

Dr. Obersteen slept until late morning.

He was refreshed and laid in his bed and wondered at the little girl, calling Betsy mommy and touching her stomach.

Dr. Obersteen read an article years before of coma patients knowing these that took place around them.

He was wondering if he could find that article. He has to go to the library when returns to the big city.

He thought, "Did he tell her she is most definitely pregnant?"

Dr. Obersteen rubbed his forehead and thought, Oh whoa. I haven't eaten in a couple days."

He turned over and saw the big glass of vodka he drank last night.

He said, "That's why my head is hurting."

He laid in bed for another hour.

Someone was calling him.

Dr. Obersteen sat up in his bed and then stumbled to his tent door and rushed out the opening and fell onto the ground.

Shelia and Mike were shock to see a drunk doctor especially a drunk Dr. Obersteen.

Mike and Shelia sat in the wagon and looked at Dr. Obersteen.

Mike got out the wagon and unloaded firewood.

Shelia finally got out the wagon and put one of the three pails of water next to Dr. Obersteen fire for him to use that day.

Each day Mike, Shelia and Thomas would go and get their daily firewood and water. Now they have added their guess Dr. Obersteen.

Harold told them it was woman trouble that drove him there.

Mike and Shelia drove off and left Dr. Obersteen on the ground.

Shelia said, "Mike I don't think we should leave him on the cold ground.

Mike stopped the wagon and he stepped into Dr, Obersteen tent and got a quilt and covered him.

Shelia said, "Mike, why you do that?"

Mike said, "Let him see how it feels to sleep on the ground."

Shelia said, "Mike that man has done nothing against you."

Mike smirked and drove off.

The attendant and the angel of the city watched Mike.

They watched the alcohol level in Dr. Obersteen.

Dr.Obersteen slept on the ground for most of the day.

The rowdy group met with Rex Walter and the children's father.

They were welcomed into the new city.

They told them they had to provide for themselves.

The rowdy group already mt with the others and decided to let the two stay because they would eventually move on.

Richard gave Rex Walter enough oil to keep the torch lit for the winter.

Richard did not care to walk up there every three days to light the lamps.

He would not mind if he had a horse and wagon.

They also told the children's father he had to keep his oil lamp sticks lit.

Cate hated the new residents and did not greet them but turned and walked back to her homesite.

Cate learned from Mattie how to knit.

She made herself several bed coverings.

She found that when she hung the coverings on her tent walls it helped blocked the cold air.

She made several to cover her bed.

Cate was afraid she was going to die from the cold.

She could not sleep at night.

She would be up all night knitting coverings.

She knitted two for Mike, two for Shelia and two for Thomas.

Natalie made twelve coverings for them in the cute house.

She made three coverings for the little girl's bed.

She made three coverings for the younger doctor, three for Betsy and three for her.

Mattie made six coverings. She gave three to Harold and three to Richard.

Emma made two coverings for Glenda and two coverings for Frank.

They brought their blankets and quilts from their home.

Cate showed Emma, Mattie and Glenda how she insulated her tent.

They were like "whoa".

Mattie whispered to Emma, "Is she sane?"

Emma said, "We better do the same thing."

Mattie looked at Emma.

Mattie was not well and was getting very irritable.

She could not sleep nor rest most of the time.

She got much joy out of Joshua.

Joshua would come and sit with her and talk or play with his toys.

Bill would look at Mattie, especially since the younger doctor examined her and did not say anything.

He did not want Joshua to lose his mother.

Bill could hear Glenda coughing all night.

He thought about the sick little girl. He knew something was going on with Richard.

He stood at their supply wagon and thought all the problems he could see and the cesspool of death that was around them.

Bill thought and we moved here in to die with them. He walked away.

Emma stood at their sleep wagon watching Bill.

Emma said, "Bill why don't we sleep in Betsy's tent. She wont be using it.?"

Bill turned his head and mumbled cursed words and sat by the fire he made by their housewares.

Mattie who was sitting wrapped in a quilt by the fire in front of her tent laughed.

She had several books at her feet.

Shelia was teaching Joshua to trap and fish.

He would be with she and Thomas until he got bored then he would run to Betsy and the little girl.

He would tell the little girl about his adventures.

The younger doctor sat and watch Joshua's delight in talking with his friend.

Betsy would watch the younger doctor watching Joshua.

The younger leaned towards Joshua and said, "She really can't hear you."

Joshua was lying on the floor by the little girl and he leaned off the floor to the younger doctor and said, "She can hear me. The attendant said she can. And she told me the last time she could hear. So until she tells me she cant hear I'm going to continue to talk to her. I will not leave her alone by herself."

Natalie and Betsy looked at the stunned younger doctor.

Joshua turned over on his stomach and continued to tell the little girl about his adventures.

Mike and Frank returned with the supplies.

Most of the supplies were medicines.

They bought a bike for Joshua so he could get home faster.

The younger doctor was putting the last piece onto the bike and Joshua looked around.

The younger doctor saw Joshua looking around.

He said, "Joshua what are you looking for?"

Joshua said, "I don't see her bike."

Betsy was standing on the porch watching them.

The younger doctor said, "Joshua who?"

Joshua said, "Her."

The younger doctor did not know how to answer Joshua.

Betsy walked off the porch into the yard.

Betsy said, "Joshua she is sleeping and has to get better before we get her a bike."

Joshua looked at the younger doctor and said, "You didn't know to say that?"

The younger doctor was on his knees holding the bike he said, "Boy come and get this bike and go home."

Joshua rolled his eyes at his beloved aunt Betsy and got on the bike and pedal down the road towards home wobbling all the way.

The younger doctor and Betsy were standing in the road watching him.

The younger said, "I wont have a child calling me stupid."

Betsy looked at the younger doctor and said, "Easy boy."

He looked at Betsy.

Betsy said, "The person I don't like is showing. That arrogant, belittling person."

The younger doctor was watching Joshua and he turned and looked down the other side of the road.

They went into the house an hour later.

They walked in the house and Natalie looked at them.

She said to Betsy and said, "Did Joshua get his bike?"

Betsy looked and said, "Yes he rode it home."

Betsy and Natalie grinned.

The younger doctor walked in and wanted to know what was funny, because he heard their conversation and did not see what was funny.

He brought the little girl wheelchair in the living area.

Betsy stared at the wheelchair.

The younger doctor bought the little girl many nightgowns and slippers.

They needed additional sheets because the cold weather will hinder them from washing often.

He got him a medical bag.

He ordered much cough medicine and shots.

The younger doctor ordered many surgical instruments.

He gave a bottle of cough syrup to give to Thomas.

He told them to tell Tomas only one teaspoon twice per day.

The younger doctor thought this small group of people is keeping me busy.

The younger doctor checked his medical bag and he checked his surgical instruments.

Natale and Betsy looked at him and quietly turned around.

He counted the washcloths and towels.

He went to the black pot and started a fire. He washed all the washcloths and towels and hung them on the clothes lines. He washed all the sheets the next day.

He cleaned out the bath shed and disinfected all the water basins.

Betsy thought he's clean.

Betsy was not well and would not eat.

Emma and Bill brought fried chicken and greens.

Betsy would not eat.

Emma said, "You're not eating? You love my chicken."

The younger doctor sat on the floor. He watched Betsy.

Emma looked at all the sheets and washcloths.

She said you'll should be ready for the bad weather.

Bill looked at Betsy and said will come back tomorrow and bring dinner and pick up these dishes.

Natalie licked her plate and handed her plate backwards over her shoulder.

Bill and Emma took the plate.

The younger doctor looked at Natalie and nearly lost his appetite.

He wanted Emma's blueberry pie.

After Bill and Emma left and Natalie went to the bath shed to change clothes the younger doctor looked at Betsy and knew he better word it right he said, "Betsy are you sick?"

Betsy was sipping he same cup of tea all day.

Betsy said, "I'm fine."

She turned and looked at him.

He looked at her, not understanding what her look meant.

Betsy said, "We only talk happy things around my baby."

The younger doctor said to himself, "If it's not that boy, it's her."

The younger doctor stood up and stepped behind Betsy's chair and walked onto the front porch.

The slim rowdy woman had a flannel nightgown, she bought in the big city.

She was pleased with the dresses Mike and Frank bought for Cate, Shelia and Glenda.

They were so thrilled and happy.

Natalie stepped into the cute house and put her clothes in the chair and stepped back outside with a pillow and quilt.

The younger doctor watched her.

He said, "Look it is cold out here. Why can't you sleep inside?"

Natalie snuggled in her quilt and said, "Worry about yourself. You got a tent over there."

He was still thinking about Betsy.

He was thinking about all the sick people concentrated in one group. He knew this is what he wanted to do. He wanted to heal people.

He sat on the step.

The younger doctor thought about each person in the new settlement.

He thought about how much money the attendant spent on them and he still doesn't know why.

He looked back at the sleeping Natalie.

He went into the house and checked the windows and made sure everything was out the way and in its' place.

He kissed Betsy on the cheek and said,"Good night."

Betsy was still sipping on that cup of tea.

He looked at Betsy walked out the house and went to his tent.

He dressed for bed.

He put wood on the fire and lit his oil lamp so he could read a medical journal.

He fell asleep.

And woke only when Betsy called him.

He was very dazed from sleep, he stuck his head out of the tent door.

He crawled out of his tent and sat on the ground.

Betsy said, "Wes come here. What is that noise?"

Wes begin to bawl to Betsy. He stood up and was about to step on the porch when they both looked and it was Natalie.

Wes stood there because he never heard a person snore like that.

He looked around and saw a shovel.

Betsy looked at him and ran out the door.

She caught his arm and they toggled over the shovel until Betsy over powered him and took the shovel from him.

Betsy said, "Go to bed."

He pointed to his tent and said, "Bed."

That's when Natalie woke and thought they were talking about sex.

She turned her head

Wes was very angry. Not only was he awoken out of his sleep because of her snoring now she thinks he was talking about sex.

Natalie was asleep.

Then Wes looked at Betsy as thought to say, "That's not a bad idea."

Betsy read his mind and closed the door.

He walked off the porch and glared at a sleeping Natalie.

Wes went to sleep until early morning.

Wes had completed all his morning chores, so when Dr.Obersteen knocked on the door he was able to talk with him.

The next day, the younger doctor washed and shaved.

He got his medical bag and said he was going to visit Cate.

He told Betsy he did not like the way Cate looked.

Betsy looked at Wes and said, "You actually notice that?"

Natalie turned around to see if the younger doctor was going to talk to Betsy about her being pregnant.

He younger doctor did not say anything to Betsy.

He held her by the waist and kissed her.

He left and walked to Cate's homesite.

She was a little over a mile from the cute house.

He thought about Betsy carrying his baby and said, "It better not be that Harold's."

Wes thought, "I can't put this on anyone but me. The bible say if you can't contain then marry, I have violated the bible and was happy. I have to ask God for forgiveness. I do not want my baby to born through my sin."

He stopped in the road and said, "That woman know John examined Betsy yesterday. Will she tell Betsy before I do."

Wes arrived at Cate's homesite and called for her.

Cate came out of her tent and greeted Wes.

Cate looked at Wes's medical bag and said, "You look like a doctor."

She just washed her body and brushed her teeth.

Wes said, "Cate I am here as a doctor, this is not a social visit. When did you have last contact."

Cate said, "With Steve, two months ago."

Wes opened his bag and got the penicillin and put it in a needle.

Harold saw Wes and the needle.

Harold passed out in the middle of the road.

Cate looked at him and said, "Suppose I refused."

Wes said, "I'll put you out this new settlement. Let's step into your tent."

Wes picked up his bag with one hand and had the needle in the other.

Wes looked at Cate's tent, then at her.

Cate said, "I'm afraid of needles."

Wes was very stern and said, "Turn around."

Before Cate could say anything she felt the tremendous pain and fire enter into her body.

She cried out in pain.

The younger doctor, "Any longer this could have been disastrous."

Cate was crying from pain and from fear.



Wes gave her a bottle of aspirins to take for the pain.

He walked out of her homesite and went to see Glenda.

He did not see Harold laid out in the road.

Wes called for Frank and Glenda they came out of the tent.

They invited him in to their homesite.

Wes said, "Why does your stuff look old? All of this stuff is brand new."

Frank and Glenda did not say anything.

Frank said, "Why are you here?"

He said, "To give Glenda the last batch of the herbs the attendant left for her."

He said to Glenda, "He said this should heal you."

Wes opened his medical bag and pulled out a large bottle of water and leaves.

He handed the large bottle to Glenda and said, "His instruction is for you to drink a cup once per day."

Glenda reached for the large bottle.

Wes said, "He did not show me what he made. So be careful not to spill it."

He said, "Glenda do you feel better? Do you have improvement?"

Glenda said, "I actually feel better. What ever it was in me, I have coughed it up."

Wes looked at Frank who was angry and said, "What are you planning to do once spring comes?"

Frank laughed scoldingly at Wes and then at Glenda.

Glenda looked at Wes.

Frank said, "What do you mean. I am going to live here."

Wes was not phased by Frank's nasty disposition.

He said, "You know the attendant only provided supplies to get you through this bad winter. He used the money from his house to buy all of this. If he comes back, he will not come back giving handouts. So you need to think about a legal job you can do to make money so you can buy lumber and nails to build you a house and buy food and clothes."

Frank rolled his eyes at Wes.

Wes stood up and said, "Have a good day."

Harold passed by them as he wobbled home.

Wes looked at Harold and said "I would not dare tell Betsy that Harold maybe her baby's father.

I enjoyed myself for the past two months and need to own up to this. Betsy is going to be confused and maybe bitter, especially when she was told she was barren. I didn't think about that. Betsy might not want this baby. Oh damn."

Wes said, "Harold are you ok?"

Harold waved yes and kept on wobbling.

Frank and Glenda were standing near their tent watching Wes and then Harold.

Glenda was holding her special bottle.

She smiled and held her head up for Frank to kiss her.

He looked at her and walked back into their tent was playing cards. The money Wes paid them to go into town Frank used his to buy several decks of playing cards, honey for Glenda and whiskey.

Glenda walked into their tent holding her bottle of herbs tapping nervously on it. She eased on the mattress while Frank was playing cards.

She said, "Well?"

Frank looked at Glenda and said, "Don't bother me Glenda."

Glenda said, "Frank he's right."

Frank grabbed Glenda's bottle and threw it very hard against the tent wall.

Glenda rushed out and ran to Cate.

She just ran into Cate's tent.

Glenda stopped and was about to back up thinking a man was in there, because Cate was bent over trying to fan her rear. Cate was blowing her breathe because she was trying to blew cold air on her bottom.

Glenda was confused and stood there.

Cate told Glenda, Wes came and gave her a shot of penicillin in a large needle.

Cate began to cry all over and said, "Oh, Glenda it hurts. Glenda it hurt! Hurt! Hurt! Hurt!"

Glenda said, "What's that bottle in your hand."

Cate was crying and so hysterical that she forgot about the aspirins in her hand.

She opened the bottle and Glenda was looking around for water and Cate poured half the bottle in her hand and swallowed.

Glenda started screaming.

Cate ran and fell on her bed and rolled over on her stomach.

Glenda ran to the road and saw Wes sitting and talking to Mattie.

Glenda yelled but she didn't want to hear her.

Glenda looked towards her homesite.

Wes jumped up and Mattie looked around at Glenda.

Glenda said, "Cate swallowed most of the pills in the bottle."

Glenda was nervous and twisting her hands to show how Cate opened the bottle.

Wes said, "She swallowed the aspirins?"

Glenda said, "Yes."

Wes said, "She will be ok. Just take the aspirin away from her for safe keeping.

Glenda said, "That's it. Are you sure?"

Wes said, "I have to put a tube down her throat into her stomach and pump the pills out."

Glenda became weak.

Wes said, "Glenda did you drink your herbs?"

Glenda said, "Frank threw the bottle and broke it."

She demonstrated how Frank broke the bottle.

Mattie frown.

Wes stood in disbelief.

Glenda waved her hand, "I knew he was going to do it so I switched bottles.

Wes said, "Stay with Cate tonight and give her plenty of water to drink. Make sure you get her up and walk throughout the night."

Wes reached into his pocket and pulled out a whistle and handed it to Glenda.

Glenda stood and flipped and twisted the whistle.

Wes looked at Glenda.

Mattie looked at Glenda.

Glenda said, "This does not look like a pump.

Wes said, "Glenda, it is a whistle for you to blow it so I can hear it to know someone needs medical care."

Mattie was shaking her head when Wes was talking.

Glenda was staring at Wes, then she said, "Oh I got it."

She left and went back to Cate.

Cate was sleep and she slept all night.

Glenda sleep against one of the walls of the tent and she was comfortable because the bed coverings kept her warm.

Wes watched Glenda go to Cate's homesite.

He turned back to Mattie and sat.

He asked her where was Emma, Bill and Joshua.

He saw Joshua's bike by Betsy's tent.

Mattie said, "They went to check on Thomas."

Wes said, "They to be here. Mattie' I want you to go back with Dr.Obersteen and have some test ran."

Mattie began to shake her head for no.

Wes said, "I know about Joshua."

Mattie said, "How?"

Wes said, "Betsy."

Mattie said, "You're saying Betsy like I'm suppose to be scared of her. I use to whip her butt all the time. You're the only one scared of her."

Wes said, "Mattie please!."

Mattie looked at Wes.

He said, "This is so serious."

Mattie said, "I know. I just got my son back. I can't die."

Mattie leaned over in her chair and cried.

Emma, Bill and Joshua saw Mattie crying. Joshua ran to his mother and hugged her.

Wes stood and Bill and Emma walked to him.

Wes said, "Mattie must have some test ran. I want her to go back with Dr. Obersteen. He is an excellent doctor and will know what type of test t run and what to look for."

Bill pointed back over his shoulders and said, "You are talking about the drunk that's laid out in his yard by his tent?"

Wes slightly peeped around Bill's shoulder.

Wes said, "He is one of the best doctor's in this state. He is absolutely dedicated to his patients."

Bill was pointing backwards.

Wes said, "He's trying to get over someone."

Emma said, "In a bottle."

She waked to Mattie and sat n the edge of the chair.

Emma said, "Mattie, do you want to go?"

Mattie looked at Joshua and shook her head for yes.

Emma said, "I will go with you and be with you every minute."

Mattie and Joshua cried.

Emma hugged Mattie and Joshua.

Wes said, "Mattie, I will have Dr. Obersteen examine you."

Bill said, "When he's sober."

Wes looked at Bill and said, "He's on vacation. "

Bill said, "You're a doctor everyday."

Wes said, "You left Dr. Obersteen on the ground?"

Bill said, "Yeah."

Wes looked at Bill.

Emma said, "Me and Shelia was able to pull him back into his tent and put him on his bed."

Wes said "Bed?"

Bill standing with his arms across his chest said, "Yeah a bed."

Wes said, "You're angry because the man has a bed?"

Emma said, "A dresser."

Wes said, "Bill I expected so mush more from a brother in law."

Joshua looked at Mattie.

He stood up and looked at Wes.

No one else heard Wes.

Joshua was tapping on Emma's shoulder.

She was annoyed and said,"What Josh?"

Mattie looked at Joshua.

Joshua he said, "Brother-in-la."

Wes said, "That's right Josh."

Joshua said, "Joshua."

Wes looked at Joshua.

Emma and Bill said, "What?"

Wes said, "I haven't ask Betsy yet, Joshua. I wanted the ring. I telegraphed my father to bring my mother's ring. I want Betsy to have it. I told him to come in the spring. But I want to marry soon. I may need to go into the big city and marry Betsy there. I will take you Mattie with me and have Dr. Obersteen to write the order for the tests and stay in the city until he gets back."

Mattie was very happy.

Wes picked up his bag and he touched Mattie's shoulder.

He looked at the disturbed Joshua and said, "Good evening."

Bill said, "We know why you want to rush and get married. You want a warm body for this bad winter."

Wes held his breathe because he thought he was going to say they knew Betsy was pregnant.

Wes handed Bill a whistle out of his pocket.

Bill looked at the whistle.

Wes said, "It is a relay whistle for a medical emergency. If you hear a whistle blowing then you blew your whistle because you are closest to me. Glenda has the other on."

Emma said, "What the others?"

Wes, "Obersteen brought these as a gift to hep out with communications. When I go into the city I will buy at least three more."

He looked at Bill and walked the mile back to Betsy.

Joshua walked and peeped down the road to make sure Wes was out of earshot.

He walked back to Emma and Mattie ad said, "Family vote. I vote against Wes marrying our Betsy. Mom one and Mom two, I got your votes. Dad I have counted your vote. You go and stop it."

Bill walked over to the houseware's tent and got the bowls and spoons for the family stew meal.

He thought and ran to the pathway and still saw Wes. He blew his whistle.

Wes ran back and was out of breath.

Wes ran to Mattie and said, "What's wrong?"

Mattie, Emma and Joshua pointed to Bill.

Bill was putting the lid on a small kettle of stew and handed the kettle and bowls and spoons to Wes.

Bill said, "Stew."

Wes took the whistle from Bill's hand and handed it to Mattie.

He then took the kettle of stew and walked out of their yard.

Wes could see Betsy standing in the road way with a lit torch they kept by the steps.

Bill got his bowl of stew and was enjoying it.

He looked up with his mouth wide open to put a big spoon of stew in his mouth.

Bill said, "I wasn't going to walk down there tonight."

Joshua got his bowl of stew and handed Mattie and Emma their bowls.

Emma said, "He has a lot on his mind."

Bill said, "I got a lot on my mind. The same that he has on his."

Mattie said, "What are we going to get her, them for a wedding gift?"

Emma and Bill said, "Picture frame."

Joshua said, "What I just did don't count?"

Mattie said, "Let's all go into the big city and let them get married there. Because there is not a preacher no where here."

Emma said, "Or they can marry in our old church," looking at Bill.

Mattie said, "I don't ever want to go back there."

Bill looked at Mattie.

Bill said, "That means I have to bust my butt this week to make enough money to buy the picture fram and our new outfits and hotel accommodations."

Emma jumped up and yelled, "That's it!"

Joshua cut his eyes at Emma like she lost her mind.

He tried to eat his stew like he was invisible.

Emma said, "I've been trying to see how we can start anew."

Everyone looking at Emma.

Joshua quietly calling his dad, "Dad."

Bill looked at Joshua and said, "Shush."

Emma looked at Bill and Joshua.

Bill and Joshua were trying to keep their heads straight.

Emma said, "Accommodations. A hotel."

Bill thought.

Mattie thought.

Joshua said, "How are we going to stop this wedding?"

Bill looked at Mattie.

Mattie said, "It might just work."

They begin to talk about business and what they need to pack and they all had to ride in the wagon.

Mattie said, "We need a budget for the wedding.

Mattie said, "Bill you have to earn the money. I don't know what all these test are going to cost."

Matie looked away and hit her thigh out of frustration.