Eleanor’s night was restless.

She woke and saw the new day dawning through patio curtain.

She laid in bed and was quiet.

Her mind was running over all the things she had to do. The children’s clothes were packed. She and Shirley had to go to the shops to pay the employees.

She thought about the portrait of she and her brothers how someone stole the picture and hung it in Max’s house. What does all of this mean. Brenda believe they move all valuables so they could burn the house down.

Eleanor said, “I don’t believe they will accomplish nothing.”

She thought about how they beat Michael and tried to drown Thomas.

She cried and hugged her pillow and cried in the so no one could hear the pain.

Eleanor spoke out, “Christopher how could you do it. Patrick JR, P.J you would murder my children. Why? I never did anything to you. My babies never did anything to you.”

Eleanor wail for about an hour.

She composed herself and said, “God, that my momma and daddy serve, I have seen You many times help them. And if You did not do something they asked of You I know You did something else better and told them why You did not do that thing they asked of You. Help me children please. Don’t let them turn to be evil. Help them to know You and show them how to live this life and be happy. Not just to live.”

Eleanor begin crying.

She said, “I am not a happy person. I just live and go from day to day doing chores. Joseph helped me to have fun. I love him.”

Joseph smiles.

Eleanor said, “I ask You to put a complete end to all of these attacks against from the mob. Ut Max and Josephine in jail and let one of Your children raise up their children so they can have a better life. Show Shirley how to make money with honesty and integrity. Show her how to finance these ball gowns and don’t let them not pay her. Reveal who shot up my gift to momma and daddy rest stop. This woman my children were talking about how she was staring at my daddy and momma. Who is she and put ever she is trying to do end it badly for her. I am tired. It seems like I have been trying every since Shirley to get my life back and I have not been able to. I don’t want Bruce in my life ever. I will never love nor will I be his best friend again. All though I just live from day to day, I ask You to keep me alive so I can see all of children grow up and be godly woman and men. And maybe one day if You see fit come to You. I know You know why, so I can be with Joseph forever.”

Eleanor turned over to lay on her back and Thomas was standing in her room.

She nearly had a heart attack and had a sharp pain in her chest.

She gasped, “Thomas” and started rubbing her chest and fell back on her pillow.

Thomas ran to her and said, “Momma don’t die.”

Shirley heard Thomas and ran out her room to Eleanor.

Shirley was awake because she did not want to spend her money buying the ball gowns.

She was trying to think of a way for Patrick to buy the ball gowns and she gets the profit and she wanted her friends, Ginger, Alice and both Marys to attend.

Shirley was already planning a summer garden party in three weeks so she could invite Skip, Jake and some more of their friends so the girls could meet. She was going to invite Josiah and Natalie and Daniel.

Eleanor took a few deep breaths and was able to sit up.

Thomas stood in front of Eleanor and held her hands and cried.

Eleanor took her hands from Thomas and held his head and kissed him and patted his back and hugged him.

Shirley was stunned and stood in the door.

Patrick and Brenda were up early.

They prayed.

They were sitting in the sitting area reading some of those letters from Europe when they heard Thomas, then Shirley running.

They walked out the sitting room and stood for a minute.

They did not hear anything.

Patrick swallowed and bite his lips.

He started walking up the staircase.

Brenda stood at the bottom of the staircase.

Shirley was standing in Eleanor’s room not moving.

Patrick stopped on the staircase when he saw Eleanor hugging Thomas and her head buried in his chest.

Eleanor raised her head and said, “Thomas what did you want?”

Thomas held Elanor’s face and said, “Breakfast.”

Eleanor rested her head on Thomas’s chest and said, “Baby I told you I can’t cook.”

Thomas said, “I told you before momma I did. Let’s go.”

Eleanor stood and Thomas held one hand.

Shirley stepped aside and held Eleanor’s other hand.

Patrick tipped down the staircase and waved for Brenda to move.

Brenda’s heart was heavy.

Patrick tipped down the stairs and pulled her back.

She looked at Patrick.

Patrick held Brenda and said, “Remember HE brought us out yesterday and gave us a peaceful night’s sleep. HE woke us this morning with health and strength to embrace this day and believe in HIM and trust HIM again today for this is the day the LORD has made. Brenda let us rejoice in this day and be glad. HE has already defeated all enemies and given us eternal victory in JESUS.”

Brenda looked up in Patrick’s face.

He said, “Now you remind me of that in this day.”

Thomas was at the top of the staircase looking down and saw his grandpa and grandma holding each other.

Thomas and Michael look to see Patrick and Brenda having fun together.

Thomas waited a few minutes.

He said, “Hey grandma and grandpa do you know where the food is?”

Patrick said, “I told you Thomas it takes hours to get the breakfast ready.”

Brenda started laughing.

Thomas did not see anything funny.

He stood on the staircase and looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “See this boy standing on the staircase like I better go and get him some food. With his funny eating self.”

Brenda was laughing and turned Patrick loose and looked up the staircase at Thomas.

Brenda waved at Thomas.

She said, “Come with me Thomas. I can cook.”

Thomas walked down the staircase and took Brenda’s hand and looked back at Patrick.

Patrick looked at Thomas.

Brenda shook Thomas’ hand and said, “That’s your grandpa. Don’t be mean to him.”

Thomas looked up in Brenda’s tender loving eyes.

Brenda said, “Thomas apologize to your grandpa for being mean bout the food. He loves you too.”

Thomas was looking in Brenda’s eyes and stop walking with her and looked back at Patrick and said, “Come on grandpa.”

Patrick mumbled and made a face, “’Come on grandpa’ in my house.”

Patrick said, “Good morning Thomas.”

Thomas reach his other hand to Patrick.

They walked to the kitchen.

Thomas was walking to the kitchen to start breakfast, because he was going fishing for two weeks.

He and Louis had different opinions about securing the house.

Thomas was not going to be killed securing somebody’s else house.

Thomas did not see Thomas in the kitchen when he ran to find out where the food was.

Patrick pulled Thomas to him in front of Eleanor and he leaned over and kissed Eleanor on her cheek.

Shirley reached her cheek to Patrick.

He acted like he did not see her.

Shirley’s face sunk.

Brenda saw Shirley’s face change.

She said, “Patrick.”

Patrick said, “What?”

Eleanor looked at her daddy.

Patrick leaned back and kissed Shirley on her cheek and grinned.

Patrick looked at Shirley and said, “I will never overlook you Shirley.”

Thomas had prepared everything to cook for breakfast.

He started the fire.

He looked at Shirley how her countenance changed to happy when Patrick kissed her and she felt his love.

Brenda hugged Eleanor and whispered in her ear, “You will see Ryan when we are in Philadelphia.”

Eleanor looked at her mother.

Thomas knew it was something serious about Eleanor’s health.

He knew Eleanor better get well with all of her children she had to raise.

Patrick said, “Thomas sir.”

Thomas looked up in his grandpa’s face.

Patrick said, “I never know you are like Percy about food. The moment you wake you are ready to eat.”

Brenda and Eleanor laughed.

Thomas looked at Brenda and Eleanor.

He said, “I can cook grandpa.”

Patrick said, “Really.”

Eleanor said, “Thomas you keep saying that how did you learn to cook. Who taught you?”

Thomas said, “My daddy.”

Brenda said, “Huh.”

Thomas was looking in the oven.

Eleanor said, “Bruce can’t cook.”

Thomas said, “Joseph.”

Thomas looked up from the oven at Thomas.

Thomas started crying.

Patrick already had his hand on Thomas’ shoulder.

Eleanor rushed to Thomas and held him.

Thomas held onto Eleanor and both of them cried.

Eleanor said, “I miss him to. I did not know how you felt Thomas. I am sorry.”

Thomas said, “Joseph taught me to cook because he said you did not know how and he did not want us to starve.”

Thomas walked out the kitchen into the formal dining room and sat down.

He thought, “Joseph knew he was going to die. Why was he going through with the marriage.”

Eleanor said, “Thomas I did not think about you and Percy and Bruce and Michael the pain you have. Momma does not know how to help you.”

Patrick put his other hand on Eleanor.

Shirley walked over and hugged Thomas and Eleanor.

Brenda walked over and said, “LORD GOD Almighty remove the sorrow and grief from these my children and give them the oil of gladness and joy. Revive them and give them a love that only YOU can give. In JESUS’ name.”

Shirley said, “Amen and Amen.”

Thomas returned to the kitchen.

He said, “Thomas come and let me help you cook breakfast this morning.”

Eleanor wiped Thomas eyes with her hand.

Thomas walked over to Thomas and he put the bacon in the pan.

Thomas cracked the eyes.

Shirley yelled, “I want an omelet.”

Thomas said, “Don’t yell Shirley.”

Everyone laughed.

Shirley said, “I’m sorry.”

Shirley and Brenda went into the sitting room and talked until breakfast was ready.

Patrick had three plates and waked through the billiards room and looked and saw Shirley and Brenda and said, “Come to breakfast.”

Eleanor went upstairs and woke Percy, Bruce and Michael.

They followed her downstairs to the family dining room.

Thomas and Thomas the cook brought plates to the family dining room.

Thomas put every one plate at their chars.

He went into the kitchen and begin to clean up.

He knew he did not have to put any food in storage.

Thomas started washing all the dishes.

He forgot the orange juice.

He put the glasses of orange juice on a tray.

Thomas carried the orange juice to the family dining room.

Percy was sitting at the table sleep.

Bruce was sitting straight looking straight ahead of him.

Michael had his right arm stretched out over the table and his head was on the table.

His face was facing Eleanor.

Thomas smiled when he saw the children sleepy.

Patrick looked at Thomas.

Brenda smiled.

She said, “Thomas the food is good.”

Both Thomas said, “Thank you.”

Eleanor grinned and looked at the cook Thomas.

Thomas was happy.

He leaned his head on Eleanor.

She leaned her head on Thomas’ head.

Percy went to sleep at the table.

Bruce continued to sit and stare into space.

Michael slept for the entire breakfast.

Shirley stood and carried her plate into the kitchen and went up the backstairs to her room.

She slept for another hour and woke when Louis and Gary brough her hot water for a bath.

She bathed and dressed herself.

She liked the summer dress she chose.

Shirley went downstairs in the sitting room and started working on the pay for the three shop workers.

Thomas looked at Percy and Bruce and he peeped at Michael.

He had a good breakfast talking to Eleanor, Brenda and Patrick.

Bruce stood and walked out the family dining room.

Thomas said, “Bruce your breakfast!”

Bruce stood and stumbled back to his seat and sat and ate his bacon and some eggs and drank his orange juice.

Bruce slammed his glass of orange juice on the table and stared at Thomas.

Thomas looked at Bruce.

Bruce got up again and ran out the family dining room.

Thomas said, “You are welcome.”

Bruce yelled and ran upstairs to his bed.

Bruce fell at the foot of his bed and slept for an hour.

Percy’s head was falling into his plate.

Brenda pulled Percy’s plate back and he hit his head on the table and slept.

Eleanor shook Michael’s thigh and said, “Eat your breakfast Michael.”

Michael felt for his plate and he felt for his lamb chop.

He got his lamb chop and begin to eat it.

He fell over on his back at the table with the lamb chop in his left hand.

Brenda and Patrick hollered.

Eleanor did not know what to do.

Thomas peeped around Eleanor and looked at Michael.

Thomas walked around the table and got Bruce’s plate and his plate and carried them to the kitchen.

Eleanor stood and looked at Percy and Michael.

Brenda said, “Leave them. We will get them up later.”

Eleanor tried to get Michael’s lamb chop.

Michael put the lamb chop in his mouth and bit down hard on the lamb chop.

Patrick and Brenda laughed hard at Michael.

Eleanor wanted to take their plates into the kitchen.

Brenda watched Eleanor to see what decision she was going to make.

Eleanor decided to take her plate in the kitchen and leave Michael’s plate and Percy’s plate.

She looked at them and walked out the family dining room.

Patrick said, “I wanted to see how she was going to handle this.”

Brenda smiled and said, “Me too.”

They sat and drank coffee and laughed at Percy and Michael.

Eleanor went to her bedroom and bathed and dressed.

Thomas bathed and dressed.

Louis and Gary took a tub of hot water to Bruce, who was spread eagle at the foot of his bed.

Gary and Louis looked at Gary.

Eleanor walked in and looked at Bruce and said, “Leave the tub of hot water. I will wake him later.”

Percy woke and stretched at the table.

Patrick said, “Good morning.”

Brenda grinned.

Jose was finally awake.

He walked into the family dining room.

He stood and looked at Percy was sleep on the table and sat up and stretched and yawn.

He looked at Michael who had his lamb chop in his mouth and was sleep with his arm and back on the table.

Patrick and Brenda smirked at Jose.

Jose said, “Good morning.”

He picked up the orange juice glasses and Patrick and Brenda’s plates and returned to the kitchen.

He saw Louis and Gary carrying the hot water to Patrick and Brenda’s suite.

Jose walked through the house and checked the rooms and everything was fine.

He checked the patio doors and wondered why they were unlocked.

He locked the patio doors again and left the doors open.

He checked the library and found the windows unlocked.

He locked the windows.

He walked out the library and saw Brenda and Patrick going to their bedroom.

Jose said, “Excuse me.”

Patrick and Brenda stopped.

Jose said, “All the patio doors were closed but unlocked. The windows in the library were unlocked. I haven’t checked your office yet.”

Patrick and Brenda stood still.

Patrick said, “My library.”

Brenda said, “This is the day the LORD has made. It just got started.”

They walked to Patrick’s office.

Patrick checked his windows and said, “Unlocked.”

He locked them again.

He said, “I did not think to check the windows. So the person is in the house and unlocking doors and windows for the mob to get in.”

Jose said, “Do you remember the last time you checked the windows and doors?”

Patrick said, “No.”

Jose said, “I’m going back and look under the beds and closets. I just locked the patio doors.”

Brenda said, “GOD gave us this house and ain’t nobody going to destroy it.”

Patrick stood and looked at his expensive pictures and furnishings and he walked to his library and stood.

Brenda said, “Come on Patrick let us bath and dress. We got to trust GOD and JESUS. I know it looks bad. But we have been in bad spots before. That’s how we learned HE made ways for us to get the victory. We will have the victory in this hell.”

Patrick turned and walked to Brenda.

Jose was going from one suite to another checking under the beds and closets. He found guns under the beds and in the closets.

Patrick and Brenda looked at the guns.

Leon and his second in charge were walking in the house to talk to Brenda and Patrick.

They saw Jose with the guns.

Brenda and Patrick looked.

They all walked to Jose.

Leon looked at the guns and the second in charge looked at the guns and said, “These are military issued guns.”

The second in charge said, “We have to tell them.”

Leon shook his head.

Leon and Patrick started at the room Jose had not searched.

They found guns in every room under the beds and in the closets.

Leon said, “I’ll take some of these guns to the new headquarters. They are gonna get the guns we had and put them in a wall and load this house with their guns and ammunition.”

Leon said, “It takes about an hour to get to the new headquarters and an hour back. You all will be on the train. I will have Jose telegram you a message.”

Jose said, “I will be with them.”

Leon said, “Whenever you get back. I need you to check every room in this house the same way. I don’t trust anybody anymore.”

Jose waited until Leon and the second in charge walked away and said, “I don’t trust them either.”

Patrick and Brenda looked at Jose.

Jose said, “I am going to be staying in the house. I am going to leave all these guns on this end so I can easily get to them. I will not tell Leon nor that security man.”

Brenda said, “GOD has to resolve this problem.”

Leon left and took some guns and ammunition with him.

He arrived at the new headquarters as the family was getting in the carriages.

Gen and Ben rode their carriage and horse to Brenda and Patrick and left the horses to be cared for by their stable workers.

Gen and Ben rode in the carriage with Shirley and Eleanor.

When they arrived in town.

Brenda and Patrick went to the train station with the children.

Eleanor and Shirley went to their shops and paid the workers and left.

Patrick saw the racist white woman and man being put in a wagon.

He said, “Brenda look at that.”

Brenda said, “I see.”

They continued to the train station.

Stanley was at the train station waiting for them.

Patrick saw Stanley and pulled up and talked to Stanley.

Stanley said he would stay at the house.

Patrick told Stanley about the guns planted in the house under the beds and in the closets.

Stanley stood in fear.

Patrick said, “Leon said the guns were military issued.”

The wagon with the racist white woman and man passed by the train station.

Patrick said, “Stanley see what you can find out from the sheriff about that woman and man and share it with us when we return.”

Stanley looked at the wagon and said, “They are being transported somewhere.”

Patrick reached his hand to Stanley and they shook hands.

Brenda shook Stanley’s hand.

Patrick said, “Be careful. Jose will be in the house and Louis. I trust them and no body else.”

Stanley said, “I understand. I ‘ll be on the first floor at the suites.”

Patrick said, “Stanley can you take our buggy back?”

Stanley said, “Yes sir. Yall be careful.”

Lorraine and Meredith stepped out the carriages with the boys.

Meredith ran onto the train with the boys following her.

Lorraine looked at Stanley and grinned.

Stephanie was waiting for Eleanor.

She walked over and spoke to everyone.

Lorraine looked at Stephanie up and down.

Stanley raised his eyebrows and twisted his mouth.

He knew there was a problem between the two women.

Stanley tied his horse to Patrick and Brenda’s buggy and turned and the buggy and went into town at the dress shop to talk to his wife.

She was going to the bank.

He walked with her to the bank and they kissed.

Stanley said, “Alice who was that woman and man the sheriff deputy was transporting a little while ago?”

Alice said, “I’ll find out. I guess I won’t see you for a week and a half.”

Stanley said, “Hopefully sooner.”

Alice said, “More people are talking about moving out of town because they fear the mob.”

Stanley looked at Alice with a puzzled look.

Alice said, “Stanley why are you looking at me like that?”

Stanley said, “How do you think this is the mob?”

Alice said, “Fear. Not giving up on their prize. You be careful and come back to me and Stanley Jr.”

Stanley gave Alice his big grin.

He got in the buggy and rode away.

Gary and Louis followed him down the road.

They saw Ben dropping Denise off at the Stith’s Rest stop for the freed men.

Ben immediately dropped Denise off and followed Gary and Louis back to the house.

Stanley was a little distance in front of them.

Alice was in the dress shop and saw three strange men walk by.

She looked across the street and saw several more men.

Her heart fainted.

Mary who is Shirley’s friend was coming out the storage area to go to the bank.

Alice said, “Mary are you going to the bank?”

Mary said, “Yes. You want something?”

Alice did not know to trust Mary or not, “She said, can you wait til lunch?”

Mary said, “Yes.”

She went in the back and sat at her desk.

Alice and Selma watched the strange men.

Everyone was on the train.

Gen and Ben were happy with their first class seats.

Meredith was sitting across from Gen and Ben.

Ty walked outside and greeted Brenda and Patrick.

They saw he was sad.

Ty said, “I’ll do this for the next month. I go back to school and finish and then next year I go to medical school.”

Patrick said, “We are going to build a hospital here you will be welcomed.”

Ty said, “I know that is great. But I can’t think about anything but George. I held him in my arms and prayed with him. I know he accepted JESUS before he closed his eyes in death. That is what is making this bearable. All of my family will be in Philadelphia for George’s funeral.”

Brenda was elated when Ty said George accepted JESUS.

Brenda said, “I was so worried about George’s salvation. After he helped so many. I just could not see God not giving him a chance to accept JESUS as Savior.”

Stephanie was sitting on the bench and looking at herself in the mirror.

Ty looked over at her.

Ty said, “Is she on this train?”

Patrick was holding a sniffing Brenda.

He looked at Meredith and laughed and said, “She has been gone for three years and she has not changed.”

Shirley, Eleanor and Jose pulled in the train station.

Jose helped Eleanor and Shirley out the carriage.

Ty looked and saw Eleanor and said, “My sister.”

Patrick and Brenda laughed.

Eleanor looked and saw Stephanie.

She walked over to Stephanie and they hugged.

They stood and talked.

Patrick and Brenda talked with Jose.

Ty walked around the train station.

He heard a noise and ran back to the train.

Shirley stood still.

Patrick, Brenda and Jose stopped talking.

Eleanor and Stephanie froze.

Shirley saw some horses.

She ran to the street.

Michael and Thomas were looking out the window.

They ran off the train and joined Shirley.

Then the soldiers rounded the corner.

They saw Skip, Jake and two other soldiers and a wagon.

Stephanie saw her fiancé, who was the lead soldier.

She ran to the street with Shirley.

He stopped and Jake and Skip and the wagon driver stopped.

He jumped off his horse quickly and grabbed Stephanie and kissed her.

Bruce and Percy looked out the window and saw Skip and Jake.

They ran pass gen and Ben and jumped off the train.

Gen saw the boys running pass her and Ben.

She looked out the window and saw Jake.

She stood and rushed off the train and walked pass Patrick and Eleanor.

Brenda and Jose did not move.

Patrick tried to grin, but he was scared.

He said, “Just think of two hundred of them.”

Brenda said, “No.”

Eleanor was holding tightly onto Patrick’s arm.

Patrick took his hand and tried to pry Eleanor’s tight grip from his arm he said, “Eleanor.”

Eleanor faintly said, “No.”

The boys ran to Jake.

Gen looked at Brenda and Patrick and scary Jose and walked fast to the soldiers.

She remembered the four from having dinner at her house.

Ben walked off the train by scared Ty.

He nervously grinned as he walked pass Patrick, Brenda and Jose.

Skip was talking to Shirley.

Jake said to Percy, “Where are you all going?”

Skip looked at the boys.

Percy said, “To Philadelphia for a funeral of one of the men who freed slaves.”

Jake said, “A very important person.”

Jake said, “Skip.”

Robert was busy kissing Stephanie.

Skip said, “Robert? Is this who you are to be talking with?”

Robert looked at Skip and looked at Patrick.

Bruce and Percy ran to Stephanie and hugged her.

Stephanie hugged them.

Robert stood and looked and said, “I am already jealous. Stephanie, who are these?”

Stephanie looked and said, “This is Percy and this Bruce. I use to be Bruce’s nurse. They went off to Europe and I started working in the next city at the hospital.”

Percy said, “We are going to build a hospital here and you can work here.”

Robert was standing with his arms folded looking at Percy and Bruce.

Gen walked up and heard the boys tell Jake they were going to George’s funeral.

Jake and Skip looked at a grieving Gen.

Jake stared for a minute and said, “Are you one?”

Skip looked at Jake.

Gen nodded her head.

Jake saluted a crying Gen.

Robert looked over at Jake.

Robert said, “We have eyes.”

The soldiers looked up and saw several men watching the soldiers.

The men were walking to the train station but stopped when they saw the soldiers.

Robert said, “All of you get on the train.”

Stephanie wanted to kiss Robert again.

He said, “No. Go.”

Stephanie grabbed Percy and Bruce and rushed to the train and she called Michael and Thomas.

Jake said, “Go.”

Thomas and Michael ran behind Stephanie, Percy and Bruce.

Shirley did not know what to do.

Robert said, “You to.”

Shirley said, “You want to speak to my grandpa?’

Robert said, “Yes.”

He looked at Gen and Ben and they ran to the train.

Ty saw Gen and Ben running to the train.

He jumped and ran onto the train when he saw the soldiers walking to Patrick.

The soldier in the wagon pulled the wagon into the train yard.

He kept his eyes on the men.

He saw two other men walking towards the train station.

Shirley walked with Skip and said, “Grandpa this is Skip.”

Skip looked at Shirley

Patrick was still scared and looked at Shirley.

Robert introduced himself to Patrick and asked what was happening at his house.

Patrick and Eleanor loosen up and Patrick told the soldiers what has happened. The portrait, all the military guns found under the beds and in the closets and the unlocked doors and windows.

Eleanor and Shirley could not believe what happened.

Skip looked at the shocked Eleanor and Shirley.

Jose said there were three mattresses stuffed with money to the sheriff’s office yesterday.

Robert looked and said, “We are familiar with that.“

Stephanie was watching out the window.

She put the boys in the train car with Gen and Ben until everybody get on the train.

The new clerk on the train was walking through the car with towels.

He looked and kept walking. Then he looked again.

He looked again and dropped the towels and ran off the train.

The four soldiers instantly drew their guns.

The clerk was looking at Skip and did not see their guns were pulled on him.

Skip looked and said, “Junior!”

Junior were happy to see Skip.

He skipped to Skip

Gen was looking out the window and said, “You are no longer a mystery Skip”

Junior was grinning big and said, “You see Skip I skipped all the way to you.”

Skip said, “I see. This is where you are?”

Junior was so happy to see Skip. He was jumping in the air like a kid.

Shirley and Eleanor were not moved.

Brenda and Jose looked at an excited Junior.

Skip said, “Junior stand over there until we finish talking.”

Junior said, “Ok.”

Brenda laughed.

Jose did not see anything funny.

Robert said, “Military weapons on your property and all of your security men are former soldiers and some were caught. I don’t like it.”

He leaned back and looked at Jake and Skip.

Robert said, “I’m going to do an observation.”

Skip was watching an excited Junior who was dancing in the train yard.

Robert leaned back and said, “Ken.”

Ken stepped up but was looking at the men slowly walking to the train station.

Ken said, “They have a military walk.”

Robert leaned back and stared at the men and said, “What the hell are they doing walking boldly down the streets?”

Stephanie had opened the window but she could not hear.

She ran leaned on Gen to hear.

Gen said, “Move.”

Stephanie said, “I want to hear.”

Gen started hitting Stephanie so she would move.

Stephanie said, “What he said?”

She looked at the boys and said, “Don’t move.”

Stephanie walked to Ty on the platform.

Robert said, “Ken you and Bill get the mattresses and take them to the new headquarters.”

Ken said, “Yes sir.”

He walked back to Bill and told him of their assignment.

Ken mounted his horse.

Robert said, “Skip, Jake and myself will be observing at your house.”

Stephanie was trying to read Roberts lips.

She was standing by Ty and asked him what Robert said.

Ty said, “How you know I can read lips?”

Stephanie said, “I saw you mimicking the words.”

Robert said, “I’ll be outside. You two be in the house.”

Stephanie was mimicking Roberts words and said to Ty, “Did he say was going outside?”

Ty was mimicking their mouths and said, Huh. Huh. Be quiet you are missing me up.”

Stephanie stepped off the platform and walked out to Robert.

Robert looked at Stephanie.

He said, “What Stephanie?”

Stephanie said, “Don’t shoot up the garden. That’s where I plan on having our wedding ceremony.”

Robert stared at Stephanie.

Brenda said, “What?”

Robert looked at Brenda.

Brenda said, “You men to tell me all that time you spent with me planting flowers in my garden, you were planning your wedding?”

Stephanie jumped and said, “Yes. I hope you left the baby breathes.”

Stephanie laughed and ran to the train.

Brenda peeped around Patrick and said, “Heifer wait until I get on the train.”

Robert, Skip and Jake looked at Brenda.

Eleanor and Shirley were shaken.

Robert said, “We will get to the bottom of this.”

Brenda said, “I don’t care if you shoot up that garden and especially the baby breathes. I ‘m thinking she wanted to help me in the garden she was planning her wedding.”

Robert tried not to laugh at Stephanie he said, “We’ll she was caring about our safety.”

Brenda said, “Because she knows you will be fine.”

Robert said, “Yes ma am.”

Skip walked over to Junior and hugged him and talked to him for a few minutes.

Lorraine had completed the unpacking and walked to the first class car and saw Gen and Ben and the boys looking out the window.

She saw Meredith was in lala land. She knew Meredith was thinking about Felipe.

Lorraine was hoping that Felipe make her stay with him.

Lorraine said, “Soldiers?”

Gen said, “Yes they told us to get on the train.”

Lorraine said, “Who are they?”

Gen said, “Skip, Jake and the other one.”

Lorraine said, “Who is that soldier talking to Patrick?”

Percy said, “Robert. He is Stephanie’s fiancé.”

Gen looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine said, “Damn.”

Gen said, “Just wait Lorraine.”

Lorraine went and sat with Meredith.

Robert looked at Jose and said, “You hid the guns at the house?”

Jose said, “Yes.”

Robert said, “we are going to let them think the guns are where you left them.”

Robert said, “Let us go.”

He looked at Skip talking to an excited Junior.

Robert walked to the wagon and uncovered the guns.

Robert took several guns.

Bill said all eyes are on you.

Jake took ammunition.

Skip walked to the wagon and picked up several rifles and ammunition.

Jose walked to the carriage and left.

Robert looked at Patrick and said, “Go.”

Brenda and Eleanor rushed to the train.

Ty quickly looked around the train and waved to Thomas to pull off.

Stephanie was waking to her seat.

Junior rain to the train.

Patrick looked at the guns Skip picked up and was carrying to his horse.

Shirley was proud of Skip.

Patrick caught Shirley by the arm and walked fast to the train.

Shirley said, “Skip grandpa.”

Patrick said, “I hear you Shirley.”

Everyone was on the train.

Thomas pulled the train out.

Lorraine went to the dining car with all the children and Meredith.

She ran into the cook.

They talked all night because the train was not full.

Gen and Ben dined together.

Eleanor and Stephanie together.

Thomas sped the train all day and were in the town with Mag an hour early.

Mag was at the stop early.

She, Josiah and Natalie boarded.

They were in the first class car with everyone else.

That evening Lorraine returned to the dining room with the children and Meredith.

Gen, Ben and Mag dined together.

Eleanor, Stephanie, Josiah and Natalie dined together.

Patrick and Brenda spent those two and a half days in private.

Everyone was concerned about the soldiers and the house and who was behind this attacked.

They arrived at in Philadelphia two hours ahead of schedule.

There was a number of carriages waiting for them.

They boarded the carriages and went to Bruce’s hotel.

Bruce was surprised to see them.

He greeted them.

Patrick and Brenda spoke to Bruce.

Percy and Bruce spoke.

Michael was holding his big jar of suckers for Dr. Ralph with Thomas help he said, “Hey dad.”

Bruce walked to help Michael with the suckers.

Thomas said, “We can carry this alone.”

Bruce watched Thomas.

Thomas did not look at Bruce.

Patrick and Brenda knew what they were saying.

Eleanor watched her children and she thought, “Me and my children have to resolve Josephs death.”

He saw the large reservation and he did not know who it was.

Gen and Ben walked in and greeted Bruce and went to their room.

They reserved all the suites.

Meredith went straight to the bone hospital.

Eleanor said, “Lorraine do you need Meredith to help you?”

Lorraine said, “Let her go. Stephanie can take care of Percy and Bruce and I can take care of Michael and Thomas. Shirley can take care of herself. I hope Felipe keep her. Meredith does not eat and that is taking a toll on me.”

Lorraine ordered dinner for everybody.

She ordered hot baths, carriages and breakfast for everyone.

Shirley had requested the buggy driver for her and the boys.

Everyone unpacked and settled in for the evening.

Lorraine ordered chicken dinners with green beans and macaroni cheese and rolls.

Lorraine told the front desk clerk one order was eight fried chicken dinners and the next order was seven baked chicken dinners and one lamb chop dinner.

Michael was making sure Lorraine ordered his lamb chop for each meal.

Michael said, “With French fries and turnip greens.”

Lorraine looked at Michael like yuck.

Michael looked at Lorraine and said, “That’s what I want.”

Lorraine never fussed about what the children ate.

Michael and Thomas were standing on each side of Lorraine waiting for her.

Lorraine had her life elbow on the desk and was playing in Michael’s hair with her right hand.

Thomas was glaring at Bruce between Lorraine’s arm.

Lorraine knew Thomas hated Bruce.

She did not say anything.

Eleanor was well dressed.

She pass people watching her and walked up the two steps to the front desk.

She was looking at Thomas and Michael as Lorraine was playing with Michael’s hair.

Eleanor thought, “These are some spoiled kids.”

She saw Thomas’s face and she followed his eyes and saw Bruce standing against the wall watching them.

Eleanor walked up and looked at Thomas.

Bruce looked at Eleanor and said, “Hello Eleanor.”

Josiah and Natalie were walking behind Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “Go to hell bastard.”

Josiah and Natalie looked at Bruce and rushed to their suite with Mag.

They ran into the room and told Mag what happened.

Mag did not say anything.

The front desk clerks looked at Eleanor, who was calm and did not look at Bruce.

The front desk clerks slowly turned and looked at Bruce.

Debra told the family Bruce had a big dinner at the hotel for them, when they left the hospital with Thomas and Michael.

She told them Bruce was devasted.

Debra said, “The clerks told him everyone was gone but he did not listened to them and ordered all that food. I took half home and we ate it for a week. Tony was sick of fried chicken and ham and potato salad. But the potato salad was good.”

Eleanor rolled her eyes.

Dr. Greene looked at Eleanor.

He hoped she would get back together with Bruce because he was the children’s father.

But Eleanor asked him did he want Barry’s father to get back with Debra and get Barry.

Dr. Greene looked at Eleanor and said nothing.

Michael and Thomas were used to Lorraine and Eleanor playing in their hair.

Bruce stood back on the wall by the reservation desk and watched his family.

Patrick told Jose to send all telegrams to the hospital and they would get the telegrams from there.

Patrick did not want Bruce to see or hear anything about them or what was taking place.

Brenda sent a telegram to Ryan the morning they left for Philadelphia.

She requested a complete physical of Eleanor.

Michael and Thomas will be with Lorraine at the bone hospital the next day.

Meredith would be with Felipe.

Shirley, Percy, Bruce and Stephanie are to be shopping for ball gowns.

Patrick, Brenda, Gen, Be, Mag and Josiah were going to George’s funeral.

Dr. Greene, Debra, Dr. Woodson and Dr. Charles were going to the funeral.

Brenda went in her bag and took out George’s personal blanket. It had scenes from his life working with them. Gen and Mag received their individual blankets during the prior holidays.

Gen and Mag did not know the lady who made the blankets put different scenes from their life on the blankets.

Brenda searched through the blankets and gave Mag and Gen their blankets.

She did not get the chance to George his blanket.

Brenda never thought about death because he was always there.

She was dishearten when Patrick told her George was going to retire in the fall.

Brenda started putting together a private dinner for the rest of them that were left.

She went to the storage area and got the blankets and wrote down the names.

She brought the remainder blankets with her to give to as many their blankets that were left.

Brenda told Patrick, “For them to steal these blankets, they must have been watching me in my house. They knew how important these blankets are, they wanted to hurt me bad.”

Patrick said, “GOD did not let them win.”

Thomas gave Patrick a few telegrams that were relayed by Jose to the train.

Jose said some wanted to attend George’s funeral but could not arrived by Friday and they did not have the funds to catch the train.

Patrick walked out the owners’ suite with Thomas and they sent telegrams to the three and arranged for them to catch trains in first class to get to George’s funeral by Friday.

They sent a telegram to the hotel and added four additional rooms.

Stephanie helped getting everyone closed ready for the next day.