Eleanor met the lawyer and told him she received the letter from Bruce requesting a divorce.

The lawyer said, “Do you have the letter?”

Eleanor said, “Yes.”

The lawyer said, “May I see it please?”

He read the letter and said, “Direct to the point. Almost like a woman wrote it.”

Eleanor looked at the lawyer.

The lawyer reached the letter back to Eleanor.

He opened his drawer and pulled out a note pad and several pens.

Eleanor watched him.

He dated the paper and put Eleanor’s first name on the paper.

Eleanor watched him.

The lawyer looked up at Eleanor and said, “Do you want a divorce from Bruce?”

Eleanor swallowed hard and looked at the wall for a minute and said, “Yes.”

The lawyer looked at Eleanor and said, “Your yes did not sound strong enough to me for a court fight.”

Eleanor looked at the lawyer.

The lawyer said, “You turned your head from my face and thought and then hesitantly said yes. You either going to stand and fight or be ran over.”

Eleanor heard the word fight.

She said, “I want the divorce. But I want him to think he is in charge.”

The lawyer looked at Eleanor and shook his head to try to understand why she wanted to be the under dog.

The lawyer said, “Do you know why Bruce wanted a signature for the letter?”

Eleanor said, “No.”

The lawyer said, “Is it his signature?”

Eleanor looked at the letter again and said, “Yes.”

The lawyer said, “You are positive?”

Eleanor looked in the face of the very stern lawyer and said, “Yes.”

The lawyer said, “Does anyone have access to his letterhead?”

Eleanor said, “I don’t believe so. He is very particular about his personal items.”

The lawyer looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor was getting angry with the mean lawyer.

The lawyer said, “I see you are angry with my words but I want you to understand a high profile divorce is not pleasant and you need me to block the throws of the adversary.”

Eleanor stared at the lawyer because her thought was, “I am strong and I have momma and daddy.”

The lawyer said, “You are telling me you want the divorce from Bruce?”

Eleanor said, “Yes.”

The lawyer said, “Do you have children and if so how many?”

Eleanor said, “Five children.”

The lawyer said, “How many boys and girls?”

Eleanor said, Four sons and one daughter.”

The lawyer said, “With whom do the children live?”

Eleanor said, “Well I guess with me.”

The lawyer stared at Eleanor and said, “You guess?”

Eleanor looked at the stern lawyer’s face and said, “He took my oldest which is the girl with him when he moved. He took her to a special hospital in Philadelphia where they have worked miracles with her. He took my baby because he was the closest to her. He left the three boys with me.”

The lawyer said, “Do you want to leave the children like that or do you want all of the children or give him all the children.”

Eleanor’s angry rose up in her and said, “He will never have them.”

The lawyer looked at Eleanor and thought, “Good. She has fight in her for her children.”

The lawyer said, “Can you support the five children?”

Eleanor smirked and said, “Yes.”

The lawyer watched Eleanor and the way she was dressed and the pearl earrings she had on but her wedding band was simple gold.

The lawyer said, “What do you want from Bruce?”

Eleanor sat for a minute and did not turn her head and looked the lawyer directly in his grayish eyes and said, “Everything but his house in Philadelphia.”

The lawyer threw down his pen and sit back in his chair and said, “How can you claim everything? Because of the children?”

Eleanor stood up and leaned on the lawyer’s desk and said, “I am Eleanor Stith Simons. I own the Stith Railroad and the Stith Shipping empires. Bruce, like everyone else works for me. It is my fortune and my heirs. He will not get a dime sir.”

The lawyer stared at the fire in Eleanor’s eyes and said, “Mrs. Simons that is what I needed to see in you. The fire of a fight.”

The lawyer stood from his seat and this couture well dressed woman stood and looked this rough lawyer eye to eye.

Eleanor said, “Sir I don’t lose.”

The lawyer said, “Neither do I.”

Eleanor said, “What is next?”

The lawyer said, “I will send Bruce an acceptance of his divorce request. I will draw up the divorce papers. Allow Bruce to file his papers first. We will give him three months.”

Eleanor said, “Three nothing.”

The lawyer held up his hand.

He said, “We want to pretend that you are struggling with the idea of divorce from your husband of how many years?”

Eleanor still looking the lawyer in his eyes said, “Fifteen years.”

Eleanor was about to fuss.

The lawyer said, “Ma am I know you are not weak. But if we are going to court then we need to pretend you are at least this much upset.”

Eleanor looked at the rough lawyer’s pinch of being upset.

Eleanor laughed.

The lawyer said, “You can go on with day. I will draft your letter of acceptance and have it mailed to Bruce as your power of attorney.”

Eleanor put on her gloves and nodded her head at this rough lawyer that the countess recommended to her if she was to divorce Bruce.

Eleanor put on her matching shawl and the lawyer opened the door.

Eleanor looked at the lawyer and walked out the door.

She disappeared down the stairwell.

The lawyer thought, “No doubt she thinks I am one of her employees.”

He smirked and closed and locked the door.

He was a secretive lawyer.

He the wealthy and elite avoid him in divorce matters.

He only takes the very difficult and challenging cases.

He once was a street fighter in his native Austria, but now he fights in the halls of justice in America.

No one knows where he lives.

He moves his office often, since one time an angry husband had his office burned down.

The rough lawyer many times had to run for his life because men were sent to beat him up.

But he always got the best of the divorced men and women in court.

The lawyer finished drafting Eleanor’s acceptance letter.

He looked over her signed power of attorney form.

The lawyer stood and changed his clothes to street clothes.

He walked out his office and walked to the railroad station and signed for the letter to be delivered to Bruce at his railroad office.

The lawyer stepped back and looked up at the sign, “STITH Railroad.”

He laughed.

He turned to leave and saw Eleanor standing with three boys and several people and a set of twin boys laughing and talking.

Eleanor looked divine.

She now has a taste for flair.

The lawyer stood and watched as the train conductor and porter walked to Eleanor.

Eleanor introduced the man and two women to the train conductor and porter.

The boys handed the babies to the man and woman.

They embraced Eleanor and her boys.

The lawyer noticed the smaller boy hugged Eleanor and refused to say good bye to the people.

The man and women bent down and kissed the smaller boy on his head.

They were escorted on to the train.

The lawyer watched as the other two oys walked to Eleanor and hugged her.

She was very loving.

He looked around and saw the buggy Eleanor had driven and several carriages and wagons.

He thought, “No doubt one of her employee moving on.”

The count and his staff dismounted the train and was clearing up all of their business.

The count was looking down at his papers and heard a child holler.

He said to his staff, “I swear that sounds like Thomas.”

His valet, Earle, nudge the count and pointed.

The count looked up from his papers and saw Eleanor and her three boys.

The count was so excited and he yelled, “Eleanor!!”

Eleanor heard a familiar voice and she turned and looked.

The people walking on the train stopped and looked.

The boys turned and looked.

The many servants turned and looked.

The man ran towards Eleanor.

The Eleanor’s male servants surrounded her.

Eleanor wanted the male servants to look better and ordered fifty black wool peacoats for the male workers and black gloves and black hats.

The workers looked very refine.

The lawyer said, “Whoa.”

He stepped back to watch.

The boys ran to the well dressed man.

The well dressed man was nearly knocked over by Eleanor’s boys.

The people on the train grinned and smiled.

Eleanor walked through her male servants to the well dressed man.

He did not stop hugging her sons but took his other hand and pulled her to him.

He kissed her very hard.

The lawyer said, “I see. That’s why you can divorce Bruce so quickly.”

The count’s valet, Earle saw the lawyer and walked and stood by the lawyer.

The lawyer looked at him and said, “Why are you standing next to me?”

The valet said, “I am just watching.”

The lawyer said, “Watch this.”

The lawyer walked away and disappeared around the corner.

The valet watched the man and looked around and the man had disappeared.

Earle turned around and enjoyed the reunion.

The count held Eleanor’s neck and saw his gift to her.

The butler William stood and watched.

He said, “Bye Bruce.”

The train whistle blew.

Eleanor, the count, Percy, Bruce and Thomas and Earle waved to Steve, Belinda and Ellen and the twins.

Earle said, “It seems as if the twins are bigger.”

Percy and Bruce yelled, “Earle.”

Eleanor looked and grinned.

Earle laughed.

Eleanor and the family watched the train out of sight.

Thomas held onto Eleanor.

Thomas heard some horses he raised up from Eleanor and looked around.

Eleanor looked at Thomas and said, “What Thomas?”

The count looked at Earle and grinned.

Thomas looked up at Eleanor and said nothing.

Thomas heard horses again.

He, Percy and Bruce turned and saw their horses from Austria.

The boys ran to their horses.

William said, “Oh yes Bruce you are gone.”

Eleanor was shocked.

She gasped and put a hand to her mouth.

The count grabbed her by her waist and whispered something in her ears.

They walked to the horses.

Thomas saw his white horse and screamed, “Thunder!!!”

The horse was glad to see Thomas because it raised up on it’s back feet.

The count and Earle walked to give Gary a hand.

Percy’s and Bruce’s horses were excited.

The count said. “I don’t know if they are as excited as I am to be on land. This was my first time.”

Eleanor elbowed the count.

He giggled and said, “It’s the truth.”

William walked over and stood behind Eleanor.

Eleanor knew William’s presence and said, “Count and Earle this is William. He is the head of the house. He will help you settle in.”

The count said, “Good meeting you William.”

Thomas yelled.

The count and Earle turned to look at Thomas.

Once the count saw Thomas was fine he turned back to William.

William was trying to act sophisticated.

The count said, “We need to get the horses to the stables. Are you prepared to transport them?”

William said, “The horses can trot with the wagons and carriages.”

William walked away.

Eleanor laughed.

The count looked at William.

Earle looked at William.

He walked behind William and said, “These are very special horses and it would be good to carry them.”

William stood and looked at Earle and said, “They maybe special in Austria or wherever they came from, but this is America and everything pull their own weight, including those damn horses.”

Earle stood in shock.

Eleanor knew William said something smart because the way Earle looked.

William said, “How many workers and how long will you be here?”

Earle was stumbling for words.

William stood and looked at him.

Earle said, “Two of us. Me I am the count’s valet and Gary the ostler.”

William said, “I know ostler is a fancy name for stableman. You take care of your count and he take care of those horses until you leave. You and the ostler have rooms in the servants’ quarters.”

The servants giggled.

Earle tuned beet red.

William walked to Stanley and said, “Stanley helped those jackasses with those three primly prima donnas horses.”

Stanley held his head down and laughed and said, “Yes sir.”

The lawyer had sneaked around the back of the train station and was stooping down behind Eleanor’s workers.

He laughed at William.

The lawyer said, “Oh God I want to be there during this holiday.”

Stanley walked to Earle.

Earle looked at William and said, “Sir I don’t want to be seen as snobby.”

William said, “Go with Stanley.”

Earle looked strange and turned and walked with Stanley.

Stanley was grinning.

Eleanor knew her servants had said something that rubbed Earle the wrong way.

The count was looking at Earle.

She eased and looked back at William.

William stared at Eleanor.

The lawyer stood and walked away.

He thought, “This was fun. I need to get out a little more.”

He chuckled.

While Eleanor was away, she had Wyonna and Alice to make up the two rooms that Ellen, Steve and Belinda stayed.

Ellen and Belinda mopped the floors and waxed the furniture before they left that morning.

Wyonna and Alice, received a lot of compliments from the other servants on how nicely they decorated their area.

Eleanor sent a telegram to the one to come and tune up their piano.

She told six of the male workers to mop and clean the empty room next to the music room and bring the

Billiards game and set up the room.

She selected the rugs and paintings to go in the room and where.

The workers quickly moped and waxed the floor and hug the pictures and while the wax dried, they brought the billiards table and placed it in room and played billiards for a while until Patrick got tired of hearing them.

He walked out of his study and down the hall to the room with the noisy servants.

He stood in the doorway and looked around in the room. It was beautiful.

Two of the workers were bringing the last stool from the storage area into the room.

They saw Patrick standing in the door, watching the other four servants playing billiards.

Patrick said, “You are finished in here.”

The two who had the stool sit it near the fireplace.

Patrick said, “Why there?”

One of the servants said, “Mrs. Simons said there.”

The other four servants rolled out the rugs and placed the sticks and other pieces on the rack and walked out the room down the hall to the storage room.

Patrick thought nice.

He looked up and Eleanor had placed the picture of Patrick’s grandmother Eleanor in the billiard room.

She loved playing billiards.

Brenda walked around the kitchen into the formal dining room and saw Patrick standing in the door.

Brenda walked to the door and looked in the room and said, “This is nice.”

She saw the picture of Patrick’s grandmother, whom Eleanor was named after.

Brenda looked at Patrick and hugged him and patted him on his stomach for comfort.

Patrick was quiet and still Brenda knew her husband needed some time along.

She walked to her parlor and looked around.

She thought, “We need to get rid of most of this stuff. Steve and Belinda said, they would write for what they need. Ellen took ten quilts. On the oceanfront will be cold and bitter this winter.”

Brenda laughed and said, “But she got a husband that can keep her warm.”

Brenda shook her head for yes.

She thought, “Now to get rid of that Alice, will be an act of God. That sour woman. Just mean and jealous.”

William and Eleanor’s servants loaded up the count and placed the boys in the carriage and the count rode back in the buggy with Eleanor.

The boys rode in the last carriage so they could keep their eyes on their horses.

Eleanor said to the count, “My. Count you brought a lot of stuff.”

The count lean over and kissed Eleanor.

He said, “I saw Steve, Belinda and Ellen leaving.”

Eleanor said, “Yes. Steve and Belinda decided to move to Philadelphia with Ellen.”

The count laughed and said, “That captain keeps a smile on Ellen’s face. I want to keep a smile on your face.

They kissed and swirled off the road.

William was in the second carriage and he looked back at Stanley and beckoned him.

Earle was riding in the carriage with William.

William said, “Stanley ride up there and ask if there is a problem?”

Earle said, “I’m sure there is no problem.”

William and Stanley looked at Earle.

Stanley rode up to the buggy and watched Eleanor pulled the buggy back in the street.

Stanley said, “Is there a problem?”

Eleanor said, “No.”

The count giggled.

Stanley liked his black peacoat like he really was security.

Stanley rode on the side of Eleanor and the count all the way to the mansion.

The mansion was about an hour ride from the train station.

Eleanor never told the count her mother was a negro.

She wondered if that would dis-courage him.

Then she thought, “He did not ask me if he could come.

She thought and said, “Why did you come? We never discussed you coming here and especially with me being married.”

The count looked at Eleanor and then Stanley and said, “I could not last until the spring.”

Eleanor laughed out.

The count grinned and said, “You know I could not.”

Eleanor grinned.

The count looked at her and touched her face and said, “Eleanor I was afraid.”

She thought, “You but me.”

He said, “We are not rich nor wealthy royalty. We barely meet the ends of the castle.”

Eleanor was listening because this conversation went from sex to money and she does not give her money to anyone.

The count said, “I was afraid I could not keep you and the boys in the way you live. I was racking my brains to see how I could get more business so I could be able to take care of you and the boys properly. While we were in Paris at Ellen and Captain Moss wedding. By the way it was beautiful.”

Eleanor smiled and said, “Thank you.”

The count said, “I love the way you make simple elegant. That is a gift.”

Eleanor said, “My daughter is really the one with that gift.”

The count said, “Will get to meet her this holiday?”

Eleanor swelled up.

The count said, “Eleanor I don’t want you to have stress but joy. I know one way I can do to help.”

Eleanor did not say anything, because her mind went to Shirley and Michael.

They rode in silence to the mansion.

Th workers at the gate were instructed to keep the gats close to the beautiful iron gates with ‘STITH HOUSE’ .

The sit up so he could see the mansion.

He liked the house and Eleanor pulled up to the front steps.

The count got out and ran around to Eleanor’s side and helped her out.

Patrick and Brenda were standing in the parlor and looking out at the count.

They saw all of his stuff.

Brenda unfolded her arms in shock and said, “He got a lot of stuff.”

The boys jumped out the carriage and ran to their horses.

Patrick stood there for a minute.

Brenda said, “I’m glad you did not put in an order for three horses.”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “He brought their horses. Who does that?”

Brenda said, “A man that is in love.”

Patrick said, “Damn. Brenda this is getting harder and harder.”

Brenda said, “I see.”

Patrick said, “Let’s walk outside.”

Brenda said, “It’s cold outside.”

Patrick said, “Don’t start Brenda. You are in this to. You always pull back to make the children think it is my fault.”

Brenda stared and Patrick and said, “It took you all of these years to figure that out.”

Patrick said, “No. Because I love you I did not say anything. Get out this door.”

Brenda sighed and rolled her eyes at Patrick.

They stepped outside and saw Thomas, Percy and Bruce thundered pass them on their horses.

Thomas said, “Hey grandma and grandpa.”

Patrick said, “Hello boys.”

Brenda smiled and waved.

The carriages and wagons went around back, where the workers unloaded the boxes and crates and bags.

William drove around the back and did not let Earle out.

The count looked for Earle.

Eleanor tried not to grin.

The count said, “I don’t think your butler like my valet.”

Patrick and Brenda were listening.

Eleanor reached for the count’s hand and he took her hand and kissed it.

Eleanor coughed.

He looked at her she slightly nodded.

Brenda coughed.

He turned and saw her parents standing very dignified and not saying anything.

The count whispered, “Damn.”

Eleanor giggled.

Patrick and Brenda did not smile.

Eleanor and the count stepped to Patrick and Brenda and said, “Mother. Father this Count Joseph.”

The count stepped up and shook their hands.

He looked Brenda in her eyes and looked at Eleanor and said, “Eyes of a poet.”

Brenda smiled.

Patrick took Brenda’s hand out of Joseph’s hand and said, “Come in please.”

Eleanor giggled.

They walked in the house.

Robert and Danielle were waiting at the door.

William sent for Robert to help out a few days before Thanksgiving.

Robert knew Eleanor had painted the downstairs and new wringer washers were input.

Robert came and got a washer, because he was starting his laundry business.

Wyonna told William he returned that Robert got one of the washers and she wanted one.

William let out Earle and introduced him to some of the staff.

Earle got his bags out the carriage.

Wyonna said, “Sir I will show you to your room. Where is the other person?”

William said, “He is an ostler.”

Earle gave William an evil look.

William looked at Earle and kept walking.

Wyonna said, “You think he may want to sleep in the stables?”

William stared at Earle.

Wyonna looked at Earle.

William said, “I’ll get one and take it home and come right back.”

Wyonna said, “Ok.”

She smiled at Earle and pointed down the hall and earle followed her.

He said, “Your husband?”

Wyonna said, “Yes.”

Earle said, “He doesn’t like me.”

Earle looked around at the servants’ quarters and was pleased.

Wyonna saw his face and the look of pleasant surprise on his face.

She opened the door to his room.

Eleanor had her and Alice finish off the servants’ rooms.

Each room had a bed, dresser and a night table.

Eleanor added lamps, vases and rugs.

The servants looked at their rooms and smiled.

Earle had a room with a small fireplace because it was at the end of the hallway.

His room was a little bigger than the other rooms because it had a fireplace.

All the rooms were made with closets and adjoining wash closets.

Wyonna placed a large amount of wash clothes in the wash closet that he and the other servant would share.

Wyonna and Alice were trying to make room in the storage area so they could see what was in there.

They found a very large amount of blankets and quilts.

Gary walked in with his bags and spoke the cooks pointed down the hall.

He looked at the two black women looking at him.

He never saw black people before but heard of them.

He saw a woman standing in the hall talking and he heard Earle’s voice.

He walked to Wyonna and said, “Good evening ma am.”

She smiled and said, “The ostler?”

He said, “Gary.”

She said, “You are in the next room.”

She reached Earle his key.

Gary looked around and sad, “Earle you have a fireplace?”

Earle said, “Yeah.”

Earle said, “Nice.”

Wyonna said, “I am Wyonna, I am the chief maid and you met my husband, the butler, William.”

Gary said, “Earle’s friend.”

Wyonna laughed and said, “He is a bit to handle sometimes.”

She opened the door to Gary room and showed him the adjoining wash closet with Earle.

He saw they had plenty of wash closets and soap and shampoo.

Gary said, “Who wash all of those washcloths and towels?”

Wyonna said, “We have a whole different staff that does the wash only.”

Gary and Earle looked puzzled.

Wyonna looked and said, “What’s wrong?”

Gary said, “How many servants are there?”
Wyonna said, “A hundred. Mrs. Stith does not want to hire more than that. She has to handle the house expenses and pay and she refuse to have any more.”

Earle could not understand the number.

Gary said, “Ma am I saw two black women in the kitchen.”

Wyonna quickly closed his door and said, “They are run a-way slaves.”

Gary and Earle said, “What?”

Wyonna said, “Mrs. Stith hired them. They worked in the fields since they were babies. She had to go through a lot to get information on them. Their families sold and scattered. They do not know how to do anything, but work. We all help, well a lot of us, try to teach them to get their own houses and have a life. But it is heart breaking. They are were sleeping on the kitchen floor until Mrs. Stith saw them. It is terrible.”

Earle said, “What are their names?”

Wyonna said, “Denise and Mable. Mable is the one slightly shorter than and she walk with a limp and is slow.”

Gary said, “Why is she slow?’

Wyonna said, “It has nothing to do with her color. She was six and stepped on the white slave master shoes and he beat her in the head with his fist. She was unconscious for days and woke with her tongue hanging out of her mouth and the limp. She is very afraid of white people.”

Earle said, “Were they are on the slave plantation?”

Wyonna said, “Surprisingly no. They both ran away and met on the escape route.”

Gary said, “Both are remarkable women. Mable knew enough to run.”

Wyonna said, “I had friends on both sides that died.”

Earle said, “It was terrible I can imagine.

Gary said, “The room is nice.”

They heard the workers unloading the wagons.

They walked out in the hallway.

Wyonna said, “Stanley, Mrs. Simons said line up everything against this wall.”

They heard the boys riding around the backyard.

Wyonna said, “You brought them horses?”

Earle grinned and said, “The count brought their horses he gave them as presents in Austria.”

Wyonna said, “That is lovely.”

Earle said, “Mrs. Simons favorite word.”

Wyonna said, “I pick up things real quick.”

They laughed.

Gary put his bags down and he approved of the room.

Wyonna saw William and Stanley bringing the washers from the basement area.

They saw Robert had a washer on his wagon.

Robert was getting ready to leave.

He saw the strangers and walked to them and held out his head and said, “I am Robert, one of the butlers.”

Gary said, “I am Gary the count’s stableman. How many butlers do you have?”

Robert said, “Three.”

Earle said, “I’m Earle the count’s valet.”

Robert looked outside at his wagon and said, “Good meeting you.”

Monica and Betty walked pass them with a beverage tray and an appetizer tray.

Earle looked at the tray and said, “The count doesn’t eat that meat.”

Monica said, “I guess he got enough sense not to eat it.”

She and Betty kept walking.

Wyonna said, “You will learn here, Mr. and Mrs. Stith make no changes to their menu. You leave what you don’t want to eat. They make no exceptions, not even for the mayor and governor.”

Earle was watching for the count’s bags and he said to Wyonna, “Can you show me the count’s room?”

Wyonna said, “Sure. They know where his room is, you just have to tell them which are the count’s bags. Follow me.”

Earle stood and pointed to each bag to take to the count’s room.

Gary ran outside to get the horses from Bruce, Percy and Thomas.

He got the horses and fed and gave them water.

The other stablemen showed him where to put the horses.

ked downstairs at the new house.

He stood in the fine foyer and looked around.

He was very proud of the house.

It took two years to build.

Michael was sitting on his knees in the dining room eating his breakfast of one lamb chop, egg, grits and biscuit.

Nurse Sharon was sitt las tol