

Dr. Obersteen passed Bill and Emma's campsite and looked at Mattie who was coming out of her tent.

He stopped his horse and got off and walked to the entrance.

Mattie stumbling looked at him.

Dr. Obersteen said, "Mattie, may I have a word with you?"

Emma heard him as she gave Betsy some hot tea.

Betsy heard him but continued to sip her tea.

Emma held the tent door open and peeped at him.

She held her stomach and took a deep breath.

Betsy said, "No Em. Let him alone. For some reason Wes thought I was really sick. He had him to examine me and that's when they found I was pregnant."

Betsy began to cry. She threw her arm out and fell on the bed.

The tea spilled on the floor.

Emma picked up the cup and stumped out the tent cussing.

Dr. Obersteen was afraid of the women in that family.

Emma looked at him and he jumped.

Emma smirked because she liked to see people jump at her presence.

Emma trying to act sophisticated said, "Oh. Good morning Dr. Obersteen."

Before he could speak.

Betsy started screaming.

He started to run and then said to Emma, "Is she alright?"

Mattie was about to sit.

Emma said, "I don't know. She just spilled this tea all over the tent, that I have to clean up."

Dr. Obersteen looked at the angry Emma and walked to Betsy's tent.

He started to knock but there was no door.

He said, "Betsy?" and walked in.

Mattie looked at Emma.

Emma smiled and winked at Mattie.

Mattie did not understand what was going on in Emma's head.

Mattie sat down and wrapped herself in a shawl and drank coffee.

Emma looked at Mattie and sashayed into Betsy's tent with a dish cloth over her shoulder and a pail of water in her hand.

When Emma entered the tent, Dr. Obersteen was checking Betsy's pulse.

Emma said, "Excuse me. I need to get this tea up—Betsy." She forgot her sophisticated act.

Dr. Obersteen looked at her.

Emma caught herself and stooped down and scrub the spot where the tea fell.

She was listening to Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen waited to Emma left.

He told Betsy, "Do not be extremely upset."

Emma was standing outside the tent listening.

Betsy said, "You and that damn Wes examined me without my permission and did not tell me. You damn right I am upset with both of you."

Dr. Obersteen said, "I can not undo what has been done. You were unconscious. We made the best medical decision. Every medical authority would back us. We had to move quickly to find out what was wrong with you in case Wes had to operate on you or I had to take you to the city. No one thought about you being pregnant because you told Wes you could not have children."

Betsy partially sit up and said, "Get out!"

Emma ran from Betsy's tent to their kitchen wagon.

She nearly slid under the wagon. But caught her balance.

Mattie stopped drinking her coffee and stared at the disaster about to happen.

Dr. Obersteen told Betsy, "You have to calm down. You have a new womb. I have never seen that before. You need to thank God for giving you a chance to be a mother. He trust you with this child."

Emma and Mattie heard Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen walked out Betsy's tent and looked at the Bossy Emma.

He looked over at Mattie.

He walked to Mattie and pulled up Joshua's seat and sat.

DR. Obersteen asked, "Mattie can I examine you?"

Mattie stared at Dr. Obersteen.

He said, "You can call Emma over, if you want."

Mattie tried to call Emma, but Betsy begin to scream.

Emma looked between the two.

Dr. Obersteen pointed to Betsy's tent and looked at Emma and said, "She's fine. I need you over here."

Emma slowly walked to Dr. Obersteen and Mattie looking back at Betsy's tent.

Dr. Obersteen spent time with Mattie.

He told her everything he was doing and why.

He wrote down notes on his pad.

He was listening to Betsy and heard silence.

He told them, "Betsy is shocked and angry. She needs to rest. You send her back to Wes so he can take care of her."

He looked at Mattie, "I am writing the tests you need to have. You will be very very sick for about a month until all the tests are back."

Mattie was so afraid.

Dr. Obersteen looked up from his pad and saw Mattie's face full of fear and her eyes watering.

He said, "Wes will be with you."

Emma sat and was quiet.

She thought her aunt and uncle's only child was going to die.

She thought about Joshua has just gotten to spend time with Mattie as her son.

Dr. Obersteen held his head up and was thinking and he turned and saw Emma's face.

He said, "I know this is hard. If there is anything I will not miss it."

Betsy began to cry out.

Dr. Obersteen continued to talk, "Wes is a very good doctor Mattie. He will be with you everyday and he will watch all the tests being performed,"

He looked at the number of tests and wrote two more and said, "He might have to perform a few himself we have to see about that."

He looked at the disturbed Emma.

He listened to the crying Betsy.

Dr. Obersteen watched the dismayed Mattie.

He patted Mattie's hand.

Betsy screamed.

Emma turned and was getting up to go to Betsy.

Dr. Obersteen grabbed Emma's arm and said, "Sit. Betsy is not sick. She needs to go to Wes. He can take care of her. You will wear yourself thin between she and Mattie. I need you to go with Mattie and stay by her side during these tests and examines."

Mattie began to cry.

Dr. Obersteen said, "Mattie I need you to be strong. I would not lie to you and have you walk into the test and not be prepared for pain and suffering."

He got up and put on his hat and said, "Good day."

He looked around at their nice and cozy campsite and mounted his horse and rode to his vacation site.

He passed Mike and Harold with Joshua and Bill.

Dr. Obersteen was in deep thought.

Joshua said, "Dad he just left our place."

Harold said, "I hope all is well."

Joshua turned and said, "Well."

Bill hit Joshua.

Joshua shut up.

Harold was listening.

Harold still trying to find out what was going on said, "Hey doc we left you some fire wood and fresh water."

Dr. Obersteen nodded.

Harold looked at Mike.

Mike said, "Arrogant and pompous."

Harold looked at Mike and said, "Whoa Mike. That is bitter and you don't know him."

Dr. Obersteen heard Mike.

He remembered what Wes said to keep an eye on Mike.

Dr. Obersteen rode around his tent area and went to see the distance from him and Mike.

He was satisfied it was a good distance.

He rode around the camp and saw Shelia's campsite and dismounted his horse and called for Shelia.

Shelia did not answer.

He walked into her tent and she was not there.

He rode his horse to Thomas' tent and heard him coughing rather badly.

He listened for a minute until Shelia walked out the tent fanning with her hand.

Dr. Obersteen heard Shelia tell Thomas she thought he had "TB."

Dr. Obersteen thought, "We cannot have that."

He dismounted his horse in front of Shelia,

Shelia held her heart and breathed deeply.

Dr, Obersteen said, "Shelia, I apologize for scaring you. Is Thomas ok?"

Shelia was still trying to shake the scare from her.

She nodded for yes and then no.

She walked home.

Dr, Obersteen watched Shelia walked away and wondered what was her story and whether Harold knew it.

Dr. Obersteen said, "Thomas, I'm coming in."

Thomas said, "Who?"

Dr. Obersteen took his handkerchief out of his pocket and covered his nose.

When he finished examining Thomas, he gave him a penicillin shot.

Thomas hollered.

Shelia heard Thomas and ran out her tent and looked down the road and saw Dr.Obersteen standing outside the tent.

Shelia ran passed Dr. Obersteen to Thomas' tent.

She turned and said to Dr. Obersteen, "What did you do?"

She saw the long needle Dr. Obersteen had and fainted.

Dr. Obersteen looked down at Shelia and finished putting up his needle and penicillin.

He picked up Shelia and put her across his horse and walked the horse back to her homesite.

He took Shelia off his horse and held smelling salt to her nose.

Shelia came to.

He waited several minutes and helped her off his horse and into her tent.

Dr. Obersteen took a bottle of aspirin out of his medical bag.

He walked over to Shelia and said, "Hold out your hand."

Shelia held her hand out.

Dr. Obersteen poured out twelve aspirins and Shelia swallowed all twelve aspirins.

Dr. Obersteen stared at Shelia in disbelief.

He said, "You did not wait for instructions."

Shelia was still swallowing the aspirins.

Dr. Obersteen said, "The aspirins were for Thomas. For him to take two every four hours for twenty four hours."

He looked around for a napkin to put the aspirin on and found nothing.

He thought her place was tidy with a bit of under current.

He said, "Open your hand."

As he counted the aspirin the disoriented Shelia swallowed the five aspirins.

Dr. Obersteen walked out her tent and put the top on the bottle and rode his horse to his vacation site.

He dismounted the horse and gave the horse water.

He felt a coldness in the air and went inside and got an old blanket and put it on his horse.

He stooped down and made a very nice fire.

Dr. Obersteen went into the tent and returned with his frying pan and some eggs.

He had fried eggs and toasted bread for dinner.

He washed the dishes and placed them back in the container.

He sat in a chair (he brought) and got a large glass of brandy.

He thought about Wes telling him to drink in his tent.

Dr. Obersteen slowly sipped the brandy as he reviewed his notes on Mattie.

He sat and thought for a very long time.

He took a sip of the brandy and turned his head towards his tent and jumped up and lit a candle and he went through the medical books he had.

He found one and he sat under the night sky and read and read and read until it was morning.

Dr. Obersteen yawned.

He kept his fire going and put a few logs on it.

He gave his horse water and retired to his bed.

The evening before, Bill and Joshua made it back home from dropping off firewood and water.

They cut enough wood for everyone to have for at least three days.

They did not cut any wood for the children's father and Rex Walter nor did they give them any water.

Bill did not like Rex Walter nor the children's father.

Bill said, "They are men let them go and cut their own wood."

Since all the trees were burned up and nothing was left, they either went to the outskirts of the city behind them or pass the cute house to go to the next town.

Bill, Mike, Harold and Joshua worked all week to get additional firewood.

Joshua did not like cutting down the trees for wood.

He said, "Why didn't we get coal?"

Everyone looked at Joshua, because no one thought about coal not even the smart attendant.

Bill said, "Ain't nobody got money for that now."

Harold said, "We ain't got money for nothing."

He turned his head in despair.

Bill turned his head and rolled his eyes and whistled.

Joshua looked at his father and knew that was his sign that something was not wrong.

Joshua looked at Mr. Harold.

The attendant was standing in the yard to the house and heard them.

He disappeared for a moment and returned.

The strange man and the new commander looked at the attendant.

The family sat around the fire to eat dinner of roasted veal and potatoes and carrots.

Emma had given everyone a plate.

She sat down and jumped up,

Emma grabbed the roaster and started running down the road.

Joshua watched his mother run.

He cut a piece of veal.

He said, "She's fast."

Bill was putting a piece of veal in his mouth and shook his head and said, "that's where you get the fastness from."

Mattie slammed her fork into her plate.

Bill said, "I think. You know josh."

Joshua did not look at his mother, but made sure he continued to chew his mouthful of veal.

Joshua said, "This veal is very tender."

Bill shook his head in agreement with Joshua and said, "You have to try the veal with parsnips."

Joshua looking straight ahead and said, "Ok what about with yams?"

Mattie was ill and mad with them.

Betsy's back was to the tent door and she laid on her side, first quietly laughing at Bill and Joshua because they were caught with both their feet in their mouths.

Betsy got out the bed and walked out the tent laughing.

She walked over to a very angry Mattie and hugged her and kissed her on her forehead.

Betsy said to Mattie, "Come on and walk with me down to this other fool. You feel like walking?"

Mattie said, "I'll try."

Betsy said, "If you get tired, he got a wheelchair Emma can push you back."

Joshua and Bill continued to talk about the delicious veal.

Betsy yelled back and said, "Right."

Bill said, "Josh you know what they mean?"

Joshua looked at his father and shook his head and continued to chew.

His dad said, "We are to clean up and walked down that long dark road to bring their heavy butts back here."

Joshua laughed so hard he spit some of his food out.

Bill and Joshua were laughing so hard.

Betsy and Mattie were holding each other arms walking down that dark and long dirt road.

Bill said, "And they did not take a torch."

Joshua fell backwards laughing and kicked up his heels and held his stomach.

Bill quietly laughed.

He looked around and said, "You think your mommy want her piece of veal?"

Joshua said, "Which one?"

They both laughed so hard until Betsy and Mattie heard them.

Bill sat and continued to eat his veal and stuck his fork in Mattie's veal.

Bill said, "Mattie won't fight like that other one."



Joshua fell back and holding his stomach just bellowed out with tears filling his eyes.

Betsy stopped and turned and said, "What could they be doing?"

Mattie, "Talking about us."

Betsy said, "Not Joshua."

Mattie said, "That's what you'll think."

Betsy just stood there for a minute.

Mattie pushed the whistle in Betsy's hand.

Betsy felt the whistle in her hand and looked down at it.

She said to Mattie, "What am I supposed to do with this?"

Mattie was falling to her knees and said, "Blow."

Betsy stood in the road and was in shock.

She could not think.

The strange man said, "Blow."

He began to blow.

The other angels began to blow.

The attendant held her head down to see the whistle.

Emma had reached the cute house and got the dishes from the living room and gave Natalie and Wes plates filed with veal and vegetables.

Wes sat on the floor and Emma sat in the other chair.

Wes said, "I thought you forgot about us."

Emma laughed him off.

He looked at Emma because he wanted an answer.

He said, "Emma, you know Betsy is pregnant and has left me."

Emma turned in her chair and bent down to Wes's face.

Natalie was shocked at Emma.

Emma said, "My baby sister. My only sister is pregnant with your child. Bill and I can't take care of her and a baby. If we have to we will. Don't you sit here and think you are going to wiggle yourself out of this. Even if you don't want her you damn well take care of your child."

Wes had his fork to his opened mouth.

The little girl wiggled.

Wes and Natalie looked at the little girl.

Emma did not care about no one but herself.

She was tired, sleepy, sad, hungry and mad. And to think about another mouth to feed was way too much for her.

Wes looked at Emma and said, "Emma."

She looked at him and he nodded to the little girl.

Emma touched the little girl foot and said, "Baby I'm sorry."

Wes watched Emma as he ate.

Natalie was slowing eating and watching Emma out of the corner of her eyes.

Emma took some deep breaths and sat for a moment.

Wes stop and turned his head to listen.

Emma said to "Natalie, do you like the herbs I added to the dish?"

Natalie smiled and said, "Yes mame."

She continued to look at Emma from the corner of her eyes.

Wes stood up and said, "Wait."

Emma turned and looked up at Wes and was about to start cussing.

Natalie looked at Emma. Then her baby.

Emma said, "What?"

Wes said, "I hear the whistle."

Emma got quiet and listened.

Wes said, "I hope Bill is not playing."

He walked out the house onto the porch.

He heard Betsy's screams.

He grabbed the lighted torch and ran onto the road.

Natalie and Emma were standing in the door.

Natalie was looking back at her little girl.

Emma jumped off the porch and ran behind Wes.

Wes ran into Betsy and said, "What?"

Betsy could not talk but continued to blow the whistle.

He saw a light down by their campsite, so he knew it had to be Mattie.

Joshua and Bill heard the whistle.

They lighted the two oil lamp sticks at their campsite.

They lit the hand held torches and run down the dirt road.

Bill and Joshua reached Mattie at the same time as Wes.

Emma ran passed a hysterical Betsy who was still blowing on the whistle.

Emma snatched the whistle out of Betsy's mouth.

Wes was running back to the cute house with an unconscious Mattie.

Bill looked back and said bring her home.

Wes said, "No, I have medicine at the house."

Bill shook his head for yes.

Frank and Glenda heard the whistle.

They ran out to the dirt road and saw the lights in the road.

Cate hobbled out to Frank and Glenda.

Frank looked at Cate and said, "What's wrong with you?"

Glenda took the torch out of Frank's hand and ran down the dirt road.

Wes picked up Mattie and ran to the cute house.

Betsy slapped Emma for taking the whistle.

Betsy and Emma were fighting as Wes ran passed them with Mattie.

Wes yelled, "Bill stop them!"

Bill and Joshua looked at Emma and Betsy.

Joshua was really nervous, and he ran with Wes.

Bill looked at Emma and Betsy and he tried to stop them until he started to

Get hit with their fists.

Frank and Glenda ran and stopped Emma and Betsy by pulling them apart.

Bill was out of breath.

He bent over and fell to his knees.

Glenda and Frank stood between Emma and Betsy.

Frank said, "What are you doing fighting?"

Betsy hair was down.

Part of Emma's bon was down.

Cate finally made it to the group.

She looked at Emma and Betsy with her nightgown on and said, "Where's Mattie."

Bill nodded to the house.

He finally stood.

They walked to the house.

Natalie was in the room with the little girl.

She closed the door.

Joshua ran in the living room with Wes and Mattie.

Wes got his medical bag and began to work on Mattie.

Joshua was there and held her hand.

Wes ran to the front door and said, "I need some blood."

Cate walked away.

Frank and Glenda walked away.

Betsy held out her arm.

Wes ignored her.

Joshua rolled up his shirt and stretched out his arm.

Wes looked at Joshua.

Joshua said, "Here."

Wes quickly prepare everything for the blood transfusion.

He put a sheet on the table and a pillow.

He put Joshua on the table and closed the front door.

Emma was sitting on the steps plaiting her hair.

Betsy sat with her back against the wall.

Bill sat next to Emma on the steps.

Bill looked at his wife and his sister-in-law.

He went home and put wood on the fire.

He went and got Joshua's wagon and several quilts and pillows.

Betsy sitting watching Emma.

Emma said, "You better not try anything else tonight or any night."

Betsy said, "I am pregnant and still beat you."

Wes tried not to hear.

Natalie closed the bedroom door.

Wes thought he needed Dr. Obersteen.

Then he thought, "I can do this."

He looked at Joshua and said, "This will hurt."

Joshua bit his lip and shook his head for yes.

Bill made it back to the cute house and handed Emma a quilt and a pillow.

He walked on the porch and gave Betsy a quilt and a pillow.

Emma and Bill wrapped the quilts around themselves and sat on the front.

Betsy began to rub her stomach and laid on the porch with the pillow under her head.

They heard Joshua crying.

Betsy fell asleep.

Emma ran to Bill.

He held her.

Bill and Emma did not sleep.

Betsy was snoring.

Wes sat and watched Mattie and Joshua.

Betsy started flipping and tossing on the porch.

Bill looked back at Betsy.

Emma would not look at Betsy.

Bill told Emma, "You better not have hurt that baby. With your jealous self."

Wes heard them.

But he kept his eyes on his patients.

When the transfusion was over, Wes cleaned up everything.

He looked at the sleeping Joshua and Mattie.

The little girl started screaming.

Emma ran home and got under their tent.

Bill took her pillow and put it with his pillow and laid back on the porch and went to sleep.

Wes gave the little girl some herbs and watched her calm down.

Natalie placed a shawl over herself and slept in her chair.

Wes stood up and looked at the little girl and Natalie and closed the door.

He walked to the living room and went into the closet and got a knitted cover for both Joshua and Mattie.

Wes walked on the front porch and saw a restless Betsy.

Bill said, "How are they?"

Wes looked at Bill and said, "We have to get Mattie to the city hospital."

He sat on the porch.

Bill said, "How did you know she needed blood?"

Wes, "She was cold and weak."

Wes looked back at Betsy who was flipping on the porch.

Bill said, "She's been doing that for a while."

Wes looked at Bill, who turned over on the porch.

Betsy began to toss.

Bill said to Wes, "Your baby just got his first spanking from Emma."

Bill laughed.

Wes looked at Bill.

He stood up and walked to Betsy.

Bill said, "She's alright."

Wes sat and put Betsy's head in his lap and began to massage her stomach to calm her down.

Bill watched Wes and said, "Hey can you do that to me?"

Wes stared at Bill.

Bill mumble and said, "Just asking."

Wes fell asleep until Joshua came out the door stretching.

Wes said, "Joshua how do you feel?"

Joshua said, "Alright my legs fell funny."

He sat on the step next to his dad.

Bill said, "Josh take your quilt."

Wes said, "Josh."

Joshua did not say anything.

Wes said, "I'm sorry Joshua take the quilt and cover up for a while."

Bill helped Joshua cover up with the quilt.

Joshua said, "How is my baby?"

Wes stared at Joshua and said, "Pardon me?"

Joshua was leaning back to lay on the front porch.

Wes said, "Your aunt Betsy is resting."

Joshua said, "Not that one, the other one."

Bill pulled the quilt off his head and raised his head off the pillow and said, "Joshua. You can not talk like that."

Wes was sitting and thinking, "Whoa."

Joshua said, "I heard her screaming. Did you take care of her?"

Wes did not know what to think and said, "She's resting. You need to do the same thing."

They all slept for a few more hours.

Wes eased Betsy's head from his lap.

He started his morning routine.

He finished the little girl's bath and her herb therapy.

He examined Mattie,

She was doing much better.

Wes was so relieved and sighed.

He said, "Thank you God."

Wes stooped down and check Joshua and he told Bill, "You'll can go home and take Betsy with you. "

He looked back at her and said she needs to stretch out and have solid sleep.

Wes said, "Bill, we need to get Mattie to the city hospital tomorrow."