Eleanor and Brenda walked through the house and made sure everything was ready.

They walked in the kitchen and saw the food for Shirley’s tea.

Brenda wanted to select the tea set to use.

She told William which set to used.

Shirley surprised and was up early getting dressed.

Lorraine walked with her into the kitchen.

Shirley almost looked normal.

Shirley and Brenda saw the servants looking and they turned around and saw Shirley.

She grinned at them.

Shirley walked and looked at the food and asked, “Who made this?”

Peter said, “I did.”

Shirley said, “Can you add some cucumbers to this plate and a few sprigs of parsley to the sandwich plate?”

Peter looked at Brenda because that’s what he had placed on the plates.

Shirley looked at the tea set and said, “Grandma can I use momma’s grandma’s tea set. I have always dreamed of using it?”

Eleanor loved that tea set.

She told Brenda to use that set, but Brenda wanted Shirley to use her first tea set.

Shirley walked and hugged Brenda.

They heard someone knocking on the front door.

William said, “Damn. Now she can walk. She’ll be walking all through this house.”

William turned and walked out the kitchen through the billiards room up the hall to the front door.

Shirley said, “I want to greet my guests.”

Peter ran and grabbed Shirley and ran through the back to the parlor.

He put her down.

Lorraine and Eleanor straighten up her clothes.

Eleanor said, “You look very nice Shirley.”

Shirley giggled.

Lorraine went into the billiards room.

Eleanor looked at Shirley.

Shirley looked at Eleanor.

They saw Brenda walking out the formal dining room.

Brenda peeped out the window and saw Lance and Hilary.

She nodded at William.

William opened the front door.

Lance and Hilary stepped inside and saw Brenda who walked around the door and they hugged and greeted each other the three teenage girls stood and saw Shirley and Eleanor and were giggling and was about to run to Shirley.

Hilary said, “Speak to Mrs. Stith.”

The girls said, “Hello.”

They ran to Shirley.

Patrick knew it was a big thing for Shirley and he left early that morning and went into town and had just returned and washed his face and hands when he heard the knocking on the front door.

He walked down the hall in time to see the giggling teenage girls running down the hall.

He saw joy in Shirley’s face.

All of his life he wanted to see joy in Shirley’s face.

He saw it.

He stood back for a minute to take it in and get his composure back.

Eleanor teared up.

She walked to her father.

The count was coming out of his room to go riding with the boys.

Eleanor was about to walk to the count.

Patrick took her hand and twirled her back into the hall.

The count laughed.

He walked to Patrick.

The count said, “Good afternoon Patrick.”

Patrick thought, “Good afternoon son,”

Patrick said, “Good afternoon count.”

Eleanor was looking at Patrick as there was another knock on the door.

William was in the family dining room waiting for the other buggies and riders to come.

William walked to the door and opened it.

It was Mary and her father, Craig and her grandmother Cynthia.

They walked in and greeted Brenda and Lance and Hilary.

Mary heard the giggling of the teenagers and stepped around her father and was looking down the hall in the direction of the giggling.

Her father looked down at her and said, “You may go.”

Eleanor waved to Mary.

Mary walked fast to the parlor.

When Mary walked in the parlor Shirley said, “I am glad to see you Mary. Thank you for coming.”

Eleanor froze for all of her life she wanted Shirley to grow and have friends and enjoy life.

William was still standing at the door.

Eleanor wondered why William was at the door.

Patrick and the count looked and began to walk up the hall to see who else was coming.

Peter brought the food and tea into the parlor.

Brenda was wondering why William was standing at the door.

She saw two men getting off horses.

She looked and said, “William open the door.”

William opened the door and Daniel and Josiah stepped in.

Lance and Hilary looked at the two men.

Brenda was trying to think.

She remembered Josiah.

Everyone was looking.

Daniel heard the girl’s giggling.

Patrick was confused.

Josiah and Daniel spoke to everyone.

Patrick said, “Are you invited to the tea party?”

Daniel laughed.

He tried to cut off his laugh.

Daniel had some flowers in his hand.

Eleanor looked at Josiah because Lorraine told her that he was dating Natalie.

Eleanor said to Lorraine, “I am glad, because a fight between she and Meredith over Hutch I could not take.”

Eleanor walked up and said, “Hello Josiah and ?”

He said, “Daniel, I am Timothy and Laura grandson by Joseph.”

Everyone said, “Oh.”

Natalie heard the males and walked from upstairs and stood and peeped at Josiah.

She had not seen him in nearly two weeks.

The count turned around to see who Josiah was looking at and he say Natalie. The one Earle could not stand.

The count turned around and grinned.

He shook the men hands.

Josiah wanted to walk to Natalie.

Eleanor looked at the flowers Daniel had and reached for them and Daniel pulled them back.

Eleanor started laughing.

Lance and Hilary did not laugh they wanted to know why men were at a tea party.

Josiah said, “Shirley sent us a message to drop by not to stay.”

Hilary said, “Daniel who are the flowers for?”

Daniel looked startled and then at Eleanor.

He said, “I would like to give these flowers to Ginger. May I?”

The count and Craig were talking.

Lance and Hilary did not know what to say.

Everyone looked at Lance and Hilary.

They knew of Timothy and Laura and they had good reputations throughout the town.

Hilary looked at Lance and he said, “She’ll be away from us soon.”

Lance said, “Give her the flowers and leave it is a girl tea party.”

Lance turned to Brenda and said, “That Miss Shirley got some nerves.”

Hilary hit Lance on the chest.

Brenda and Eleanor laughed.

Then Patrick.

Eleanor tipped and ran behind Josiah and Daniel.

Hilary said, “He is a good looking boy.”

Brenda and Cynthia giggled.

Lance said, “I don’t care if he was the king of England.”

Everyone stopped.

He looked at Joseph and said, “You are not kin?”

Joseph said, “Yes we are.”

Lance turned and whistled and looked at Brenda.

Brenda said, “Are you all leaving?”

They said, “We brought our girls.”

They heard the girls including Shirley hollered when Daniel walked in the room.

Hilary looked at Brenda and said, “That’s it.”

Brenda laughed.

Hilary said, “Whenever you hear a woman scream with that type of excitement.”

She elbowed Lance.

Lance said, “What you elbowed me about?”

Cynthia and Brenda laughed.

Eleanor was standing in the door.

Lance said, “Eleanor tell him…”

Hilary said, “Daniel.”

Lance looked at Hilary and said, “You for this?”

Daniel walked out with Ginger.

They stood a few minutes and talked.

Josiah slipped out the parlor and ran to the billiards room where Natalie was talking to Lorraine.

Josiah ran to Natalie and they embraced.

Natalie grabbed Josiah by the hands and looked up and down the hall and they ran to the room next to Eleanor’s new office.

Lance and Hilary saw Ginger standing and talking to Daniel in the hall.

Cynthia said, “I believe Laura said, he will be going off to college in the fall to be an engineer.”

Hilary said, “Ginger and Alice will be going away to school to become teachers.”

Lance thought and turned and said, “It’s only one school in the state that has engineering. That’s the school Ginger and Alice will be going to.”

Everybody turned and looked at Ginger.

Ginger looked at the adults watching them and said, “Daniel my grandparents are watching you better leave.”

Daniel looked up at the adults and looked in the parlor and said, “Josiah. I came with Josiah.”

Eleanor heard Daniel and looked at him and walked to the billiards room and Lorraine nodded her head down the hall.

Eleanor walked down the hall and knocked on the locked door.

Natalie unlocked the door.

Eleanor was angry and looked at her and Josiah.

Natalie walked to the kitchen.

Josiah was grinning at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “Your charm does not work on me Josiah.”

Josiah got in Eleanor’s face and said, “Why not Miss Eleanor.”

They were walking out the billiards room and Eleanor hit Josiah.

Josiah said, “That’s it. I heard you…”

The count and Craig had walked to go in the billiards room.

Lorraine was in the billiards room shooting pool.

They stopped and looked at Lorraine.

Josiah tried to look dignified.

Craig and Joseph went into the billiard room with Lorraine.

Lorraine did not stop playing pool.

They watched Lorraine and saw she really knew how to play pool.

Craig was a champion and refused to let anyone win.

Josiah walked to Daniel.

Daniel told Ginger bye and Josiah and Eleanor walked to the front door.

Daniel had walked out the front door Josiah coughed.

Daniel leaned backwards and said, “Good day.”

Patrick looked at Daniel.

Josiah said, Good day.”

Eleanor hit Josiah.

Josiah said, “Ouch.”

Brenda said, “Eleanor.”

Eleanor looked out the window and said, “He’s alright.”

Patrick stared at her.

Cynthia said, “Where did Craig go?”

Ginger walked to the front door and was watching Daniel ride away.

Cynthia looked at Brenda.

Ginger watched Daniel and turned and ran down the hall to the parlor and all the girls screamed.

Cynthia said, “Is that Mary my twelve year old?”

Patrick could not take any more screaming.

He turned and walked down the hall and went to the liquor table.

Cynthia was right behind Patrick.

Patrick looked at Cynthia.

Cynthia said, “Rum please.”

Patrick did not see any rum.

He looked at Brenda.

Brenda and Lance and Hilary walked down to them.

Eleanor closed the parlor door.

Patrick said, “Brenda we don’t have rum?”

Brenda looked in the guest’s room and did not see any.

She waked to the hall.

William was leaning back on his stool and saw Brenda walking to the kitchen.

He said, “Damn.”

Everyone looked at him and pretended to be busy.

William tried to cut Brenda off in the hall.

She kept walking to the kitchen.

Thomas eased his book down and put it in his hiding place under the counter.

Brenda said, “Thomas who is cooking dinner?”

Thomas said, “I am.”

Brenda said, “I don’t smell anything what is it.”

William snickered at arrogant Thomas.

Thomas rolled his eyes at William.

Thomas said, “I am frying pork chops, steamed cabbage, yellow squash…”

He pointed and said, “Cinnamon apples, beets and cornbread.”

Brenda said, “Fine. Leave off the beets. I know they are Eleanor’s favorite, but I am the lady of the house.”

Thomas smiled and said, “Yes ma am.”

William was standing behind Brenda smirking because Thomas was trying to kiss up behind Eleanor to become the top cook.

Brenda was letting Thomas know she knew what he was kissing up to Eleanor who was not the lady of the house.

Peter was in the formal dining room and brought back the extra’s from the tea party.

Brenda walked over and saw the extras and said, “Peter can you add some more to that and bring it to the sitting room for our visitors if they want something to eat?”

Peter looked at the sandwiches and vegetables and said, “Yes ma am.”

William was smirking behind Brenda’s back.

Brenda heard William but acted like she did not.

She said, “William there is no rum.”

William stopped and stood still.

He thought and he walked into the sitting room.

Lorraine and Craig and Cynthia and Hilary were playing pool.

Patrick and Lance were waiting for the rum.

Lance said, “The other is too heavy for this time of day.”

Brenda walked and looked at her friends playing pool.

Meredith and Eleanor were watching from the door.

She said, “You know who we all had to jump on if she was here.”

Hilary was sharpening up her cue and blew the dust.

Craig and the count looked at this delicate and gentlewoman and could not believe her actions.

Hilary bent over the pool table and to shoot.

Hilary shot and said, “Genevia.”

Meredith turned and walked away.

Cynthia saw Meredith and said, “She and Gen don’t get along.”

Brenda peeped and said, “Over a man?”

Hilary looked and said, “Gen is married.”

Brenda peeped at Patrick and said, “You need to see the man.”

Cynthia leaned over the table and shoot.

She said, “The man worth fighting for is a doctor.”

Brenda said, “He is.”

Cynthia said, “Where he at?”

Eleanor started laughing.

Craig said, “Mother! What has gotten into you?”

Cynthia said, “Not rum.”

Patrick looked at Lance.

They looked at their small shot glasses of gin.

William went into Brenda’s office and got the supply list and walked to Brenda in the billiard room and said, “Ma am there is no rum on the list.”

Brenda was thinking before William walked in.

She told William to order a case because of the mayor’s ball.

William went into Patrick’s office and sent a telegram for a case of rum.

William was sitting in Patrick’s chair and staring at the wall when Patrick walked in.

William did not see Patrick walk in.

Patrick did not say anything but picked up his messages from that morning and walk out.

He looked back at William and William was still staring off in space.

Patrick walked to Brenda and said, “Do we get on the servants so badly Brenda?”

Brenda looked at Patrick and said, “Why?”

Patrick said, “William is in my office sitting in my chair at the telegram machine staring at the wall.”

Brenda said, “He did not see you?”

Patrick held up his messages.

He said, “No.”

Brenda started mumbling and said, “Whether we get on their nerves. They are around here stealing my stuff like I am stupid.”

Cynthia and Hilary were laughing.

Brenda said, “Before Eleanor and the children came back, the servants had drank nearly all the liquor and had the nerves to put water in the bottles.”

Brenda said, “I could not get a buzz.”

Hilary hit the floor laughing.

Brenda said, “Patrick and I were getting on each other nerves so bad. We were sleeping on each end of the house. We had this pool table moved to the storage area, because we had become obsessed with playing pool. We would be fighting and throwing stuff and the servants were running ducking.”

Patrick said, “That’s why they were drinking.”

Eleanor was in shock with her mouth opened.

Brenda said, “Look at Eleanor like she has not done this.”

Lance said, “Every married couple goes through rough times.”

Cynthia shoot a backwards shot.

Craig was so embarrassed he had his hand covering his face.

He put down his pool stick and said, “Come on mother we will come back and pick up Alice.”

Cynthia looked at him and said “You mad that I am better than you. Go and stand over there boy and watch this.”

Cynthia put her scarf over her eyes and shot blind folded.

The count was quiet and watching everyone.

When Cynthia shot blind folded the count dropped his mouth opened.

Eleanor walked through the room and went to her office.

Peter was stunned and put the tray of sandwiches in the sitting room.

She went into the storage and selected the long table and two shorter tables and some bookcases, lamps, rugs and pictures and vases to put in the office and on that side of the hall.

 Shirley tea party was over.

Eleanor walked from the storage area to the parlor.

They walked the girls and their families to the door.

Shirley greeted the girls and they left with their families.

Thomas and Michael played with Caleb and Stewart all day.

They came to the house to get lunch and ate and ran back to the barn and played.

Patrick saw them when he was coming back from town.

He thought, “I have to talk to Tom.”

Percy and Bruce were out riding their horses with Gary and Earle.

Shirley laughed at her friends.

Eleanor was pressing Shirley’s hair down.

Brenda said, “Miss Shirley did you invite Daniel so he could see Ginger?”

Patrick looked at Shirley.

Shirley said, “Yes.”

Brenda said, “You have to be subtle.”

Patrick and walked away.

Shirley said, “Grandpa wait.”

Patrick stopped at the liquor table and got another shot.

When Shirley reached him he walked her upstairs.

Lorraine was waiting and said, “Hutch is on his way.”

Shirley begin to scream.

Eleanor and Brenda and the count looked up the stairs.

Patrick said, “Shirley stop it. If those doctors were not working on you would still be balled up and not having friends. Now I mean stop it.”

Shirley primped her mouth and looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “Lorraine aske Hutch if he feels like adjusting my back and hips before he leaves?”

Meredith said, “You know Mr. Stith, Hutch is a surgeon.”

Patrick said, “Huh and walked down the stairs.”

Brenda, Eleanor and the count saw Hutch walking upstairs.

Brenda said, “That’s why Shirley screamed.”

Eleanor stood silent.

Patrick tried to drink his whiskey and realized he had drank it.

He looked at Eleanor and said, “I told Lorraine to tell Hutch to adjust my back and hips that other one looked at shook her head.”

Brenda said, “Miss Prissy.”

Patrick said, “You know what she said, “Hutch is a surgeon.”

Brenda said, “She is so prissy. She will croak if that man does not marry her. Hilary and Cynthia just missed him.”

Patrick said, “I think Gen could have beat Miss Prissy.”

Brenda said, “It would have been a good long fight because neither would have given up a doctor.”

The count looked at them.

Then they herd Shirley screaming.

They saw Nadine and Alice and Monica running through the house to the kitchen.

Brenda and Patrick looked at Eleanor.

Michael ran upstairs into Shirley’s room.

The count said, “Why is it that Michael run to Shirley when everyone else run from her?”

They looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor walked down the hall and called Alice and Monica to help her.

Eleanor said, “Nadine get four to six of the field hands or any of the male workers to help bring the furniture to this room.”

Nadine turned and walked to the kitchen and told William.

Dan heard them.

Peter heard Nadine.

Gary was coming in from riding with the boys.

Earle was standing at the back of the house to sneak to Margaret.

William said, “I am not going out to find anybody.”

He saw Tom walking from the house towards the barn.

 He jumped and ran outside and called Tom.

Tom turned and walked back to William.

William said, “You want to earn five dollars moving some furniture?”

Tom thought, “I need money until the spring.”

Tom walked in the house, Gary stood, Dan and Peter walked to the hall.

William said, “You three are going to move the furniture.”

They heard Shirley screaming.

They walked to the storage area.

Eleanor was picking out the furniture to be moved.

Gary, Dan, Peter and Tom moved all the furniture.

William paid them the five dollars each out of petty cash.

Eleanor, Alice and Monica decorated the hall with pictures and rugs and vases.

Eleanor wanted curtains up.

Alice walked into the storage area and found several pairs of curtains.

They heard Percy, Bruce and Thomas ran into the house.

Eleanor smiled because she could them well and they did not know it.

Tom looked in the kitchen.

Peter said, “Stewart and Caleb have their dinner plates. Just make sure you clean up after them and bring the dishes back. Brenda raise hell over her dishes.”

Everybody looked at Peter.

Peter said, “She is getting ready to do a household inventory. I am quite sure she will be firing some people after the inventory or while she is doing it.”

Thomas looked at Peter.

Hutch went downstairs to look for Patrick.

Patrick and Brenda were seated in the sitting room.

Patrick saw Hutch and said, “Doc I am in here.

Hutch turned and walked back to Patrick and begin to adjust his bones.

Brenda sat in stillness.

Patrick said, “Hutch if you feel like it can you adjust Mrs. Stith.”

Brenda heard Patrick but could not move fast enough.

Hutch said, “Mrs. Stith I am a little tired. Shirley wore me out. I believe she needs a different type of therapy now I cannot provide for her. Please I can help you.”

Patrick stood and was twisting himself and said, “Brenda I feel good. Please try this.”

Brenda looked at Patrick and went and laid on the sofa.

Brenda was worst than Shirley screaming.

Eleanor knew Shirley’s voice but thought, “Who could that be?”

The boys ran downstairs and followed Brenda’s screams.

They stood outside the door and looked.

Eleanor ran through the house and saw her sons and stood and saw Hutch adjusting her mother.

Michael came out of Shirley’s room.

He saw everybody standing at the sitting room.

The count was in the library.

He heard the screams and wondered, “Is that Eleanor?”

He stood and walked out the library and saw Eleanor standing in the hall along with the boys and Michael running down the stairs.

The count walked to Eleanor and held her by her waist and kissed her on the temple.

Hutch held his hand out to help Brenda sit up.

Lorraine and Meredith had placed Shirley in bed.

They cleaned her room.

Lorraine hung Shirley’s clothes and cleaned her shoes.

Meredith ran to the kitchen and made plates for she and Hutch.

Lorraine had eaten at lunch time.

Thomas said, “Meredith, Peter said Mrs. Stith will be doing inventory of her dishes soon and will be firing people.”

Meredith looked at Thomas.

Hutch and Patrick were walking down the back hall and Patrick said, “I am going to send Dr. Woodson a telegram that you think Shirley therapy should be different. What kind?”

Hutch stopped so no one else could hear him.

Patrick liked Hutch’s discretion.

Hutch said “I believe Shirley’s insides need to be straighten out. Dr. Ralph I believe is the one who does that. Her intestines are in knots. The doctors have done a great job with her. I believe she can get just about healed. She will never be one hundred percent but I believe Shirley can at least have a sixty percent chance. She is walking better and not tired because of blood circulation. Her vision is off.”

Patrick said, “Yeah I saw that last.”

Hutch said, “What happened?”

Patrick said, “She got a telegram and could not read it.”

Hutch walked into the kitchen.

He spoke and everyone spoke to him.

Lorraine was running down the backstairs.

She caught up with Hutch and Meredith in the kitchen.

Thomas said, “Lorraine Peter said Mrs. Stith is going to do an inventory of her dishes and will be firing people.”

Lorraine thought, “Not before I go to Europe.”

She walked out the house and got in the carriage with Meredith and Hutch.

Patrick was about to go and send a telegram to Dr. Woodson about what Hutch said.

He saw everyone standing watching Brenda.

He stopped.

Eleanor was upstairs checking on a sleeping Shirley.

She was coming back downstairs.

Michael sat next to Brenda.

He looked at her and said, “Grandma do you feel pain or not sure?”

Percy said, “Not sure?”

Percy said, “I know pain from a boot.”

Bruce said, “Me too.”

They did not know Patrick was behind them.

Eleanor looked at her good looking tall and strong daddy. Who saw a free colored woman on a train and the second time on the streets of the town and would not let her go.

Eleanor loved her father even more.

The count said, “Michael when everyone is running from Shirley’s pain, why do you run to her?’

Michael said, “I use to run until Dr. Ralph explained to me what pain indicates to them. They know from the patients’ pain whether is damage or inflammation or infections and the degree they have to work on the area. So I would go in with the doctors while they were giving Shirley her therapy. I learned when she was faking to stop the therapy.”

Patrick said, “What did the doctors do?”

Percy and Bruce turned and stared at Patrick.

Michael said, “They kept giving her therapy.”

Patrick said, “Huh. The doctors were not fooled. I know they can’t travel to Europe to be with her.”

Patrick looked at Percy and Bruce and said, “I heard you two.”

The count grinned.

Patrick turned and walked to his office and sent Dr. Woodson a telegram that Hutch that Shirley needs her intestines worked on.

Brenda begin to move.

She tried to stand and Michael helped her.

Brenda felt her back and cried.

Percy said, “She is crying. She is pain.”

Michael said, “No she’s not Percy.”

Bruce said, “What is wrong with her?”

Patrick was standing in the door watching Brenda.

Brenda had her hand on her middle back and said, “For nearly thirty five years I had this knot there and now the knot is gone.”

Percy said, “It wasn’t from a boot I know grandma?”

Eleanor could not believe Percy.

Percy turned to look at Eleanor and he saw Patrick and jumped.

Bruce did not turn to look.

He stared at Brenda.

Brenda was sniffing and said, “I was conducting a group of slaves to the river. The grown ups had made it to the river and several of the children were falling back. I could not leave the children to be killed by the slave owners. I knew they were not a better shot than me. I had sneaked in the house and took their gun powder and replaced it with dirt. That bought us some time. They were three boys around, five, seven and eight. I saw the horses coming and I knew they would kill the boys and I pushed them out of the way of the horses and begin to pretend I was leading them from the boys. They turned and rode to the side, but the boys were running in front of me. Some of the slaves ran back and grabbed the boys and ran back to the river where we had those waiting with guns to shoot and kill the slave owners. The slave owners saw they were tricked and they tried to sped and catch me. They tried to shoot me but they had no bullets. The main slave owner took his gun and threw it with all of his force as he rode hard behind. It knocked me to the ground. The slaves who had the gun fired upon the slave owners and forced them back while I tried to crawl to the slaves, because I was the only one who knew where to take them.”

Bruce said, “Grandma how come you did not tell them where to go?”

Thomas said, “Because they would have told the slave owners and they would have stopped them. Right grandma?”

Brenda said, “You are right my babies. We did not trust anyone. I crawled to the slaves at the river. They pulled me into the river and I told them to put the children in front and we waded through the water until we got to your grandpa trains.”

Percy, Bruce, Thomas, Michael, Eleanor and the count turned and looked at Patrick.

Brenda said, “I got them on the train and we made it north. For years this has been my badge of pain I wore proudly for what I believe in. I believe GOD is saying that’s enough I see you. The knot is gun.”

Patrick said, “Let’s go to dinner. Eleanor you have to meet with your lawyer tomorrow and buy that jewelry store.”

Eleanor walked over to Brenda and held her and kissed her on the cheek and said, “Momma I am so proud of you and daddy.”

Thomas said, “Me too. I will always give money to the ‘Freed men’ and help them. Momma can I come to see the lawyer tomorrow, because I want him to know I will not give anybody my money.”

Eleanor looked at the count.

The count kind of smile.

Eleanor said, “Thomas we leave early in the morning.”

Thomas said, “How early?”

Eleanor said, “eight thirty am.”

Thomas said, “I’ll wait until you get back.”

Thomas, Percy and Bruce walked to the family dining room.

Alice, Monica and Nadine brought their plates.

William set the bread down with butter.

Eleanor looked at the plates and said, “Nadine where is the beets?”

Nadine said, “I’ll ask Thomas.”

Brenda said, “Nadine you will not ask Thomas.”

Brenda was putting her napkin in her lap and looked at Eleanor and said, “Once a week Eleanor. I can’t stand those things and I don’t care about how good they are for the body.”

Patrick, Percy, Bruce, Thomas and Michael looked at their grandma.

Eleanor said, “The beets got on your nerve that badly?”

Brenda said, “Yes.”

Brenda looked over the table and said, “See how lovely the food look on theses plates Eleanor without that red bleeding into everything.”

Eleanor yelled, “Okay mother.”

Thomas said, “Don’t yell at grandma she is a hero. You only beat Bruce’s girlfriend once.”

Eleanor looked at Thomas.

The count had cut his pork chop and was about to put it in his mouth and he stopped and looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked around the table and shook her head.

Patrick said, Count Joseph, please say grace.”

The count looked at the boys and said, “LORD GOD Almighty…”

He paused for a few minutes.

Alice and Nadine looked at the count.

He said, “I truly thank YOU for allowing me to come into this family. I have seen immense pain and suffering. I have seen great joy and laughter. All that I have seen with these good people and their workers have made me glorify YOU each day. I ask that YOU allow us to live long lives to grow into JESUS and do YOUR will upon the earth. JESUS’ name amen.”

Michael said, “You did not bless the food.”

Alice looked and thought, “He did not.”

The count said, “I ask YOU LORD GOD Almighty to bless the food, the hands that picked it, killed it and prepared it and cooked it. In JESUS’ name amen.”

Percy and Bruce pushed their plates away.

Thomas said, “Momma can I have their pork chops?”

Eleanor said, “Only one Thomas.”

They finished dinner and went to the sitting room.

The boys went upstairs to bed.

The count and Eleanor sat in the parlor.

He went to the library.

Brenda and Patrick went to their suite.

Eleanor went to her office and transported a lot of paper that night.

She went up stairs and went to bed.