\*s over there and pick her up. I knew you would do something like that. Then go and get your drunk count out of my hall.”

Earle rolled his eyes and walked on the other side of the bed and tried to pick up Brenda.

He was out of breath and puffing he said, “Sir can you help me?”

Patrick was sipping the count’s drink and sitting on his dresser watching Earle and said, “No.”

Earle was very angry.

Earle sit there for a long time trying to calm down.

Patrick said, “I know you are not calling no one fat. You wait until Margaret have chillin or get older.”

Earle jumped on his knees and leaned on the bed and said. “How you know?”

Patrick said, “I know everything. Get her up!”

Ruth and Chasity ran down the hall and saw the drunk count passed out in the hall.

They tan to Brenda and Patrick’s suite and knocked on the door.

Patrick saw them in his mirror.

He said, “Come and help this boy pick up Brenda and put her in bed.”

Chasity and Ruth lifted Brenda and put her in the bed.

Patrick looked at Earle and said, “Get out of my room.”

Earle rolled his eyes at Patrick.

Patrick was still sipping the deink and said, “You have a respect problem boy.”

Earle walked out.

Patrick said, “Tell Margaret I aid hello.”

Chasity looked and said “You want us to dress her for bed?”

Ruth looked at Chasity and said, “That’s her husband’s job.”

Patrick said, “Leave her on the bed.”

He put the glass on the dresser and said, “Give the grands dinner. Have Robert to lock the back door and cut off the lights on the back. You can go home.”

Earle was trying to pull the count to his room.

He saw Ruth and Chasity walking out Patrick’s suite and said, “Please help me.”

Ruth looked at him.

Chasity kept walking.

Earle said, “And you suppose to be marrying a preacher. Does he know about your mean streak?”

Chasity kept walking.

Earle looked at Chasity and said, “Heifer.”

Chasity walked to Shirley.

She stooped down and said, “I can’t carry but I can hold you by the waist and help you walk.”

Shirley grabbed Chasity by the neck until she got up.

Percy and Bruce ran downstairs and passed Chasity and Shirley they thought they were going to the family dining room.

They stopped at the liquor and was getting rum.

Chasity yelled.

Shirley said, “Grandpa they’re getting drunk.”

Patrick heard Shirley and he could not think of another adult getting drunk but Eleanor, but Shirley said, “They”.

He was thinking and ran out his suite and saw Shirley at the end of the hallway.

Earle and Ruth heard Shirley and they rushed and put the count on his bed.

They closed the door and ran down the hall and saw Percy and Bruce at the liquor table.

Patrick was already untying his boots.

He stopped and pulled off his boots and threw and hit Percy and Bruce on the head.

Ruth and Earle saw the boots when they hit them in the head and fell on the floor.

Bruce dropped his glass and fell on the floor.

Percy was still trying to get a swallow of gin.

Patrick ran and grabbed the glass from Percy.

Percy was so stunned he was still trying to drink the gin when he did not have the glass.

Shirley said, “What is he doing? “

Shirley started calling him, “Percy! Percy!”

Eleanor woke and she ran to the top of the stairs and looked down.

Thomas and Michael were in the bed with Eleanor.

They were sleep.

When Eleanor jumped up.

They woke and jumped up and followed Eleanor to the top of the staircase.

She looked at Bruce on the floor and her daddy’s boots.

Michael said, “They are drunk momma. What are you gonna do?”

Eleanor saw the maids bringing their dinner plates.

Thomas and Michael ran downstairs to eat dinner.

Eleanor went back to her bedroom and laid on her bed until morning.

Earle saw Patrick’s boots flying and hitting Bruce and Percy very hard.

Shirley and Chasity were shocked and looked at each.

Thomas and Michael ran to the dining room.

Nadine, Mellissa and Tracey were standing in shock.

Bruce stood up and was trying to shake his head.

Thomas looked at the plates the maid had.

He was trying to figure out what was that smell.

They went into the family’s dining room and sat.

Chasity walked Shirley to the dining room and sat her.

Patrick picked up his boots and walked to the family dining room.

The maids were still standing in the grand foyer.

Nadine said, “Sir why is that carriage and the horses still out front?”

Patrick continued to his seat and said, “Tell Robert to come and get it and bring me the papers out of it.”

Nadine put Shirley’s plate down with a large tablespoon of sweet potatoes, green bean juice and a half of cup sweet milk and cornbread.

Shirley smelled her food and smile.

Michael had two lamb chops.

He looked at Thomas then Patrick.

Patrick saw Michael and said, “I’m not going to take it away from you. Life has been taken away from too many.”

Thomas looked at Patrick and said, “Grandpa, the slaves?”

Patrick said, “Yes.”

Thomas said, “That’s why momma is crying?”

Patrick said, “Yes.”

Tracey put down Thomas plate and Patrick’s plate.

They had fried pork chops, candied yams, green beans and squash.

Mellissa said, “Sir put these other two plates down?”

Patrick said, “Where are they?”

Tracey stared.

Patrick looked at her.

Mellissa looked at Tracey and walked pass her to the door.

Mellissa did not say anything.

Shirley looked at them.

Thomas looked at the maids.

Michael did not care he was enjoying his dinner.

Patrick said, “Is there blood?”

They still did not answer.

Thomas pushed his chair back and walked out the dining room and looked at Bruce and Percy.

He came back and sat in his seat.

He did not say anything.

Patrick start to get worried.

He knew the doctor closest to them lived in the next town from them.

He was thinking who was the fastest rider he had.

Patrick said, “Take the plates to the kitchen. Since no one can tell me what is going on in the hallway. Who is the fastest rider at the house so I can send them to get the doctor?”

Mellissa said, “I think one of those field hands is either a doctor or worked with the doctors in the civil war. I heard him say something at Thanksgiving dinner.”

Shirley turned around and said her grace and begin to eat.

Michael and Thomas looked at her.

She said, “Michael you are eating that extra lamb chop so fast, did you say your grace?”

He looked at Shirley and folded his hands and bowed his head for a minute.

He held his head up and stared at Shirley.

Shirley said, “Now you can continue to eat.”

Patrick looked at Shirley and then Michael.

Thomas was looking at Michael and said, “Is she always like that?’

Michael said, “You don’t know what I have been through for these three years.”

Shirley said, “You have been through making everybody sick eating a lamb chop at every meal.”

Michael looked at Shirley and picked up his lamb chops and smelled it and licked it and bit a small bite so he could irritate her all dinner long.

Thomas looked at Shirley.

Shirley looked at Thomas and said nicely to him, “What is it Thomas?”

Thomas said nothing but bowed his head and said his grace.

Mellissa saw Robert go and get the carriage and take it around the back.

He got the papers out of the carriage.

Mellissa and Tracey were walking into the kitchen.

Chasity was getting ready to go home.

She would pass by and knock on Earle’s door.

Earle said, “Yes.”

Each time she would knock on his door to disturb he and Margaret.

He said, “What do they want.”

Margaret said, “Shush.”

Earle looked at Margaret.

Margaret said, “It ain’t nobody but d\*\*n Chasity.”

Earle said, “Why?”

Margaret said, “To disturb our evening. She’ll be gone in a few weeks.”

Earle said, “Is that the one that is marrying the preacher?”

Margaret said, “Yes.”

Chasity passed by and knocked on the door again.

Earle yelled and said, “I’m not coming to your church.”

Margaret said, “You told her.”

Earle was shaking his head as if he really told Chasity off.

Chasity was laughing so hard she was holding her stomach with one hand and covered her mouth with the other hand.

She turned and walked towards the kitchen to get her things to leave.

She looked up in the face of Robert, who brought the carriage to the back and had the papers in his hand.

Nadine, Thomas and Peter stared at Chasity.

She tried to straighten up her face.

Robert said, “Do it again. I don’t care if Brenda does like you I will fire you.”

Chasity did not want to leave with a bad taste in the other servants’ mouths.

She straighten up and said, “I’m sorry.”

Mellissa could not stand Robert and said, “Robert Mr. Stith said go out to the field hands and see if one of them is a doctor and bring him here or if not send him to the next town to get the doctor.”

Robert was still looking at Chasity as she passed them and picked up her stuff to leave.

Robert said, “What Mellissa?”

Chasity said, “Mr. Stith has knocked the hell out of those boys and he is scared. Good night”

Robert stood and looked.

Tracey said, “Percy and Bruce went to the liquor table and got I think gin and scotch.”

Nadine said, “All I saw was boots in the air that knocked Bruce to his knees and Percy was standing trying to drink his gin.”

Thomas said, “What?”

Nadine said, “I have never seen Mr. Stith move that fast. He hit them in the heads with his boots.”

Tracey mocked the way Mr. Stith threw the boots and how Bruce and Percy responded.

Nadine said, “That Percy did not know he was hit. He thought he still had his glass of gin. But Mr. Stith had it.”

Mellissa said, “Robert are you going?”

Robert said, “Mellissa you better not be lying to me.”

Mellissa said, “About what?”

Robert said, “That Mr. Stith wanted me to go. “

Mellissa looked confused and said, “We are maids. Who else would go?”

Tracey sat on the floor and was showing them how Bruce was acting.

Then she showed them how Percy was just standing.

Thomas turned and went back to reading his book and sat down.

Robert stormed out the house.

Nadine said, “Mellissa did Mr. Stith say for Robert to go to the field?”

Mellissa said, “You can go.”

Dan did not care who was going on.

He finished up with his chores.

The field hand rode back with Robert.

He walked in the kitchen.

Mellissa and Tracey and Betty started twisting and twirling and waved and said, “Hey.”

Dan looked up and saw the tall dark hair man.

Thomas looked up from his book.

Nadine was mesmerized.

The man said, “Good evening.”

Nadine who was older than the other maids said, “Whoa.”

Natalie, Harriet and Elizabeth were walking downstairs and saw the field hand.

They screamed.

Margaret said, “Who is that?”

Thomas shook his head and continued to read.

Robert said, “Are you three finish you can leave.”

Natalie said, “Who does that\*\*\* think he is talking to?”

The field hand Natalie.

He looked back at her and she winked at him and waved.

Natalie turned around in the kitchen and they all laughed.

Nadine said, “If I was five years younger I gave you’ll a run for your money.”

Mellissa said, “I can’t add that fast.”

Thomas chuckle.

Nadine said. “I know there is an insult there but I don’t have it yet.”

Dan was making cinnamon rolls for tomorrow’s breakfast.

He made a smaller pan for the family.

He was responsible for making the staff breakfast on Tuesday.

He had the cinnamon rolls, oatmeal and streak of lean ready.

The full staff would be back.

Thomas snickered and said, “Mr. Stith told Robert to take Denise to the general store tomorrow to buy yarn so she could knit the soldiers scarves to thank them for fighting for she and Mable. Robert is about to croak.”

They all laughed.

Robert walked to the family dining room with Hutch, the field hand.

Hutch stopped and looked at Bruce and Percy in the hallway.

He said, “What happened?”

Patrick said, “They sneak and poured large glasses of gin and I took off my boots and hit them in the head.”

Shirley snickered.

Hutch looked at Shirley and he looked at her food.

He said, “You have stomach problems?”

Shirley looked at Hutch and turned around and did not say anything.

Robert said, “That’s rude Shirley.”

Shirley looked at Robert and said. “We’re not finish.”

Thomas and Michael laughed.

Hutch looked at Shirley and thought, “Tough talking little girl.”

Patrick stood up and walked out the dining room with Hutch.

Hutch bent down and looked at Bruce he was still shaking his head.

He looked in his eyes and checked his pulse.

He looked at Percy and said, I need my bag.

Robert said, “I’ll go and get it. I asked you did you need it before we came in the house.”

Robert handed the papers to Patrick.

Patrick took the papers to Eleanor’s study and put them in her drawer.

Patrick notice Shirley did not want anything to do with doctors.

Thomas looked at Michael and did his head like a chicken.

Thomas, Michael and Shirley went upstairs to their rooms.

Hutch watched Shirley, as she crawled upstairs.

Patrick watched him and said, “Are you a physician or a helper?”

Hutch said, “Physician. I quit after the civil war.”

Patrick said, “But you have your medical bag.”

Hutch looked at Patrick.

Robert walked back and handed the medical bag to Hutch.

Hutch looked at Robert and kept his attention on the boys.

He examined Percy and Bruce.

He looked around and said, “We need to put them in a room so I can watch them overnight. They have head injury but nothing I believe will cause permanent damage.”

Hutch and Patrick moved Percy and Bruce to the parlor.

Hutch said, “I want something to eat Robert and bring three blankets.”

Robert said, “You know where the kitchen is and I’ll be back with the blankets.”

Hutch walked in the kitchen and said, “Excuse me.”

Thomas lowered his book down.

Natalie was staying overnight and twisted and said, “Yes.”

Hutch said, “I’m hungry.”

Dan kept working.

Thomas kept reading and said, “Natalie, you get him something to eat she said, “Thomas who two plates?”

Thomas looked back and said, “Percy and Bruce. I guess they will not be eating this evening.”

Natalie said, “What’s your name?”

Hutch said, “Hutch.”

Natalie said, “I’ll refresh these plates for you.”

Robert walked from upstairs with three blankets.

Hutch saw him and walked and took the blankets.

He covered Bruce and Percy and had one for him.

Patrick was sitting there scared to death.

Hutch said, “Patrick don’t aim for the head anymore. The back or butte. But preferably none of those but a good talking to.”

Natalie brought Hutch a full plate of food.

Hutch said, “Thank you.”

Natalie said, “Your welcome.”

She walked to the family dining room and nearly screamed with Nadine and Harriet.

They cleared the table and cleaned the room and locked the front door and put out the lights.

Patrick heard the front door.

He said, “Thank you.”

Patrick slept in the parlor with the boys and Hutch.

They went back to the kitchen.

Natalie was about to scream.

Thomas said, “I need to go to that storage area.”

Dan went to his room.

Thomas went into the storage area and stayed until late.

Hutch walked in the kitchen and gave Natalie his plate.

She turned around and jumped in fright.

Hutch said, “I’m sorry. I was returning the plate.”

Natalie smiled and took the plate and washed and dried it and put it up.

She went to her room and dressed for bed.

She got on her knees and said, “God I want him. Amen.”

Natalie laid awake most of the night. She finally drifted off to sleep.

Earle ran to his room and to Margaret.

Margaret stayed overnight with Earle.

They talked throughout the night.

Margaret got up and went to wash and change clothes.

Peter, Dan and Robert looked at her.

She said, “Not a word.”

They looked at her.

When she walked away. Dan walked to the hallway to make sure she was gone and said, “Who is she threatening?”

Thomas walked in the kitchen and said, “Dan why are you here?”

Dan went to the schedule and saw he was schedule off until Wednesday.

He walked out the door.

Dan went home and worked on his house.

He finally finished the wallpaper.

His floors and windows were done.

He had nothing but his mattress and one blanket.

Gary helped Peter light the torches.

Robert paid Gary and Peter.

Dan forgot about the lights.

He went to bed and slept throughout the night and woke up and went to work on Wednesday.

Gary was happy.

His father worked in the stables for the count’s parents and he brought Gary with him to teach him how to groom horses instead of sending Gary to school.

Gary would stand and watch the other children running and playing.

Gary’s father died.

The count’s father decided to keep Gary on so his family could be fed.

Nearly all of Gary’s money go to his mother and three sisters,

They did not work nor were trying to marry.

They live off Gary’s little money.

He hated going home, therefore he stayed in the stable with the horses.

He has only been free since he has been in America.

Gary was sitting on the back porch and leaned his head on the porch and said, “I am much a slave as Denise and Mable.”

He looked up at the sky and said, “God help me. I don’t want to do this hard work anymore.”

He rubbed his hands and said, “My hands are worn, callus and broken. Sometimes my hands hurt so badly I don’t know what to do but cry. My back does not have scars like Mable and Denise, but it looks like a forty year old back and body. I am twenty five. My father made me do this since I was eight. I want to go to school to teach. I don’t want to be poor anymore. I like Denise. I want my childhood back. I am enslaved in this life that I hate. I am silently learning from these slaves. I need you to help me stop hating my father for giving me life so he could sell me into tis life of slavery. Help me God.”

Gary bowed his head and cried.

Thomas and Robert were looking at him.

They were getting ready to lock the back door and put out the lights.

They waited and cleaned the kitchen and mopped the floor.

Robert was looking over the weeks schedule.

Thomas was looking at the menu for the remainder of the week.

He was not concern about Saturday afternoon, because the count was suppose to cook, if he is still there.

Gary walked in the house and went to his room.

Thomas ran and locked the door.

And he put out the lights.

Robert peeped back at Gary.

Gary walked to his room and closed and locked the door.

He leaned on the door and slid down it to the floor.

He sat on the floor lifeless and not thinking until he fell asleep.