Clarence walked Laura back to her house.

Clarence saw the back door opened and walked Laura to the backdoor and he walked in the house and sat her at the kitchen table.

He looked around and thought, “This is really a nice house.”

He saw the new laundry machine.

He turned and looked at a dazed Laura and walked to the back door and was leaving he saw Barnes and Waters military bags in the kitchen corner on the floor.

His heart ached for his troop members.

He used to play cards with them all the time. They are the ones that kept everyone going. Whenever he needed to be lifted up, they would always remind him of his goals and kept him from doing evil.

He looked at Laura and pointed at their bags and knew they must have given them to her the night they died.

Clarence said, “Rest in peace my brothers.”

He walked out the backdoor and saw Larry in the kitchen window and had it pulled up so he could see and hear.

Clara and Laura went over to see Larry and Doreen early the next morning.

Clara knocked on the door.

They heard Larry running to the door. He unlocked the door, without looking out.

He was happy.

He looked at their empty hands and his smile disappeared.

Laura held up her notebook and pen.

The soldiers were riding hard up and down the streets.

Clara pushed the door opened and she and Laura ran in the house.

Larry was slow to close the door.

Laura said, “Larry turn around so we can talk.”

Doreen was sitting at the one good chair.

Clara turned and walked to Doreen and she saw the devasted house.

Clara said, “Good morning Doreen.”
Laura said, “Good morning Doreen. We are not going to give you the money to catch up your mortgage.”

Clara saw the tears swelling in Doreen’s eyes.

Larry turned away from Laura.

Laura said, “I am an accountant. It makes no economical sense for you and Doreen to stay in this house. I don’t understand why you want to live here when half the town id boarder up. Let the bank foreclose on this house.”

Laura pointed and said, “You go out there and find a nice house, that you won’t owe anything on.”

Clara said, “I should not tell you, but the governor and a lot of the military people are going to move here. They will be getting the boarded up houses. They already got the list of properties.”

Clara got on her knees in front of a crying Doreen and held her hands.

Clara said, “You must see this is an opportunity to get from under the stress of a never ending mortgage. I know there has to be a house in this town that you had your eye on.”

Doreen looked up at Larry.

Larry and Doreen looked at each other and said in unison, “The Benson’s house.”

They started laughing.

Laura held up her notepad and begin to write Benson she said, “Where is the house? I mean what is the address?”

Larry walked over to Laura and was looking at her notebook and pointed and said, “It is the lovely blue and white house on the third street.”

Clara said, “Laura is going to look at the list of properties. Give her a few more addresses.”

Laura said, “Yeah, we need to go to the houses and get several and you let me know your first choice, second choice and third choice.”

Clara said, “I got to go and get the kids ready for school.”

Laura rolled her eyes at Clara.

Clara was holding Doreen’s hand and said, “I might move here.”

Clara winked her eye at Doreen.

Doreen held her heart and said, “My word.”

Doreen leaned forward and said, ”Might we know him?”

Larry was so nosey.

He ran over and bent down and said, “What?”

He pointed at he and Doreen and said, “We can keep a secret.”

Laura stared at the older couple.

She began to have flashes of light of blue and red.

Clara grinned and said, “I don’t want to be premature.”

Doreen said, “Don’t rush into anything. Take your time and it will be worth.”

Clara’s mind went to the times with Chester and she thought what a gracious GOD that HE forgives.”

Laura was holding her head.

Clara stood up and said, “Be sure to give Laura the addresses today.”

Larry was on a bended knee by Doreen and holding her hand.

Laura was walking to the door and walked into the wall.

Larry primped his face.

Doreen said, “Oh dear my careful.”

Clara looked at Laura and thought, “That’s what you get for being greedy and running like a fool behind those horses.”

Clara opened the front door and grabbed a dazed Laura and looked back at Larry and Doreen, who did not have the look of a fun loving couple but something else.

Clara said, “Oh GOD what is that?”

JESUS said, “I did not let you give them any money nor information. They will move away, out of this town. I have a city of Born Again Believers that will re-resolve the problems with Larry and Doreen. Laura has a long hard way to go. She needs to rest. Go about your day that I created for you.”

Clara hurried out the door and pulled Laura out and closed the door.

Mellissa was standing and watching for Laura and Clara out the kitchen window and drinking a cup of coffee.

She saw Clara pulling Laura to the back door.

Mellissa put her cup from her mouth and her mouth dropped opened and she turned to walk to the door to see if Clara needed help with Laura.

Larry ran to their kitchen and opened the curtains to watch Laura and Clara.

Mellissa closed her curtain.

Clara pulled a heavy Laura in the kitchen and locked the back door.

She pushed Laura into the bedroom and made her lie on the bed.

Alice and Jason ran into the bedroom and stood and looked at Laura and was about to cry.

Jason turned to Alice and said, “Remember Michael said, Laura will be fine.”

Alice wiped her tears with her hand.

Clara looked at Alice and Jason and said, “Michael who? And when did you see him and where?”

Alice and Jason stared at Clara and they pointed to the far corner in the bedroom.

Mellissa walked out the kitchen and went into her bedroom to dressed for work. She was very scary and had to live in the house once everyone is gone.

Raymond design the house for he and Mellissa could have their private time together. They built the children’s bedroom at the other end of the house by the living room. So if the children needed to see them they could hear them and have a little way to go to get to Her and Raymond. They put the children’s bedroom next to the kitchen so if they wanted anything to drink or eat they could get up and get it themselves.

Alice pointed and said, ”He said his name was Michael and he is here to help us fight mommie and daddy.”

Jason nodded his head and said, “He is big.”

Alice said, “But he is our friend.”

Jason nodded his head for yes.

Mellissa was singing in her room so she would not hear anything.

Clara was still bent over the bed putting Laura in the bed.

She could not believe what she just heard Alice and Jason say.

Clara said, “When?”

Alice said, “When you and Miss Laura went out the backdoor.”

Jason said, “I am not scared of mommie and daddy anymore.”

Alice looked at Jason and said, “Me neither. Because Michael is big.”

Jason said, “Yea.”

Alice held her arms out and puffed up like a muscle man.

Jason turned to Alice and he held out his arms and puffed up like a muscle man.

Alice and Jason laughed.

Clara was shocked.

She looked at Laura because JESUS just told her that Laura has a long hard way to go.

Clara thought, “Oh JESUS I am so glad YOU are a very present help in a time of need. I don’t understand why their parents are still alive.”

Jason and Alice looked at Miss Clara.

Clara heard Mellissa singing loudly.

Alice ran to Clara and leaned in Clara’s face and put her hands on Clara’s lap.

Alice said, “Breakfast.”

Clara smiled and looked at Alice and back at Laura who had placed her hand over her eyes.

Clara leaned in Alice’s face and said, “I fixed your breakfast before I left with Laura.”

Jason said, “Really?”

Alice shook her head and said, “I don’t smell nothing Miss Clara.”

Clara said, “Let’s see miss and mister.”

Jason bowed with one of his hands in front of him and the other hand behind his back.

Clara stood up and laughed.

She looked back at Laura and covered her mouth and grabbed Alice’s hand and, “Let’s go. We don’t want to wake Miss Laura.”

Clara hurried and put the plates and poured the children apple juice.

Alice and Jason were very happy with their surprise.

Jason said, “The food is good here Alice.”

Alice was drinking her apple juice and said, “When mommie and daddy stopped giving us food, the horses’ oats was good.”

Clara nearly dropped her dish.

Jason said, “Miss Clara what is wrong?”

Clara said, “Hot and heavy. And Jason you are very smart learn everything is not ‘what’s wrong.’ Sometimes it is what is right.”

Mellissa was dressed.

She walked to the kitchen and looked in the bedroom at Laura as she passed.

Mellissa sat next to Jason.

Clara pulled out the quiche and sat it on the table.

Mellissa clapped.

Jason and Alice looked at the pie and then at each other.

Jason shrugged his shoulders and picked up his glass drank more apple juice.

He said, “I was so scared of mommie and daddy and the monsters. I was only safe with Miss Laura.”

Mellissa was upset.

Clara watched Mellissa.

Clara started cutting the quiche and said, “My prince and princess this a French dish called a quiche. It can be eaten for breakfast… “

She placed a slice in Alice’s plate and shook her head, “…lunch...”

Clara placed a slice on Jason’s plate and Mellissa’s plate said, “…Whoa for dinner.”

Alice peeped at Mellissa and said, “Miss Mellissa you don’t like it, the quiche?”

Alice put some quiche on her fork and tasted it.

Clara looked at Alice and said, “Ok missy you slipped that one on me.”

Alice said, “What?”

Jason looked deep into Clara’s eyes as if he was reading her thoughts and raised his hand up excitedly and was jumping up.

Clara and Mellissa laughed.

Mellissa laughed and said, “What Jason?”

Jason said, “We did not say the grace.”

Clara and Mellissa said, “Right!”

Mellissa said nodded her head and said, “Jason would you bless our food?”

Jason said, “I don’t know how.”

Clara said, “JESUS blessed your oats asked him to bless this food.”

Alice said, “This is good food. The soldiers tasted the oats and they did not believe how good they were.”

Jason said, “Yeah.”

Clara and Mellissa looked at each.

Mellissa bowed her head and said, “Thank You God for this food and bless this food and remove all impurities and anything that can make us sick. Amen.”

Jason and Alice said, “In JESUS’ name.”

JESUS was sitting and watching them.

JESUS looked across the town and saw Johnny and Sarah.

He told one of the seven angels to whisper something in Jason’s ear.

Mellissa said,”No Alice. I really do like quiche.”

Alice chewed the quiche and looked at Jason.

Jason said, “IT taste like cheese. Can I have some for lunch?”

Mellissa said, ”I already made your lunch.”

Alice whispered to Jason.

Jason looked at Mellissa.

Mellissa had some quiche on her fork and opened her mouth and saw Alice and Jason looking at her.

Mellissa said, “What?”

Alice said, “You don’t like us talking about the monsters, do you? You are scared of the monsters.”

Clara had her fork of quiche in the air to put in her mouth.

She thought, “How discerning she is.”

Mellissa put the quiche in her mouth and said, “I sure am.”

Alice said, “You need to meet Michael.”

Mellissa nearly choked, she stood from the table and caught her breathe.

Alice and Jason looked up at her.

Jason said, “He won’t scare you.”

Clara started laughing.

Alice and Jason looked at Miss Clara.

Miss Clara put her finger up to her mouth and said, “Shush.”

Mellissa walked out the kitchen and went and laid on her bed.

Jason and Alice watched Mellissa walk out.

Clara smiled and said, “Babies, after we leave, Miss Mellissa will be here by herself.”

Clara heard Mellissa coming back and did not say anything but reached for Mellissa’s plate.

Jason said, “She’s scary.”

Mellissa heard Jason and walked in and said, “You right.”

She rubbed Jason’s hair and went and sat.

Jason jumped up and gave Mellissa a big hug.

Mellissa hugged Jason.

Alice jumped up and ran to Mellissa and gave her a hug.

Mellissa hugged both of them.

Mellissa said, “I have to eat my delicious quiche. Clara you did a good job.”

Alice said, “It’s good.”

Jason grinned and nodded his head and said, “I like it.”

They sat and ate breakfast and enjoyed each other company.

The seven angels were in the house watching everybody. The one by the kitchen door watched Laura.

Michael walked out the bedroom and stood by the angel who was watching Laura.

Another Seven was outside and three of them were at the school.

Mellissa said, “I don’t know what to do about the students not coming to school.”

Clara said, “ Mellissa! You excuse them. I would not want to risk my child’s life nor mine’s to get some education.”

Mellissa started laughing.

Jason said, “Are we excused from school?”

Clara said, “No. I see you washed your faces and have on your nice school clothes so now brush your teeth.”

Jason said, “Miss Mellissa can we bring lunch for some of our friends who don’t have any food?”

Mellissa was stunned and sat.

Clara shook her head for yes.

Clara said, “We don’t have time for me to make it this morning but I’ll come back at lunch and make them some sandwiches. OK.”

Jason and Alice mouths flew opened and said, “Whoa.”

Clara said, “Go and brush your teeth.”

Alice and Jason jumped from the table.

They went and brushed their teeth.

Mellissa said, “I wish you would let me make some decisions. I know you don’t trust me. But how can I know I am back if you keep on deciding things for me.”

Clara said, “Whether a child should have food or not?”

Mellissa laughed and threw her napkin at Clara as she sat and drank her coffee.

Mellissa walked into the living room and sat on the sofa and looked over her lessons.

Clara clean the plates and glasses and put them on the cabinet for Laura to wash.

Clara double locked the backdoor and windows.

Mellissa was listening and said, “Problem?”

Clara said, “No. I just wanted to be sure it was locked because Laura is sleep.”

Clara walked out the kitchen and stood in the bedroom doorway and looked at Laura and wondered at what she is going through. She knew Laura was smaller than she and she should not have been that heavy for her to pulled in the house.

Jason listened.

Alice said, “Jason, Miss Clara said everything is not bad.”

Mellissa heard Alice.

Jason continued to brush his teeth but was thinking.

Clara brushed her teeth.

They put on their coats and gloves and went out the front door and Clara gave Mellissa the key to her house.

Mellissa looked at the key and swallowed and took it.

She turned and locked the door.

She exhaled and turned and looked at Clara.

Mellissa hugged Clara and said, “Thank you.”

Jason and Alice looked at Miss Mellissa and Miss Clara, they all turned around to walk the short distance to their school.

Clara and Mellissa slowed and looked up the street to see if the bodies were removed.

Mellissa said, “They were driving wagons the other night all night.”

Clara said, “I worry about Chester.”

Mellissa coughed.

Clara was getting weak and slightly turned her head from the street and said, “Joseph, Marc and the others.”

Alice and Jason were skipping and hopping to school.

They looked and saw the telegram’s door was opened.

They knew he was a devil worshipper that tried to kill Jason until Miss Mellissa shot him.

Jason and Alice stopped and stared at the shop and ran back to Clara and Mellissa.

The security soldiers were watching and looked across the street.

The security soldiers could not see that the door was opened from where they were standing.

Ida had cooked a large breakfast of scramble eggs, grits, ham and biscuits.

She was trying to cook up as much food because she was going to the next town with Mellissa that week.

Ida knew the security soldiers at her house would not eat the breakfast.

She peeped out her door for the security soldiers stationed at her house and did not see them.

The soldiers across the street watched Ida.

They knew she had cooked.

They could smell the food across the street. The five soldiers already decided who would go and get the food.

Ida waved for them to come to her.

Clarence and Mitchell looked for her security soldiers and ran across the street.

Mellissa and Clara stopped.

Alice and Jason were already running back to Mellissa and Clara.

They did not see the soldiers run across the street to Ida.

The soldiers ran and got the pots and biscuit pans and ran back across the street.

Ida had packed the food with the plates and forks.

Matt, Melvin and William saw the soldiers run to Ida and they were getting ready to run down the street.

Matt had got to his new battery gun.

Then they saw the soldiers run back with pots.

Matt put down his gun and said, “I wondered what she cooked.”

William said, “Why did the kids run back?”

Matt, Melvin and William turned and looked at the shops across the street.

All the shops had been closed for the past two weeks.

The telegram shop owner, Mr. Gray, received a twenty year sentence for the attempted killing of a child.

His house and shop were left vacant.

No one saw Larry and Doreen’s neighbors, Johanna and Charles Johnson.

Laura asked Larry about the young couple.

Larry stood thinking he said, “I have not seen them.”

Laura rolled her eyes at Larry and said to herself, “A question with a question. What are you hiding?”

Laura walked up to Barnes and Waters and took them a pan of cinnamon rolls and coffee one day when Mellissa and Clara were at the school with the children.

Laura went out the back door so no one could see her because she was not going to give the soldiers the cinnamon rolls.

The sentries saw her carrying the pan and coffee.

They did not say anything but kept patrolling.

Laura made sure she passed Larry and Doreen’s house and the evil banker’s Dave and his wife, Jessica’s house.

She prayed against them as she passed their houses.

Laura though these people’s houses and clothes and everything is ragged, Even this banker and his wife.

She said, “GOD what is this?”

She continued to Barnes and Waters and heard Clarence calling her.

He said, “I know you hear me. Heifer.”

Laura heard the heifer and said, “I will remember that.”

JESUS said, “Do not harbor bitterness in your heart. You block your blessings. Let ME resolve Clarence’s problems. He will need you later and MY will, will not be hindered by the bitterness in your heart.”

Laura though, “I can’t have my own opinion.”

JESUS looked at Laura and her book and wrote something in her book.

Laura continued to Barnes and Waters.

They saw Laura coming with a tray and ran to the fence of the house and waving her on down to them.

They saw Clarence peeping from down the street.

Waters said, “Not today.”

Laura crossed the street and they opened the gate and they sat on the front porch and sat and ate cinnamon rolls and drank coffee.

Laura said, “I felt GOD was telling me to spend time with you’ll today.”

Barnes said, “I’m glad HE did. I needed something to help me get through this day.”

Waters peeped over at Barnes and said, “You know I did too.”

Barnes said, “Really. I was just a few feet away and you said nothing?”

Waters said, “You looked like you needed some help. I’m not as religious as you. So if the religious one needed help. Where would we be?”

Water said, “But I’m glad Miss Laura did what God told her to do and bake us these fresh and delicious cinnamon rolls.”

Barnes and Waters kissed Laura’s cheeks at the same time.

They sat and laughed for a long time.

A set of sentries stopped and looked at them.

Barnes said, “Go home Laura. I don’t want trouble today with you being such a blessing from GOD.”

Laura stood and was leaving the pan of cinnamon rolls.

Waters was looking at the cinnamon rolls and said, “There was twelve, and we ate seven. We can’t leave here, can you give these five to the soldiers at the buildings up there?”

Laura looked at the sentries and said, “Yeah.”

She reached for the pan and the napkins and forks and when she turned and saw the Johnson’s house and as she walked to the gate said, “Have you’ll seen them?”

Barnes stared at the house.

Waters said, “I have not seen them for awhile.”

Laura walked back across the street in front of the sentries and went to Johnson’s house and knocked on the door.

She was listening and thought she heard something but turned and walked off the porch.

She saw the sentries were still watching her.

Laura was walking going back home, when she thought about JESUS.

The sentries rode pass her.

Laura said, “GOD I don’t know why YOU had me to prepare these cinnamon rolls yesterday. YOU knew they needed something to get through this day. YOU care about the little things that happen to us through the day. YOU knew this little act will lift them up.”

Laura looked ahead and saw Clarence sitting at the edge of the building.

Her heart her for him.

JESUS watched her.

She looked for the sentries and crossed the street.

Clarence had very good hearing that’s why the other soldiers put him them to be a lookout on that end.

Laura said, “GOD forgive me for being mean to Clarence and the others and choosing Waters and Barnes over them. Showing favoritism. YOU and JESUS don’t show favoritism. Just because I had something they may like. Forgive me GOD and JESUS and help that thing be remove from me. Please I don’t want to be disobedient in anything.”

JESUS was watching Laura.

She nearly cried at the thought of being disobedient to GOD and JESUS.

JESUS watched Laura.

She looked up to see where the sentries were and Clarence was watching her and he looked for the sentries and ran to Laura and got the pan with the five cinnamon rolls and ran back across the street.

The security soldiers at Ida were watching Laura and Clarence.

Clarence said, “Thank you. I thought you did not care about us.”

Laura’s could not say anything.

She smiled and turned and walked fast home.

She unlocked the back door and fell against the backdoor.

She ran into the bedroom and fell on the bed and cried that she mistreated someone over such a small nothing as a cinnamon roll.

Her pain was great.

She was kicking her feet and beating the bed with her fists.

JESUS took Laura’s book down and opened it.

HE erased what HE earlier wrote and wrote a long statement.

HE watched Laura go through her guilt and be tormented over her disobedience to GOD and JESUS.

Laura woke up later and she thought, “How Did I get to sleep?”

JESUS was watching her.

Laura scooted off the bed and said, “I have not washed the dishes. I have not prepared dinner and I have not done payroll. OH GOD, help.”

She ran into the kitchen and put on the hot water and ran to the food to see what she could cook.

There was a knock on the front door.

She it was William.

She walked through the living room and looked at her reports on the table.

Laura opened the door and he handed her a ham his mother cooked and sent to them.

Laura cried and hugged William.

William said, “Laura I liked that. Can you do that again?”

Laura took the ham into the kitchen and washed and stem turnip greens and made small potato salad and baked some rolls as William was reading the reports.

William said, “Laura this is not like you.”

Laura closed her eyes waiting for the rebuke from William, especially payroll. William believe in getting paid. He does not let anything stop payroll.

They heard the knock at the backdoor.

Laura looked out the kitchen window and did not see anyone.

William was scary, he sat and looked at the backdoor.

Laura looked at him.

William said, “It’s your house.”

Laura said, “You’re scared.”

William kept reviewing her reports and said, “Yeap.”

Clarence said, “Damn girl come and get this pan.”

He put the pan down on the back porch and was running back across the street and Laura ran and unlocked the door.

She looked at the running Clarence and he said, “Thanks that made my day.”

She looked at the small back porch and picked up the pan and walked in the house and locked the backdoor

William looked at Laura and said, “You made them a treat that was nice.”

Laura told William how she showed favoritism to Barnes and Waters over the five at the buildings. And d how GOD used her preparing the cinnamon rolls and baking them and exposing to her a part of her being that showed favoritism of one person over another.

William sat and listened.

Laura said, “I was so upset I hurried home and cried and cried. I ask GOD and JESUS to forgive me.”

William was mesmerized and said, “Did they forgive you?”

Laura said, “Yes.”

William said, “How do you know?”

Laura looked at William strange.

William said, “I want to know, because I got problems.”

Laura said, “the bible tells me if I ask forgiveness, JESUS and GOD

William sat and looked.

Laura said, “The whole cinnamon roll was a Johan, so GOD could show me a lump that was in me.”

William said, “Lump.”

Laura said, “ I call it that a part of me that is not of GOD and HE is ready to remove that from me. I fell asleep and woke late and had not washed the dishes. Had not prepared dinner and did not finish with your reports and payroll.”

William just looked and said, “One kindness deserves kindness.”

Laura said, “What are you talking about William?”

William said, “You thought you were behind because of act of treating the soldiers, but look the dishes are washed, You have a cooked ham and, while I have been here you cooked some greens and made potato salad and rolls and got your pan back. I see completed reports and you had started working on the ones for next week. No they would not be ready until next week.”

Laura held her hand to her chest and exhaled.

She and William laughed.

They heard the front door unlocked.

Clara, Jason, Alice and Mellissa came in the house.

Jason and Alice ran into the kitchen to speak to Miss Laura.

They stopped when they saw William.

Laura looked at Jason and Alice and then at William.

William was closing the reports and putting them in his folder and stood from the table.

Clara and Mellissa walked in the kitchen and saw the scene but did not know what it was about.

William looked at Laura and said, “My Johan. He said Hello, Jason, Alice, Clara and Mellissa.”

Clara looked at Jason and Alice.

Alice and Jason told Clara William did not like them.

Clara said, “Our pay?”

William looked at Clara and said, “I have to go and telegram all of this stuff tomorrow. The soldiers get angry but Bruce told them to do it and Chester told them so we can get paid.”

Clara grinned at the mention of Chester.

William said, “You really like him. Wait until I tell Matt.”

Clara turned around and exhaled.

Jason ran to Laura.

Laura looked at Jason and hugged him.

Alice ran to Laura and grabbed her by the waist.

Laura looked down at Alice and blew her a kiss.

William said, “I have to send these reports by post. You want to ride into the next town with me Wednesday?”

Laura said, “No, if I go out of town I want to take Jason and Alice.”

William smiled at Laura and said, “Ok.”

He looked at Clara and said, “Maybe you and Matt.”

Clara hit at William.

William laughed and passed them to the front door.

Clara walked behind William to let him out the door.

Alice walked in the living room to make sure William was leaving.

William saw Alice as Clara was closing the door.

William did not like the look Alice gave him, like she was telling him to leave and not come back.

Clara locked the door and turned and saw Alice in doorway watching them.

Jason said, “Is he gone?”

Alice said, “Yea.”

They ran to the dining room window and watched William stop at Ida.

Mellissa and Clara looked at each other as they watch the children watch William.

Clara walked into the kitchen and touched Mellissa’s arm and they walked to Laura.

Laura said, “What?”

Clara said, “William don’t want Jason and Alice around the governor’s children. Jason and Alice know he does not like them.”

Mellissa said, “Whoa.”

She heard Jason and Alice tip toeing to the kitchen so they could hear.

Laura sat in the chair.

Clara was getting the dishes to set the table.

Mellissa was pulling out the rolls from the stove.

Mellissa looked and saw Jason and Alice had tipped in the kitchen.

She said, “Babies pulled off your coats, hats and gloves. I need to do that to.”

Everyone pulled off their coats and washed their hands.

They sat for a delicious dinner and had a very good time.

Laura shared her day with them and how GOD and JESUS taught her a great lesson that day.

She told them she shared the story with William.

They all said, “Whoa.
Clara said, “I think that cause for us to praise JESUS and thank GOD.”

They all sat at the kitchen table and gave great praise to GOD and JESUS WHO work in their lives daily to make them the people HE and JESUS would have them to be.

Jason and Alice sat and watched Laura, Mellissa and Clara because they did not know what to say.

Laura heard the front door lock as they left for school.

She lay on the bed and started thinking about getting the payroll together.

She woke an hour later.

Laura looked around the house and it was quiet.

She looked at the time and wandered what happened to her that would make her go to sleep in the middle of her thoughts.

JESUS was reading Laura’s book and said, “You need to rest for a little while to be prepared for today.”

Laura was wondering what was going on.

She thought about the bodies in the street and whether they were removed.

The soldiers had worked all through the other night.

Laura looked out the kitchen window and could not clearly see Barnes and Waters.

She walked on the back porch and walked in the yard.

Clarence saw Laura.

He turned his head and was continuing watching the few children going to school.

Then a thought came to Clarence, “Laura doesn’t know about Barnes and Waters.”

Clarence ran across and grabbed Laura.

The two security soldiers at Ida looked at him.

He said, “Laura, Waters and Barnes are dead.”

Laura stood and made no movement because she could not understand the words just spoken to her.

Clarence said, “It’s hard for us too. But they are gone and think they are taking them home today.”

Laura turned and ran into the house screaming.

Clarence was crying the soldiers at Ida yelled and said, “Why did you tell her?”

They saw Ida screaming for William.

William was running up and down the street screaming and hollering.

The sentries saw Laura running in the house screaming.

They looked at Clarence and one of the sentries said, “What did you say?”

The other soldiers were yelling at the two security soldiers at Ida.

The sentries rode up a little to hear what was being said.

The Lead soldier at the top of the buildings looked at the sentries.

One of the sentries turned and watched Clarence go back to the building. To his position.

Another set of sentries were coming up the street in front of Barnes and Waters position.

Jake had the sentries to put a mark at their position so everyone would now they were dead.

Laura was screaming in the house.

The sentries heard her.

The sentry rode over to Clarence and said, “Why did you tell her?”

Clarence sat and looked straight in front of him and said, “They were my friends.”

The sentries rode away.

Ida ran around the house and she to the security soldiers and said, “Please can you two get William for me?”

The governor’s children ran out the house behind Ida.

They held hands and begin to pray for William.

The sentries saw those were the governor’s children.

They rode down the next street to get out of confusion.

Laura ran out of the house and ran to Waters and Barnes position.

She saw the flag and tried to open the fence which was locked.

Clarence saw her and he finally stood and walked to her.

The sentries did not move.

Laura was screaming and running around the house and tried to get in their yard.

She was pitiful.

The sentries knew they could not help her.

One of the soldiers at the buildings ran to the school and knocked on the locked door.

Clara was in the lunchroom and reviewing her notes.

Mellissa walked to the door.

The children turned around and watched Mellissa.

Mellissa was holding her book to her chest and went to the door and did not unlock the door.

She spoke to the soldier through the door.

Mellissa said, “Yes.”

The soldier looked at Mellissa and said, “Your sister is screaming up and down the street.”

Mellissa said, “I don’t have a sister.”

She turned and walked away from the soldier.

He looked at her as though she was crazy.

Then William ran by screaming and the security soldiers were too late and he ran down the other street.

Ida was in the yard crying.

The governor’s children were standing with Ida, because William was their friend.

Jason said, “You do, Miss Laura.”

Alice ran to the lunchroom door and knocked.

Clara recognized it was a little hand that was knocking.

She put her pen down on the page.

Clara opened the door and Jason and several other were standing at the lunchroom.

Mellissa said, “Children please come back and sit.”

Clara knew something was wrong.

Clara said, “What is it Alice?”

The soldier said, “Something is wrong with Miss Laura.”

Clara jumped up and walked out the lunchroom and stared at Mellissa and said, “Key.”

Mellissa looked at Clara.

Clara reached her hand out.

Clara heard William screaming.

She ran to the door and opened it.

The children ran out the school with her.

Mellissa walked to the door and onto the porch with her book.

The soldier was walking back across the student and he yelled at Clara, “That bitch needs to be locked up.”

Clara reached her hand for the keys.

Mellissa was sticking her tongue out at the soldier.

Clara turned around and saw Mellissa and knew she had to put her away.

Clara and the children saw Skip and the commanders ride through town.

The children were excited when they saw the commanders.

Clara ran home.

The security soldiers had William and were carrying him to the house.

Clara heard Laura screaming.

Clarence had walked Laura home and closed the backdoor.

Larry and Doreen did not move to help Laura or at least to see what was wrong.

Clara ran around the back and ran into Clarence.

She said, “Thanks.”

She ran in the house and saw Laura sitting in the kitchen in a chair.

Clara bent down in front of Laura and held her hands.

Laura was breathing heavy, her clothes were wrinkle, hair over her head and tear stained face.

Clara said, “JESUS, please I am not strong. I do not know what to dd. Mellissa just snapped and now Laura. Why is this happening? I could handle Mellissa but not Laura.”

Jason and Alice slipped out of school and ran home to be with Laura and Clara.

They saw Laura and they started crying.

Clara held her head down.

She thought about she heard nothing and wanted to know about Chester.

She was on her knees in front of Laura for hours.

Alice and Jason got on their knees and sat by Laura.

It was lunch time.

Mellissa unlocked the front door and walked in the house.

Clara felt Jason and Alice stood and ran into the living room.

They stared at Mellissa as she walked into the kitchen.

Clara was staring at Laura.

She turned and looked at Mellissa and said, “Why are you here?”

Mellissa said, “It’s lunchtime. You said you would make sandwiches for some of the children.

Alice and Jason walked into the kitchen they stood by the door away from Mellissa.

Mellissa said, “Is Laura already?”

Clara looked up at Mellissa and said, “Are you alright?”

Mellissa said, “I can’t tell you that. Because I don’t know what happened.”

Alice said, “Mommie and daddy.”

Jason said, “Yeah.”

Clara was teaching Alice and Jason to open their mouths and say words and not nod and shake their heads like zombies.

Clara said, “You left those children alone in the school. I can fire you.”

Mellissa said, “I know.”

Clara said, “You stay here.”

Clara walked out and Alice and Jason followed her.

Jason said, “Miss Clara what about lunch for our friends?”

Clara stopped and said, “Go back to the house. Go into the bedroom and lock the door. Don’t let Mellissa in. I will let the children out early and walk them home. I will your lunch to your friends. Who are they?’

Alice said, “Johnny and Sarah.”

Clara said, “Ok.”

Clara had her back to the road but heard horses and a wagon.

Alice and Jason looked at the wagon.

Clara turned and looked at the wagon and saw a very nice and expensive coffin.

She nearly fainted because she thought it was for Chester and no one has said a word.

Alice and Jason did not know what was in the wagon, but Jason said, “Momma Clara what is that?’

Clara heard him call her momma, she turned and said, “A storage box.”

Alice said, “To store what?”

Clara said, “Babies go into the house When I finish everything I will come home.”

Clarence saw the hearst passed with a coffin.

He wondered who that casket was for because it was very expensive.

Clara walked to the school.

She waved to the soldier that came to tell her about Laura.

Clara knocked on the door.

The children were scared.

Johnny and Sarah locked the door behind Mellissa and would not let her back in to get her coat when she turned around.

Clara said, “You all are very smart. Who locked the door?”

Johnny said, “Me and Sarah after Miss Mellissa and she turned around to get her coat.”

Clara laughed.

She did not want the children to be traumatized no more than what they were.

She said, “It is lunch time. After lunch I will dismiss you. I am giving you an extra day and you will Tuesday.”

The children said, “Whew.”

Clara said, “I think we all should rest and have a fun week\*end.”

Sarah said, “Miss Clara you always want us to have fun.”

Clara said, “Yes.”

The children took out their lunches and ran to their new lunchroom.

Johnny and Sarah sat in the chairs.

One girl said, “Come on Sarah, “I’ll share.”

Johnny tried to jump up and the girl said, “Not you.”

Sarah was so hungry she wanted to get some food.

Sarah went with the girl.

Johnny was left with Miss Clara.

Miss Clara stood and walked to Alice and Jason chairs and took their lunches out.

She gave the lunches to Johnny and said, “One for you and one for Sarah.”

Johnny looked in the brown paper bag and smelled it and said, “Liverwurst my favorite.”

Johnny stood up to walk to the lunchroom.

Miss Clara said, “Johnny come and lock the door after me. If any other children want something to eat, give them Miss Mellissa and mine lunch. I am going across the street to see if the candy shop is opened.”

Johnny said, “Ok.”

He walked behind Miss Clara and she walked out the door and stood until she heard him lock the door.

Clara bent down and blew him a kiss.

Johnny grinned and took the four lunches in the lunchroom.

He said, “Here Sarah.”

The girl was chewing her sandwich was trying to give Sarah the part she was chewing.

Sarah was so hungry she was about to eat the girl’s chewed food to make fun of Sarah.

Johnny walked in time to see it and gave Sarah here lunch.

Another boy name Steve did not have a lunch.

Johnny said, “Steve here. Miss Mellissa and Miss Clara said we can their lunches.”

Steve reached for the bag and opened it.

The children ate and were happy.

JESUS and Michael were standing in the lunchroom watching the children.

Michael said, “Clara is getting weak.”

JESUS said, “I know.”

JESUS heard the three of the seven angels moving.

Steve said, “What is that?”

JESUS looked at Steve, because HE knew Steve heard the special Seven move. he

Johnny said, “I don’t hear nothing not even my growling stomach.”

Steve leaned over to Johnny and said, “Growlll.”

JESUS Grinned.

Michael walked outside and walked up in the air and looked up across several states and saw a tremendous black cloud of evil spirits coming.

He looked at Clara.

Clara walked across the street and went into the sweet shop.

No one was there.

She got treats for the children and used the dollar Laura gave her for the week.

Clara was counting the pieces of candy.

She had five pieces for each of her ten children and had five pieces of candy left and the candy for her house and the governor’s children.

She looked at the top of the building and saw the lead soldier.

He laid flat on the roof and said, “What you want?”
Johnny wanted to save the last bag for his sisters and brothers at home.

He looked at Monica who was weak and hungry and he knew how hunger felt and he sat next to Steve and reached the bag to Monica.

Monica looked at the bag.

Steve said, “It’s food in it.”

Sarah got up and walked and sat with Monica.

The children were laughing and having a good time.

JESUS smiled and watched each child.

Clara looked at the soldier and said, “What I want is information.”

He said, “For what?”

She threw him a big chocolate bar.

He caught it.

Clara was so excited and clapped and laughed.

He did a backwards flip off the building and landed on his feet.

Jonny and Steve walked to the door to see Isaiah backflipped off the building and land on his feet.

They were so shocked.

Steve and Johnny looked at each with mouths opened.

Steve said, “I want to join the military.”

Clara said, “I am a teacher that work with the governor to see what each school needs…”

The soldier that Mellissa went crazy on walked up to Clara.

Clara looked him up and down and said, “Whoa.”

He took her breath away.

The lead soldier started laughing and elbowed the soldier and grinned.

Clara could not say anything.

The soldier looked at the lead soldier’s piece of candy.

He looked in the bag and saw a piece of licorice.

He looked at Clara and said, “May I?”

Clara could not say anything.

The lead soldier laughed.

The soldier that came to the school was dark skin with perfect white teeth and beautiful skin and tall and muscular.

He said to Clara, “As you were saying.”

Clara just stood and looked at him with her mouth opened.

She got a piece of licorice and was walking home.

Isaiah had his elbow on Stanley’s shoulder.

Isaiah pointed and yelled, “Miss school teacher.”

Clara turned and walked passed them and cross the street to the school.

Stanley said, “Look at those two watching out the window.”

Isaiah laughed and said, “You got another one.”

Stanley said, “I want that one from this morning. I’ll teach her about disrespecting her man.”

Isaiah said, “What you are not her man and besides she’ll never be the same again.”

They laughed.

The other soldier on top of the roof said, “You’ll do that crap with the women all the time and we did not get our candy. Did she go into that candy shop?’

Isaiah said turned and looked and said, “Yeap.”

He noticed the telegram’s office door was opened.

The other soldier on the roof said, “You mean to tell me we have been here all the time and could have own that candy shop.”

The fourth soldier said, “You haven’t seen boy going in and out of that shop.”

The other soldier on the roof said, “Did he pay?”

The fourth soldier said, “What? How would I know that?”

The other soldier on the roof was laying on his back and said, “He better had paid?”

The fourth soldier said, “I don’t want to talk to you no more.”

The soldier on the roof said, “I am going to buy that sweet shop and my mama here and brother and get one of those boarded up houses to put them in.”

The fourth soldier started thinking.

He looked and saw Stanley and Isaiah with their rifles out.

Matt saw the soldiers holding up their rifles.

Matt said, “Hey fellows.”

He went to his battery gun.

Ervin and Tim had just sedated William and was covering him for the night.

Ida sent sleeping pills by Melvin.

Ervin crushed the pills up and put in a cup of water.

He gave to William to drink.

Joe said, “Ervin you are really good at that.”

Ervin said, “Don’t look at me like.”

All the team was looking at him.

He saw their trust was shaken.

Ervin said, “My young brother is retarded. Sime times he is really good and sometimes the least little thing could set him off. After I catch him, I would have to give him a sleeping powder and what I have planned for that day or the next determines how much powder I give him. My wife swear I have to get rid of him. I promised mom and dad I would keep him until I or he die. They left the farm to me as a trustee for him. If I sell the farm all the money goes to him to support him until he dies. If I put him away, then the farm would be sold and all the money would go to take care of him.”

Melvin said,” Damn. That’s why you call me slow.”

Ervin said, “You see how quickly you caught that.”

Matt said, “You’ll fight later. Something is going on at that telegram shop.”

Joe said, “Nobody has been there for over two weeks.”

Matt said, “I have not seen nobody not even the mayor for the past two weeks.”

Matt looked and saw the mayor coming from another street.

He said, “Damn. I was hoping he was dead. Him and that evil banker. I went to the bank to open an account and they looked at me and said no.”

Ervin and Joe looked at Matt.

Matt turned his back to them so they would not his gun.

William’s group watched them down the street by the school.

Matt said, “You two are no better than those murders. You just don’t let it come out.”

Ervin and Joe looked at Matt.

Matt said, “I am not mad with you every man has the right to make up his mind if he is going to heaven or hell. I only make the decision when you go.”

Tim, Melvin and the four surveyors at Ervin and Joe.

Matt said, “I watched you two for all of these months and when these evil ones came and was killing people. You showed no feelings for your fallen comrades. I am Alberton, the seat of hatred. The white boys lynched my sixteen year old brother when he was on leave from the military. We went looking for him and found him and cut him down from this big oak tree and we buried him just as we found him, with his military uniform on but in a nice casket. Does it hurt. Yes sir it hurt. So we had them to dig another grave next to momma and daddy who both died two weeks before of heart attacks. They waited for him. He joined them and the three were buried together at the city’s negro cemetery. We all have to stand in the GOD’s judgement. With a clean and pure heart or go to hell.”

Joe stood up and walked away.

Everyone watched Joe.

Melvin looked at Ervin and said, “That’s the reason why you call me slow. IN five years look me up and send your brother to me to help him.”

The lead soldier watched William’s camp and knew something was up.

He rode up.

Matt put his battery gun down.

The lead looked at the camp members and he looked down the street and saw the mayor and the banker walking to the school.

The mayor grabbed the doorknob.

Matt started walking fast to the school.

He passed the lead soldiers and two sentries were about to go down the street but stopped and watched the two men at the.

Clara was giving sweets out to her sweets.

The mayor did not knock on the door but tried to shake it loose.

Matt walked across the street and watched the mayor and the banker.

He had his gun in his trousers.

The lead soldier aw the mayor who he could not stand.

He remembered the other man from being across from Waters and Barnes.

The lead soldier watched Matt who walked fast and stood across the street.

The sentries rode down the street and stopped at the school.

One sentry said, “What is the problem?”

The mayor did not turn around.

He and the banker heard a click.

They both turned and saw the two sentries had pulled their guns on them.

The banker jumped.

The mayor turned and looked at the two sentries who were black.

The sentries attitude the reason why you are ignoring

Us and not showing respect is because of the color of their skin.

Clara was peeping out the door and what was going on, she thought they are not only witches but they are racist. That makes a lot of sense. Whoa.”

She walked from the door and walked back to the door.

A sentry said, “Step back and close the door ma am.”

Clara stepped back and closed the door.

She went and got the children’s coat and hats and gloves and put on them.

She put out the fire. And locked up the back and cleaned the lunchroom.

Clara kept peeping out the window to see if the mayor and sentries were gone.

She was sweeping the floor and peeping.

The children were playing.

Clara noticed Monica’s shoes were untied.

Clara said, “Monica baby your shoestring is untied, I’ll tie it.”

Monica said, “I’ll tie it.”

Clara thought, “Why she does not want me to tie her shoes.”

Clara kept sweeping and looking out the window.

Monica was sitting on the other side of the room by herself.

Clara knew because the children’s parents especially Tessa said not to sit near Monica.

Clara was praying and said, “GOD what is this great poverty. There is a lake and these people don’t fish. This child Monica don’t want me to tie her shoe.”

Clara was peeping and bent don’t and saw Monica trying to hide her left foot under her right and Monica saw the sole separated from the shoe and no socks.

The sentry said to the mayor, “You knock on the door and speak to the teacher so we can hear.”

The mayor was angry and he knocked on the school door.

Clara walked to the door and opened it wide.

The banker tried to peep in the school and Clara stared at the banker.

He saw Monica.

Clara looked back to see who he was looking at.

The mayor said, “I need to talk to you.”

The mayor tried to walk passed Clara.

The sentry said, “Hey!!.”

Clara said, “This is holy ground. The defiled cannot enter.”

The sentries looked at Clara.

Matt was leaning against the trail across the street.

Matt said, “They are devil worshippers. Witches. They mad because you’ll boss turned down their temple over there.”

The banker looked back at Matt and started rubbing and twisting his hands.

Matt pulled out his gun.

The banker stopped and looked at Matt.

Matt said, “I am fed up with the racist killers. All that devil service doesn’t scare. I am mad because you lynched my baby brother. I got to pay the devil back for that. I have been traveling this country to find the strong hold this is it. Take me to your leader.”

Clara peeped at Matt.

The sentries looked at Matt.

They turned and looked back at the banker.

The banker was mad and twisting and rubbing his hands furiously.

The sentries watched him.

The mayor very nasty to Clara, “You wrote the state on me?’

Clara smiled and said, “Someone responded? Great.”

He rolled his eyes at Clara and stormed away.

The soldiers were watching.

Dave the evil banker yelled,”That’s what happened to you two across from me.”

The sentries looked at the banker and knew the ‘two’ referenced to black.

They rode slowly behind them.

The mayor and the banker stopped and were talking.

Clara opened the school door and said, “Matt can you tell William to get my wagon ready so I can take these kids home for the week-end.”

Matt said, “I’ll do because William is sleep.”

Clara looked at Matt.

Matt said, “The soldiers told him his doctor friend in that new settlement was killed the other night. He kind of went crazy and was running up and down the street this morning. I don’t know how you did not hear him.”

Clara said, “Have you seen Jake?”

Matt held his hands out like he did not know who she was talking about.

He said,” I’ll be back in about fifteen minutes.”

She was watching the mayor and the banker.

Miss Clara said, “It’s ten of you and one of me. I am going to take you all home. You just have to tell me where you live.”

Monica was scared.

Miss Clara saw her and said, “Remember you do not come back to school until Tuesday. You have fun this week-end.”

Clara heard a wagon and ran to the door and peeped and it was Matt.

She walked through the school and made sure the fire was out and everything was locked up.

Clara opened the door and looked up and down the street and saw the mayor and the banker were still standing there talking.

She said, “My babies come. Sit by the one who lives near you.”

Clara was playing with the children and told them to count off.

The children were marching like soldiers and counting off.

Monica just stood in the school.

Clara closed and locked the door.

Matt turned around and counted the children.

He had the wagon cover off.

He said, “There’s another.”

Clara started cursing, “She better bring her ass out of the school. I am fed up with her.”

Clara got out the wagon and jumped down.

She went and unlocked the door and Monica was standing in the floor near her desk.

Clara looked at her and said, “Get out there in the wagon now Monica. You have made me very angry today.”

Monica walked out the door and got in the wagon.

Tessa said, “Don’t sit by me, Monica you stink.”

Matt looked back to see who said that.

Tessa started kicking Monica.

Monica sat there and let Tessa kicked her.

Matt said, “She gets out first.”

Clara said, “She lives a good distance.”

Clara was losing patience with Monica and said, “Monica why are you sitting there letting her kick you like a dog.”

Monica said, “I doesn’t hurt that bad.”

Clara said, “Stop it Tessa.”

Tessa was about to stomp Monica and Clara said, “Tessa I am a government official and I can have you sent to reform school for wayward children.”

The children yelled, “That’s Tessa’s house.”

Clara jumped out the wagon and stood and said, “Get out Tessa.”

Tessa’ parents came out the door and stared at Matt.

Matt said, “Clara.”

Clara walked around the wagon.

Then Tessa’s parents saw Clara and tried to smile and be polite.

Tessa spit in Monica’s face.

Tessa’s mother said, “Dear was not nice.”

He father walked and helped her out the wagon.

He smiled at Monica.

The other children looked at Monica.

Monica tried to wipe the spit out of face and some went in her eyes.

Clara said, “Does anyone else live close to this area.

Matt said,”For this town to be half full with boarded up houses and no businesses how are these people affording to live here?”

Clara said,”Weird.”

Matt said, “Clara are you going to comfort the little black girl?”

Clara said, “No.”

Matt looked at Clara and said,”You..”

Steve yelled, “Right here.”

Clara jumped out the wagon and ran to the wagon and helped Steve out.

Steve ran to his house and said, “Tuesday.”

Everyone laughed.

Matt and Clara dropped all the children off and they turned to Monica and said, “Where do you live?”

Monica was still rubbing her legs from Tessa’s kicks.

She was crying because it was really hurting her.

Monica told her back about two streets over from Tessa.

Clara was furious.

She heard JESUS say, “Calm down and turn around and take her home. She did not want the other children to see her house.”

Clara looked at Matt and touched his arm and said, “Please.”

Clara was seething.

Matt said, “You calm down.”

He looked back at Monica and shook his head.

They rode back thirty minutes and dropped off Monica.

Matt said, “Is this your street?”

Matt waited.

Clara turned her head.

Matt said, “Where is your house?”

Monica said, ”Back there.”

Matt said, “Which one is your house?”

Clara was about to explode.

Matt turned around the wagon.

The houses were broken down and the children and people were very poor.

Matt stopped the wagon and said, “Which house is yours?”

Monica would not say anything.

Clara said, “Get out Monica.”

They did not help Monica out because they were very angry with her.

Monica nearly fell out the wagon because her legs were hurting.

Monica stood in the road.

Matt and Clara rode down the road.

Clara and Matt waited about five minutes and looked back and saw Monica run to the green house and the door was opened for her.

Matt said, “That was something wicked.”

Clara said, “That is racism. To show how hellish it is this town is half boarded up and there are nice houses here and they have been assigned to the slave quarters. Monica has already learned the uncle tom mindset. It does not matter how much a white person hurt you. You just say yes ma am.”

Matt said, “What are you gonna do?”

Clara said, “Nothing. You can’t do anything about that type of mindset. They have a lake and they are hungry and don’t even go and fish.”

Matt said, “Don’t talk about the lake too much.”

Clara said, “Did you see her shoes. The sole was separated from the boot and she had on no socks. She sat there and had no food at all, she is not the only one. No of the kids sit next to her. I just realized that.”

Matt said, “With all of that she still wanted to come to school.”

Matt looked at Clara and his words went deep inside her heart.

JESUS was looking at the two of them.

Clara said to Matt as they approached the main street, “What did you mean about not fishing at the lake?”

Matt said, “I’ll tell you and no one else, especially not that money Grabbing sister of yours…”

Clara threw her hands up and said, “That’s another mess. Go ahead.”

Matt said, “I got twenty horses hiding there and Melvin has ten and William got thirty.”

Clara mouth fell opened.

Matt said, “Tomorrow me and Melvin are going to take a break from these racist and we are taking our horses out of here. I got a farm and workers and they need those horses. I promised the five men two horses a piece. And they can have sixty percent of what they raise. So I will be gone over two weeks.”

Clara said, “What am I to do without you?”

Matt smiled t Clara.

Clara said, “I need to get my mind back on GOD and JESUS. Because these witches mean evil.”

Matt said, “Did you see that banker and he actually think he caused Barnes and Waters to be killed.”

Clara said, “Watch it.”

Matt looked at Clara and said, “You don’t believe that?”

Clara said, “I have seen such evil here. So don’t dismiss none of it. Let me drop you off I am going to use the wagon this week-end.”

Matt laughed and said, ”You gonna help Monica.”

Clara did not say anything.

Matt laughed and jumped out the wagon.

Clara drove the wagon to Mellissa and put it by the backdoor.

She put the cover on the wagon and knocked on the backdoor.

Mellissa was in her bedroom and ran into the kitchen and stepped over Laura and unlocked the backdoor.

Alice and Jason cracked the bedroom door to see who was knocking.

They saw it was Clara and ran out the bedroom.

They ran around the table behind Laura to avoid Mellissa.

Jason said, “You were to be here a long time ago.”

Alice said, “We are hunger.”

Clara put her hands on her hips and said, “Really. I baked two quiche…”

Alice mouth flew open in surprise.

Clara said,”… but this one has bacon and spinach.”

Laura’s legs were stretched out in the kitchen floor.

Laura pulled her legs in and unfolded her arms and sit straight in her chair.

Mellissa looked at Laura.

Clara said, “Laura are coming around?”

Laura nodded her head for yes.

Jason said, “Say it.”

Laura said, “Yes.

Clara said, “I want to go to town and shop all day tomorrow and turned around and come straight back.”

She looked at Laura.

Clara said, “Mellissa are you still going with Ida tomorrow?”

Mellissa shrugged her shoulders and said, “I guess.”

Clara said, “Are you going or not?’

Clara looked at Laura and said, “Get up and washed up and let’s feed Alice and Jason and leave this evening. We can have breakfast at the restaurant and be the first at the stores. I need your money.”

Laura said, “With all of this going on, you better get your fat butt in the back and see if any of those horses have any money in their saddles.”

Mellissa said, “I don’t have any money.

Laura said, “How you don’t have any money. You get a paycheck. Your house is paid. You don’t owe nobody.”

Mellissa said, “But I have not received a paycheck in months.”

Laura covered her eyes.

She could not stand Mellissa. She thought Mellissa was a pure idiot.

Clara said, “Where are your checks Mellissa?”

Mellissa stood and did not know how to answer.

Laura said, “You need to go out back with Clara…”

Clara slowly turned and looked at Laura whose appearance was upsetting her.

Laura continue,”…and go through those horses’ saddles and see if there is any money in them, if it is that is what you spend.”

Both Clara and Mellissa just stood in the kitchen.

Laura stood up and went and stirred the fire and put the kitchen back in the stove.

She walked out the kitchen and went and washed her face in cold water, combed her hair.

She went to her secret location and got a thousand dollars.

Laura put the money in her purse and went out the backdoor and cleaned out the wagon.

Larry was looking out his kitchen window.

Laura acted like she did not see him.

Alice and Jason were excited and they sat to the table and waited.

Laura went and got them several blankets and their pillows and made a pallet for them in the wagon.

Laura said, “Why are you two tweets standing in the middle of this floor? I will leave both of you here all week-end. The only two things you two know how to do is teach and screw.”

Alice and Jason looked at each.

JESUS caused Laura to look at Alice and Jason.

Laura realized she used wrong language in front of Jason and Alice.

She said, “Alice and Jason I said a bad word in front of you. I apologize. Forgive me please.”

Jason said, “Which word was that?’

Laura stared at him and said,”Do you want to be left here with these two for the whole week-end?”

Jason saluted Laura and said, “No ma am.”

Laura began to cry.

Jason looked at Laura and Alice looked at Laura.

Clara said, “You Jason did not do anything wrong. Laura’s friends died the other night. They were soldiers.

Jason ran to Laura and hugged her.

Alice looked.

She said, “I smell the quiche.”

Clara laughed and went to the cabinet and got the plates and forks and set the table.

Clara got the quiche out the oven and went and washed her hands. She returned to the kitchen and put the quiche on the table.

Laura cut the quiche.

Mellissa sat down and put her plate for Laura to give her a slice of quiche.

Laura looked at Clara and then Mellissa.

Clara said, “Mellissa let’s go and look in these horses’ saddles for money.”

Mellissa said, “Why? Laura has money. Right Laura?”

Laura stared at Mellissa.

Clara said, “Mellissa Laura does not like us anymore. She will not help us nor give us money. She is waiting on Joseph so she can leave and never see us again. She has called us idiots and whores. And you are asking her for money to take care of you. We have been here for months and you said nothing to Laura, who is with the state treasury about you not getting your money. Come with me and let’s look for any money in the saddles of the horses. You can come back and eat. Jason and Alice won’t eat your quiche.”

Mellissa still was holding her plate for a piece of quiche.

Laura looked at Clara.

Alice said, “That’s what mommie and daddy do. They make people idiots.”

Laura said, “This was done long before your mommie and daddy.”

Clara walked out the door.

Laura put the quiche in Mellissa’s plate.

Laura could not eat Mellissa had taken away her appetite.

Clarence and Isaiah saw the horses running wild down the street. They could not leave their post.

They heard a scream.

Laura said, “She found something.”

Mellissa looked at Laura and said, “What’s that?”

Laura stared at Mellissa.

The soldiers on the roofs were able to see Clara running around after the horses and she would into the saddles and dance a jig.

Soldiers knew she had found some money.

Clarence stood up and watched Clara.

But Larry was watching him.

Clarence thought why is this old man watching me.

Clara ran into the house.

Mellissa leaned back and watched Clara enter the house.

Clara was so excited.

She ran to the table and put the money on the table and counted it.

Mellissa said, “What you got us?”

Clara looked at Mellissa at that moment she realized Mellissa was retarded. That’s why Ray would not allow anyone to get close to Mellissa. He did not want to put her away.

Clara counted the money she had a hundred and thirty five dollars.

She gave Mellissa thirty five dollars.

Mellissa said, “You really should give me more because the horses are in my yard.”

Laura said, “Clara how many saddles did you open?”

Clara stared at Mellissa.

Clara said, “Six.”

Laura said, “Give Mellissa all the money.”

Clara looked at Laura.

Laura said, “I feed the horses and get water. Jason and Alice get your coats. Mellissa why don’t you let Ida know whether you are going with her?”

Mellissa waved her hand at Laura and said, “Why don’t you do that?”

Laura said, “Do what?”

Mellissa said, “Go to Ida and tell her.”

Laura said, “Tell her what?”

Mellissa said, “Tell her if I am going with her or not.”

Laura screamed.

Clara ran out the door.

Jason and Alice ran out the door and jumped in the bed of the wagon.

Laura got water and gave it to the horses and had a container of water for the horses and a water container for them.

Clara ran in the back and caught two horses and opened the saddles and found two thousand dollars.

Clara ran to the wagon and threw the money in the back by Jason and Alice.

She pointed at them and said,”Don’t touch momma’s money.”

Mellissa was still sitting at the table with her arms folded.

Clara ran in the house and got her bag and put the locks on the back door and said, “See you Mellissa.”

Mellissa said, “Go by Ida…”

Clara slammed the door.

She ran and jumped in the wagon.

Laura turned the wagon around.

She saw Clarence running on the side of the wagon into the backyard.

Clarence was able to go into the ten saddles and retrieved the ten thousand dollars.

Isaiah and Stanley were his lookouts.

Clarence ran back at the moment it got dark.

The five soldiers divided the money between them.

The two security soldiers were watching them but did not see anything.

Clarence sat and thought throughout the night.

His tour was up in two weeks.

He would leave.

Stanley said he was leaving.

Isaiah and the other two soldiers said they will stay and do another tour.

The soldier on the roof with Isaiah sent a telegram to his family for them to move there with a free house and some horses.

Laura hid Barnes and Waters military bags and her and Newsom’s money.

Laura cried all the way to the town.

They made it to the town in six hours, instead of eight hours.

They made it to the town by midnight.

They went to the hotel and got a room.

They carried Alice and Jason to the room.

Clara, Laura, Alice and Jason slept until seven.

They got up and had hot baths and dressed.

They went to the restaurant and had a good breakfast.

Clara said, “Jason and Alice I am going to buy some things for Monica and her family.”

Jason and Alice turned up their noses.

Laura was drinking a glass of orange juice.

She ordered corn beef hash, eggs, grits and biscuits.

She was looking at Jason and Alice.

Clara sat there and looked at Jason and Alice and said, “Why are you doing that?”

Alice leaned towards the table and said, “Miss Clara, Monica is poor and she is black.”

Clara said, “I’m black and I love you even though your skin is white. You were poor until JESUS put you with us.”

JESUS heard what Clara meant.

JESUS looked at Clara.

She knew JESUS was listening.

Jason looked at Miss Clara and Miss Laura and said, “I don’t see you being black. I see people who love me.”

Laura bowed her head and said, “JESUS what can I say? In JESUS’s name. Amen.”

One group of Seven was with them in the city. One was at the hotel.

One was riding on the wagon and the others were in the city getting their supplies together

The waitress brought Alice and Jason their waffles and they sat and ate and enjoyed their breakfast.

Jason was watching Laura and Clara’s face.

Alice acted like nothing was wrong.

Jason said, “Miss Laura are you mad with us?”

Laura was looking in her plate and began to cry and said, “I am not angry with you Jason.”

Jason looked at Clara and said, “Miss Clara are you mad with us?”

Clara was mad with him and Alice, said, “I can’t be mad at who you are. I don’t under you can love, because I do things for you and hate Monica because she looked like you did until we went shopping for you.”

Clara held her head down and uncontrollable tears fell.

The waitress listened.

Laura said, “Ma am where is that clothing store?”

The waitress said, “I remember you’ll. You’ll were the big mix party that was here last month.”

Laura smiled.

The waitress said, “That one burned down. But it is a nicer one two miles over on Tenth Street.”

Laura said, “Thank you.”

The foursome finishing eating.

Laura asked the waitress, “What’s on the menu for lunch and dinner?”

The waitress said, “The menu won’t change today. IT’s going to be fried chicken, fried fish, fried por chops and bar\*b\*que ribs.”

Laura said, “Can I put in an order for some ribs.”

Clara said, “That sounds good I want ribs. Alice and Jason what you want to eat on the way back?”

Jason said, “Hamburger!”

Alice said, “Me too.”

The waitress saw Laura and Clara’s tears falling.

She said, “I heard part of the problem don’t pushed them away because what adults have taught them.”

They left the restaurant and went to the finer clothing store.

Laura bought Alice several nightgowns and two more pairs of shoes and some more underwear and hair barrettes.

Laura bought Jason several pairs of shoes and pants and shirts.

They found the girl’s dresses.

She bought Alice several dresses.

Clara had measured Monica’s feet while she was sweeping.

She bought Monica three pairs of boots and shoes many socks and underwear.

She bought Monica several dresses, sweaters and a few coats and toiletries for Monica and her family.

Laura said, “My God Clara why did you buy so many pairs of socks and in different sizes?”

Clara said, “Because I have where other people in the house will take the children’s clothes and wear them. Hopefully everybody will have their own socks.”

Laura said, “The mayor brought an opened letter from the prison to me today. I saw him and the banker standing and talking. They eventually came over. The mayor bam on the front door. I went to the front door and he did not say anything but handed me the open letter.”

Clara said, “What did the letter?”

Laura said,” A hearing is scheduled in two weeks in the capitol for Alice and Jason to go to their next of kin. After today I don’t care as long as they are not devil worshippers.”

Laura walked to the dresses and bought her three new dresses and two pair of shoes and a nice coat and a nice pair of gloves.

Clara said, “You think they killed Ray because he was black and married to a white woman?”

Laura said, “Yeap and that telegram man was the one behind it because he wanted Mellissa.”

Laura sat and put on the boots.

Clara, Laura, Jason and Alice left the store with many packages.

Laura and Clara went to the grocer. Laura I am going to stay in the wagon and take a nap because we have a lot of packages.”

Jason said, “I want to stay with you Miss Laura.”

Laura said, “Fine. Clara take this ten dollars and buy butter, sugar, eggs, milk and as much meat as you can.”

Laura said, “We will have the governor’s children get them some candy or something and we will need something for the boy and girl that lives there.”

Clara said, “OK.”

She held Alice’s hand and walked into the grocer.

They bought a lot of grocery and toys.

Laura helped Clara to load the wagon.

Laura said, “Let’s go by the wire and send the twins fifty dollars each.

They wired the money and went by the restaurant and ate the ribs.

Jason and Alice had ice cream.

Laura said to Clara and she looked back at Jason and Alice, “who was playing checkers that Clara bought.”

Laura said, “Mellissa said, Ray did not like Larry and Doreen. I think it was about them being a mixed couple.”

Clara said, “I think most it had to do with them being witches.”

Laura said, “I had the most awful experience at their house yesterday. I don’t know what it was.”

Alice said, “They were the ones teaching our mommie and daddy how to make people idiots.”

Clara and Laura looked back at Alice.

Laura said, “Alice and Jason did you ever see Johanna and Charles with your parents or with Larry and Doreen?”

Alice looked at Jason and said, “Do you know them?”

Jason said, “I have to see their faces.”

Jason said, “I think so.”

Alice said, “No. That was Tessa’s mom and dad.”

Clara said, “Alice and Jason who are you friends with Tess and when you know her parents are bad?”

Alice said, “I don’t know.”

Jason was drawing and said, “I don’t know.”

Laura looked back at Jason and Alice and said, “To keep an eye on them.”

Clara said, “On us. That little racist pig got to go.”

Laura said, “Where are we going to move when we get back?”

Laura and Clara got back to the town late night.

Laura drove straight to Monica’s house.

Clara went and knocked on the door and said, a man’s voice said, “Who is it?”

Clara said, “I am Clara the teacher.”

The man opened the door and said, “Come in.”

Clara said,”It’s late and I just got back from town and bought some supplies for you.”

The man said, “We don’t take charity.”

Clara said, “This is not charity you are going to work and pay me back sir. Come to the wagon and get this stuff.”

The mand and his wife walked to the wagon and got the groceries, toiletries and Monica’s pretty clothes.

Monica’s parents saw two little sleep white kids in the back of the wagon.

The parents were perplexed.

The mother said, “Do you know Monica has very bad bruises on her legs. Do you know how she got all those bruises?”

Clara said, “When I put the children in this wagon to take home yesterday. One of the students was kicking Monica.”

Monica’s mother said, “You did not make her stop?”

Clara looked hard at Monica’s mother and said, “I told the child to stop kicking Monica or I would have her put in reform school. Your daughter said it really did not hurt that bad and tried to cover the kicks with her arms. She should have bruises on her hands and arms.”

Monica’s father said, “She does.”

Monica’s mother said, “You should have protected my child.”

Laura stepped out the wagon.

Clara said, “I am not your child protector. I will cease a situation I see from forming. But your child thinks it is alright to be kicked and spit on and verbally assaulted because it is learned behavior. She needs to be protected from a mother who is trifling and sorry as a human being and send her child out into the world with torn up cloths and boots. The child is desperate to do better with all that is against her. She struggles to live. No thanks to a no good mother who tries not to raise her own children, but want others and society to rear them up. Monica better come to school, washed, shampoo hair and her new clothes every day and a full lunch. I tried to do you a favor.”

Monica’s father smirked and said, “A favor.”

Clara looked at the deplorable house and neighborhood and said, “If I report you and the condition of your daughter, the state will take your children and put the two of you in jail.”

Monica’s father looked at his wife.

Clara said, “The banker came to the school yesterday.”

Monica’s father said, “They foreclosed today. We have to get out.”

Clara passed them and shook her head.

She said, “You are pathetic. This town is full of boarded house. You can choose the house you want and not pay anything for it and be debt free but you are whining. We have school on Tuesday and Monica better be there everyday.”

Laura said, “I saw this house over on the next street. I know it is vacant and it is on the list. I was here looking at with William one day, when they were surveying this area.”

They pulled up t the house.

Clara said, “The Benson’s house.”

Laura said, “Yeap. Tat’s the reason I told them to give me a second and a third choice. Because William wants the cottage down the street.”

Clara said, “Do you think Ida asked Mellissa to go to town with her because Mellissa is white.”

Laura said, “Absolutely.”

Laura got out the wagon and moved the packages and crawled in the back with Jason and Clara pulled off her boots and claimed in over behind Alice and they slept through the night.

Early Saturday morning Laura and Clara walked around the house and went inside.

Clara stood in the doorway to watch the half awake, Jason and Alice.

Laura looked inside the house and liked it.

Then she went to the wagon and let Clara walk through.

Clara loved the bouse.

They spent all Saturday cleaning the house.

They went to Mellissa’s place and rang the doorbell and no answer.

Clara used her key and unlocked the front door and called Mellissa.

No answer.

They ran into the house and got all of their stuff and ran out the house.

Clara locked the front door.

They jumped into the wagon and waved at Clarence.

Clarence stopped them.

Laura looked at him.

Clarence said, “Jake been there looking for you. He had questions about how all of those horses were in Mellissa’s yard and Brianna’s and Ida’s and his yard. I told him I did not know. I have a week to go. I will going home, which is the town next to Alberton. Let me know if you want me to ride with you. And you Miss Clara Chester was shot but he is fine. It’s going to take time for him to be healed. The young white doctor they killed will have a funeral service in the morning but he will buried with his mother and father in their private cemetery. Melvin, Matt and that racist Joe packed up and left. The last thing that old white couple there apparently moved.”

Laura said, “Thank you.”

Laura stopped at Ida and said, “Clara go and find out if we have to take the children tomorrow.”

Clara said, “That’s what I was thinking.”

Clara walked and knocked on the door.

The governor’s mother-in-law answered the door.

She looked Clara up and down and said, “Yes.”

Clara said, “Is Ida here?“

The governor’s children were standing back listening.

The governor’s mother-in-law said, “No.”

She preceded to close the door.

Clara said, “Don’t you dare close this door. Ida asked us to take the governor’ s children to see he and their mother on tomorrow.”

The governor’s oldest daughter ran to the door and said, “Yes we will be going about eleven because they are having an outdoor service for Dr. Wes by the brook and a repass at the house. But they will be taking Dr. Wes immediately to his hometown to bury.”

Clara said, “We will be here at ten in the morning to get you.”

Lydia yelled, “Thank you.”

Laura, Clara, Jason and Alice left and settled in their new home.