Eleanor had dressed and was downstairs looking at her father’s library.

She was pleased with the hundreds of books she and the boys selected and bought.

Their library looked like some of the grand libraries of Europe they visited.

She looked at all of the crates and boxes in the hallway.

Patrick and Brenda were leaving their suite for dinner.

Patrick saw the lights in the library.

Brenda was saying she and Eleanor made a good dent in the guests lists and the menus.

Patrick touched Brenda’s elbow.

She stopped talking and waited for him.

He walked down the hall to the library.

Patrick stopped in the doorway.

Eleanor was standing and reading a book.

She knew his walk.

She kept reading the book and said, “Hello daddy.”

Patrick looked at his baby girl and said, “I’ll sell you this house.”

Eleanor stopped reading and looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “We have to choke Brenda, but you have always loved this room. You would be in here for hours an the floor reading. Not those brothers of yours. Don’t say anything to Brenda a bout the house, this will take an act of GOD.”

Brenda said, “Patrick.”

Eleanor walked out the library, she kissed Patrick on the cheek.

She saw Brenda and walked towards her.

Patrick was proud of his library.

He looked in the library.

Brenda and Eleanor looked at him.

Brenda squeezed Eleanor’s waist and they snuggle.

Brenda said, “Your father loves all of those books you brought for the library. He laughed when he r realized the books were in order. Mr. Thomas yelled…”

Patrick turned from the library and heard Brenda and threw his hands up in the air and said, “No grandpa!! We already put the books in order. It took us weeks. Please put them up as we packed them.”

Eleanor and Brenda laughed.

Patrick shook his head and said, “He can rule, because he is calm.”

The three held onto each other waists and walked to the dining room.

Percy was running down the stairs.

The adults let him run into the family dining room.

They all sat and Bruce asked if he could say grace.

Patrick said, “Yes.”

Bruce said, “Let’s bow our heads. God bless this food and the hands that prepared it. Let Shirley and Michael enjoy this food this holiday with us. Amen”

Percy said, “In JESUS’ name.”

Bruce said, “In JESUS’ name. Amen.”

Percy was watching Eleanor.

Thomas was sitting and looking at Percy and Bruce.

Patrick and Brenda had their eyes cracked and watching everyone at the table.

Eleanor said nothing.

Bruce held his head up and watched Eleanor.

She knew her boys were up to something when Percy ran into the dining room.

Patrick whispered to Brenda and said, “Got to watch those two.”

Brenda said, “Yes.”

Thomas begin to speak in German to Percy and Bruce, he asked what that grace meant.

Patrick had a potato on his fork and turned his head and said, “I want to know also.”

Bruce and Percy were shocked.

Bruce did a double take at his grandfather,

Percy was shocked and stared at his grandfather.

Thomas looked at his grandfather and repeated his question to Percy and Bruce in French.

Eleanor held her head down and snickered.

Bruce did not say anything he sat and looked at his grandfather.

Percy could not eat he was shocked and lost his appetite.

Brenda spoke in French and said, “Percy you are not eating?”

Eleanor snickered and finally looked up.

Thomas had a sour look on his face and looked at a snickering Eleanor.

Patrick looked at Thomas and laughed.

Eleanor tried to talk but was tickled at her sons trying to be smart and speak in foreign languages that her parents knew.

Eleanor and Brenda both were giggling.

Eleanor said, “The salmon is quite good. Mother can we have this added to one of the menus or just have a seafood feast for a gathering.”

Brenda looked at a giggling Eleanor and said, “Oui.”

Patrick watched Thomas, expressionless face and laughed.

Bruce and Patrick were upset they could not eat.

Eleanor looked at their plates and said, “No food until breakfast.”

Thomas looked at Eleanor and looked at Bruce and Percy, he looked at his grandmother and grandfather and begin to eat the salmon.

Thomas ate a potato and said, “Grandfather I don’t remember you speaking German before we left for Europe. And grandmother I do not remember you speaking French before we left two years ago.”

Patrick and Brenda did not answer because Thomas did not ask them a question but stated his observation.

Percy still could not talk.

Bruce said, “Thomas you did not our grandparents a question but stated an observation.”

Thomas looked at Bruce and he looked at Brenda and Patrick and said, “When did you two learn and speak French and German and why you never spoke it around us?”

Thomas looked at Bruce and said, “Is that question good enough.”

Patrick said, “We always knew German and French and you all struggled with English.”

Patrick pointed his fork at the boys.

Brenda said, “You were struggling with English and we weren’t going to add to your struggle.”

Thomas turned and looked at a giggling Eleanor and said, “Momma do you speak any language?”

Eleanor said, “Oui.”

Percy and Bruce looked at Eleanor.

Thomas jumped and looked at Eleanor then Bruce and Percy.

Percy said, “Momma you heard all of our talk and knew what we were planning?”

Eleanor said, “Oui.”

Percy looked at Bruce and Bruce looked at Eleanor.

Percy started eating his salmon.

Bruce could not eat.

He was shocked they had been out skamped.

They ate dinner in silence.

William heard the conversation and was tickled.

Patrick could not eat.

Brenda nudged him.

Patrick said, “Percy, Bruce and Thomas, you have been away for over two years and your horses have been given away. Ask an adult before you go and get horses to ride.”

Eleanor tried to understand what her father was saying, because the boys could ride pretty well.

Brenda looked at Eleanor’s blank look.

They all went to the parlor and sat and talked until late.

Eleanor said, “Mother we have a lot to do before our guests arrived.”

Brenda said, “Guests?”

Brenda said, “Yes. He probably bring his staff.”

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “I can see his valet and his secretary maybe a cook.”

Thomas said, “The count cooks his own food.”

William was bringing Eleanor her sherry and thought, “Good.”

Brenda said, “Eleanor when your father told the boys to ask about getting horses why did you have that strange look on your face?”

Eleanor said, “I could not understand, father was saying the horses were his property and off limits. Whether he thought the horses were not tamed and dangerous or whether the boys were traineed enough to ride horses without supervision.”

Eleanor looked at her father.

Patrick looked at Eleanor.

Thomas said, “You did not put a question right Bruce?”

Bruce looked at Thomas.

Thomas said, “That was a question.”

Bruce did not say anything because he wanted to hear his grandfather answer.

Patrick said, “I don’t want them running around without supervision. I want you to know where they are and what they are supposed to be doing.”

Eleanor looked at Brenda and thought, “They are not in the south and they are not in danger of being lynch. Something has happened. Daddy is not funny about anything but his library.”

Eleanor said, “Percy, Bruce and Thomas when you want to go horseback riding let an adult know. And Thomas you know you like to wander, you better let someone know where you are.”

Percy said, “Why?”

Thomas slapped his forehead and shook his head.

Patrick laughed.

They all went to bed.

Patrick walked back to his library and sat for a few minutes.

Brenda turned and Patrick was not in the bed she looked at the bottom of the door and saw light she knew he was in the library.

Eleanor was restless she was thinking about all the things she had to do to get the house in shape for their holiday guests. She hoped the count did not bring but one servant.

She had to check on the servant’s quarters, then she thought about Steve, Belinda and Ellen would be leaving next week.

She thought that would open two bedrooms.