Eleanor woke before day and laid in her bed and thoughts flooded her mind.

She had not prayed in a long time.

She was full of guilt from her affair with the count.

Eleanor enjoyed every second of her sin with him.

She was too ashamed to ask God for forgiveness of her adulterous affair because she truly enjoyed the count and his life and what he taught her.

Eleanor lust for the count.

She knew she was in her parents’ house and she could not have the adulterous affair in their house.

She thought about her father was trying to help her by saying the count could stay in their house. That was his way to kept her from going to the hotel and staying with the count at the hotel where she would have her affair.

That’s why her father decided she would not take the boys to Philadelphia (where she being weak) and the count could carry on their adulterous affair.

Eleanor was laid on her bed and said, “Thanks daddy you always help me with hard decisions.”

A thought came to Eleanor if Patrick can help you what about God?”

Eleanor slid off her bed onto her knees.

She bowed her head and folded her hands in prayer and said nothing.

She enjoyed the count and the sexual adulterous life she had with him.

Her only thought was, “I can’t ask God’s forgiveness for something I truly enjoyed.”

Eleanor was on her knees in silence until she heard the cock crow.

She turned and looked towards her window at the breaking of a new day.

She stood and walked to the window and opened her curtains and embraced the day.

She sat on her bench she had them to make and put at the window so she could see each new day.

Eleanor sat and looked out over the great vast land of their mansion.

She heard the animals waking and the workers arriving and those in the house opening the doors.

The thought flowing through her head was, “Life.”

Patrick and Brenda were on their knees on the prayer pillows and holding their hands and praying to GOD in JESUS’ name for teach other, their children and grandchildren.”

Patrick said, “GOD YOU are a FATHER. I love my children and their children you gave them.”

Brenda cut Patrick off in prayer and said, “I don’t want any of them to live with us.”

Patrick stopped and looked at Brenda and he was about to scold her and he say she was really crying.

Patrick wanted to continue praying, but his heart told him to hold Brenda and don’t scold her.

Patrick waited a few minutes.

He reached and held Brenda tight.

He had to hold her many times in their marriage. She had to be bold and courageous to hold onto him.

Brenda lips were quivering and said, “Patrick, I don’t’ want John, Patrick and Christopher families to move in my house. I know it is our house. I don’t want those rude scavengers being in my house and trying to make everybody think they rule my house. We raised our boys and gave them all the things to make them independent. They have their businesses and their homes. I will not allow those hate full jealous racist come in my house. I will not sell my house to Eleanor. She’s going to marry that count and move.”

Patrick held onto Brenda and she cried and cried.

Patrick kissed Brenda on the top of her head.

William was outside of their suite with their morning water basins.

He leaned his ear to the door and heard Brenda crying.

Eleanor walked downstairs, looking like a princess and saw William.

She did not say anything and walked upon William.

William jumped.

Eleanor did not say anything and listened.

She heard her mother crying out in pain.

Eleanor looked at William who was holding their wash basins.

Eleanor pointed to the lone credenza in the hall and she looked around the hall.

She said, “William have the crates marked rugs to be brought up here in this hallway.”

William looked back at the Patrick’s and Brenda’s suite.

Eleanor looked at him, to let him know she made the decision for him not to disturbed her parents.

William walked away.

He looked back and saw Eleanor placed her forehead on her parents’ door.

She walked away and went to their study.

She sat at her mother’s desk and begin to write down a number of instructions for the staff.

She would get her mother and or father to sign off so the staff won’t resist.

Eleanor made a list of the food the count enjoyed.

She thought, “He may bring his own brands. His mother was a poor socialite who had to work. She became a famed cook in Austria. People from German and all over Bavaria would come to her restaurant that she was finally able to open. She taught the count everything he knew about cooking and setting tables and wines and beers.”

Eleanor grinned and stopped and turned around in guilt and saw Patrick and Brenda standing in the doorway watching her write.

Eleanor jumped from her chair and began to cry.

They hugged her.

William was walking to Patrick and Brenda and saw the crying Eleanor run to them, he turned and walked back to the family dining room.

Eleanor said, “I love him.”

Patrick and Brenda hugged Eleanor.

Brenda said, “Baby we know.”

Eleanor said, “I’m not brave enough to leave Bruce.”

Patrick said, “We are not selling you the house Eleanor.”

Brenda looked at Patrick and said, “Patrick! This is not the right time.”

Patrick said, “While everybody is upset and crying this is the perfect time.”

Eleanor continued to cry and said, “You have to tell me what to do.”

Patrick said, “We can’t.”

Eleanor was crying and upset and backed a few steps from her parents.

She stared and said, “You must.”

Brenda looked at her baby and said, “We can’t.”

Eleanor could not talk but mouthed, “You always.”

Patrick said, “And I did not want your sons riding my horses. I am jealous of my horses.”

Brenda was shocked and said, “Patrick!.”

Patrick said, “I want everything out.”

Eleanor ran to her parents.

They hugged and kissed, until the workers needed to get by with the rug crates.

Brenda turned and saw the crates and said, “More books?”

Eleanor said rugs.

Patrick said, “I love my marble floors.”

Eleanor was sniffing.

Brenda reached in her robe pocket and gave Eleanor some tissue.

Eleanor said, “Why you have tissue?”

Brenda said, “I too had my moment this morning.”

Eleanor’s three boys were staggered on the stairway looking at their mother, grandpa and grandma.

They moved to the family dining room.

Eleanor said, “Good morning Percy, Bruce and Thomas, come to breakfast. Everything is getting better.”

Brenda held onto Eleanor’s waist and looked at Eleanor and said, “Better is a good word.”

The boys hesitantly walked down the stairs and greeted their family.

Patrick was holding onto Brenda’s waist and reached his left arm out to his hesitant grand boys.

The boys walked to the family dining room.

Eleanor had cut the food in half.

Percy looked down at his plate and saw two sunny side eggs, bacon and grits.

Bruce looked at his plate and scrambled eggs, grits and sausages.

Thomas had a cheese omelet and smoked sausages.

Brenda and Patrick had boiled grapefruit, a soft boiled egg, dry toast, orange juice and coffee.

Eleanor had a soft boiled egg, dry toast, orange juice and a half cup of black coffee.

Percy looked at his plate, he looked at Bruce’s plate and Thomas’ plate.

Patrick and Brenda did not know they were going to be served that breakfast.

Eleanor went to the kitchen and gave the cooks the written order for breakfast with muffins, sconces, toast.

Percy looked at his grandparents.

Brenda and Patrick were enjoying their boiled grapefruit and watched the boys.

Percy looked at Eleanor and said, “Momma just one lamb chop?”

Patrick hollered with laughter.

Bruce just looked.

Eleanor said, “The three of you have to start learning you have money and you can eat whatever you want whenever you want. Because you can does not mean for you to be lustful.”

Bruce said, “Are you going to marry the count?”

Eleanor looked at Bruce.

William looked at Bruce then Eleanor.

Brenda exhaled because she knew the answer.

Patrick was eating a piece of his grapefruit and said, “How did we get from lamb chops to marriage to the count?’

Patrick and Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Thomas looked at his mother.

Percy and Bruce looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at her sons and then at Bruce.

She said, “Yes Bruce.”

Percy turned to his plate and started gulping down his food.

Bruce looked at Percy and said, “Why are you eating fast?”

Percy said, “I want to start packing now.”

Eleanor very firmly said, “Who said anything about you Percy. I have to decide where the four of you boys will be.”

Bruce said, “What do you mean?”

Patrick sit straight in his chair.

Brenda said, “Your father has a say.”

Percy said, “In what?”

Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “Listen to me. To divorce your father and marry the count will be very ugly and it could take years. I don’t want you all to be hurt. You may have to live with your father and come to visit me during the summer. Or if I have to be here to run the businesses then we all may have to leave and go to Austria for the summer. I don’t want to talk about this anymore. And you are not to discuss this with the count, Shirley nor Michael. Especially not with your father.”

Thomas looked at Eleanor then over at Bruce and Percy and said, “Well I won’t discuss anything with Bruce, because you have to talk to someone. I never intend on talking to Bruce ever again.”

Patrick loved Thomas cut to the point attitude.

Patrick and Brenda did not say anything.

The boys looked at Brenda and Patrick.

Bruce said, “Momma, can we go away to the academy to keep from living with Bruce?”

Thomas said, “I’m not going to an academy.”

Percy said, “To stay away from Bruce I will go.”

Thomas said, “One lamb chop.”

Brenda and Patrick laughed out so loud.

Percy sat and stared at Thomas.

Eleanor held her head down.

Thomas looked at his mother and reached and held her hand.

Thomas said, “Momma it is alright I don’t like Bruce any more too.”

Eleanor reached for a hug from Thomas he stood and hugged Eleanor.

Bruce stood and walked over and Hugged Eleanor.

Patrick looked at Percy and thought, “This boy is either slow or he is calculating.”

Percy sat and stared in front of him.

Eleanor said, “Percy look at me.”

Percy turned and looked at his mother.

Eleanor said, “It is important you all, especially you Thomas do not hate your father nor disrespect him. I never wanted this. I wanted us to be a happy family, but sometimes that does not happen. I will send Bruce a letter agreeing to the divorce on Monday. I will ask him to either let me come and get Shirley and Michael or have him put them on the train. I will be on the train of course.”

Percy said, “Momma I will need to forgive daddy for his meanness to you and us. I want Shirley and Michael here also, but I have to say some things to daddy.”

Bruce looked at Percy and looked back to Eleanor and said, “Me too Momma. He did not have to treat us like he did this week.”

Patrick held his head down.

Brenda looked at Patrick and tapped his leg.

Eleanor said, “I will start working on the divorce Monday. But in the meantime we are going to have a beautiful and busy holiday. “

Thomas sat and looked at his momma.

The maids heard Eleanor say she will marry the count.

They ran to the kitchen with the news.

William saw them but could not stop them.

William thought, “Damn, those are the worst gossipers. I told my wife about her gossiping.”

He was watching the workers bring in all the crates.

Brenda heard the workers and said, “Eleanor let’s see where the rugs should go.”

The twpo stood up and walked out the family room to get dres sed.

Eleanor came down in fifteen minutes.

She started telling the workers where to put the rugs.

Brenda came out their suite and smiled at the beautiful rugs.

She said to Eleanor, “Oh my God Eleanor the rugs are beautiful.”

Eleanor grinned.

She and Brenda spent the time to dinner arranging the furniture and the rugs.

They completed the first floor.

The boys came downstairs for dinner.

The saw their mother and grandmother arranging the furniture.

Patrick was gone all day.

Brenda said, “He’s spending time at the office.”

Patrick was at the office looking over the legal documents to see if there was anyway Bruce could claim anything.

He had his lawyers to meet him there.

They went over all of the documents and all contracts.

They could not find anything where Bruce would get anything.

They told Patrick to take the house in Philadelphia because Bruce could not show where he got the money to buy the house.

Patrick said, “No. Let’s see how far this is going to go. I need a very good lawyer to represent Eleanor for this divorce. I do not want this divorce to drag out.”

His main lawyer said, “We can have Eleanor a lawyer by Monday.”

Patrick said, “Go ahead and contact the lawyer. I believe she is meeting with a lawyer Monday.”

The lawyers looked at each other, because they thought they were the most brilliant lawyers in the state.

Patrick paid them well.

Patrick sealed all the documents and locked the safe and put the documents in his bag and rode his horse home.

He was thinking, “He hated Bruce’s family anyway. He could not do anything about breaking them up when they were kids, especially felled and damaged his Shirley. He said fifteen years later it has come to this. She has never known anyone Bruce so now she wants more.”

Patrick spoke to people on his way home.

He passed the bake shop, he wanted to order the strawberry short cake he loved.

He stopped and was about to dismount his horse when the owner walked out the shop.

The owner turned and saw Patrick and said, “Good evening Sir. We are closed. What do you need?”

Patrick said, “I love that strawberry short cake.”

The baker said, “Eleanor has ordered one for Monday evening. We will deliver it that afternoon.”

Patrick said, “Very good.”

He got back in his saddle and saw the spirits shop keeper.

The shop keeper looked at Patrick and stopped by the baker and said, “Good evening.”

Patrick said, “I suppose you are closed too?”

The spirits shop keeper said, “Yes sir. What do you need?”

Patrick said, “I need to re-stock my spirits.”

The man laughed.

Patrick looked at the man.

The shop keeper said, “Mrs. Simons sent a complete list of everything. Everything was sent to her today. I promise you, you are well stocked sir.”

Patrick was very serious with the people of the town.

The towns’ people did not take Patrick lightly.

Baker said, “Good evening to both you gentlemen.”

Baker walked away to his horse.

Patrick pulled his horse out back into the street and rode home.

He rode pass the livery stables and thought about his three grandsons and that lambchop loving Michael. He needed four horses for them. He would get the horses for Christmas presents from him and Brenda.

Patrick smiled and thought, “That’s a good Christmas present if I have to say so myself. Brenda would be excited, because she would not think about something like that only a toy.”

Patrick was reaching his mansion he looked for the lights.

When he thought about the lights, the workers lit the lamps that were lit all the ay to the mansion and around the the main house.

Patrick loved to see the lights at the mansion.

He bought the oil lamps that burned from dusk to dawn.

He and Brenda got some for Genevia and Ben last Christmas. They loved them and that is their joint chore every evening.

Patrick said, “I like that Ben. He has made Genevia very happy. I could not ask for anything more.”

Patrick rode to the front of the house.

A worker took his horse to the stables.

Patrick took his bag with all the documents in it to the house and put it in the safe.

The boys were looking at Patrick.

Patrick turned and saw the boys watching him he said, “Always bring your important papers home and have a secret safe that no one knows about and put the papers there. In case something happens you will never lose your money nor business.”

Thomas said, “From grandma and momma?”

Patrick laughed and said, “Only on your death bed tell them.”

Brenda and Eleanor were walking down the hall going to the family dining room.

They were so very happy with how they re-arrange that area.

William loved it.

He stood and looked down the hall.

Brenda looked back at William and grinned.

She was so tickled at William.

William thought, “This house was good and basic, now with these touches it has become grand.”

Patrick stepped out the parlor with the three grand boys.

Brenda looked at Patrick and said, “Good evening.”

Patrick said, “I’ll be right back. I am going to wash up quickly.”

Brenda and Eleanor turned around to see Patrick’s reaction to that side of the mansion.

Patrick was about to pass William.

Then he looked at the hallway and said, “Hell yeah!”

William jumped and looked at Patrick and grinned.

Brenda laughed.

The boys ran to their grandfather and looked.

Brenda said, “I know he is going to that library I want to show him that.”

Patrick started walking.

The boy walked behind him.

Eleanor walked next to William.

Patrick stopped and opened each suite and walked in and he continued until he reached his library.

He opened the door and grabbed Brenda and kissed her cheek.

The boys said, “It’s look likes Paris.”

Eleanor was thinking and said, “William after dinner I want you to go with me down in the storage.”

William looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor felt him looking at her especially after he did not say yes ma am.

Eleanor said, “Are you afraid of rats?”

William said, “Yes I am. I will tell my wife and Alice, they are not afraid of rats.”

Eleanor said, “We have guests until after the holidays. I need to make sure their servants have a nice room. Have Steve and Ellen left yet?”

William said, “Monday afternoon.”

Eleanor said, “I need to see them before they leave. Are they here?”

William said, “I will check and see and let you know once I have seated the family for dinner.”

He looked at Eleanor who was searching the hall with her eyes.

William said, “Ma am, this is beautiful.”

Eleanor said, “Thank you.”

The hoys turned and ran up the hall to Eleanor.

Percy said, “It’s look like the count’s castle in Austria.”

Eleanor took Percy by his head and pushed him towards the dining room.

Eleanor looked at William.

William said, “Inspiration from different things.”

Eleanor said, “Keep it like that.”

She looked at William and walked behind her sons to the family dining room.

Thomas said, “Percy didn’t momma said no more count talk.”

Bruce said, “Yeah. But he will be here soon. But I want Michael and Shirley to meet him.”

Eleanor heard them.

She planned a light menu for that dinner.

She had pork chops, spinach, beets, carrots and stewed apples and assorted rolls and breads.

Eleanor did not want to overlap the feasts that will take place.

Patrick was walking up the hall with Brenda and said, “Are we going to invite our sons and their families to Thanksgiving.”

Brenda said, “No. I don’t want those bad children running through this house. They destroy everything and their parents say nothing. It’s not their shit their children are destroying. I don’t know where that attitude came from that what their children do is alright.”

Patrick said, “Christopher is on his fifth child.”

Brenda said, “By his wife.”

Patrick pushed himself from Brenda and looked at her in her face.

Brenda shook her head for yes.

Patrick said, “I wanted to re-stock our spirits for the holidays and the shop keeper said Eleanor had ordered it.”

Brenda pointed all the alcohol in the corner of the hallway.

Patrick said, “She was reading my mind.”

Brenda started laughing.

Patrick said, “We all are going to need some spirits this holiday.”

Brenda belted out a loud laugh.

Patrick said, “That Percy and Bruce already asked Eleanor about beer.”

Brenda was screaming in laughter and hit Patrick’s stomach.

Eleanor turned her head to the side to listen to her parents.

She smiled and thought, “All hell is about to break loose. I need God and I enjoy my sin too much to ask Him to forgive me and repent of it so this situation can be healed the way He wants it to be not how I am lusting for it to end. Whish is going to be wrong. I have another day to get rid some more of these boxes and crates.”

William was standing at the door to the family dining room.

He seated them and made their plates and walked to see Steve and Ellen.

He told them Eleanor wanted to see them after dinner.

He saw all the alcohol in the hall.

He peeped in the dining room and tipped to the alcohol and smiled.

He started unpacking the alcohol.

He wanted to smell the sherry so bad, but he knew that was Eleanor drink and she would break his neck if he opened it before her quests gets there Monday.

William smiled and said, “Oh Monday when I replenish the table. My wife and Alice will be very happy. The religious ones Steve, Belinda and Ellen would be gone and I won’t have to worry about them telling I got all the alcohol but that rum.”

William was happy as he was unpacking all the alcohol and replenishing the table.

Patrick and Brenda walked out the dining room he saw William and said, “He’s so happy he did not come back during dinner to see if we needed something.”

Brenda giggled.

Eleanor was talking to her boys and stood and walked out the dining room.

She saw William and walked to him and said, “William did you go and check on Steve and Ellen?”

William nearly forgot he was on his knees putting up the alcohol.

He thought and stood and said, “Yes ma am.”

Eleanor said, “Please tell them to come to the parlor and bring the twins.”

Thomas said, “Momma are they leaving?”

Eleanor said, “Yes and they will be busy so let’s tell them bye.”

The boys began to holler and run up the stairs.

Belinda and Steve and Ellen were un the kitchen and walking to the parlor when they saw the boys screaming and running upstairs.

Belinda said, “Oh God.”

William peeped around them and watched the boys.

Eleanor was so shocked and stood at the bottom of the stairs and threw her hands up to her head.

Steve gave the baby to Ellen and walked to Eleanor and said, “My I?”

Eleanor shook her head and said, “Yes.”

Patrick and Brenda were shocked.

The house was quiet.

Steve went upstairs and talked to the boys and came back down with them thirty minutes later.

They all walked into the parlor.

Eleanor and Brenda wrapped them beautiful gifts.

Thomas and Percy were taking it very hard they were leaving.

William, his wife, the cooks and several workers gathered in the parlor to send Steve, Belinda and Ellen off.

Roderick, Sheryl and their baby returned from Roderick’s terrible home and saw everyone walking to the front of the house.

They wanted to know what was going on and walked to the front with the other workers.

Sheryl was standing in shock. She hated Roderick’s broken down and raggedy house.

She knew Roderick had money, because they saved every dime of their money.

Eleanor was very good to them.

They did not have to pay for toiletries or clothes.

When Steve and Percy sent their telegrams once per week, Sheryl and Roderick would send telegrams to their love ones.

Sheryl went by Roderick’s word and they spent some of their money on furniture that Eleanor had shipped to America for them.

Roderick and Sheryl had enough money besides what they spent on furniture to not work for three years and raise their son.

Sheryl saw the house that day and hated it. She felt Roderick lied to her about and she wandered what else he lied about.

Their furniture was stuck in Philadelphia, because the train did not have enough space to load their furniture because of all of Eleanor’s boxes and crates.

Sheryl and Roderick did not know when they would receive their furniture.

They made plans to be in their house by Christmas.

Sheryl did not want Roderick anymore.

She wanted to take her baby and go back home to her mother until she start working after the holidays.

Brenda and Patrick saw the trouble look on Sheryl and wanted to know what was wrong, but first they had to help their grandsons through their crisis.

Eleanor said, “I don’t know who to start with first. I’ll start with you Ellen. I was terribly ill for six weeks on the way to Europe. My sons told me you stayed with me every night and saw to my needs every day. You also kept my sons safe and gave them the best Christmas they could have under the circumstances. They love you for it.”

Thomas ran to Ellen and hugged her and cried.

The staff looked on as Ellen hugged Thomas and cried.

Belinda cried.

The twins looked at Belinda and Ellen.

Eleanor said, “Ellen, I don’t consider you a servant. I consider you a friend.”

Ellen was crying and wiping her face and said, “I know. I consider you a friend Eleanor.”

Eleanor said, “I believe God has blessed you with a sweet life with the captain.”

Everybody started clapping and whistling.

Ellen raised her finger and showed the wedding ringer.

Alice said, “Will I need to go on one of those trips.”

Everyone laughed.

Alice was serious. She smirked.

Eleanor reached Ellen an envelope and said,”This a token from me, Mr. Stith and Mrs. Stith.”

Patrick said, “It’s not a token.”

Elen opened the envelope and screamed.

Thomas ran to the table and picked up a big box and he , Percy and Bruce walked to Ellen.

Ellen was crying but she put the envelope in her pocket.

The boys had to hold and carry the box to Ellen.

They nearly dropped it.

Eleanor nearly fainted.

Ellen said, “Put the box on the floor.”

The boys put the box on the floor and she opened it.

She cried even more.

Thomas laid on her.

Ellen lifted up the teapot.

Everyone said, “Whoa.”

Brenda said, “That is beautiful. Did you boys pick it out?”

Thomas said, “Ellen did.”

Ellen said, “Everyday the four of us would walk in Paris. I just love that city and we would pass the shop most days. I fell in love with the tea service. I thought they were going to give the tea service to us for a wedding gift because it was not in the shop anymore. You can imagine how sore I was when me and my husband…”

She showed her wedding ring against.

Brenda laughed.

Ellen said... “it was gone. You are sneakiest little adorable boys ever.”

Bruce was holding one of the twins who was trying to get to the box.

Brenda said, “Bruce hold him good.”

Everyone laughed.

Ellen said, “Ellen you won’t be here for Christmas we all voted to give you an early Christmas present.”

Ellen laughed and said, ”Ok that’s why the Christmas paper.”

She looked around at the family and the boys and bowed her head and said, “I will always love you.”

Percy sat next to her on the floor and they held each other and cried.

Eleanor patted her chest and said, “To Steve and Belinda and your beautiful sons. We have arranged for you to stay at the hotel until you find you suitable housing. Belinda I know you said, you want to go back into nursing. Whenever you are ready you have a job in Philadelphia.”

Thomas said, “Will she be with Shirley?”

Eleanor said, “No., unless she wants to work there, but she will work with babies and children.”

Belinda smiled.

Ellen was still sitting on the floor and grinned and shook her head and said, “maybe after my honeymoon. I will go back into nursing.”

Brenda said, “You are grinning too much. You’re not going back to work.”

Ellen laughed and said, “Mrs. Brenda.”

Brenda said, “I’m a married woman, I know what type of grin that is. And you caught a captain on top of that.”

Ellen was grinning and shaking her head.

Eleanor said, “Mother!”

The staff never saw that side of Brenda.

They saw a stiff and stern and firing side.

The boys ran to the table and got a big box with Christmas paper and tried to hand it to Steve.

Steve reached for the box and put it on the floor.

He opened the box and it was filled with toys from each country for the twins.

Steve and Belinda saved up their money also.

Steve like the count.

He knew Patrick wanted a full report before they left for Philadelphia with Ellen.

All od Belinda and Ellen’s family remained in the city.

But Ellen was so glad Belinda and Steve decided to leave with her and settle in Philadelphia.

Steve and Belinda saved up enough money they could buy them a very nice home.

Steve and Belinda said, they wanted a three bedroom house with two wash closets because Steve did not want anyone to use any of his bath stuff.

They wanted an extra bedroom for Ellen and Captain Moss or their family if they came to visit.

Belinda wanted a big yard for the twins to grow up in. She told Steve no more children.

Steve did not say anything because he wanted six and he knew Belinda had to work hard to get through school because her parents were taking everything from she and Ellen and give it amongst the other six brothers and sisters.

When they went to see their family the day before to help pack up Ellen things.

Their parents were asking for money, to help the other grown children.

Belinda stood and grabbed her sons from her parents and walked out the house.

She looked around and made sure she was leaving nothing but Steve and Ellen.

Steve was in shock and did not know what to do.

Their father stood and walked to the window and looked at Belinda.

The mother said, “Ellen find some rich men for three sisters and rich women for your three brothers.”

Steve thought, ”That is the damndest thing I ever heard. Belinda better never bring our children back here.”

Ellen quickly looked around and saw nothing else she needed or wanted.

She looked at Steve and said, “Let’s go.”

Her mother said, “Ellen you got married over there. When are you going to bring your husband to us so your family can meet him?”

Ellen said, “Never.”

She looked at Steve and said, “I boxed up all of my books. I knew they would never use them. I got the few quilts grandmother and I quilted. I got my skates. There is nothing else I want. “

Her mother said, “Ain’t nothing else her belongs to you.”

Ellen walked to her mother and bent down in her face said, “You are so right mother.”

Steve was on his knees boxing the last box.

He watched her mother, father and her sisters and brothers.

Steve eased off his knees and picked up the box with the books.

Ellen got the box with her quilts and kicked the box that her skates to the door so she would not have to come back in the house.

She packed her needle pointing and painting sets.

She did not want to wait another second in the house.

She left all of those boxes.

She used needle pointing and painting as a relief from her family.

Now she has a true love and she can enjoy those skills and share with her love.

Percy stood and said, “Steve and Belinda we saw you liked the baby furniture in Germany. That is our good bye gift to you. We thought it was for your house here in town.”

Percy fell into Steve.

Steve held Percy and hugged him.

Patrick looked at Eleanor and watched her.

He thought, “I’m proud of her for selecting the right people to be around her children. And the children love these people.”

Eleanor said, “This is a token…”

And looked at Patrick.

He was already watching her.

Eleanor reached the envelope out she did not know who to give the envelope to.

Belinda took the envelope.

Steve said, “Will it make us scream.”

Belinda screamed.

Steve screamed.

Patrick said, “Steve we are working on a job for you.”

Steve said, “I like being a butler, but after I spent over two years with Percy, Bruce and Thomas…”

Brenda and Patrick’s hearts nearly stopped because they were readying themselves for a report.

Steve said, “I want to be a school teacher.”

Everyone clapped.

He said, “I have to think this through.”  
Belinda turned and looked back at Steve.

Steve said, “I know I should have talked this over with you first. But I got caught up in the moment.”

Steve reached for the envelope Belinda was holding.

She hit his hand with the envelope and put the envelope in her pocket.

Steve looked at Belinda and said, “Ouch.”

Belinda was letting him know he was not getting the money.

The workers picked up Ellen tea set and carried it to their room.

Ellen carried one of the twins and Belinda carried the other twin.

Percy, Bruce and Thomas stood in the parlor and talked to Steve.

The servants went back to the kitchen.

Alice was upset.

She passed Brenda.

Brenda thought, “Maybe if you stop all that drinking and smoking and go to church maybe you will find a good man and not be jealous about somebody else’ blessings.”

Brenda walked over to Sheryl and said, “Where have you two been today?”

Sheryl had a foul mouth.

She looked at Roderick.

Patrick was working over to join the conversation he saw Sheryl roll her eyes at Roderick.

Patrick turned and stood and listen to Steve talk to the boys.

Eleanor looked around and went into the other room and did an inventory of all the alcohol.

Eleanor walked back in the parlor and said, “Steve the count is coming on Monday…”

Patrick looked in Steve’s face to see his reaction.

Steve had no reaction.

Eleanor said, “I don’t want to rush your packing, but were the rooms comfortable? What would you add or re-do? That I can do in a day.”

Steve said, “We have been here only a few days. The rooms were comfortable.”

Steve was thinking and said, “The count should not be bringing that many servants.”

Patrick said, “That’s what I said.”

Steve said, “If he brings Earle, you know he is standoffish and want eat with the other servants.”

Steve thought and popped his fingers and said, “You know what will make your servants’ quarters better than the count. An extra piece of furniture. Like a desk and chair in the larger rooms a nice rug or an extra picture or a water pitcher and basin. Something extra.”

Eleanor was thinking.

William walked back in the parlor with his wife and Alice.

Brenda looked at selfish Alice and listened to William.

William said, “Mrs. Simons, this is Wyonna and Alice they can help you out in the storage area.”

William turned and nearly ran to the family dining room to clear the table.

Wyonna rolled her eyes at William because she was ready to retire for the night.

Eleanor looked at the time it was nearly nine pm.

She thought and said, ”Meet me there in the morning at eight am.”

Wyonna and Alice said, “Yes ma am.”

They walked back to the kitchen and rolled their eyes at William as he was carrying the dinner tray. From the family dining room.

Eleanor stopped the large dinners and had fixed plates until the holidays.

She saw William and said, “William when you finish I need you to remove these extra alcohol bottles. I don’t want to touch alcohol on the sabbath.”

Patrick thought, “But you can touch other stuff.”

William was grinning as he went into the kitchen and put the tray down with the dishes.

The dishwashers, Denise ad Mable were waiting for the dishes.

They were former slaves that ran away at the end of the civil war.

Brenda hired them.

Mable was slightly retarded because of head injuries that affected her walking.

Brenda was thinking about sending her to Dr. Woodson.

She would wait until after the holiday whenever gets back to normal.

Patrick and Brenda pride themselves for having good servant’s quarters.

Denise did not Mable but meet her when they were running from the war.

Mable said, she had a brother but she wake one morning and he was gone.

Brenda had to bite her lips.

William watched Mable and knew she was slow.

He thought, ”Damn they are going to make me responsible for everything she breaks.”

Denise was told when they got to town to go to the mansion.

Denise did not want to be in cold, so she told Mable after a few dishes breaking to wash the pots and pans.

Denise would wash the glasses and dishes.

Mabel was brought up to carry water to the field slaves.

She learned a little bit about farming.

She went and helped Genevia on her off day.

Genevia paid Mable was so scared she dropped the money and backed into the corner and began to have a fit.

Genevia gave the money to Brenda.

Brenda and Patrick talked to Mable and put her money up.

Brenda had ten servant’s rooms in the house.

She had three servants’ rooms over the stables for the men who worked in the stables.

She had to think where to put Denise and Mable.

All of their servants had their homes to go to.

Brenda knew Denise and Mable were out of slavery and they did not know each.

She all the hundred servants were white and some of them were racist but work for her because she pay them good. They had uniforms, and shoes provided for all of the servants in the house.

Brenda was walking through the house and walked in the kitchen.

She saw Mable sitting on the floor with her head on her knees and Denise was curled up on the floor sleep.

The servants were in their rooms.

Brenda backed out the kitchen and went and sat in the parlor and prayed and thought.

She could not fir all of her employees, but again it was her responsibility to find them a place to sleep especially since they had no place.

Patrick woke several times through the night and wondered where Brenda was.

He thought, “She must be working on something.”

The day was breaking.

She walked and looked out over her large place and she loved how organized it was.

Her eyes fell to the supply shed they did not use anymore.

Brenda stood still and stared at the supply shed like someone was telling her what to do.

Patrick walked up and hugged her and rested his head on top of hers.

Brenda slowly said, “Denise and Mable were sleeping on the kitchen floor. I need to find them a place to live until they are able to find themselves a place to stay. I think I see it.”

Patrick looked at the window.

They went to breakfast.

Brenda and Patrick walked outside to the supply shed.

William was with them.

They went into the supply shed and looked around.

Patrick said, “I didn’t realize how large this place was.”

Patrick said, “William. Get Wilson and his guys out here today.”

William said, “I will send him a telegram you request for him to come and do work today.”

Patrick said, “However you say it.”

Brenda looked around.

Wilson and his sons came that day.

Patrick had them to put on a new roof and re-did the floors and re-enforced the walls.

He had them to place two wash closets on either side of the walls and a laundry room.

Brenda said, “Patrick one laundry won’t do, especially with women.”

Patrick had a laundry room placed next to the wash closets.

Brenda said, “Windows pleased in each room.”

Brenda said, “William I need to know if I can have two rooms until Mr. Wilson finish remodeling?”

William said, “You mean for the servants to go and come every day until Mr. Wilson finish this job?”

William said, “No ma am. Can’t they stay at a hotel or if not the only place is the storage area but it has rats.”

Mr. Wilson was looking at William. He turned and walked back to his workers.

Patrick hated rats. He said calmly, “William get rid of the rats. I don’t want them tavelling to us.”

William dd not say anything.

Patrick said, “Have they already travelled to us?”

William said, “I will work on the storage area for them sir.”

Patrick looked at Brenda as William walked away and said, “He did not answer me.”

Denise and Mable were there in July when Brenda did her big Fourth of July celebration.

Mr. Wilson finished his plan re-modeling of the shed in nearly two months.

Brenda went into the storage are and found four beds. She ordered mattresses. She found curtains and matching bed linens and rugs.

She had dressers brought out of storage to the re-modeled shed.

She and Wyonna stood and looked around.

They went back into the storage area and found washcloths and towels they would never use.

Brenda told Wyonna to put soap and toiletries out there for Denise and Mable.

Denise and Mable slept on the mattresses Brenda bought.

Brenda was glad to see her storage room was being cleared out.

Brenda talked to Patrick and said, “It’s hard looking at them.”

Patrick said, “I know it must be.”

Brenda looked at the storage area which was originally suppose to part of the family’s living space, but accumulated so much stuff over thirty years and just piled everything in that area.

Brenda and Patrick refused to unpack all of the stuff Eleanor sent.

They opened each box to say they opened each box. They took stuff out the boxes they understand and put it in the children’s room, but not the main house.

Brenda told Eleanor she hired Denise and Mable.

Eleanor said, “Momma real slaves!!”

Brenda cried and said, “Yes. It is hard to look in their faces. They look at me as though I am strange. They won’t take the money they earn. So your father and I put it up for them. I need for them to move on and don’t expect to live here. This is a bridge from that horrible time to their next life. I don’t want anyone to take their money, especially Mable.”

Elanor shook her head to clear it.

Brenda said, “After the holidays and our guests leave I want to send Mable to Dr. Woodson to see if he could help her walking. Gen and Ben said they would with her. Mable has gotten use to being around them.”

Brenda stared in space until Eleanor touched her hand and said, “Momma.”

Brenda said, “I asked Mable would she go with me to my Genevia’s house and help her with her garden. She disappeared. I stood in the kitchen and looked at William. He just looked at me and then she came back with her stuff balled up.”

Brenda cried.

Eleanor sat for a minute and thought she said, “She thought she was being sold.”

Brenda bent over in pain and cried.

Eleanor laid her head on Brenda’s back until she calmed down.

Brenda sat up and looked at Eleanor and said, “Some of this your father can’t understand.”

Eleanor bucked her eyes at Brenda and said, “My god.”

Brenda looked at Eleanor, and said, “I never let anyone insult you by calling you a nigger. I never let you be around people who were racist or I felt was racist. Your father thought the people find if they grinned in his face.”

Brenda looked around, and said, “That’s why I pushed your father to grow and become bigger than all of his brothers in business so he could be powerful enough to take on anyone that would try to hurt you or your brothers.”

Eleanor said, “I think I am understanding what you are saying.”

Brenda said, “They can’t say that about your children, but watch your children and listen to what people say to them or behind your back and keep your children away from those people. The ones that grin in your face like they are so Christian and so nice are sometimes the most evil. That’s why your grandparents gave you all of their shares in the businesses so you can have power to fight the racist.”

Eleanor’s stomach was flipping.

She had only day to clean up the mansion and get it ready for the count.

Steve and Belinda were up and packing.

Ellen was laying on her bed with the door open and reading her bible.

Their boxes were in the hallway.

Eleanor came from the backstairs.

The servants did not want Eleanor to come that way because she could catch them at their worst.

Steve and Patrick had a moment to talk about the count.

Steve told Patrick “I have nothing bad to say about him. Eleanor was sitting on a bench waiting for the Sunday matinee at the symphony. Percy loves the Mozart and symphony. Eleanor really was not feeling well. She has times when she is really sick.”

Patrick said, “From what?”

Steve looked at Patrick and said, “From the baby. Eleanor was at the point of death every single day. Someone had to be with her every hour.”

Patrick said, “I did not know my daughter nearly died.”

Steve said, “She mumbled and the only thing we could make out was ‘Bruce’.

Patrick said, “Buzzard.”

Steve said, “But the count asked Eleanor if he could sit next to her. Eleanor did not respond because she was sick. The count sat next to her on the bench. Eleanor begin to pass out. I ran to her and she fell on the count and he jumped and caught her. He helped me and the boys with her. He went and got a friend of his who was a doctor and they came along with their dates and brought Eleanor to.”

Patrick said, “What does this count do?”

Steve said, “I could not find out. I wanted to leave. Eleanor refused. Percy wanted to hear Mozart. I was not going to leave her or the boys there. The count volunteered to wait with the boys until I came back. I saw a policeman and asked could he watch the boys until I returned he said, “No.”

Brenda walked in from her talk with Sheryl and Roderick and was shaking her head and mumbling. She looked for alcohol and did not see any unopened bottles.

Steve said, “ Eleanor was conscious enough to sit on the bench. She told me to go and seat the boys and she would wait. The count waited on the bench with her until I came back. Then he and his date went into the symphony. I took Eleanor back to the hotel with Belinda and Ellen. I left and went back to the symphony and waited for the boys. Eleanor made dinner reservations at a restaurant that European royalty frequent. It was the restaurant owned by the count’s mother.”

Patrick said, “That’s why the boys said he can cook.”

Brenda was listening.

Steve said, “Eleanor made me take the boys to dinner and she slept. The count asked about her well being and the next day, he sent flowers to her. I don’t know how he knew the hotel we were staying. But the food was good. That’s how they met. I did not see that he knew about her money and started pursuing her. He is a little younger than Eleanor.”

Patrick thought, “Damn. That’s make it harder.”

Patrick said, “Thank you Steve. I want to see you all before you leave, If I see you off at the train station I will run into the count. I want to meet him on my territory.”

Steve said, “You and your family especially Eleanor have done more for me and my family than what you know. Good night.”

Steve looked at Brenda and nodded his head.

William had a tray and was taking the bottles that were opened through the kitchen to dispose of them.

He took the bottles to his room where Wyonna had their bottles and labels.

William took the emptied bottles to the garbage and dumped them.

He cleaned the tray and went to his room with his wife.

Alice tipped with her glass and knocked on William’s door.

He was laying in bed and drinking his brandy.

Wyonna was drinking Sherry.

William said, “Come in Alice.”

Alice sneak in and said, “What are you’ll drinking?”

William lifted up his glass and said brandy and Wyonna has sherry.”

Alice said, “Brandy please.”

William poured Alice some sherry and she went back to her room and read a newspaper and drank her brandy until she went to sleep.

William told Wyonna, “We have enough liquor for the holidays.”

Wyonna laughed and went to sleep.

William looked at her then he turned over.

He was thinking he need to re-arrange the work schedule so he could be off for Christmas.