Chester slept on the floor in the office.

His arm was aching and the pain woke him.

He laid in the dark to will the pain away, but the pain was stronger than his will.

He had been shot before and much more serious and the pain did not feel like this.

Chester thought that little girl did not tell me I was going to get shot.

Angelica.

Chester slowly lifted his head and looked around the tent from side to side.

He eased and sat on the mat and looked at the bottom of the tent for shadows or images.

He did not move.

Chester cocked his gun.

He sat still for an hour.

He heard again, “Angelica.”

Chester said, “Clara I need you. I don’t know what this is.”

Images started flooding Chester’s mind.

The images were zooming in his mind so fast that he passed out, but Angelica’s face was constant as the images sped through his mind.

He felt the powerful pain surging through his arm. The pain woke him.

He bit his teeth and was about to scream out until he heard the telegram machine.

He was soaking wet.

Chester looked around again and saw no shadows or images.

He eased and sat on the mat.

He felt his clothes. He was soaked.

He wondered what happened to him.

Chester tried to stand but he was woosy.

He sat on his mat then he saw the herbal pain relief.

He scooted to the desk and he lifted up and grabbed the bottle.

He knew Dr. Obersteen said a capful but he was not telling Chester only a capful.

Chester swallowed a third of the bottle.

He fell back and went to sleep.

Chester had fallen on his shot arm, but he did not feel the pain.

Angelica’s grin kept coming to his mind and her words that JESUS was going to allow him to break the case so the men in headquarters would know that he was the one to become the head.

Chester was trying to wake himself out of this bad dream.

He was not fit to be the head over headquarters.

He does not think through a problem, he shoots through it.

Others think about the problem and analyze the way to resolve it.

They just tell Chester where to go.

His mind flooded with different images.

He started batting his eyes more and more.

Angelica was in the center of his images.

He started focusing in on some of the images. The images were from his childhood.

Even when he was a baby. He could see Tony next to him.

He was told by his mother how he would flip over on his stomach and stare at Tony and be talking to him trying to wake him up. Those images were slowing down and they were coming into his mind very slowly.

Chester looked at the images and he started seeing the images from his adult life, up to yesterday.

He jumped up and said, “Clara.”

The office soldiers had arrived and were standing peeping over his desk at him.

Chester sniffed his body and looked around at his soldiers.

Chester said, “God I need to stand so they won’t think I am weak and they can fight me.”

Hw sat for a minute and took a deep breath and got on his knees and then stood.

He looked at the telegram machine and said, “Glover, get the telegrams and put them in a folder and place them on my desk. Woodsen where is the bath tent?”

Woodsen said, “We don’t have one.”

Chester had been using the one at Bruce’s post.

He stared at them and said, “What have you been doing?”

Glover said, “We get the water from the brook and heat it and take it to our tent and wash and shave.”

Chester was very weak he went to his knees but quickly recovered and stood at full attention.

The three soldiers saluted him.

He saluted them back.

He sat for a minute and got up and put on his pants and boots and coat.

He said, “I’m going to Bruce’s troop. Put all the telegrams together and bring them to me at the captain’s office. Do not leave them you wait and hand them to me. Understand me Glover?”

Chester remembered and picked up his herbal pain relief.

He staggered out the tent and went to his horse.

He turned around and went back in the tent and got his toiletry bag.

Woodsen was peeping over at Chester’s mat and was fanning because it smelled.

He turned his nose up and was fanning when he turned and saw Chester.

Ferguson and Glover turned their heads and continued to work.

Chester walked pass Woodsen and went into his desk drawer and picked up his toiletry bag.

He stared at the envelopes with the assassins, map and key.

He closed his drawer and took a step.

He stopped and thought.

He turned around and opened the desk drawer and picked up the envelopes.

Chester said, “Ferguson did the two soldiers from the troop come here yesterday?”

Ferguson said, “Yes sir but you were sleep. They waited. We didn’t know whether to wake you are not.”

Chester said, “Glover bring the soldiers’ folders when you come.”

Chester went to horse and feed it and gave it some water.

The images started coming back to his mind but they would come to the front of his mind and stand.

The images would slowly move and Angelica face would be constant.

Her face was there from the beginning.

When the images from Chester’s past disappeared Angelica’s face was there.

Chester thought it seemed like someone was showing him his past and let the image stay there for a moment so he can see it and remember the image.

He thought, “I need to see Angelica. She was the constant thing in my mind. I know I am not losing my mind.”

Chester mounted his horse and rode down and was going to pass the cute house.

He felt he needed to heck on the governor.

He walked by the cute house, he heard Angelica screaming.

He instinctively put his hand on his gun.

Dr. Obersteen was exiting the governor’s tent with a wash basin.

Dr. Obersteen looked at the ragged attired Chester.

Chester understood Dr. Obersteen’s look and said, “I’m going to the post now. Is the governor awake?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Yes,” and continued to wash shed.

Chester heard the little girl stop screaming.

Chester looked at Dr. Obersteen.

He looked at the soldiers and they stared at Chester and saluted.

Chester saw they were used to the screaming.

He thought, “Oh God I have to rotate these men.”

He walked back to Marc and Joseph.

They saw him and walked to him.

They heard he was shot.

Chester walked to them.

Marc and Joseph saluted Chester.

Chester said, “I will rotate these men this morning when I get to the Bruce’s troop. I do not know about spiritual stuff, but I want you two close to Laura and Clara.”

Joseph said, “What’s going on?”

Chester said, “I don’t know enough to put it into words. Pass the word to the soldiers they will rotate out today.”

Sergeant Pearson walked up from the troop by the brook.

He started walking every morning with Roger, Chester’s friend. They would walk and pray over the troops and the land.

Roger and Chester greeted each other.

Roger said, “We heard you were shot, but that was all.”

Chester said, “Yeah, the doctors said it was only a graze, but it hurt like hell.”

Sergeant Pearson said, “Sir how long will be with the dead bodies?”

Chester said, “I believe we won’t have any more bodies to bury But I…”

Roger said, “Chester what is it?”

Chester said, I just don’t know. I can’t describe it. But that little girl in the house knew Clara, Laura, Mellissa and Jason and Alice by names. She asked me to bring them here so she can tell them what they have to do to protect Jason and Alice. All last night her face was in my mind with images of my past.”

Sergeant Pearson said, “Whoa.”

Roger said, “Chester you are my friend. I know there is something else I can tell by my face.”

Chester said, “It’s a whole lot more that I can’t put into words.”

Joseph said, “Please try, sir.”

Chester said, “As I was going to sleep I thought about what she said, the little girl said. Each time I said that little girl. I actually heard a male’s voice say, Angelica.”

Roger fell to his knees.

Sergeant Pearson went to his knees with his hands up in the air he said, “JESUS I hear YOU this is HOLY Ground. HE is here. “

Joseph and Marc turned around and was looking around.

They began to tremble.

Chester was scared and did not know what to do.

Roger was able to speak and he said, “Chester the little girl name is Angelica. JESUS said call her by her name. She is HIS anointed one. JESUS is actually standing here. This land is holy…”

Joseph and Marc went on their knees.

Several soldiers saw them and walked over and kneeled down with their heads bowed.

The six soldiers said, “Yes LORD we feel YOUR Holy presence.”

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST were standing by Chester. THEY left Angelica and gave her the Word of LORD GOD Almighty for that day.

The holy angels were standing all around the town and the new settlement.

HE said a great fight is about to take place and that prophet is going to lead GOD’s people into this great fight. JESUS needs you Chester to be ready.”

Chester was afraid, he turned and walked away from them.

He went into the governor’s tent.

Dr. Obersteen was working on Newsom.

Wes was working on Thelma.

Dr. Obersteen and Wes watched Chester.

Chester pointed to the governor.

Wes said, “He’s awake. Is there something we need to know?”

Chester said, “It’s about me. The little. Angelica asked if I can bring someone to see her.”

Wes said, “I heard her.”

Chester said, “Would it be ok. I heard her screaming a few minutes ago.”

Wes said, “She will be fine after her nap.”

Chester looked at the patients.

Dr. Obersteen and Wes watched Chester.

Chester said, “What happened to her?”

Wes said, “A pack of dogs actually ate her alive. But for some reason she is alive.”

Dr. Obersteen said in twenty years of medicine I have never seen and never heard of such.”

Wes said, “The dogs ate her back and most of her legs and her left hand. She knew to cover her neck and fall on her stomach. What you heard was physical therapy to straighten out the muscles she has left. We carry her around a lot. She has a wheelchair that she does not like. She crawls and Bruce told the soldiers not to shoot. She is up late at night. She says she is praying over the troops.”

Wes started crying and wiping his nose.

He moved back from Thelma.

Dr. Obersteen watched Wes breakdown.

Chester looked at Wes.

He felt Wes’ heart.

Wes said, “I want her to be my child and stay here with us. I want to take care of her. But her heart is to get back out on that dirt road and tell everyone that JESUS is the SON of GOD. That’s why she is in that condition they attacked her and attacked her and set the wild vicious dogs on her to eat her up and stop her from inviting people to the King’s banquet which is salvation.”

Wes turned his back and cried and cried.

Chester looked at Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen was crying.

Thelma said, “She is why we are alive.”

Dr. Obersteen looked at the unconscious Thelma.

Chester did not say anything else, he walked into the governor’s room.

Chester looked around and he could smell the alcohol sanitized room.

The room was clean and warm.

Chester saw the governor watching him.

David said, “What is it?”

Chester said, “I stopped by to check on you and the other patients to send Skip a report.”

David said, “Tell Skip I am still the governor.”

David smiled.

Chester looked.

David said, “I had to recover first. You know why?”

Chester said, No sir.”

David said, “I wanted them to see it was hell and it was the darkest that a human can go throught. But if I found my way, they can also.”

Chester smiled and nodded his head.

He felt a holy presence.

He turned around and around and looked at the ceiling and walls and did not see anything.

David watched Chester.

Chester realized the governor was watching him.

David said, “I don’t believe this assassination attempt is over.”

David started twisting.

Chester was shocked and said, “Why you say that governor?’

David was drifting back to sleep.

He said, “I can sleep now not rest. I had the same dream over and over of a pillow over my face and I was too weak to remove it. The dream started recently being more clear. The hand is a woman’s hand. She has a striking ring on her third finger on her right hand.”

David drifted to sleep.

Chester watched David sleep for a few minutes.

He walked into the tent and saw Wes still crying. He knew Wes’ heart was to have Angelica there with him and Betsy and that little boy.

Chester stopped and waited,

He heard a voice say Joshua.

Chester was about to run out the tent until he recognized the voice as Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen said,”Joshua was Angelica’s co hort.”

Chester said to himself, “I had enough this morning I am a soldier.”

He walked out the tent and looked at the soldiers in the yard and he looked at the cooks.

He mounted his horse and rode out the yard.

Chester saw Glover in front of him.

A flash of something shining was in his mind.

He was trying to think about all the things he had to do that day.

He thought about Clara.

He arrived at the post office after Glover.

Chester rode to the office and told the sentry to have his horse taken to be groomed.

Chester walked to the wash tent. He had a pair of clean thermals. He believed in clear underwear.

He washed and shaved and put on clean underwear and socks.

He tried to press his uniform with his hand.

He walked to the governor’s laundry employee and told them to wash and clean his thermals, socks and uniform and dropped them off at the command post.

The governor’s employees looked at Chester.

Chester said, “Excused me I should not have been so bold. Would you please wash my clothes and I won’t tell the governor you all are gambling and drinking on duty.”

The lead laundry employee said, “We can have these back to you tomorrow.”

Chester said, “Thank you.”

He walked out and went to the dining tent.

The cooks saw Chester and watched him.

Chester got a tray and coffee mug.

He walked in line and said, “What is left?”

The cook said, “Some eggs and biscuits.”

Chester said, “One biscuit and some eggs and black coffee.”

Chester sat by himself and watched the tent door.

The soldiers watched to see where he was shot. Everyone wanted to know why the soldiers were lying in wait for Chester.

Tony was back in his troop from his secret mission.

The three riders had just made it back to Bruce’s troop.

They walked in the dining tent and saw Chester.

Chester watched them and knew for them not to be in the troop they had to be with Tony.

Chester signal them.

They sat at the table behind Chester.

Chester was watching the other soldiers in the dining room.

Chester spoke to them in low and in code.

He told them he was going to rotate them to the governor and he would give them two days rest.

Glover walked into the dining tent to get something to eat.

He did not see Chester sitting.

He walked up and got the last of the eggs and grits and biscuits.

Glover saw Chester looking at him and just about dropped his tray.

The three sitting behind Chester watched Glover.

Glover sat across the dining hall.

Chester watched him and did not see the information in his hand.

Chester cough.

The three watched Glover.

Chester said, “Five veteran soldiers laid in wait and tried to kill me three days ago. They had the pentagram, a map to this town and a key to the hotel here. I saw the telegram before I left this morning they all were found guilty and will be hanged tomorrow.”

Chester stood and took his tray to be washed.

He looked at the dining hall, the cooks and the workers and he thought, “Benson can do this.”

Glover was trying to blend in and held his head down and watched Chester walk out the dining hall.

Chester walked to the command post office and assign the soldiers to rotate and he included the three and showed the position they should take.

He read the report that Shelia and Dexter were interrogated separately and they both gave Donovan Sr as the person who approached them. Shelia said late one night she heard a female talking to Donovan. She recognized Donovan’s voice but not the female.”

 Chester said, “Female.”

He reviewed the telegram that his soldiers were loaded and they had all the supplies he requested.

He saw the report that the soldier they caught at Harold’s house wanted a deal. The prosecutors were talking with the commanders. The man said Donovan recruited him and trained him in the city that was Chester’s first post.

Chester thought about that city that Bishop and Danny did not like because the people had lynched a color man and took his land and threw his family out of the city.

Chester started thinking.

Thoughts began to float to the front of his head.

He could not make the thoughts stop so he can think on them.

Just as he could not stop the burning pain in his arm.

Chester had his toiletry bag and the herbal pain relief with him. He learned a long time ago to never leave your food or anything you put in your body out for someone to tamper with it. If he left his food when he came back he would throw it away.

He was sick unto death one time.

He left his food in the dining hall and ran to the bath tent.

When he returned to the tent he began to eat his food and it tasted a little cold but he ate and became deathly ill.

A telegram was sent to Bishop.

Bishop’s captain released him to come and check on Chester.

Bishop investigated and found out a soldier who was jealous of Chester put poison in his food.

They made him tell what type of poison and the captain sent a telegram to the headquarters to find out what to do.

Bishop started fasting and praying.

He was with Chester for two weeks without pay to get him well.

Chester was sick for six weeks.

He only ate if Danny brought him food.

Chester moved from the medic tent into the tent with Danny.

They became very close.

Tony was later transferred into that troop.

Tony had the captain to put him in the tent with Chester and Danny.

Those three meet the three riders in that troop.

Skip was over that section of troops. He was impressed with the six when he was visiting the troops.

He sent for them and went to headquarters and met Calvin again and the five other soldiers.

Skip personally taught them how to trained their horses and ride them.

He taught them how fight underwater.

He taught them how to be invisible and how to investigate.

The twelve soldiers spent six months training with Skip.

Skip sent them to separate troops and monitored their training.

He would send for them every year and trained them for three months and release them back to their troops.

The twelve soldiers were so excited about training.

After seven years of training Skip sent them on a secret mission.

They were very successful.

Skip was so very pleased with the twelve.

They were pleased with themselves.

Skip selected the twelve to travel to the different troops once per year and train the troops new techniques.

Chester and Tony completely trusted the other ten soldiers.

Skip would always give them a special financial pay once per year.

The three purchased them houses and lands.

Danny put all his pay in the bank, because he did not know what to do, because he was an orphaned and had no family besides Bishop and the eleven.

Calvin sent five of his relatives to trade school.

Tony and Chester put their money in banks. They lived a very common and simple life.

The other five bought houses and land.

One opened up transportation business. He was doing very well.

He was going to retire that spring and marry his girlfriend and ride his wagons to transport goods.

Skip talked to Shirley’s brother Bruce who controlled most of the shipping in the state.

Bruce gave Charles a five year contract.

The workers he had driving the wagons he would give fifty percent of the profit, to keep them from damaging his name and stealing from him.

They were his brothers and his girlfriend’s brother.

Charles had bought him a nice house and land.

He could sell the business and retire and live off his pension and raise a family.

He was trying to think through which way he wanted to go.

Charles, Calvin and the other four soldiers were back at headquarters with office duties they would be sent out to their troop.

They did not want their own troops because they wanted to be free.

Skip made Tony and Chester captain, when they graduated from college.

Chester trained his troop so well and they were so outstanding that Skip had a special ceremony and gave several their own troops and he elevated the rest of the troop up to steps.

He took them and split them up in the established troops.

Chester did not have a troop so he was placed on furlough until Skip could get him a troop.

He was able to go with the governor’s team as a security person.

No one knew Chester’s physical abilities.

Skip was well pleased with the twelve.

They all said they would retire when Skip leaves.

Tony wanted to spend the rest of his life with his wife and two boys.

He said he would get a job as a teacher, maybe at the prestigious boys’ military academy and get his sons in.

Chester was wild.

He had plenty of women.

He liked that excited life.

When he met Clara he knew she was different and changed his heart forever.

He told Tony he had found the one, Tony was stunned and he watched Clara.

Tony thought their mother was a school teacher, his wife was a teacher and now Chester’s girlfriend was a teacher and one that work for the state.

Chester could not figure out why the five soldiers wanted to kill him.

He never revealed his secret missions.

Chester said, “Foster go and bring back Barnes and Waters. Now,”

Foster was filing and he put the files on the desk and walked out and went to the two soldiers and told them Chester wanted them now.

Chester said, “Todd this is the rotation for today. Three soldiers will be joining the rotation in two days and stay for a week. Has Danny reported back to the troop?”

Todd said, “Yes sir.”

Chester added Danny’s name to be at the governor’s tent.

Chester wrote an order for the five soldiers at Brianna to go back to the lake area and report under the lead soldier, which Chester thought was doing a good job.

Chester wrote an order to pull the ten members of the troop that Skip sent to locate the stolen items back to the command post especially since they had recovered the coal and blankets and wagons.

Chester said, “Simmons I want a complete inventory of the wagons and weapons and the supplies. Todd send five horses to the governor’s tent. Are the soldiers at the brook being feed?”

Todd said, “Yes sir, the captain has his cook to take them food.“

Chester thought and wrote a supply list. He said, “Todd I am writing this supply list go and ask the cook what is he out of or low on and come back. Post that rotation list while you go to the cook.”

Todd sighed and walked out the office.

Chester said, “We have no medics or doctors. My God. What is wrong? From the big city to Bears Creek there is no medical help.”

Glover walked in the post.

Chester watched him.

Simmons coughed.

Glover looked at Simmons, then he remembered to salute Chester.

Chester was fed up with him.

Chester looked at Glover and saw the folders in his hand.

Chester said, “I did not see the folders when you walked into the dining hall. Where did you have them?”

Glover was puzzled and said, “I hide them in my shirt.”

Chester reached his hand out for them.

Simmons walked out with his clip board to take the inventory.

Chester read the report that the commanders met with Donovan Jr and he knew nothing about the assassins and who was behind it. He was sabotaging Bruce so he could be considered for the head of headquarters.

Chester shook his head.

Donovan wanted to have the termination removed from his record.

Because he could not practice medicine ever in the state.

Skip made sure he was charged with that so he could never practice medicine in the state.

Donovan had nothing to offer headquarters.

Skip will make the decision if any of the charges would be dropped or reduced.

The report came in from the five assassins that came after Chester.

He looked at the date.

Glover said, “Sir. You were out the day when that report came.”

 Chester looked up and Soldiers Barnes and Waters walked in the door.

They saluted.

As Chester rode to the command post he thought Barnes and Waters fighting with the witches.

Hester pointed at the chairs the two sat in the chairs.

Chester had memorized their military records.

Barnes will retire in less than thirty days.

Waters had decided to stay for another year.

Chester said, “Waters look at your folder.”

Chester handed Waters his folder.

Waters looked at his folder and handed it back to Chester and looked at Chester.

The office soldiers were watching Chester, because Chester reputation had gotten around he wanted everybody to move up. The soldiers new his troop was disbanded because some of them became captains and they were so well skilled and trained they were split and put in other troops to skill those troops.

Chester said, “You want to be in the military for another year and then what?”
Waters said, “I can’t think that far ahead because each day I think about surviving.”

Chester said, “That’s a lie.”

The office soldiers watched Chester.

Todd walked in the tent.

He said, “Sir. Excuse me these are the supplies the cooks said they need.”

Chester reached for the list and added the supplies to the list and added double meat, eggs and cheese.

Chester said, “Send this to headquarters.”

Simmons walked in and handed Chester the inventory of the wagons and the weapons.

Chester said, “Who is the military escort for the governor’s children? Have him to escort them their Sunday.”

The Chester was signing the order he thought and said, “Have the cook to bake some sweets and send with the children.”

Chester wrote the order and signed it.

Chester looked at Waters and said, “For you to re-sign for an additional year you have something on your mind to do.”

He heard the ten soldiers riding back into camp.

Chester saw the rotation lists for the past month and knew five of them had to be sent back to the governor’s assignment.

Foster walked in and said, “Sir. The five soldiers at Brianna’s house have been sent back to the lake area. The five across from the Ida’s house are waiting for their new assignments, so are the two security soldiers at Ida’s house.”

Chester had their orders ready.

He handed it to Foster.

Foster reached for it and stared at Chester, because he thought Chester should have told him before he spent two hours relaying orders.

Barnes turned his head and snickered.

Waters turned and looked at Foster.

Chester stared at Foster.

Simmons said, “sir. What you want to be done to the two extra tents?”

Chester said, “Load the two tents and take them to the troops in the new settlement. Have one set up for a dining hall and the other for washed shed. Have them set up near the brook so it will be easier to get water.”

Chester heard the wagons coming from the governor’s place.

Chester said, “What just happened?”

Foster had walked out the door and rode the few streets over and told the two security soldiers to report back to camp.

The office soldiers looked at Chester.

Chester stood and walked out the tent.

The office soldiers watched Chester.

Glover wanted to know what was going so he walked behind Chester.

Chester walked to the wagon driver who was unloading the soldiers and other soldiers were loading in the wagon.

Chester said, “Who is with the governor?”

The soldiers all looked at each other.

Chester was so angry and said, “He is unprotected. Who told all of you to leave? Bruce wrote your orders that you do not leave until the relief group comes. Go to the governor and give me an answer when you get back.”

The wagons’ turned around and went to the governor.

The three rode their horses and passed Chester and went to the governor.

Chester had assigned one to be at the governor’s room.

One was a sharpshooter by the cook.

The last one at the end of the brook.

Danny was to be a half mile from him.

Sergeant Pearson and Roger were stationed a half of mile away from last soldier.

Bruce did not have enough men to be a half mile apart.

But since the extra four hundred soldiers came that helped Bruce men.

Chester had a soldier placed every half mile up to the house and had six soldiers around the governor’s place and Chester put four soldiers in the yard facing the dirt road. He had better coverage. His troop could see down the brook to the governor’s tent.

Chester said,”Todd did you tell those soldiers to go and pick up the soldiers at the governor’s place and leave the governor completely unprotected?”

Todd stood and said, “No Sir.”

Chester said, “Go and get it. And tell Marc and Joseph to go back to Ida for security.”

Chester said, “Waters ride in one of the supply wagons and leave today. Barnes you have less than thirty days before you retire. What are your plans for the next thirty days?”

Barnes was about to say something smart and he grinned.

He looked at Chester who was very stern and had a hard look.

Barnes swallowed and said, “Stay out of trouble.”

Chester said, “You will work until you signed your official paper. You are not scared being in front of the evil ones by yourself?”

Barnes said, “I didn’t know until last week.”

Chester said, “What?”

Barnes said, “The bible can run away evil ones.”

Chester stared at Barnes.

Barnes said, “Sir. Can I get the house where I am stationed?”

Chester said, “I don’t know nothing about that. I believe William the team leader for the governor and Danny would be the ones who know about that. So you would live across from what you call witches?”

Barnes said,”Since I found out they can’t beat the bible I feel better.”

Chester looked at Barnes and said, “You will observe Brianna and get her children back and forth to school and when Waters return you will rotate to the governor’s tent.”

Barnes turned and looked at the office soldiers.

Chester said, “sir, did I hear you correctly?”

Chester looked at Barnes.

Barnes said, “Did you just tell me to baby sit?”

Chester said, “Yes.”

Barnes said, “Why sir?”

Chester said, “You’re there anyway feeding your horses.”

Waters nearly fainted.

Barnes sat back in his chair and could not say anything.

Chester said, “Each week you two come here and check your assignments. Dismissed.”

Waters and Barnes looked at each and stood. They saluted and walked out.

Chester received the report Newsom’s family trial had ended.

All the children were sent to reform school. The adults were given five years in prison.

Skip was not pleased with the adults only getting five years.

The judge was trying to send the two teenage boys to the military.

Skip signed an order banning them from the military.

The judge put the children in reformatory school for a year. And after that year into state’s custody until they are legal adults.

Chester heard the wagons Simmons sent to drop off the tents.

Chester kept going through the list of soldiers.

He looked up and all the office soldiers were looking at him including Glover.

Chester said, “This troop is to have a hundred soldiers, which include the three cooks and the five helpers. The five office helpers, twenty five at the brook, twenty at the governor’s place, eight deceased, one witch, six devil worshippers, Benson and the six dismiss…”

Simmons said, “Sir, that’s a problem.”

Chester said, “What is a problem?”

Simmons said, “Those six have not left.”

Chester said, “I can’t run them out of a town.”

Simmons said, “Out of the post, sir.”

Chester said, “Where are the sentries? Give me their folders. I need to know where there is a breakdown of communication in this troop.”

Chester looked at the soldiers and said, “Twenty five soldiers in the town, which include the five security at Ida’s and in this camp right now should be twenty soldiers. That is one hundred and fifty soldiers. Now you subtract the eight deceased and the rest. There is twenty eight soldiers more than what is on your records and your second in command is counted in those who suppose to be here.” Who put that number of soldiers in this troop?”

Todd and Foster walked in and everyone looked at them and the look was so serious that Todd and Foster became scared.

Chester reached for the posted rotation list.

He saw the twenty names he wrote.

The five soldiers he sent were to be by Danny up to the governor’s place. The number added up.

The number of twenty five at the brook added up.

Chester was thinking it seemed like there was more than fifty soldiers at the brook.

Chester stood and put his guns on ready.

He said, “Simmons, Glover, Foster, Todd come with me.”

The soldiers looked at each other.

Chester heard the telegram machine.

He stopped.

He was thinking.

He looked at the telegram machine and he went back to his desk and reached for the telegram.

Todd ran to the telegram and handed Chester the telegram.

He thought.

He said, “The five soldiers, Hunnicutt, Wilkinson, Robinson, Walters and Matteson names are on the rooster for this troop. They will be executed tomorrow. That leaves twenty three soldiers.”

Chester pulled the envelopes and showed the soldiers each envelope the one that cut his throat.

Glover said, “Twenty two.”

Chester said, “Do you Foster, Todd and Simmons know your soldiers by face?”

Simmons said, “Yes sir.

Chester walked out the door followed by the gun ready office soldiers.

Chester called the sentries to him and said, “Let no one in here and let no one leave.

Chester searched the kitchen.

He searched the washed tent.

Skip had the extra tents collapsed.

Chester sent those tents to his troop.

The cook and his workers went and got their guns and put them on.

The other two sentries were in their tent and saw Chester and the other soldiers entered.

They knew something was wrong.

The sentries got up and dressed an got their guns.

Simmons was checking off the familiar faces.

The sentries cover their backs.

Chester went from tent to tent and found twelve false soldiers hiding out waiting for something.

Simmons said, “Sir that leaves ten.”

Chester told the sentries, “Secure them and if they move shoot to kill.”

One of the prisoners said, “You think you are so smart.”

Chester said, “Stop their mouths.”

One of the sentries hit him in his head with the butt of his gun and knocked him out.

The assassin was shaking his head to come to.

Chester said, “I meant with cloth.”

The sentry said, “That will do until I get some cloth. They killed Kendricks.”

Chester looked and said, “I heard.”

The assassin was still trying to shake himself conscious.

The other sentry went and found a sheet and ripped it up and handed pieces to the other sentry and they gaged all the twelve assassins’ mouth.

The governor’s laundry employees did not know what to do. They were supposing to be gambling with the cook and his workers later.

They continued to wash the governor’s linens and Chester’s uniform and personal items.

The camp was in an uproar.

They could not believe they had the assassins amongst them. That is why they were able to get into the town and in the building and have a shot out with Bruce and Newsom.

The soldiers were yelling, “Who is it?”

Chester yelled and said, “You are soldiers. Get to your post.”

Marc and Joseph were thinking about Clara and Mellissa.”

Marc liked Mellissa, but he said nothing to no one.

Ida caught the way Marc would watch Mellissa.

Ida could not get in anyone’s business because she had to watch the governor’s drunk mother-in-law.

William and Melvin ran down the street.

The security soldiers at Ida and the five soldiers across the street knew something was going on.

William ran and knocked on Ida’s door and he stepped inside the door and the governor’s children were walking to the dinner table.

They stopped and looked at William.

Saw them and spoke and said, “Hello.”

The governor’s children walked to William and Ida.

Their grandmother was standing in her bedroom door.

The two security soldiers saw the soldiers and sentries flying up and down the street.

One of the soldiers from across the street ran over to Ida and inside the house with the two security soldiers they looked back at him.

He said, “We want to know what to do.”

William said, “We could not hear everything, but something about be on alert. Even though they did not have orders.”

The soldier from across the street said, “That is bad. That means they did not have time to send out orders. Be prepared for hell.”

He ran out the door and back across the street and told the other four to find better hiding and shooting positions.

Two of them jumped on the roof of the buildings and stood and looked around.

One of the security soldier was standing in Ida and watching the soldiers across the street and said, “Well damn I didn’t think about fighting from the top of the buildings.”

The other security soldier said, “That does give you a better view.”

The governor’s children walked back and held each other’s hand and formed a circle and began to pray.

William and Ida went and held their hands and joined the circle of prayer.

Lydia prayed and said, “GOD please stop these bad people. What do they want? Don’t give it to them. Don’t let them shoot our mommy and daddy nor any of these soldiers because they have kids too. In JESUS’ name amen.”

Melvin saw Jake in the street and turned his head.

He knocked on the door.

Jason and Alice were eating dinner and looking out the dining room window when they saw Melvin running to their house.

Alice said, ”Miss Clara, here comes Melvin.”

Jason said, “And running.”

Mellissa, Laura and Clara looked out the window.

Clara ran to the door and was unlocking it when Melvin was knocking on it.

Mellissa, Laura, Jason and Alice ran to the door.

Melvin was trying to catch his breath.

Clara said, “Come in.”

Melvin said, “No. We don’t know what is going. Be prepared and sleep on the floor. Do you still have your gun from last week?”

Mellissa said,”Yes.”

Melvin said, “You two stay out the window.”

He looked at them and said, “Laura get ready.”

Laura grinned.

Clara said, “Get ready! Where is my Chester if he did not come and put his troops on alert.”

Laura stopped grinning when she thought about, “Where is my Joseph? Oh my GOD.”

Melvin said, ”I don’t know nothing. Nothing happened last week but they were able to catch the two assassins. It might be that way this time. All of you pray. Because this is messing with my nerves. I just might retire after this.”

Melissa said, “Thank You Melvin.”

Alice was beginning to pick up Mellissa, Laura and Clara’s behavior.

She said, “Thank you Mr. Melvin.”

Clara looked at Alice.

Jason walked to the door and looked at Melvin and said, “Thank you. Be safe. Good evening.”

Clara looked at Jason.

Melvin did a double look and slowly stood up from him bending down to catch his breath.

He said, “Thank you Alice and Jason. Be safe. Good night. And stay away from the windows tonight.”

Chester walked back to the command post and said Foster and Glover, “Ride to the captain at the beginning of the town and tell him there is a problem and to block anyone from leaving.”

Foster and Glover mounted their horses and flew passed Barnes and Waters. They nearly ran over them.

Barnes and Waters yelled at them.

They looked at each and ran to the tents and uncovered their guns and fell on their stomachs on high alert.

The sentries saw Foster and Glover flying through the street and they saw Waters and Barnes run and grabbed their guns and fell on their stomachs with the guns pointed.

The sentries stopped and one flew bac to the sentry’s camp and said, “Up and ready.”

The sentries jumped and got dressed and were ready to mount their horses at the signal.

The other sentry saw the two sentries coming down the road by Brianna and he flew to them and said, “Something bad is going on, they did not have time to tell us. Go and tell the lead to put his men on high alert and tell the soldiers at the lake.”

One of the sentries said, “I have no orders and I am not going to tell them anything.”

The sentry rode passed them and he yelled and said, “Where is the lead?”

William and his team were finishing all their reports.

They saw the sentry and jumped up to see what he was saying.

William had learned to read the soldiers body language.

The lead was sitting down to rest.

He saw the sentry and jumped up.

William and his camp were watching.

The lead soldier was standing with his hands on his hips.

The sentry was talking fast.

The other soldiers were watching the sentry and then his partner who rode and stopped by him.

He said, “We don’t have any orders. But two of the captain’s men just flew passed us as bats out of hell going to the troop at the beginning of the town. It is better to err on caution then to be caught off guard.”

The lead soldier said, “Thank you.”

They finished talking to the lead soldier.

They rode fast passed by William and his camp.

The security officers, who were furloughed soldiers, said, “That is something. Prepare.”

Tim looked at Melvin.

Tim was the one who first found the money in the saddles of the assassins and hid his part. After he hid several thousands of dollars he told Melvin and William and later the others.

Melvin smiled at Tim.

The older driver went and pulled out his new battery gun he bought with his money.

Jake was sitting on his front porch steps when the two, Foster and Glover, flew passed him.

The captain walked heard Foster and Glover yelling for their captain.

The captain ran out his tent.

He stood with his hands on his hips.

Foster said, “Captain Chester said, do not let any one pass you tonight.”

At first the captain thought, “Who is he? Then he remembered Chester will be taking over after Skip.”

The captain said, “Fine.”

He looked to his second in command and said, “Don’t let anyone get pass you tonight.”

The captain knew Commander Arnold despised him and wanted to fire him. He was not going to give him that chance.

He turned and walked back to the office tent and sat and played solitaire cards.

The second in command saluted the captain and rode through the troop and said, “No one passes through. I don’t care if it is the president. Do I make myself understood?”

The soldiers saw the neighbor riding a different horse and coming home from work.

The second in command said, “Let him go home.”

He looked around and said, “Sentries be on high alert.”

The second in command felt funny. He turned and walked his horse back to his tent.

Jakes heart jumped.

He stood up and knew it was trouble.

He looked around the neighborhood and knew it was time for people to start getting home.

Jake heard something and he shook his head as to shake it out of his head.

He eased around the corner of his house and saw the two horses neighing and running wild around his backyard.

Jake said, “What the hell is tis. You saw those two horses pass by and that is what stirred you up. What kind of animals are you.”

Jake stood and thought, “I got to get word to Skip.”

He heard the horses on the street coming back. He turned and ran out in the street in front of Foster and Glover.

Their horses bucked.

Jake waved them down.

Foster and Glover brought their horses and yelled at Jake and said, “Move.”

Glover was scared and put his hand on his gun.

Jake looked at him.

Foster said, “Sir move.”

Jake said, “I am Skip’s brother. Your boss.”

Foster and Glover looked at Jake.

Jake said, “I have an extremely important message to get to him at headquarters.”

Glover said, “We don’t have time for this.”

Jake said, “You better or I will tell Skip and he will court martial you.”

Foster said, ”What is your message?”

Jake said, “Come and look.”

Jake walked and pointed at the horses that were watching them.

Foster said, “Are those horses watching us?”

Jake said, “Send an urgent telegram to Skip at headquarters that it is the horses that will lead the way.”

Foster was puzzled and looked blanketly at Jake.

Jake said, “Go now. You don’t have time. Whatever this is it will take place tonight. Go!!!!!”

Glover flew down the road.

Foster got his composure back and flew behind Glover. He wanted to send the telegram from Skip’s brother. He was told that Skip remembers soldiers good work and rewards them accordingly.

The lead soldier and the soldier next to him had mounted their horses and were going down to the captain at the beginning of the town, to find out what was going on.

They saw Foster and Glover had stopped and Jake was out in the street talking to them.

The lead thought, “Well it was not that important it must have been for that troop.”

He looked and saw Barnes and Waters were on high alert peeping from behind the bushes.

The lead soldier and his next in command knew Barnes and Waters just returned from the command post.

The lead soldier and his next in command looked at Glover flying pass them.

The sentries that would not deliver the message to the lead soldier rode up and watched Glover speed by them.

Foster was riding fast.

The sentries saw Barnes and Waters in ambush mode.

The lead soldier said to his second in command, “Go to the troop at the lake and tell them I said, Get ready and be on high alert.”

The second in command turned and rode by Brianna.

The soldiers at the lake fished all day and were having a fish fry.

They saw the second in command flying to them.

They knew something was wrong.

The soldiers readied themselves.

A few said, “I fished all day. I am going to eat, then get to my post.”

He was one of the six soldiers Commander Arnold trained to do underwater combat while he was there for those few days. Commander Arnold showed them in the few days how to hide in the water amongst the snakes and then come out to kill the enemy.

Chester looked around and said, “Todd send telegrams to headquarters and informed them what is happening.”

Chester said, “I need you Simmons to ride with me to the brook. We will go through the governor’s place for them to be on high alert.”

Chester and Simmons mounted their horses and flew to the house.

Wes was coming out the tent and saw Chester flew in the yard.

Chester friend in the yard saw him and ran to him.

Chester said,”Twenty eight imposters. Caught all but ten. Tell Steve, it is someone else.”

Robert ran around the back to the governor’s room and told Steve, “Chester said there were twenty eight imposters in the camp and they have caught all but ten. He thinks the ten are with the soldiers at the brook. He is on his way there now. He said there is someone else. Let no one come to this room.”

Steve ready his rifle, his guns and he took out his knives and place them along the outside the walls of the governor’s room.

Steve readied his gun and laid low by the governor’s room.

Wes ran back into the tent.

He looked at Dr. Obersteen who was attending Thelma.

Dr. Obersteen looked up to see Wes. He looked down at Thelma and continued to attend to her needs.

Terry was standing at the medical burn barrel.

He was putting all the items from that day to burn.

He looked up in time and saw Chester and Simmons running pass him.

He knew something big was going on.

He secured the items to burn.

He looked around and for shadows, because it was just about to get dark.

Terry went to his tent and got his rifle and his two guns and loaded them. He did not think of himself as a soldier anymore he thought of himself as a medical help person. He had decided to leave the military and get a job at the big city hospital with Dr. Obersteen. He did not know Dr. Obersteen was fired and the papers were sent to remove his medical license.

Terry’s eyes fell on his knives. He made a step to walk out his tent and to leave the knives. His mind went to the knives he turned and picked up the five knives and went fully loaded to the governor’s tent.

Dr. Obersteen saw him and said, “Terry, What is it?”

Terry said, “Dr. Obersteen I don’t know. But for them to be running and not saying anything it is big.”

David was listening, in his warm room.

He became nervous and scared and thought, “GOD before I was not conscious of death or dying. But now I am awake and I am scared. Who is it and what do they want besides my life. Please don’t give them what they want and end this forever. Please GOD.”

Wes ran to the cute house.

He looked back and saw the fully armed Terry running to the governor’s tent.

Angelica and Joshua were in the window eating an early dinner when they saw Chester and another flew into the yard and jump off their horses.

Angelica and Joshua screamed, “Betsy!!!”

Betsy was sitting on the sofa waiting for Wes.

She had prepared she and Wes’ plates and was happy that evening.

Joshua and Angelica turned and looked back at Betsy.

Betsy ran to the window.

Joshua and Angelica pointed.

Betsy saw Chester and another soldier running. She saw the soldier run to the governor’s tent.

She saw the cooks bend down and came up with their rifles.

Wes ran into the door.

Betsy, Joshua and Angelica turned to look at who was coming into the door.

Wes said, “I don’t know what is happening. Chester does not say anything like Bruce. They are running down by the brook.”

Angelica said, “It’s a woman. She is going to kill a lot of soldiers.”

Angelica said, “Tell him daddy. He will listen to you.”

Wes stood and looked at Angelica.

The thought came to him, “She has not been wrong.”

Betsy looked at Wes and Wes slowly turned and looked at Betsy.

Betsy nodded her head for yes.

Joshua said, “Tell him Wes.”

Angelica shook her head for yes.

Wes walked out the door and stood on the porch with his hands on his hips.

The cooks saw Wes standing on the porch.

One cook yelled to the soldiers in the yard, “What is he doing? Tell him to get in the house or the tent.”

David heard Robert, even though Robert was talking to Steve in code.

Chester and Simmons ran down the path by the brook.

The other one of the three name Adam saw Chester running.

Danny saw Chester and Simmons running with their guns drawn.

They knew something was bad.

Adam and Danny ran to Chester.

The other five soldiers ran out to hear what Chester was saying.

Chester trusted Adam and Danny and said, “Twenty eight imposters, we got all but ten. I believe the ten are down by the brook. Be ready. I have Simmons here to identify who is not familiar, especially with this new troop. Pass the word for those other five to be ready.”

Simmons was out of breath.

He was trying to catch his breath.

Adam and Danny looked at Simmons.

Danny yelled to the five, “Get ready.”

The five ran and hid in the bushes like Bruce trained them.

They pulled out their rifles and guns and stooped down in the dark coverings of the bushes and trees.

The commanders were in their daily evening briefing with Skip.

Todd was very nervous. He was sending the telegram of the twenty eight imposters in the camp. He said Chester found all but ten and he was going to the brook and see if they were in the troop.

Danny and Adam ran behind Chester and Simmons and had their rifles.

The commanders were walking out of Skip’s office.

Arnold returned and met Harold and Bentley and the six armed soldiers.

They rode out the capitol to another city and met with Donovan Jr.

Skip told them not to say anything but get all the details and come back.

Adam and Danny ran a short distance behind Chester with their guns in both hands.

Simmons looked back and was so impressed by the skill of Danny and Adam he nearly stopped running behind Chester who was flying.

The telegram was coming in from Todd.

Skip looked at the telegram machine and did not think too much about something coming in that time of evening.

Skip said, “Wallace probably about supplies.

Skip walked the commanders to the door and watched them walk down the hall.

The office soldier went immediately to the telegram machine and picked it up the telegram and read it and yelled, “Sir!!!”.

Skip jumped and he handed the telegram to Skip.

Andrew heard someone say something he slowed and looked back at his father who was standing in the door,

Arnold heard something he stopped.

The other commanders were walking and talking.

Skip said, “Call the commanders back.”

The office soldier ran out the office.

Andrew ran back, because he thought something was wrong with Bruce for the past few nights he could not sleep Bruce’s face kept coming before his mind. And he would see Bruce’s face and his mother’s face.

Andrew would wake and cry for Bruce.

He wanted his brother, he did not know how to tell what was happening to him to Skip.

Commander Arnold said, “Commanders!!”

The soldiers in the offices were watching these great soldiers walking in dignity and pride.

He ran back to Skip.

The rest of the commanders turned and ran back into the office.

The sentries posted in the hall watched them.

The office soldiers ran out of their offices to see what could cause commanders to run.

The office soldier who Skip told to get the commanders he held the door for them to run into the office.

Skip was standing and reading the telegram over and over,

He handed the telegram to Arnold and leaned over on his desk.

The other commanders filled the room and waited to find out what was going on.

Arnold stood and held the telegram.

Andrew ran to Skip and was checking him that he was alright.

The other commanders said, “What is it?”

Arnold could not speak.

The telegram machine was going again and Foster was sending a telegram that Jake said, follow the horses.

Arnold said, “I don’t know what to say.”

Commander Greene snatched the telegram out of Commander Arnold’s had.

The commanders gathered around to read the telegram.

The office soldier ra to the telegram machine and snatched the telegram form the machine and was putting it in the folder at the same time he was reaching it to Skip.

Commander Wallace said, “What the hell is this?”

Commander Randall said, “Does that boy know what he is talking about?”

Skip read the telegram from Jake.

He handed it to Andrew.

Andrew read it several times.

Commander Greene snatched it from Andrew.

Andrew looked at him.

Skip sat at his desk.

He was quiet and thinking.

Skip said, “Wallace, Chester’s men left yesterday to get back to camp. Correct?”

Skip was quiet and thinking.

Commander Adams said, “Should we be going off of nothing to do what?”

Commander Andrew and Commander Greene looked at Commander Adams.

Commander Greene said, “Shut up.”

Commander Arnold stood with his back against the wall and said, “Fifteen undocumented contractors.”

Skip looked at Arnold and said, “Send a telegram to the of sentries and have them to go and locked down those fifteen contractors.”

Arnold looked at the office soldier and said, “Send telegram to the troop of sentries and have fifty of them to go to the command center and locked down the fifteen contractors with those twelve assassins. Now!!?”

The office soldier looked at his list of telegram machines and sent the telegram to the lead soldier over the two hundred.

The telegram technician ripped the telegram from the machine.

He ran to the lead soldier.

The lead soldier jumped and mounted his horse.

William and his team were watching and saw the lead jump on his horse.

They ran to their chosen places to hide.

The soldiers on the top of the building watched the lead soldier.

The security soldiers at Ida saw the soldiers running on top of the buildings

The two soldiers on top of the buildings ran and watched the lead soldier flew down the street to his soldiers.

Alice turned and said, “Miss Clara they are running.”

Clara, Laura and Mellissa ran to the window and saw William’s camp running to the buildings.

They were able to see the soldiers standing on top of the buildings watching something.

It was just getting dark.

Laura whined.

Alice looked at Laura and said,” Miss Laura, Mr. Joseph is a soldier. He can fight.”

Jason said, “Like you.”

Laura grabbed Jason and Alice and wiped the tear from her eyes.

Clara was heart broken over Chester and said, “I need to pray.”

Mellissa looked at Laura and said, “I would like to pray. Come children.”

She reached her hands to Alice and Jason.

Laura was still not wanting to be Mellissa’s friend any more.

Clara walked over and then looked at Laura,

Alice said, “Please Miss Laura you helped us. Now let’s help the soldiers.”

Jason looked at Laura and said, “Please,” he turned Clara’s hand a loose and reached for Laura’s hand.

Laura grinned and said, “You two.”

She walked and held Jason’s hand.

Alice and Jason looked up at Laura and smiled.

Clara said, “Mellissa why don’t you pray.”

Mellissa said, “God I know I have been angry with You since Ray’s death. I know that bitterness towards You and my grief at losing the only person who truly loved me caused the devil to attack my mind. And he used that to drive away my friends. Please help them to forgive me. Bless the wonderful blessings you sent to us in the packages of Alice and Jason and the other children in this town. Teach us how to fight the evil ones…”

Jason said, “And win.”

Mellissa said, “Amen.”

Clara said, “Please protect these soldiers and let Chester get to the bottom of this. In JESUS’ name.”

Skip said, “White is at the beginning of the town.”

Commander Arnold said, “I can’t stand that …”

Commander Randall said, “What is going on?”

Commander Johnson looked at him like Randall had no sense.

Skip,”We all have been bamboozled.”

Commander Johnson said, “What is next?”

Commander Randall looked at Commander Johnson.

Skip said, Arnold send a telegram to Captain White and tell him to lock down the town. Have no one to come into the town nor leave. Especially anyone wearing a uniform. Tell him I am on my way back”

The Commanders looked at Skip because of his heart.

Skip looked at the commanders and said, “I want to tell him because…”

Commander Arnold said, “He’s a hard headed bastard.”

Commander Harold laughed and said, “I know who you are talking about and he is very arrogant.”

Skip said, “Who can leave now to get back to the other side of the state?”

Commander Porter said, “I can leave now. We have a problem with the saddles and I have packed to go out of state to the maker.”

Commander Bentley said, “I am packed and was leaving with Commander Porter to find out about the maker of the saddles.”

Skip said, “I want you to hold on a second. I will need that information.”

The commanders looked at Skip.

Andrew looked at Skip.

The office soldier walked in and handed Skip the telegrams.

Skip said, “The lead soldier over the sentries he sent fifty sentries into the command post. And he is awaiting the lock down confirmation. And this one is from Captain White that Chester sent him word to do so and he has done so.”

Commander Adams said, “Chester.”

Commander Whatley could not stand Commander Adams because he thought he was arrogant idiot.

Commander Whatley said, “Come on Chester.”

Commander O’Hara said, “Skip. I can back. I can ride all night. Because I see now you have to find out who is behind this lunacy.”

Skip said, “It’s a woman.”

All the commanders and Andrew looked at Skip.

Commander Arnold said, “You know come to think about it. I ca believe that because my daughters will keep coming and coming after you.”

Commander O’Hara said, “You might be right because my daughters will fight and argue until they get their point across.”

Commander Arnold said, “Might be right...”

He began to mumble.

Andrew smirked. He was waiting to hear something about Bruce.

Commander Percy Gaston said, “We need to send more troops.”

Commander Harold said, “We don’t need to send anymore troops there is plenty there!!!.”

Skip looked at Commander Percy, because everyone knew Harold was still mad with him for having sex with Vivian.

Skip said, “There four hundred trained soldiers around that small town. We don’t need to send anymore men. What we have to do is figure out how this attack to come.”

Commander said, “You know Shelia did say she heard an unrecognized female voice with Donovan.”

Andrew said, “Father I am concern about Bruce. I can go now and ride for at least a day and a half and get there in three days.”

Commander Arnold said, “I want to go and get those bastards contractors.”

Skip said, “How did we get them?”

Commander Arnold said, “Damn.”

Skip said, “Right.”

Andrew turned his head and looked at his father and said, “Why didn’t we think about that before?”

Skip said, “Commander Arnold go and bring the paperwork back for that contract.”

The telegram machine started over again.

The office worker was standing by the telegram machine and said, “Sir it’s coming in from your wife Sheryl.”

Commander Harold said, “Ignore that.”

Skip said, “I am not ignoring anything every again. I just taught her how to send telegrams from home in case of extreme emergencies, like me dying. Soldier give me that telegram.”

The soldier pulled the telegram off the machine and handed it to Skip.

Skip read the telegram and looked around the room.

The commanders looked at Skip.

Skip said, “Sheryl said Donovan Sr. and his wife are packing a wagon to leave. Commanders Vincent and Bronson take twelve armed soldiers and ride fast. There are only two ways he could, if he is running out of state. Either by the college or by the farms. You can beat him at either place if you leave now. Be still and watch him. He maybe meeting some more of these deadly assassins. I don’t want to believe someone in this office released any information to him. Andrew go and get the twenty four armed soldiers to meet Commanders Vincent and Bronson out front now.”

Andrew saluted and said, “Now.”

Skip rolled his eyes at Andrew.

Andrew ran out the office and down the stairs to the dorms.

He told the leads he needed twenty four armed soldiers to meet Commanders Vincent and Bronson outside now for an hour ride.

The leads pilled out their charts and ran and gathered the twenty four soldiers. The soldiers had been in training all day.

Andrew said, “I am over training. I never send all the soldiers to training at the same time. You always have to have some soldiers that are rested and be able to move when there is an emergency like now.”

The leads just stood and looked at Andrew.

Andrew said, “Give me the training orders.”

A lead gathered the orders and gave it to Andrew.

Andrew turned and ran around the building and back upstairs.

He ran into Skip’s office and reached Skip the training orders.

Skip looked and said, “What is this?’

Andrew caught his breath and said, “Somebody sent all the soldiers to training today. The soldiers are tired and weak and can be taken.”

Commander Bentley said, “I am a preacher and I have seen the weird shit, but this is getting strange. Somebody is anticipating our every move, based on our new protocol. Who has access to the new protocol?

Commander Arnold walked in Skip’s office with his eyes down looking at the contract.

When he walked in and finally looked up he saw everyone looking at him.

Arnold said, “What?”

Skip said, “Where is your new protocol book?”

Arnold said, “Home. I took it the other day. I did not feel like dropping it off at my office.”

The office soldier was standing by the telegram machine.

Skip said, “Someone set up a training class and sent all the soldiers to it.”

Arnold said, “So the soldiers are tired and worn out.”

Skip said, “Which means we would out tired soldiers or no soldiers. Which means that whoever it is has to watch and send the message to Donovan or the woman whether we sent soldiers or not. Andrew call the soldiers back.”

Andrew ran back to the dorm.

He saw the soldiers standing at the door, he caught them and said, “It’s cancel. You can rest this evening.”

The leads looked at Andrew because they knew something was seriously wrong.

Andrew stood and watched the soldiers return to their rooms.

Andrew thought and said, “In this entire building there are only two telegram machines. One in Skip’s office and the other...”

He turned his head and looked back.