Eleanor, Percy, Thomas, Bruce and the entire staff spent the holiday.

A count introduced himself to Eleanor.

He invited her and her sons to his castle for a Christmas holiday afternoon of cider and cookies.

The boys loved the castle.

Eleanor and the boys rented a beautiful home in Salzburg until the spring.

Eleanor and the boys would pend the week-ends with her friend the count.

The boys missed riding their horses.

The count bought them horses to ride while they were in Austria.

Eleanor travelled to Germany and stayed until the fall.

Her friend the count would travel to Germany once per month to spend time with her and the boys.

The staff was getting worried because it seemed as if Eleanor and the count were becoming an item around the social circles in Europe.

The staff had no intentions of living in Austria.

The boys loved it. They loved riding their horses and having large picnics.

Eleanor was restless.

She could not sleep.

She had to make up her mind.

Could she stand in Austria with the count and become a countess.

She said, “Yes I can.”

Should I go back home and take over my businesses from Bruce and raise my family on my own without Bruce.”

Eleanor knew she could take over the businesses and run them but she was not sure if she wanted Bruce out of her life and the boys lives for every.

She told her staff to pack up and move to Paris.

Ellen was so relieved.

Because she and Captain Moss decided to get married in Paris on his last trip for the winter and they could be together on the trip back to America, before the holidays.

Captain Moss was much older than Ellen and said, he would retire when they came back to America to spend his days with Ellen.

He had a small cottage near the docks.

Ellen was to go back with Ellen and pack up everything and return to Philadelphia to live with Captain Moss.

Ellen sent Captain Moss they were on their way back to Paris.

The rented house was given up while Eleanor was living Austria.

They suites and rooms at the most fancy hotel in Paris.

Percy was keeping Shirley and Michael informed every week.

Ellen and Captain Moss had a very nice winter wedding in Paris.

They honeymooned there until the ship was ready to sail to America.

The count pursued Eleanor to Paris.

Captain Moss was watching everything.

Eleanor told the count she was clear on all of the parts of her decision, but one.

She told him she did not know if she wanted Bruce completely out of her life forever and away from her family forever.

The count came to the ship to see Eleanor and the boys off to America.

Eleanor and the count held each other and kissed.

Eleanor boarded her ship with elegance and flair she learned in Paris.

The count watched her and her three boys.

The boys wanted to stay and send for Shirley and Michael to join them in Austria.

One of the counts aides walked to him and whispered something in his ear.

He turned and looked at Eleanor walking on the deck with her boys.

The captain and his crewmen watched the count.

The captain greeted Eleanor and her staff and walked them to their suites.

Ellen and Belinda were watching the count.

Ellen said, “That man told the count that Eleanor is rich.”

Eleanor was torn.

She knew if she look back at the count, she would run off the ship with her three children never to see Bruce again.

But her thoughts were with Brenda and Patrick.

Eleanor and her boys went to their suite.

The boys went to the deck and waved at the count and his aide.

Eleanor was sitting sideways on the sofa in the living room.

She wanted to hear the excitement of the people because the ship is sailing.

She did not want to see the count as the ship sailed away.

Roderick said, “The count is busy reading that paper his aide gave him.”

Ellen said, “He is probably reading that Eleanor is the richest woman in America.”

Percy, Thomas and Bruce turned and looked at Ellen.

Sheryl laughed and kissed good bye to Europe.

She waved good bye to the people as they Roderick held their son.

The count looked sick.

Ellen said, “Oh God we will not be afraid about if Eleanor would make it this time going home.”

She held onto Thomas’ shoulders as they stood and sail away from France to America.

Everyone sat on the deck and watched the other ships sail away.

Ellen and Belinda and went inside and unpacked the much luggage and ordered dinner.

Steven and Belinda went to their room.

Ellen had dinner with her New husband.

Roderick and Sheryl and their son had dinner in the cabin.

They had a large amount of luggage from the ship to be transferred to the railroad.

Once they arrived in Philadelphia they met Shirley and Michael.

Eleanor left her crying children again.

She was upset.

She sat at her desk, in the owner’s suite, and wrote down her planned attack against Bruce.

She thought about what the count told her to do about her money and her husband.

Eleanor started drinking her whiskey.

She walked back and forth thinking about Shirley and Michael, she had a bottle in one hand and her glass of whiskey in the other.

She fell asleep with her on the desk.

The boys woke and ran into the study and looked at a drunk and sleep Eleanor.

Ellen called the boys to breakfast.

She saw Percy did not move.

He stood in the door and looked at Eleanor.

Ellen walked over to him and pushed him by his head out of the doorway and looked at Eleanor.

Ellen closed the door.

Thomas said, “No lamb chops?”

Ellen looked at Thomas.

Percy and Bruce laughed.

Eleanor slept most of the day.

She woke and thought and then sat straight in her chair.

She signaled for the porter.

The porter came to the suite.

Eleanor had written a telegram to send to her secret attorney.

Ellen went to the door and she greeted the porter.

Ellen walked out her office and greeted the porter and gave him her telegram.

The porter turned and walked to the office and sent the telegram.

Eleanor looked at the time and said, “Good afternoon my loves.”

Percy ran to her and hugged her waist.

Thomas and Bruce laughed.

Eleanor walked over to her boys and said, to Ellen, “Hot bathe. We should arrived late tonight.”

Ellen grinned.

She knew time she packed up she would be moving to Philadelphia with her new husband.

Ellen packed all the luggage.

When they arrived home that night William had many wagons at the train station to get their luggage and belongings.

Eleanor’s staff stayed at the mansion that night.

Eleanor told the boys to be quiet and surprise Brenda and Patrick in the morning.

The workers eased in the house.

William directed them to servants’ quarters.

The wagon drivers brought all the luggage in the house and left and went home.

 Patrick was up late.

He was reading.

Brenda was laying on her stomach and snoring.

Patrick and Brenda moved back downstairs that year.

Patrick sat in bed and listened.

He got up and put on his slippers and eased the door open.

He heard noise outside in the hall. He tipped up the hall and heard muffled voices.

Patrick became concern, but he thought all of these servants.

He tipped further and then he saw little figures running up the stairs behind a larger figure.

His heart burst.

He waited until he saw the little figures run down one end of the hall and when he saw his Eleanor walked into her room.

He could not contain himself.

He turned to go and wake Brenda. Then he wanted time alone with them.

He turned to run upstairs to then then he turned back.

William had tipped toed from the servants’ quarters to the liquor table and poured a full glass of brandy.

Patrick snatched the glass out of William’s hand.

William jumped out of fear.

Patrick said, “Full breakfast tomorrow.”

He looked and saw all the luggage in the parlor.

William and said, “Some more outside.”

Patrick took another large swallow and put the glass on the table.

He walked back to his bedroom.

He was dancing a jig and singing.

William leaned back to see the shadows on the wall.

He saw Patrick opened the door and when the door closed.

William grabbed the glass and re-filled it and he turned and Danielle and Ester were peeping and waiting.

Ester held her glass up.

William poured rum into her glass and Danielle’s glass.

Ester and Danielle looked at the rum in their glasses.

Ester said, “No Sherry?”

William said, “Hell no, Eleanor is back.”

They heard a noise upstairs, they all ran back through the kitchen to the servant’s quarters.

William and his wife, Danielle and Ester sat and smoked and drank and played cards until late.

They sat and drank and played cards until late.

They went back to their rooms and went to sleep until daybreak.

The cooks were up and William put a note for a full breakfast for six that morning.

The cooks looked at each other.

They went looking for William.

William was drunk and trying to sit up.

He said, “Come in.”

His wife was still sleep.

The cooks stepped in and held up his note.

William looked at the cooks with a half closed eye and said, “Eleanor is back with her three boys. Patrick wants a full breakfast this morning.”

The cooks were new and remembered Jose telling them to watch out for Eleanor.

The cooks ran back to the kitchen.

Patrick could not wait.

He ran upstairs and opened Eleanor’s door and peeped in at her.

He could not resist.

He tipped in her room and sat on her bed.

She slept on her stomach like Brenda.

He held his hand up.

He wanted to touch her.

He had not touched his daughter in nearly two years.

He missed her badly.

His eyes filled with tears.

He could resist no longer.

He softly touched her back.

Eleanor woke.

Patrick wanted to jump and run.

Because he said to himself he would wait for Brenda.

Eleanor felt her father’s touch in her sleep.

A touch she loved.

When she was good and when she was bad, her father’s touch made her feel it will all work out.

Eleanor raised up and looked into Patrick’s face and smiled.

Percy woke and ran to the stairs to go downstairs and he saw Eleanor’s door opened and he stopped in his tracks and turned.

He and his grandfather looked at each other at the same second.

Percy screamed, “Grandpa!”

He ran and jumped into Patrick’s arm.

Eleanor laughed.

Bruce ran out his room and was rubbing his eyes.

Thomas flipped in his bed and staggered out his room and bumped into Bruce.

He walked into Eleanor’s room and fell into his grandpa’s arms.

Then Thomas flipped on Eleanor’s bed and went back to sleep.

Bruce finally walked into the room and hugged his grandpa and fell asleep on Patrick’s neck.

Eleanor said, “Bruce come here.”

Bruce walked to the bed and she put him in the front of the bed.

Patrick sat in quiet and enjoyed the presence of his daughter and his grandchildren.

Patrick was happy.

Percy claimed in bed with Eleanor and his brothers.

Patrick sat and watched them sleep for a while.

He could smell the bacon and ham.

He smiled and stood and walked out of Eleanor’s room.

Patrick went downstairs and he looked at the liquor table and walked to his room.

He laid on his bed.

Brenda was waking.

She turned over and Patrick held her.

They slept for another hour until Thomas knocked on their door for breakfast.

Patrick said, “Come in.”

Thomas entered the room with two wash basins and placed them on the dresser.

Thomas said, “Breakfast is served.”

He turned and walked out the room.

Brenda looked at Thomas.

She thought that was strange.

Percy was slim but he liked to eat.

He jumped out of Eleanor’s bed and ran downstairs to eat.

He ran pass Brenda and hugged her and said, “Hey grandmother.”

Brenda said, “Hey Percy.”

Patrick looked at Brenda because she was unfazed by Percy’s presence.

Thomas stood at the dining room door.

Patrick looked up the stairs and saw Thomas coming down the stairs.

Brenda walked to the dining room and saw Percy asking for a lot of bacon, scrambled eggs and a biscuit.

She could not talk.

Brenda stood still and next Thomas passed she and Patrick.

Brenda started crying and mumbling.

Patrick held Brenda.

Bruce held onto Eleanor’s hand and walked her down the stairs.

Patrick looked and saw Eleanor.

He turned Brenda to see Eleanor walking down the stairs.

Brenda looked up and then over at the stairs and saw Eleanor and Bruce escorting her down the stairs.

Brenda smiled, because Bruce was escorting her with one of his hands behind his back.

Eleanor looked and saw her parents and she ran and Bruce ran.

She and Bruce fell into Patrick and Brenda.

They hugged and cried.

Bruce ran into the dining room.

He liked bread and wanted scones and butter.

The cook said they did not have scones.

Brenda said, “Make them.”

Eleanor said, “Tomorrow. Let’s not waist time over bread.”

She walked to Bruce and said, “Let’s get the same thing to eat. You pick.”

Bruce, picked grits, eggs and sausage and biscuits.

The boys laughed because they knew Eleanor did not eat a lot and they did.

Brenda and Patrick walked in the dining and joined their family for breakfast.

Patrick was splitting his biscuit to put jam in it and said, “I’m glad you are back Eleanor. Patrick, John and Christopher wants to move in and bring all their children and in laws.“

Thomas and the cooks turned their heads.

Eleanor said, “Why. They have places to stay.”

Brenda said, “Because they want to live in a grand house. I went through this with your uncles and I sure am not going through this with them.”

Eleanor said, “Sell me the house.”

Eleanor boys sat and listened.

Eleanor said, “I don’t want to fight them about this house. God forbid something happen to either of you.”

Brenda sat and listened and looked at Patrick.

Patrick had stopped his buttering of his biscuit and said, “That may just work. I don’t want all of them here.”

Eleanor said, “You and momma will continue to live here and rule and run this house the way you always have. I won’t interfere.”

Patrick looked at Eleanor’s boys and said, “You boys are very attentive since you been to Europe.”

Percy said, “Grandma did you like the souvenirs we sent to you?”

Brenda gave all the souvenirs away.

She did not know how to answer Percy.

Eleanor looked at her mother and Patrick did not want to get involved with issue and said, “Eleanor which country did you like the most?’

Percy was looking at Brenda.

Brenda said, “Wait a minute Patrick and let me answer Percy?”

Patrick stopped and looked because he wanted to know how Brenda was going to get out of that.

She looked at Percy and said, “My dear Percy. I loved and enjoyed everyone.”

Percy cut his eyes around in the house and said, “I don’t see any of them grandma.”

Brenda looked him in his eyes and said, “I gave them to the servants for them to enjoy. I thought you wanted others to enjoy them.”

Percy said, “It was too much and you did not have space?”

Brenda said, “My God Percy how you deducted that.”

Percy said, “I am smart.”

Brenda said, “That you are.”

Thomas said, “I saw a few in my room.”

Patrick said, “We kept a few and placed them in your rooms to remind us of you.”

Brenda sniffed.

Percy said, “That’s alright grandma and grandpa. It was a lot even for this house.”

Bruce said, “Momma’s boyfriend’s castle was really big and he bought us horses to ride when we spent the week-ends.”

Patrick and Brenda looked at Eleanor.

The butler and cooks and maids looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at Bruce and said, “Thank you Bruce for telling all of my business.”

Eleanor said, “That’s true. He is a count and has a castle. I have not completely made up my mind.”

Patrick said, “Let me make up your mind for you Eleanor. You are a married woman.”

He reached Bruce a buttered and jammed filled biscuit.

Bruce said, “Grandpa we really like him.”

Patrick said, “Like your daddy.”

Percy said, “He has a girlfriend.”

Thomas said, “I don’t like him no more.”

Thomas cried and jumped up from the table and ran upstairs.

Patrick said, “What the hell was that?”

Eleanor stood to go to Thomas.

She said, “We saw Bruce a few days. Percy and Shirley and Michael had planned to see us without my knowing.”

Eleanor sat and smiled and tears began to fall.

Eleanor said, “Shirley can walked.”

Percy said, “Shirley asked us to stay for the holidays because Bruce built a house. But Bruce said no. That’s why Thomas hates him. Because he did not want us in his house.”

Eleanor said, “Shirley walked.”

Eleanor stood and walked upstairs to Thomas.

She went to Thomas’ room and did not see him.

She stood and to her room.

She laid in her bed and held onto Thomas.

Percy ate the rest of his bacon and went upstairs and got in the bed with Eleanor and Thomas.

Patrick and Brenda were stunned that Shirley could walk.

Bruce said, “Shirley eyes are straighter. Michael has grown. It was a nice surprise for Eleanor. All the people were clapping. Then Bruce ruined it.”

Bruce stood up and reached for a sausage and ran upstairs.

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “I want them back. I prayed for this for two years. I will deal with Bruce whenever I see him. At least your sons and all of their families won’t be moving into this house. I can’t stand most of them anyway.”

Brenda looked at Patrick and said, “This is our house. You are going to sell it to Eleanor?”

Patrick said, “Yes. I planned to will it to her anyway. Maybe we can take our trips now.”

He kissed Brenda,

Brenda smiled.

They ate breakfast and sit in the sitting room nan drank their coffee.

The cooks took the food to the kitchen and the servants got what they wanted.

William and his wife started work at dinner time.

They left and went to their home and check and made sure everything was fine.

They spent time with their elderly parents and their children.

William and his wife retuned in time to dress for the evening and serve dinner.

Ellen spent the day with her family and packed her room.

She had a wagon and from Patrick’s mansion.

She filled the wagon and they carried all her boxes to the train station.

Steve and Belinda had decided to move to Philadelphia with Ellen.

Ellen cried because she wanted someone to be with her.

Steve talked to William and William said, “The hotel belongs to Bruce and now that his house is built he may sell the hotel, but he would ask Eleanor if she knows what to do.”

Eleanor told William to send a telegram to Robert about Bruce’s plan for the hotel.

Robert sent a telegram back that Mr. Miller was fired and the hotel had not had a manger for six months because Bruce was busy with his grand house and new girlfriend.

William gave Eleanor the telegram after dinner.

Eleanor read it and handed it back to William and said, “Hire Steve as the hotel manager. If the workers took care of the hotel by themselves then they can teach him what to do. Give him a suite for him and his family to stay until he finds them a place to live.”

William said, “Yes ma am.”

Steve and Belinda were busy helping Ellen to pack.

William went and told them Eleanor’s instruction.

Steve was shocked.

Steve and Belinda packed their sparse belongings and their twin boys and left with Ellen.

Roderick and Sheryl left the mansion and went to Roderick’s house.

Sheryl waited until Roderick walked into the kitchen and peeped.

She told Eleanor the house was raggedly and torn up and needed much work.

Eleanor told Roderick and Sheryl they could stay in the servants’ quarters until their house was liveable.

Roderick immediately hired workers to fix the house up and he had water and coal to be delivered.

Sheryl invited Eleanor and the boys for tea before the holidays.

She and Eleanor walked through the house.

Roderick had a new roof and windows and floors put in the house.

He had the house painted inside and outside.

He had a coal filled.

Brenda said, “Sherly could get any of the things they were storing in the mansion.

Sheryl got curtains and rugs and dishes, forks and spoons, pots and pans.

She and Roderick took plenty of blankets and quilts.

Ellen asked if she could have some quilts.

Brenda said, “If you are going to live at the oceanfront you will need much coverings.”

But Ellen only took ten quilts.

Eleanor’s extended family was gone.

Roderick and Sheryl and the baby moved to their house in three weeks.

Ellen and Belinda, Steve and their twins moved to Philadelphia.

Eight of Patrick and Brenda’s servants quit to open a souvenir shop to sell all of the stuff Eleanor and the boys sent them.