Clara had a fun filled day with her students.

While the students were enjoying themselves drawing Clara was praying over each student and their families. Especially the nine that were not there.

She wondered who they were and their condition.

Clara felt better, when she prayed over her students.

She knew she had to go and find the nine students who were not in school.

Clara did not know who she could get to go with her, especially since she did not know the town and there were witches everywhere.

She knew she could not take Laura because Laura had to cook and take care of Mellissa.

Clara turned up her nose.

She thought, “Mellissa needs a bath.”

Then she thought, “We need coal.”

She thought about the coal out back, but it was state issued for the school.

Clara said, “Slick bad thought by the devil. Using my need to commit a sin that slow down the will of GOD in Mellissa’s life and our lives. Thank YOU, FATHER for showing the trick of the devil. I ask YOU to forgive me of committing a sin by thought and wash the sin away from me in BLOOD of JESUS.”

Clara’s mind drifted to her wonderful beau who came looking for her, then her mind went to the last time together.

The little boy held up his paper and yelled, “Finished.”

Clara exhaled and said, “Thank GOD!”

The children laughed.

Clara said a little boy who did not have a lunch bag.

Clara eased her meatloaf sandwich in one pocket and she looked at the orange.

She felt GOD said, “Give him the orange also. You are fine.”

Clara put the orange in her other pocket,

She learned early to wear skirts and dresses with pockets in case she had to share with a student and keep the rest of the students from knowing.

Clara said, “That was a nice fun morning students.”

The students cheered a loud “Yeah.”

The mayor was peeping in the school window.

Clara acted as though she did not see him.

The mayor knocked on the school door.

Clara looked up and begin to walk slowly to the door and said, “I rebuke this devil in JESUS’ name.”

She went to the door and unlocked the door and said, ”Mayor?”

He said, “I was told you had new desks and chairs.”

She wanted to hear from GOD.

Clara turned theatrically in the floor and waved her hand.

The children laughed.

The mayor looked around at the children and back at Clara, who was staring at the mayor, he said, “I’m not your students.”

Clara bowed and said, “Yes Mr. Raymond Jones bought them last year. The delivery men said there was a system problem and they delivered them yesterday.”

The mayor said, “I’m going to look around.”

The telegram walked in the school.

Clara turned on him with an evil look.

He jumped.

The mayor looked back and said, “He’s with me.”

The telegram worker looked at Clara.

He was surprised at Clara’s hatred for him.

He wondered at her and stood in the lunchroom and stared her down.

Clara wanted him to know she knew he was one of the evil ones.

Clara heard the back door open and then closed.

The mayor and the telegram worker were walking back through the school.

The little boy said, “Good day Mr. Mayor and Mr. Gray.”

The other children said, “Good day Mr. Mayor and Mr. Gray.”

Mr. Gray was staring at Clara.

Clara was staring at Mr. Gray and wanted to know what JESUS and GOD thought about him and where he fit in this abomination.

JESUS said, “Those two killed Raymond.”

Clara became sick.

JESUS said, “Hold on until they leave.”

The mayor looked at the little boy, and said, “I know your parents. You are a leader.”

Clara said to herself, “You know his parents because all of you belong to the same coven. Yes he is a leader created by GOD for his purpose in JESUS.”

The mayor and the telegram worker walked out the school.

The telegram worker looked back at Clara.

Clara went to the door and locked it.

The mayor and the telegram worker looked back at her, she wanted them to know she was locking them out the children’s life.

JESUS said, “I told them you have locked them away from the children forever.”

Clara let down the shade on the door and turned her back to the door and said, ”Students it has been an exciting morning. But guess what it gets better.”

The children started laughing.

The mayor and the telegram worker stood outside the school and heard the children laughter.

The seven holy angels JESUS sent were standing in front of the school looking at the mayor and the telegram worker.

The two were mumbling between each other.

All the holy angels in the school and in the street heard exactly what they were saying.

The mayor put on his gloves and walked away.

William was watching the mayor and the telegram worker from across the street at the licorice place.

William said in his mind, “The telegram worker. I knew he did not like me for a reason.”

He turned quickly around to keep the telegram worker from recognizing him.

She said, “It’s lunch time. I am coming by each of your desks for what?”

The children shouted, “Our drawings.”

She went to each student and they eagerly gave her their drawings.

She slipped her sandwich and orange on the little’s boy desk.

He looked at her in utter surprise.

Clara winked her eye at him.

He looked around, but the other students did not see Clara give him her lunch.

Clara purposefully went to the students prior to him so they would be busy eating their lunch and not see her give the little boy her lunch.

Clara looked around, each child was eating and the door was locked.

She turned to go and be sick.

She said, “See we all forgot we had a lunchroom.”

The children looked,

She said, “I tell you what we will begin to use it next week.”

The children cheered.

Then a knock on the door.

Clara thought and slowly went to the door and peeped out and it was William.

The telegram worker was watching.

Clara opened the door and William reached her a bag.

Clara looked at William and William nodded at the telegram worker.

William walked to the mayor’s office to look at the map of the town again. Because the land was not adding up.

William looked at the telegram worker and continued down the street.

He stopped by Ida and gave her the flour and sugar and a bag of candy for the governor’s children.

The children saw him and ran to the door.

William stepped inside the door and hugged the children.

The boy said, “When will you come and play with us?”

The girls said, “Yes.”

William said, “When your parents are okay. Stay inside and the backyard. There is still a lot of evil and danger. Understand me Lydia.”

Lydia said, “Yes.”

William said, “I heard mother say she is baking you an apple cake. That’s my favorite and it is the best cake. I have to go.”

He looked back at Lydia, who was very mischievous.

Ida looked at William, she knew he could pick up trouble.

She thought, “I have to keep a close eye on all of them but especially that little girl. Damn.”

Ida looked in the bag of candy and William bought them chocolates which were just invented.

The children were excited.

Ida counted seven pieces.

She gave the children a piece and took a piece to their drunk grandmother.

Ida knocked on her door and opened it and said, “My son brought you a piece of chocolate, maybe that will help you get sober. I can used some help around watching the children all you do is drink and sleep.”

The grandmother said. “At least I am out of your way.”

Ida looked at her whiskey bottle and said, “Your whiskey is almost gone.”

The grandmother said, “I’ll get some more.”

Ida said, “Where?”

The grandmother said, “You can go to the command post.”

Ida said, “I am not your servant. I am the governess of the governor’s children. I am not your maid. I am not responsible for you nor your drunken state. I do not want you to drink around the children anymore. I want you to leave and go home or under a rock but I want your drunken self away from these children. They have enough problems than to be cleaning up your puke. I refuse to clean up your mess. “

The grandmother was sitting on the bed and stared at Ida.

Then she fell back on the bed.

As Ida was closing the door she heard the grandmother throwing up.

The children heard her and said, “Whew.”

Ida kept walking and went to the security soldiers and reached them a chocolate bar.

She said, “My son bought these for us. It is Friday. We are going to start enjoying life. It’s hard enough besides the added problems.”

The boy was walking through the kitchen with the bucket and the mop.

The security soldiers looked at the governor‘s son with the bucket and mop.

The oldest girl said, “I am not cleaning up grandmother’s puke. I t is not my turn.”

The security heard the children fussing who was to clean up her mess.

Lydia said, “It’s my turn and I am not going to clean her up.”

The governor’s boy took the pail and mop back in the kitchen.

He went into the living room and finished his homework.

Ida went into the kitchen and finished dinner and put the cake on.

Clara opened the bag from William and smelled it.

The children laughed.

Clara locked the door and went into the lunchroom and cried.

JESUS said, “I have someone who is coming that will put an absolute end to the evil in this town. I have heard your prayer that the evil does not follow the children. I am your PEACE.”

Clara was sick and got up to throw up and rushed out the back door.

The little boy walked in to offer her some of his oats, because he saw she was not eating.

When walked in he saw her go out and throw up.

He turned and told children, “Miss Clara is sick.”

The children said, “Oh no.”

The angels watched the sadness that came over the children.

Clara after he finished throwing up.

She sat on the ground for minute.

Clara looked around and realized there was no relief for the children and no play yard.

She stood up and got the shovel for the coal and dug some dirt and threw it over the vomit.

She stood and took several deep breaths.

Clara locked the door and walked into the schoolhouse.

She thought, “I left my tea open. I don’t think the children put anything in it. I will not do that again.

She prayed over her tea and took several sips.

Clara noticed she did not hear any sound from the children, she JESUS to watch them while she was being sick.

The little girl raised her hand.

Clara put her teacup down and saw the little girl.

Then she saw the children looking at her sadly.

The lead holy angel said, “They think you are sick and will leave them like Mellissa.

Clara said, “Am I hearing voices?”

Clara sat at her desk and said, “Precious Alice what is your question?”

Alice said, “Are you sick? We saw you did not have anything to eat. You can have my oats.”

Clara shook her head and said, “Oats?”

The little girl got up and opened her hand and showed Clara the oats.

Clara was confused and could not think.

The children said, “They are good.”

The little boy said, “Taste them Miss Clara.”

The children said, “Yeah.”

Clara could not think, she said, “I’m depending on you.”

JESUS knew Clara was under stress from learning of Raymond murder and the murders, but HE had someone coming that will expose and destroy it all. Clara could not depend on her senses to respond to the children.

Clara looked around at the children the little boy smiled and lifted up his eyebrows.

Clara was very clean and did not want to eat the oats out the little girl’s hand.

She took an oat.

The little girl said, “Take some more.”

Clara smiled and took several and said, “This is your lunch my precious Alice.”

She ate the oats and looked at the little girl and the children and she smiled at them.

Clara said, “Very good. They taste like honey.”

The little boy said, “And cream.”

Clara said, “I am fine. My stomach was mad with me.”

The children laughed.

Clara said, “I’m writing all your parents’ letters that school from now until Mrs. Jones come back is four days not five. School will be from Tuesday through Friday.”

The children jumped up and ran around the room.

Clara sat and completed the letters she was writing last night.

She walked to the front of the desk and leaned on the desk and said, “You all are some of the brightest students I ever had. I am going to give you a test.”

The children murmured.

Clara waved her hands and said, “I can tell you all of you have passed. It is a test to let me know which book you should be reading out.”

The little boy said, “Mrs. Jones said that.”

Clara said, “Mrs. Jones was right. And sometimes some of you can help me by helping another read while I am working with another student. Do you like that?”

Clara saw some students looked down, including the little boy she gave her lunch to.

Clara saw some parents gathering on the porch.

Clara picked up the bag of candy form William and walked to the door and showed the candy to some parents.

The parents shook their heads for yes.

One father reached his hand out for a piece of candy.

Clara counted the candy pieces of candy and unlocked the door and gave the father a sucker.

The mother elbowed her husband and said, “Those are for the children.”

Clara left the door opened and walked to the front of the schoolhouse.

She said, “I want you to have fun this weekend. It’s cold outside, so if you go outside, be like the snowman and cover up. See you when?”

The children yelled, “Tuesday.”

The parents said, “What?”

Clara reached the bag out and the children ran and got a sucker, licorice and chocolate.

She reached each student a letter with their parents’ name.

Clara walked to the porch and told the parents the mayor should have told them school would be for four days and not five until Mrs. Jones returned.

One of the mothers said, “And was that going to be?”

Clara looked stunned.

The father who was eating the sucker said, “They don’t tell us nothing.”

His wife elbowed him again and said, “Shush.”

Clara were gone and Clara has a few pieces of candy left and reached the bag to the other parents.

Everyone got a piece of candy.

The little boy was eating his chocolate and reached and grabbed his mother’s cape and whispered something in her ear.

The mother turned and said, “Miss Clara my son said you were sick. “

Clara said, “Nothing that a bit of tea could not help.”

She looked at the little boy and smiled.

The other mother said, “I hope not. We can’t have everyone getting sick. I don’t know what to do with my children because I work part time at the bakery.”

Clara said, “Bakery? I didn’t know you had a bakery.”

The lady said, “It’s not far from the soldiers. I tell you they keep us in business. They came at the nick of time. If it weren’t for them our doors would have closed and another two families would be out of here.”

The other couple standing on the porch nodded their heads and said, “Huh. Huh.”

Clara said, “Oh that’s how they are getting rid of the citizens.”

Clara said, “We talked earlier today about opening the school up so the parents and others could see the new desks and chairs. I would love to give you some business to bake a few cakes for the opening.”

The mother was so excited and said, “Yes!”

Clara said there is no relief room.”

The parents said, “What?’

Clara laughed and said, “Toilet. I found that out today.”

The parents started laughing.

The parents left to walk home.

The little boy who did not have a lunch walked passed Clara.

Clara notice he did not get a piece of candy.

She called him.

He stopped and looked at her.

Clara reached her bag to him.

He was hesitant.

Clara bent down and said, “I promise it’s okay to have a piece.”

He said, “I can’t.”

Clara said, “Why?”

The father with the sucker was walking with the women until the baker and her son turned the street towards the evil place.

The father kept looking back at the little boy and Clara.

The youngest driver and the older driver watched them and pretended to be attending to the wagons.

The father and the mother watched the drivers until they passed them.

The youngest driver said, “Add them to the list.”

The older driver said, “Already putting their names down.”

The drivers watched the other woman and her son passed the street with the vacant buildings and turned on the next street.

The little boy said, “Mommy said, if we don’t have enough to share then nobody have any.”

Clara said, “Well Johnny how many are you?”

Johnny looked at her and said, “Six including Mommy.”

Clara looked at him and said, “No daddy?”

Johnny said, “He’s left looking for work. Three of the missing students are my two sisters and my brother.”

Clara said, “Johnny, why are your brother and sisters not in school? And you are?”

Johnny said, “I am the only one with shoes.”

Clara looked in the bag and counted there was exactly six pieces of the candy.

She smiled and said, “Guess what?”

Johnny said, “What?”

Clara said, “Count.”

Johnny looked in the bag and counted and said, “Six pieces Miss Clara.”

Clara said, “This bag was meant for you. It is your bag. Have a good week-end.”

Johnny jumped off the porch and ran up the street and passed the drivers.

The drivers were able to see part of the telegram worker.

Clara laughed.

She said, “JESUS I want this telegram worker hurt forever right now. I now you have holy angels assigned to the children. I need to get to the other six. Who do you have to help me?”

Clara went into the school and began to clean the building.

She was so thankful GOD did not allow her to say nothing bad about the mayor. She learned in the past that the nicest people were the most evil and the leaders of evil.

Clara swept the floor and washed the desks.

She put out the fire that was in the stove.

She heard a knock on the door and she peeped and it was the telegram worker.

She took her holy oil and put in on her hand.

She walked to the door and put her hand on the threshold of the door.

The telegram worker said, “I want to come in?”

Clara stepped back.

The telegram worker tried to put his foot on the threshold and he put his hand on the door frame.

The holy oil was on the doorframe and then on his hand.

He ran back to his shop.

Clara said, “GOD I need YOUR help.”

Clara turned and walked out the door and put oil on the porch and the street in front of the school and said, “This will tell who is who.”

She went back into the school and locked the door.

She swept the lunchroom and locked the backdoor where the coal was.

Clara thought and went and got the coal pail and unlocked the door and put coal in the pail and sit it by the coal stove.

She was thinking that was the only modern and up to date thing in this entire town.

Clara stood and thought.

She turned with her bottle of holy oil and unlocked the door to the back area and place holy oil on the fence around that area, she locked the back door and put holy oil on the back door and the doorknob.

She touched each wall of the lunchroom with the holy oil. She touched the threshold of the back door and the door frame with holy oil.

Clara touched the threshold and doorframe of the lunchroom.

She walked to the classroom and touched the doorknob.

She was putting the holy oil back in her bag.

Clara was thinking they had no candy for the weekend and what Laura cooked for dinner.

She put on her coat and scarf.

A thought came to her that she was not finished for her to anoint each chair and desk and the tables and chairs in the lunchroom.

Clara didn’t say anything but pulled off her coat and went into the lunchroom and anointed each chair and table.

She would not allow herself to think.

She anointed each desk and chair.

Clara stood in the floor and waited.

Then a thought came, “Your desk and chair.”

Clara reeled her head back. She was ready to eat.

In obedience she walked over to her desk and touched it and her chair

She thought and put an additional tap on her desk and chair.

She stood and waited.

She put on her coat and hat.

Clara put oil on her hands and walked across the street and drop holy oil on the porch of the businesses.

She went to the telegram shop and opened the door.

The telegram worker was washing his hands and drying them when the door bell sounded and Clara walked in.

The telegram worker walked out and saw her.

Clara was looking around the shop and walked to the counter.

She tapped on the counter. Making sure she put holy oil on the counter and he had to wipe it up and wash out the cloth and pour the holy water on the ground.

The telegram worker gave Clara an evil stare.

Clara turned and saw him.

Clara met his evil stare with her holy stare.

She was mad that she was hungry, and that Mellissa had been attacked, and her husband was killed by this witch.

Clara said, “Why did you come to the schoolhouse?”

The telegram worker, Mr.Gray, did not walk to Clara.

Clara noticed.

The telegram worker said, “You know why.”

Clara said, “I don’t know what you are talking about. Don’t come over there again. Only on official business, which means a telegram.”

The telegram worker said, “You don’t tell me what to do.”

Clara said, “When it comes to government authority I do.”

She turned and walked out the door.

The telegram worker said, “You think you are strong.”

Clara heard him, but she did not feel a lead in her spirit to respond.

She was so angry that she put her full hand on the doorknob and closed the door behind her.

She said, “FATHER I know the only is only symbolic but can YOU let judgement fall hard on him tonight. I know YOU said, one is coming. But I need this. And when you said, I was “fine” and when you had the exact six pieces of candy in the bag, YOU know Laura and I enjoy our goodies. Having me spend more time at the school. Are YOU saying I need to lose weight?”

Clara did not wait for a response, because she started thinking about even the meatloaf that she hated, would be good right now.

Clara was putting on her gloves and move her arm and felt a rip.

She stared in front of her.

She continued to walk home and crossed the street to speak to Ida, before it was dark.

Clara knocked on Ida’s door.

The security soldiers walked around to the front of the house and looked at Clara.

Clara knew they were there to help she said, “Good evening.”

Joseph walked back around the back.

He sat down and finished his dinner of fried chicken green beans and sweet potatoes.

March saw Joseph leave which mean he had to wait until Clara leave before he could go back and eat dinner.

Ida came to the door.

Clara said, “I only stop by to see if everybody is okay?”

Ida said, “Step in.”

Clara stepped in the house and turned up her nose.

Ida said, “That’s that drunk in there puking over everything.”

Clara put her hand over her nose.

The governor’s children were sitting at the dinner table and saw Clara.

They walked in the living room and said, “Hello Miss Clara.”

Clara smiled ad said, “Hello. You are eating dinner. I will come back to visit over the week-end. Okay? I want to play dominos.”

The governor’s son said, “I like beating you.”

Clara laughed and said, “You do?”

He said, “Yeap.”

Ida said, “Yes.”

He said, “Yes.”

Lydia went and stood and looked in her grandmother’s room.

Clara watched Lydia and said, “Lydia, what’s wrong?”

Lydia said, “Grandmother is not breathing.”

Ida ran into the bedroom.

Joseph was looking in the house when he saw everyone running.

He came into the house.

Marc in the front door.

Ida was trying to get her to breathe.

The children started crying.

Clara grabbed the oldest girl who was shaking.

Marc and joseph worked on the grandmother and finally got her to breathe.

The security soldiers got her up from the filthy bed and got her walking.

They walked her outside and walked her around the house over and over again.

Clara sat the children in the living room.

She pulled off her coat, hat and gloves and helped Ida take all the coverings from the bed and mop the floor.

They opened the window to the bedroom.

Clara helped the children get dressed for bed.

Ida took all the bed coverings and put them outside.

Joseph looked at Marc.

They kept walking the governor’s mother in law.

Ida searched for her whiskey and found it.

Ida threw it in the trash.

Ida brought clean bed coverings.

She brought smelled her pillows and they smelled like puke.

She threw the pillows in the trash.

Clara was putting on the sheet and blanket.

Clara looked around, and said, “No pillows?”

Ida rolled her eyes at Clara.

Clara looked around and said, “Hot water or a bath?”

Ida said, “The soldiers put a fire underneath the water. She is out of here.”

Clara said, “I have to get home. I Laura is wondering where I am. I stayed at school longer cleaning and sweeping. We got new desk and chairs. They are really nice.”

Ida went into the governor’s mother-in-law drawer and got a clean gown.

Clara said, “Well she has clean nightgowns.”

Ida said, “They are clean because she never sleep in them. I don’t care about new desks and chairs I need to get this drunk out of her. If she dies the children won’t see it and be scared for life, because of her.”

Clara said, “I do understand when you have to take care of a friend.”

Ida said, “That drunk heifer is not my friend like you and Mellissa. Good night Clara.”

Clara said, “Good night.”

She walked over to the governor’s children and held each of them.

They held onto Clara

Clara said, “Let us pray.”

They held hands.

Clara said, “LORD GOD Almighty I ask for you to touch these wonderful children and give them peace. They are strong. Give them Your peace. Deliver their grandmother. I don’t know what caused her to drink. But YOU do. Give them peace. In JESUS ’name.”

Ida walked to Clara as she hugged the children again.

The children saw the security soldiers holding their grandmother up.

The children went to their room and closed the door.

Ida said, “Is that pot of water warm or hot?”

Marc said, “It’s just getting warm”

Ida said, “Put out the fire and undress her and put her big ass in the pot. I’ll be out there with sop and washcloth. I’ll bath her this time because she is going to the command tomorrow, while I am getting these things washed and getting our food.”

Joseph said, “We can’t go with you because we have to be with the governor’s children.”

Ida said, “I know.”

She looked at Clara.

Clara walked out the door and closed it.

She saw the witches, the banker and his wife, Mellissa’s neighbors scurring home.

She was crossing the street and wondered what has happen with Mellissa and Laura all day.

Clara knocked on the door and began to unlock the door.

Mellissa ran to the door and Laura was standing by her.

Clara doubled locked the door and turned.

Laura and Mellissa were watching Clara.

Clara could not think.

The first thought that came into her mind, “Have they possessed Laura?”

Clara said, “What?”

Laura pointed to Mellissa.

Mellissa was twisting.

Clara looked at Mellissa and screamed, “You had a bath?”

Mellissa and Laura both jumped.

Mellissa started crying.

Laura held Mellissa and said, “Why did you scream?”

Clara said, “I don’t know. T has been a bad day.”

Laura said, ”What? Why don’t we talk over our goodies? William said he would give you something for us.”

Mellissa was shaking her head for yes.

Clara walked in and put down her bags.

She said, “Sit down you two. There is no goodies.”

Laura said, “No goodies. Do you eat them all Clara?”

Mellissa looked at Laura and shaking her head for yes.

The little girl was sitting in Natalie’s lap eating her dinner with the family.

Wes had her eating mashed up green beans, kale and sweet potatoes.

He would give her a quarter cup of sweet milk later at night.

He was feeding her as an ulcer patient.

Emma cooked apples and mashed them into applesauce.

The little girl loved the applesauce.

Wes would give her two spoonfuls of applesauce each day.

Wes told the little girl, “Only two spoonfuls of applesauce a day.”

The little girl was sitting in Wes’s lap.

She did a double take at Wes and then at Betsy.

Betsy looked at her and smiled.

The little girl knew no one said anything to Wes about his medicine. They fuss about everything else.

The little girl batted her eyes at Wes.

Betsy grinned.

JESUS was sitting at a desk with a very large book opened in front of HIM.

HE smiled at the little girl.

Wes was so stunned by the little girl’s astuteness.

He knew he had to use precise words with her.

Wes said, “Only Momma Betsy.”

The little girl said, “Two spoonfuls at each meal.”

Wes said, “No per day. It’s time for you to go to bed.”

Wes stood up to carry her to bed.

The little girl looked over Wes shoulder to momma Betsy, Emma and Mattie.

She knew not to look at Natalie, who already turned her head to the window.

The little girl looked at Joshua, he was pushing his sailboat through his imaginary sea.

The little girl looked at Momma Betsy who smiled, Emma just watched and Mattie waved.

The little girl waved her hands in a questioning way and said, “No help?”

JESUS was turned sideways and had a very large book in front of HIM.

JESUS smiled.

Wes turned and looked at her and back at those in the living room.

Momma Betsy, Emma and Mattie waved at her.

Joshua was still sailing his boat through the seas.

Wes put the little girl to bed and kissed her on her head.

He put his coat and quilt on and walked to Betsy and bent down and gave her a long kiss.

Mattie and Natalie said something in French.

Wes turned and looked at them.

Betsy started laughing.

The little girl called for Natalie.

Natalie stood from the sofa.

Betsy said, “How did she know I said I was her momma?”

They all stopped and looked.

Wes stood and said, “She could hear while she was in the coma and while she was sedated.”

There was a long silence.

Wes looked at them and he knew they must have been talking stuff they should not have been saying.

Wes walked out the door.

He went to the governor’s tent.

He attended to the governor and the first lady medical needs.

Wes made a pallet on the floor and put all his quilts on him.

The older driver watched Wes from underneath his wagon.

The older driver had not seen William, but he was wondering why William had not been to seen Natalie.

He thought about his wife,

He wondered if Bishop’s wife and children have sent a telegram to his wife.

The older driver turned on his back and put his arm across his forehead and said, “Bishop, Why this place? Everyone say this town is evil.”

He waited for a minute and said, “Did you know something about this place that the rest of us did not know? Where were you? You knew I was here, I talk to the cooks everyday. Why didn’t you at least speak?”

The older driver cried and went to sleep.

Wes thought he heard someone crying.

He was nosey.

He rolled over on his pallet and peeped out the tent door to hear where the crying was coming from.

He listened and the crying was coming from the wagon of the older driver.

Wes sat for a minute and wondered should he go and ask him what was wrong, if he was sick?”

He decided not to he rolled over and covered up with his quilts.

Wes was freezing.

He was glad that Bruce was rotating his men every three days, because no one should be in that type of weather.

The attendant was sitting on the top of the cute house looking into the next town.

He began to see flicks of light.

He was happy.

The new commander and the strange man were watching the seven holy angels JESUS sent to at the school.

When Wes walked out the cute house.

Natalie bit her lower lip and went to the little girl.

Emma and Mattie cleaned up the living room and took out the dishes and washed them and put them away.

Betsy talked to Joshua until Emma and Mattie came back.

Emma and Mattie said, “Come on Josh let’s go home.”

Betsy stood to walk into the bedroom and sit with Natalie.

Joshua said, “What home? We live outside. I am tired of this freezing cold. Nothing but bad things have happened to us since have been. I don’t want to go back there tonight or any other night. I am sleeping here until the weather breaks.”

The little girl said, “Joshua.”

Emma, Betsy and Mattie said, “Be quiet.”

Betsy said, “You in there calling him for him to stay in there with quiet. With your sneaky self.”

The little girl started laughing.

Joshua put his quilt on the floor and laid down.

He was mad.

He said, “That attendant knew it was going to be freezing here, that’s why he bought tents, but those tents were not good enough for this freezing cold. We should have stayed in our house and come back and forth to see her. I’m freezing. I don’t like him anymore. Nothing but bad things have happen. I’m freezing.”

The attendant sat on the top of the cute house and heard Joshua and the rest of the family complain about the freezing cold.

Betsy said, “Josh you can stay here.”

Joshua said, “He didn’t get us coal. He had us running around here cutting down trees and hauling them back to this place. You don’t know how hard it was with that lazy Thomas and Mike. I am just a little kid. I should not be living like this. I am not in school. I miss my friends and I have a best friend and she is the only good thing in all this.”

Joshua began to cry.

Betsy went and sat next to Joshua.

Joshua held onto Betsy.

Betsy was rocking Joshua.

Joshua said, “I’m a kid. I killed people. They were bad people. I went crazy. I had to be around bad people who killed little children. Why are we here? We are so poor. We depended on him to feed us. I hate this place. I want to go home and take her with us.”

The strange man and the new commander looked at the attendant who was sitting on top of the cute house.

Betsy said, “You can go home Joshua, but she cannot go. Good night.”

Betsy straighten out Joshua’s pallet and put his quilt over him.

She kissed him on his cheek.

She walked in the bedroom.

The little girl did not say anything, she knew the attendant wherever he was could hear.

Natalie looked at Betsy who was crying.

Joshua continued to cry.

Emma and Mattie could not comfort Joshua because they felt the same way but had not voiced it.

Mattie went and sat on the floor with Joshua and rubbed his leg to try to comfort him.

Mattie fell asleep sitting at the sofa.

Natalie walked in the living room and fell asleep on the sofa.

Emma sat in the chair and went to sleep.

Betsy was sleep in the chair in the bedroom.

The little girl was not sleep.

She was thinking about them being really cold and how Joshua was upset that he killed bad people.

The little girl crawled out of bed. She went to the door. She remembered what Wes said about armed soldiers that would shoot her. She crawled to the chair next to Emma and pushed the chair around to face the window she sat. She opened the window and prayed for hours pointing at the next town.

Natalie watched the little girl for hours.

Each time Natalie would fall asleep and waked up the little girl was still sitting in the window praying.

The little girl finished praying.

She crawled out the chair and turned the chair around.

She crawled to the bedroom and said, “Good night Natalie.”

Natalie said, “Good night.”

The little girl looked at Joshua and crawled to the bed and pulled herself upon the bed and laid in the bed.

She slept to late in the morning.

The attendant stepped down into the house and he looked at all of them.

The strange an and the new commander watched the attendant.

He bent down and touched Joshua’s head and said, “You will see.”

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST walked into the house and looked at all of them.

They walked into the bedroom.

The HOLY GHOST gave the little girl GOD’S word for that day.

HE explained the word to the little girl.

The HOLY GHOST disappeared.

JESUS stood and watched Joshua for a long time.

The attendant stood and watched.

JESUS disappeared.

Wes got up and attended to the governor and the first lady.

He thought he has at the most two and a half hours before they need to be taken care of.

Wes left the tent.

He looked at the older driver wagon.

He stooped down and looked at the older driver.

The older driver was awake and lying on his back with his arm over his head. He had a drunken sleep not a peaceful sleep. He was drunk and sleep thinking about Bishop.

The older driver said, “That’s that damn Wes. He’s as nosey as my wife.”

The older driver turned his head to make sure it was Wes.

He recognized Wes boots.

The older driver said, “Wes, my brother was killed in this mess a few days ago. Bruce has buried him. I didn’t know he was even here. I have to process this great grief. I don’t want to talk about it. I don’t want none of your herbs. Understand?”

Wes said, “I understand.”

The older driver said, “Eat some oatmeal this morning.”

Wes said, “Ok.”

Wes stood and turned, he saw the wagon at the house.

He knew they did not come back that early.

Wes walked into the house and saw everybody was sleep.

He went and inventoried the herbs.

Wes walked out the house with the pails to gather the herbs.

The driver saw his boots passed by.

He knew was going to pick his herbs.

The older driver, “Get your nosey ass out there and pick your herbs. Give me some peace.”

The older driver flipped over to get some sleep.

He could not sleep.

The older driver got up.

He lit the fires around the perimeter of the cute house.

He went to the brook and fill the water pails and filled the black pot.

He started the fire underneath the black pot.

He carried water in the cute house.

The older driver saw all the ones in the house was sleep but for Joshua.

Joshua was playing with his sailboat.

The older driver said, “Good morning Joshua.”

Joshua said, “Good morning.”

The older driver picked up the coal buckets and went outside and filled them with coal.

He filled the cute house fireplaces.

The older driver looked in the stashed William left for them and put sausages and cheese on a tray.

He looked at the group and knew there was sorrow in their sleep.

He had just experienced that type of sorrowful sleep.

He knew they would sleep late.

He feed the horses and gave them water.

The older driver left and went to the military command.

Wes saw the older driver drive out the yard.

Wes put down the pails with the herbs and saw the horses eating.

He looked down at his tent and saw the fire under the black pot.

Wes looked around and saw the fires set around the perimeter.

He sat for a minute on the front porch.

He inhaled the freezing cold air.

He thought it was too cold and freezing there.

Wes said, “I will stay and get the governor and the first lady well. I trust no one to care for them and get them well. No one care for the governor and his wife’s welfare but me. I will contact Dr. Obersteen for a position at the big city hospital. Maybe we can come back during the summer to fish.”

Wes heard the first lady to begin her screaming.

She started by hollering first.

The soldiers ran to the front of the house to get Wes.

They saw Wes was sitting for a moment of peace.

They did not say anything because they knew he had a lot on him, but they did not want to hear the screaming.

Some of the soldiers were getting use to the screaming.

One of the soldiers was squatting, at the brook washing his clothes, he had on his pants, a sleeveless tee-shirt and suspenders.

He watched the armed soldiers running from the tent to look for Wes.

When they returned to the governor’s tent he said, “The screaming is not bad. You get use to it.”

The soldiers stared at him.

He turned and finished washing his clothes.

Another soldier was lying on top of his tent he did not let up.

He was playing solitaire cards.

He was to be working, but he watched the armed soldiers running back to the governor’s tent and said, “You’ll know they gonna holler, why you go and bother the doc?”

He said, “It doesn’t bother me.”

The other soldiers looked at the ones who were used to the screaming like they were crazy.

One of the armed soldiers keep his rifle up looking at them. He felt anybody that can take that type of human suffering, besides the doctors, had something wrong with them and could not be trusted.

Wes looked at the soldiers and said, “Good morning.”

The soldiers stared at Wes.

Wes stood up with his quilt on and walked to the governor’s tent.

He looked to the water basin so he could put clean water in it.

He saw clean water in the basin.

He knew the older driver did it.

Wes said, “Thank you.”

He washed his hands and turned and attended to the first lady and the governor.

The older driver rode into the command post.

Bruce was walking to the command post.

He saw Bruce and said, “Sir. Good morning. I’m ready.”

Bruce said, “Good morning. Come in.”

They walked into Bruce’s office.

The captain said to his office soldier, “Send his telegrams and then go and find the escort soldier.”

The soldier said, “Yes sir.”

The older driver said send a telegram to both of his sons, his wife and to Bishop’s family.

The older driver said asked Bishop’s family what type of house are they looking for?

The escort walked in the tent to begin his tour and saw the older driver.

He sat and waited.

Bruce was sitting at his desk reading over the reports and the telegrams that came in overnight.

Ida sped in the yard.

The escort peeped out the tent.

The captain was drinking a cup of coffee and was watching the escort, who did not speak when he entered into the office that morning.

The whole troop was under pressure.

There was tremendous work to do.

The captain watched his escort walked out the tent.

He sat and waited for him to return.

Bruce continued to read his telegrams.

He looked up and Ida was walking through the door. The escort said to Ida, “Stay here, Ma am.”

He looked and thought. “What is this?”

The escort walked to Bruce’s desk.

The escort said, “Good morning Captain. I forgot to speak when I first entered, because my mind was on that town. Forgive me.”

The captain said, “Forgiven.”

The escort was so relieved.

Bruce had learned not to hold any bad feelings.

The escort said leaned forward and said, “The governor’s mother-in-law is out in the wagon.”

Bruce understood the escort did not want to say anything else.

The captain stood from his desk and walked to Ida and said, “Morning ma am.”

The captain pointed and they walked out the tent to the wagon and he saw a semi sleep governor’s mother-in-law.

Bruce walked to the wagon.

Bruce looked in the wagon and looked at Ida.

Ida walked to the captain so no one could hear her.

She said, “I need your help. I need for all of that stuff and some more to be washed. I just can’t do it.”

Bruce did not say anything, because he was wondering who told her about the machines for washing.

Ida said, “I need for her to leave. I thought she was dead. Your soldiers worked on her and got her back.”

The captain said, “What are you asking?”

Ida walked to the captain and said, “I don’t know her. I Know when I had to run and hid with the governor’s children my husband told me to go and get her to have someone familiar to be around the children. Many men found us and they came to kill us and the children. My son came alone to help. The security aide came also, but he did not know who was in the barn. She has been drinking every since then. She pukes everyday. She is drunk everyday. I refused to clean up her vomit. I had the children to clean it up. I cannot try to keep the children safe with her around. She is a burden. Last night was the final straw. I want her to be taken home. I don’t have the money. Put all of this on the governor’s mansion bill. And I need some groceries, coal and water.”

The captain looked at the half sleep drunken woman.

He took a deep breath and smelled the puked bedding.

He looked at the escort.

The escort walked forward.

The captain looked at Ida and said, “Where are my security soldiers?”

Ida said, “At the house with the governor’s children.”

The captain looked at the escort and said, “Is he ready to leave?”

The escort said, “Yes sir.”

The captain said, “Go and get two soldiers and tell them I said come now.”

The escort ran to the soldiers’ tents.

The older driver walked out and saw Ida.

He walked over to her and kissed her cheek.

Ida kissed him back.

He held Ida’s hand and said, “Bishop is dead.”

Ida said, “My God. When?”

The older driver said, “A few days ago.”

Ida said, “Where?”

The older driver said, “Here.”

Ida became weak in the knees and the captain and the older driver caught her.

She managed to stand.

Ida said, “Was that Bishop they buried in the town by the lake?”

The captain looked at the older driver and said, “Yes.”

Ida said, “If I would have known I would have gone to his burial.”

The older driver said, “I also.”

Ida said, “Does Megan know?”

The escort was returning with two soldiers.

The older driver said, “Yes and they are moving here.”

Ida yelled, “Here!”

The captain looked at Ida.

Ida said, “I’ m in the yellow house on the street with the school. The houses are vacant. You can claim a house and lands.”

The older driver looked at Ida.

The older driver said, “I will talk to you.”

He looked at the captain and lifted his hat and got in his wagon and the escort got on his horse and they left the command post.

The captain said, “Take her to the extra tent by the medic. Put her to bed and watch her. No alcohol and no wandering around. She will be her for several days.”

Ida looked at the captain.

The captain looked at Ida and he continued, “Take the wagon over to the governor’s laundry people and give them all the items to be washed. Clean out the wagon and scrub it down. Return the wagon to her in a few days with her clean laundry and her food.”

The soldiers turned up their noses and said, “Yes sir.”

The soldiers drove off.

Ida watched as they turned a corner and disappeared.

The captain said to Ida, “Make a list of food items you need. I will do my best to accommodate.”

Ida said, “Well I sent a telegram to the governor’s mansion and I received a telegram back that three supply wagons came back and one was for the governor’s children.”

The captain said, “I was not aware.”

He said, “Two of those soldiers died in the battle.”

Ida touched her heart and cried.

The captain stepped to his tent and called a soldier.

The captain said, “Where are those supply wagons?”

The soldier said, “I believe the three wagons are by the medic tent and unpacked.”

The captain looked at Ida and said, “No one took over?”

The soldier said, “Captain, the cook and his two soldiers were killed. There was no protocol. I am sorry but I took it upon myself and put in a request for three cooks and five kitchen help. You were not here and the request for personnel was ending that morning. That was the morning you were trying to find a resting place for Bishop.”

Ida turned her head and tears fell.

The captain looked at Ida.

The soldier looked at Ida.

The soldier looked back at the captain and said, “Sorry sir.”

The captain said, “I will talk to you later. Was there a response?”

The soldier said, “It’s on your desk.”

The captain turned to Ida and said, “Ma am do you know what your supplies included?”

Ida said, “It included school supplies.”

Bruce said, “Go and look for the wagon that has the supplies and bring that wagon and take her home.”

The soldier said, “Yes sir.”

Ida could hardly speak.

The captain touched Ida’s arm and moved her from the tent door.

The captain said, “I had no idea the assassins came after the governor’s children. I can see why the grandmother took to alcohol. Here for a few days she will be dried out.”

Ida said, “This is where she gets her whiskey and gin.”

The captain stood motionless.

He was thinking, “I better get a firm grip on this troop so I will get my promotion for Emma’s sake.”

The captain said to Ida, “I will come into the town when I get the chance. I sent twelve soldiers into the town to be stationed there. I do not want to send any additional soldiers to your home, because I do not want to draw attention there. Did my soldiers draw up an escape plan?”

Ida said, “No.”

The captain began to get angry, because he gave them those instructions.

The soldier was driving the supply wagon back.

The captain said,”Ma am look in the wagon and verify these are your items.”

The captain and the soldier watched the crying Ida.

Ida turned and looked at them and said, “Yes.”

The captain looked at the soldier who was just standing there.

The captain said, “I told you to drive her home. Now.”

Ida said, “Captain I thank you. I have the governor’s ear. I will tell him how you accommodated me. I am from a military family and I do understand the complicity of your work and your extreme duty. I do thank you and your men.”

The soldier’s heart swell with pride, so did the captain.

The captain thought, asked her, “Ma am you said houses and lands were vacant in the town?”

The captain help Ida into the wagon.

Ida responded and said, “They tell me the town is full of witches and the people are fleeing.”

The captain and his soldier looked at Ida.

The captain walked to the driver and said, “Take her home. Unload the wagon. Asked the soldiers at her house what supplies they have need of. Check on the soldiers at the brook and check with the third in command and find out what supplies they need. They should be back?”

The captain gave the soldier a hard look.

The soldier was pulling out the post.

The captain stood to watch.

The driver stopped.

Bruce thought, “What is the problem?”

Ida started getting out the wagon.

Bruce was thinking, “What is it now?”

Ida said, “Captain, can you let the older driver send a telegram to the governor’s mansion about Bishop’s death. He was well known to the staff. Did you send the governor’s office a list of the dead and wounded soldiers. Those are the type of details the governor looks at to determine leadership potential. What did you say about the coal and water?

The captain aid, “You will have it by the day’s end.”

He bowed his head and walked Ida back to the wagon.

The captain thought, “Witches or no witches, if I can get Emma a free house I will do so.”

The soldier driving Ida home realized he would be gone all day.

He drove Ida the one hour home and he unloaded the wagon.

He asked Marc and Joseph what supplies they needed. They said additional blankets.

The soldier went to the group at the brook.

They stated food and blankets.

The soldiers were talking and they saw the little boy come out the house and get a handful of the horses’ oats and began to eat them and shared with his sister, who was standing in the door.

The soldiers continued to talk.

The soldier left the troop at the brook.

He drove back into town and passed Ida to go to the third in command’s post.

They just returned from the burial of the other soldiers.

They told the soldier, “Food and blankets.”

The soldier drove the empty wagon back to the command.

He reported to the captain the needs of his soldiers.

The captain sent telegrams to the governor’s office about Bishop, and the lists of dead and wounded soldiers.

They received an immediate response back, thanking him for informing them of Bishop because he was a friend to many. They expressed their condolences. Another telegram was received that the governor’s office is available to help in any capacity. Thank you captain.

The captain smiled.

The captain asked, “Have those two wagons with coal and water returned to post?”

One of the office soldiers said, “They returned about thirty minutes ago, Sir.”

The captain smiled to himself and thought, “As long as she is feeding my name, I’ll get her what she needs. Why kill the governor’s kids? Gosh.”

The third in command camped outside the evil building.

William and the youngest driver walked down to the troop that evening and took them stew and soda bread.

They sat and talked about all that happened in one week.

William said, “Tomorrow is Sunday, can we have church here?”

The third in command looked around at his men and said, “Why not?”

The new soldier said, “What if the captain shows up?”

The third in command said, “I’ll retire early. I want that land by the lake.”

William said, “You know there are a lot of vacant houses and land here. The people just left.”

There was light at the soldiers’ camp by the brook and the soldiers camp by the vacant buildings.

Ida had her torch burning.

Mellissa’s torch was on.

The mayor’s neighbor.

The two men on the other street near the abandoned buildings.

Doreen and her husband and the young couple, whose wife was the dress maker.

The telegram worker was in his shop Friday night and all Saturday.

Each time he touched the handle it would his hands.

The seven holy angels watched him.

Late Saturday night he crawled out the window.

William and the youngest driver were walking back to the campsite when they saw him.

The youngest driver said, “Prayer works.”

They watched him run past their camp.

He rolled his eyes at them and they assumed he ran home.

Ida and the governor’s children had a peaceful night.

The house was airing out.

Clara was sitting by the dinning room window when she saw a figure and realized it was the telegram worker. She laughed.

Clara called Laura to the window.

Laura saw the back of the telegram worker running by William’s campsite.

Laura said, “He’s been in the shop since Friday?”

Clara said, “That’s why me and Doreen had a very successful day hunting down those nine students. We had very good visits with the family. Very interesting.”

The three prepared for bed.

Laura slept at the back door.

Clara slept at the front door.

Mellissa was tied to her bed.

Laura said, “Since the telegram worker was bound for two days are we expecting his wrath tonight?”

Clara said, “Yeap.”