Hutch watched Bruce and Percy all night.

He did not sleep at all through the night.

Patrick did not sleep but watched Hutch.

Percy and Bruce started to stretch and yawn.

Shirley crawled down the stairs and slept outside the parlor.

She woke when the chickens started crowing.

Hutch took off his blanket and stared at Bruce and Percy.

He put his boots on and tied them up.

Bruce and Percy looked at Patrick.

Patrick was so glad he had not killed Eleanor’s children.

Hutch walked to Bruce and Percy who jumped and looked at him.

He said, “Good morning. I am Hutch. I am a doctor. “

Percy said, “You are a field hand.”

Shirley said, “Shut up Percy let him see if grandpa knocked your brains out.”

Percy and Bruce looked around to see where the voice was coming from.

Hutch said, “Your wake Miss Shirley.”

Shirley was very smart and said, “I been down here doctor.”

Patrick looked out the door and saw Shirley.

Hutch said, “You crawled down the stairs at twelve o three am. I heard you. You slipped and fell down three stairs. And said ‘oh’.”

Shirley was out done and looked at Patrick.

Patrick was about to pick Shirley up.

Hutch said, “Leave her alone and come over here with Patrick and Bruce. I’ll adjust Miss Shirley when I finish with Percy and Bruce.”

Lorraine and Meredith arrived at work.

Peter and Nadine told them everything that happened.

Lorraine and Meredith just stood and could not move.

Lorraine said, “Fix their breakfast and have hot water brought to each room.”

Lorraine looked at Meredith and said, “Let’s go and see what has happened to the boys.”

Thomas walked in to start preparing for dinner.

He said, “Nothing but Patrick knocked the hell out of them.”

Meredith said, “Where is Eleanor?”

Thomas said, “In her room. Crying that she can’t have the count, because she wants to free the ‘Freed men’.”

Meredith said, “They are free.”

Meredith shook her head to shake out the confusion.

Lorraine said, “Come on Meredith.”

Meredith said, “I am not coming. Michael is upstairs in his room. That is who I am in charge of.”

Lorraine looked at Meredith.

Nadine said, “You ‘ll need to see that field hand that’s looking after the boys.”

Meredith turned and nearly push Lorraine into the wall.

They walked fast to the front of the house and tried to be calm.

Hutch was adjusting Bruce and Percy.

Lorraine and Meredith heard their bones cracking before they got to them.

Patrick watched.

Hutch had Percy and Bruce stand and stretch.

Patrick said, “Hutch can you adjust me?”

Patrick heled one of Bruce’s hands and one of Percy’s hands.

He said, “Look at me in my eyes. I apologize for hitting that hard.”

Hutch coughed.

Patrick looked at Hutch and continued, “I need you to be in a child’s place. The liquor is off limits.”

Percy said, “In emergencies.”

Patrick said, “Forever Percy. If you are upset. I know a lot happened yesterday and on Thanksgiving. But I want you to relieve that stress by riding your horse, climbing trees, playing. Anything but drinking and hurting people.”

Bruce said, “Can we ride our horses?”

Hutch cleared his throat.

Everybody looked at Hutch,

Hutch said, “In three days.”

Percy and Bruce looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “You heard the doctor.”

Hutch said, “Patrick, let me adjust you then Shirley.”

Shirley could not talk she was shocked at what Hutch did to Bruce and Percy.

They were acting fine.

Patrick laid on the sofa.

Percy walked over so he could see.

Bruce sat in one of the chairs and watched.

Patrick looked at Percy, he thought he was there to watch Hutch.

Patrick said, “Oh, that hurts.”

Percy said, “Good.”

He went and sat next to Bruce.

Hutch and Patrick looked at Percy.

Bruce whispered to Percy.

Patrick said, “That’s what you’ll.”

Patrick screamed.

Bruce and Percy jumped and looked at Patrick.

Hutch finished with Patrick.

Hutch said, “Patrick twist and touch your toes.”

Patrick twist and touch his toes.

Lorraine and Meredith walked up.

Shirley was watching Patrick so hard she did not see Lorraine and Meredith walk up.

Patrick said, “Hutch thank you. Call me Mr. Stith.”

Hutch said, “When I am on your payroll. I am not on your payroll now.”

Eleanor had walked down the stairs and was listening.

Nadine turned and walked back in the kitchen and yelled to the rest of them, “She is UPPP!!!”

Everyone started running.

Margaret ran down the stairs to the laundry room.

Robert ran to his room and dressed.

Thomas knew Eleanor liked beets.

He grabbed some beets and threw them in waters and pretended he was peeling them.

Peter lost his concentration on what he was cooking.

Thomas looked at Peter and said, “Breakfast.”

Peter said, “Oh.”

Thomas said, “Damn.”

Hutch said, “Miss Shirley.”

He stepped towards Shirley.

Shirley was so terrified and screamed.

Eleanor, stepped around the hall.

Lorraine stooped down to grab Shirley, who had her arms out stretched to Lorraine.

Meredith stepped and leaned over to see this Hutch.

Lorraine was about to pick up Shirley.

He looked at Hutch and was mesmerized.

Meredith looked at Hutch.

Eleanor stepped up to Shirley and said, “Shirley…”

She looked at Hutch and was speechless.

Eleanor cleared her throat and said, ‘Hi.”

Hutch grinned and said, “Good morning ladies.”

Lorraine stood up and said, “I’m…”

She could say nothing.

Bruce was leaned over with his chin propped up on his thigh looking at the women including his momma.

Percy said, “Lorraine.”

Meredith stepped over Shirley and curtesy and said,”I am Meredith.”

Hutch reached out his hand and said, “Good meeting you.”

Patrick said, “What the hell is wrong with all of you including you Eleanor?”

Meredith said, “That’s right Eleanor you go to that drunk count.”

Earle was washed and dressed and heard them swooning over Hutch. He did not know who it was. Until Meredith said, Eleanor.

Earle started listening.

He thought, “They think the count is a drunk. A bad image in front of servants. Here is that damn Chasity. I have to watch out for her.”

Lorraine said, “That’s right.”

Shirley had her arms stretched up for Lorraine to pick her up.

Shirley said, “Lorraine.”

Lorraine turned to bend down to pick up Shirley.

Hutch quickly walked over.

Patrick looked at Hutch and thought he was going to pick up Shirley and carry her to the sofa.

Michael and Thomas ran downstairs.

Michael saw Hutch and said, “You stayed here last night?”

Hutch looked at Michael and said, “Yes.”

Shirley knew Hutch was going to give her to Lorraine.

Eleanor watched Percy and Bruce whispering to each other.

Hutch picked Shirley up.

Shirley reached to Lorraine.

Hutch carried Shirley to the sofa.

Michael said, “Hutch can you do therapy on Shirley?”

Hutch said, “Yes.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor, Meredith and Lorraine who had their mouths opened.

Shirley went into her hollering mode.

Michael was about to walk to Shirley but saw Nadine with his breakfast.

He ran to the family dining room and grabbed his lamb chop from on his plate and ran back to Shirley.

Thomas grabbed Eleanor waist and buried his head in her chest.

Lorraine and Meredith were used to Shirley’s hollering.

Robert was walking to the family dining room.

He stopped in his tracks.

Nadine flew pass him to the kitchen.

All the servants stopped.

Jose had been in his room with Nancy for days.

He washed and shaved and dressed.

He walked into the kitchen while Shirley was screaming.

He was fixing a plate for him and Nancy.

Everyone turned and looked at Jose.

Thomas said, “Jose don’t you hear that child screaming?”

Jose said, “Yeah.”

Nadine said, “That’s not right.”

Jose said, “She was born twisted. The doctors have been working on her for three years to help her. They have done a wonderful job. I am use to Shirley screaming. I can tell when they are really manipulating her bones and intestines because she goes into another level of screaming that’s when I leave.”

Shirley screamed higher.

Jose grabbed his two cups of coffee and his plates and said, “Like that.”

He ran out the back door.

Michael was eating his lamb chop.

He walked up and was watching Hutch.

Patrick heart was bleeding.

Eleanor looked at her father.

Percy and Bruce ran out the parlor to the family dining room.

Eleanor was in a drunken sleep.

She jumped straight up in the bed and listened.

She realized it was a scream of extraordinary pain.

She jumped out of bed and was about to run out of the room.

She was cold and looked down and realized she did not have on clothes.

She rolled her eyes.

The count jumped off his bed and stood.

He heard the scream again.

He was turning around in his room.

Then he ran to the drawer and grabbed his gun.

He eased his door open.

He saw a woman walking in front of him.

The woman’s hair was down and she hand her hand up to her head.

The count was trying to figure out who she was.

The scream came again.

The count tried to run but he was making motion like he was running,

He could not think of why he was not catching up with the woman.

He was looking at his hand with the gun and wondered why his hand was twirling.

Earle saw the count and Brenda down the hall.

He did not know what to do, especially about the unloaded gun.

Earle was not concerned unless the count put bullets in it.

He keeps it unloaded because the boys ramble through everything.

Earle thought, “With those licks on their heads yesterday that may slow them down.”

Then he shook his head for no.

Hutch said, “Miss Shirley I am finished with your back and I am going to work on your legs.”

Patrick said, “You call her Miss.”

Hutch looked at Patrick and turned his attention to Shirley.

Shirley looked at Lorraine and tried reaching for Lorraine.

Lorraine was watching every move Hutch made.

Meredith remembered some of Shirley’s therapy.

She was watching everything Hutch did.

Michael was watching Hutch he bit his lamb chop and said, “Shirley he is doing the same thing that Dr. Ralph and Dr. Greene do.”

Lorraine said, “Yes Shirley.”

Shirley screamed and said, “Lorraine I am going to tell Dr. Ralph not to marry you.”

Meredith said, “No you want Shirley, because I am going to marry Hutch.”

Shirley was close to Shirley.

Eleanor saw Shirley’s mouth open.

She said, “Move Michael.”

Michael turned to look at Eleanor.

Thomas was holding Eleanor and looking back at Shirley.

Shirley raised her head and bit Michael’s lamb chop.

Michael hit Shirley to make her turned his lamb chop loose.

Eleanor said, “Michael!”

Hutch looked at Michael.

He said, “Michael you are disrupting my therapy. I have to start all over.”

Michael held up his nearly gone lamb chop to Eleanor with tears in his eyes.

He walked to Eleanor and held onto her other side and buried his head into her chest.

He was just a few inches shorter than Thomas.

Michael said, “See what I have been going through with Shirley and then Bruce.”

Eleanor said, “Michael. I won’t be blackmailed.”

Michael looked up at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “You and Thomas go into the dining room and eat breakfast.”

Hutch continued to work on Shirley’s legs.

Eleanor said, “Listen missy you better never eat his lamb chop again to get back at him.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and screamed, “Eleanor!”

Eleanor said, “Shirley you don’t have an emergency. I see what Hutch is doing it is similar what the doctors did. I don’t know the techniques but Lorraine and Meredith do. They are nurses. I trust them.”

Hutch said, “Nurses.”

Meredith smiled and straighten up her clothes and said, “For ten years.”

Patrick shook his head at the women.

He walked to the hallway and saw a half dressed Brenda and a drunk count with a gun in his hand.

Patrick said, “Look at this mess.”

Eleanor, Meredith, Lorraine ran to the hallway.

They saw Earle standing in the billiards room watching them.

Earle looked at Patrick and kept his eyes on the count and Brenda.

Thomas and Michael heard them and ran to the hallway.

Thomas said, “Why are they walking like that?”

Michael said, “Where is grandma clothes?”

Patrick cleared his throat and said, “I was getting her ready for bed.”

Eleanor yelled, “Daddy!!!”

Meredith and Lorraine hollered and fell into each other and dropped onto the floor.

The very stern Hutch begin to laugh.

Shirley said, “Hutch what they talking about?”

Hutch did not say anything.

Shirley yelled, “Move so I can see!!!”

Shirley screamed.

Brenda tried to turn around but could not move.

Hutch looked up and saw Brenda.

He peeped down the hall and saw the count.

He wondered about the gun.

Eleanor ran to Brenda and turned her around to take her to her bedroom.

Patrick said, “Earle go and get your drunk count and put him in bed and let him sleep off that drunk.”

Earle took his time and walked to the count and got the gun from him.

Earle took the gun and tossed the gun on the bed and it went off.

Patrick and Hutch ran down the hall.

Robert was frozen with his plates looking at Meredith and Lorraine on the floor laughing and kicking up their heels.

Shirley was still.

Thomas and Peter heard the gun shot.

Stanley was walking into the kitchen to get his breakfast.

He unhooked his gun and walked into the house through the formal dining room.

The servants ran to the hallway and looked.

Patrick and Hutch ran to the count’s room.

They saw the bullet hole in the wall.

They ran to the other rooms and no one was in the rooms but maids.

Alice and Danielle fell to the floor.

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The bullet stopped in the wall in the count’s room.

Stanley looked at the drunk count that was passed out sitting on the floor.

Earle went and picked up the gun.

Stanley walked over to Earle and snatched the gun out of Earle’s hand and said, “Give that to me.”

Stanley unloaded the gun.

Stanley said, “Where are the other bullets?”

Earle thought, “If I beat him now I can take Margaret back with me. But he is muscular.”

He walked to the count’s drawer and got the bullets and gave to Stanley.

Stanley said, “You get these back when you leave.”

Patrick and Hutch had come back from searching the house.

Eleanor had put Brenda on the bed.

She was peeping out the door.

Stanley had his gun in the his hand, he put his gun up.

Alice and Danielle ran passed everybody.

Eleanor said, “We lost two more workers.”

Patrick looked up and said, “Eleanor go and talk to them.”

Eleanor said, “Me!!”

Patrick said, “Yeah it was your boyfriend worker.”

Eleanor rolled her eyes at Earle.

Earle said, “I’m sorry. He keeps it unloaded because the boys ramble through everything.”

Stanley handed the gun and bullets to Patrick.

He said, “Hey Hutch.”

He touched his back and said, “I got a pain right here.”

Hutch said, “I ‘ll see you later.”

Patrick said, “Wait a minute, Stanley you knew Hutch was a physician?”

Stanley said, “Yeah.”

Patrick grabbed the gun to put a bullet in it.

Stanley turned and ran down the hall and out the kitchen.

Thomas and Michael looked at each other and said, “Whoa!”

Thomas said, “He runs fast.”

Thomas said, “Does that mean we need to run. Well Alice and Danielle are running.”

Eleanor ran down the hall into the kitchen and saw Alice and Danielle running to get to their horses.

Peter said, “If we see her young ems running behind her then we need to go.”

Hutch helped Earle pick up the count and put him on the bed.

Earle closed the door.

Robert was still standing with two plates in his hand.

Patrick saw Thomas and Michael and said, “Boys go and eat breakfast.”

He saw Robert standing with plates.

Patrick thought, “Coward.”

He said, “Hutch have breakfast.”

Hutch looked in the parlor.

Shirley was laying still.

Lorraine and Meredith were still on the floor.

They were trying to get up.

Hutch kneeled down and said, “Ladies are you ready to get up”

Meredith and Lorraine could not talk.

They had laughed so until they were out of breath.

Eleanor walked back into the house with Danielle and Alice.

Patrick walked and listened.

He said, “Hutch, I’m going to introduce you to Alice.”

Lorraine and Meredith started cussing and tried to get up from the floor.

Shirley started laughing.

She said, “Whew grandpa you are funny. Come and get me.”

Patrick move to go into the parlor for Shirley.

Hutch grabbed Patrick’s arm.

He looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor acted liked she did not hear Shirley.

Patrick looked at Hutch.

Hutch said, “No.”

Meredith and Lorraine got off the floor.

Shirley said, “Lorraine come and get me.”

Lorraine turned and walked upstairs.

Meredith walked down the hall.

Shirley screamed, “No one moved.”

Shirley flipped off the sofa.

She held onto the sofa and switched from piece of furniture to another piece until she made it to the door.

Eleanor, Patrick and Hutch ran to the family dining room.

Eleanor was nervous and pacing back and forth to her seat.

Lorraine and Meredith were peeping at Shirley.

Shirley fell a few times and finally got up and walked to the family dining room.

Hutch said, “Has Shirley walked before.”

Eleanor said, “She was walking Sunday.”

Thomas said, “And Thanksgiving.”

Hutch was thinking.

Patrick looked at Hutch and said, “What?”

Hutch said, “I have a friend that is a physician he helps people with bone problems. His name is Dr. Parker.”

Eleanor said, “Kenneth Parker?”

Hutch said, “Yes,”

Eleanor said, “He’s at the hospital Shirley is at.”

Shirley walked into the family dining room and said, “Was at.”

Hutch stood and pulled out Shirley’s seat.

Shirley looked at Hutch and turned her head.

Thomas said, “Shirley say thank you.”

Michael said, “If it were Dr. Woodson or Dr. Ralph you would say thank you. They did not make you twisted but they work to help you walk.”

Shirley cried and looked at Hutch.

Eleanor did not what to say to Michael for calling Shirley twisted.

Hutch did not say anything.

Shirley said, “I’m sorry.”

Hutch sipped some coffee and he starred at Shirley.

He said, “Shirley you have a good heart.”

Robert brought plates of hash browns, bacon and eggs.

Hutch said, “I believe you will meet the most wonderful man and he will marry you. You will have two good looking boys. You will teach your boys to serve JESUS and seek GOD in everything they do to make them better people. The man you will love will have nothing. He is a hard worker and he will be jealous over you and his boys.”

Eleanor touched her heart.

Michael said, “I will be the best uncle to them.”

Thomas said, “Me too. I will be busy making money but I will help them.”

Patrick thought, “Everything Hutch said, is what I have been praying for Shirley.”

Hutch said, “Shirley you have to walk. If Dr. Kenneth Parker is one of the physicians at the hospital then you are in good hands. I felt knots in your stomach. In order for you to have babies they have to remove the knots.”

Shirley said, “It hurts.”

Hutch said, “I know it does, but for you to bring new life into this world something has to die.”

Shirley searched Hutch’s eyes to call him a liar. But she only saw truth in his eyes.

Lorraine, Meredith and Robert stood and listened to Hutch and knew he was a good person.

Lorraine’s heart fell back to Dr. Jason Ralph.

Meredith thought, “I’ll follow this man to the ends of the earth.”

Patrick sat and stared at Hutch and said, “You are a physician?”

Hutch, “Went to medical college and was working at the hospital with Dr. Parker until I was called to the civil war. That war messed me up. I never want to be a physician again.”

Eleanor in her selfishness understood Hutch.

Hutch cut his egg.

Shirley looked at Hutch.

She ate her oatmeal.

Robert looked at Hutch.

Shirley reached her hand towards Hutch.

Hutch was deep in his thoughts about the civil war. He was thinking about slavery and the pure evil of it.

Meredith was thinking, “I want this man but I don’t know how to handle this slavery problem.”

Shirley said, “Mr. Hutch.”

He looked at Shirley.

Shirley said, “Dr. Hutch. You helped me. God sent you to help people. I saw some slaves the other day. I hated them.”

Eleanor said, “Shirley!”

Patrick said, “Wait Eleanor!!”

Shirley said, “Momma I hated them because I saw the very bad that man did to them. I was one of those bad people because of the color of my skin. I am not at fault for what others did to them because of their skin color. God talked to me and said, “Shirley you did not do this evil thing to these people. But they prayed and fought to their death that the evil over them and their children will be broken and the chains of ever that held them will be broken forever by my power. You have the same power to set yourself free.”

Shirley said, “Dr. Hutch can you set yourself free from guilt so you can help people again?”

Hutch was crying and looking at Shirley.

He shook his head for us.

Hutch said, “I love making people well. When I saw that I could not heal people from slavery I felt guilt.”

Eleanor said, “Me too.”

Patrick looked at Eleanor.

Bruce said, “Well a lot of that was here yesterday.”

There was a knock on the door.

Robert walked out the family dining room and looked out the door.

He opened the door and said, “Wait here.”

He walked into the family dining room and said, “Mag and Josiah are here to see Mrs. Stith.”

Patrick said, “What? Oh. Tell them to come in here.”

Robert went and said, “Mr. Stith is in here.”

Mag and Josiah walked into the family dining room.

Patrick stood.

Dr, Hutch stood.

Thomas looked at Michael and said, “Are we suppose to stand when a lady or older person come in?”

Michael said, “I am still upset about my lamb chop.”

He whimpered and looked up at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “Thomas yes.”

Michael leaned his head on Eleanor’s arm.

She said, “Michael no. You have to stop eating lamb chops at every meal. God gave us all types of meat to eat and be healthy.”

Patrick walked to them and shook Josiah’s hand.

Hutch shook Josiah’s hand.

Patriock said, “Brenda has a hangover and is in the bed…”

Josiah laughed.

Mag looked at him.

Josiah could not stop laughing. He tried to bite his lips.

Percy said, “This is the way you do it.”

Patrick turned and looked at Percy.

Percy stopped and looked at Eleanor.

Patrick said, “If you want to go ahead, I can have Eleanor show you the storage area and you can go in there and get whatever you want. If you need help taking anything home let Eleanor know so we can get someone to bring it to you.”

Eleanor stared at Patrick and said, “Thanks dad. Not like I don’t have things to think about.”

Mag said, “I am sorry about Brenda. I hope she gets better...”

Lorraine said, “Around noon.”

Meredith turned her head and snickered.

Hutch heard them.

Patrick heard Lorraine and said, “Lorraine and Meredith you are excused.”

Lorraine and Meredith walked out in the hallway and hollered and fell out on the floor.

Robert walked out behind and hit the wall laughing.

Hutch heard them.

Patrick heard them.

Eleanor snickered.

Michael said, “Are they laughing at grandma and she did not have on any clothes?”

Eleanor shook her head for no and said, “Not really.”

Michael said, “Lorraine and Meredith were my friends but are laughing at my grandma.”

Hutch watched Michael.

Eleanor said, “Michael you try me one more time to get another lamb chop. I am going to tear your tail up.”

Michael looked quickly at Thomas.

Eleanor looked at Thomas.

Thomas looked at Michael then Eleanor.

Eleanor glared at Thomas.

Thomas said, “Momma what are you looking at me like that? Michael said that not me. He makes me not like lamb chops.”

Eleanor did not flinch.

Thomas picked up orange juice glass and started mumbling.

Eleanor said, “Thomas I swear you cursed.”

Thomas looked at Eleanor with a scared look.

Hutch watched all of them and grinned.

He heard Robert, Lorraine and Meredith in the hallway.

Mag said, “We can come back another time. Let’s go Josiah.”

Josiah said, “Can we have breakfast first?”

Mag said, “No. Lets go Josiah.”

Patrick said, “Sure you can have breakfast.”

Robert was shaking his head no at Josiah.

There was a knocked on the door.

Patrick looked for Robert.

He walked to the hall to go to the front door and saw Robert sitting on the floor beating his fists on the floor and Lorraine and Meredith on the floor rolling.

Nadine walked through the formal dining room.

She saw the three on the floor and it hit her funny bone.

She started laughing.

Patrick looked back at the four of them and walked to the front door and opened it.

It was Gen and Ben.

Ben said, “I know it is early. Gen has news about Bruce.”

The children looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor started seething.

Gen looked at the servants on the floor and it hit her funny bone.

She started laughing.

Ben said, “You don’t know what they are laughing at.”

Patrick walked back to the dining room.

Josiah walked to the door and peeped at Lorraine and Meredith on the floor.

Nadine was holding the wall in the hallway laughing.

Mag was perplexed.

Patrick yelled and said, “Gen do you and Ben want Breakfast?”

Ben said, “Coffee.”

Gen said, “Breakfast.”

Patrick yelled, “Nadine four breakfast and a lamb chop.”

Eleanor said, “Daddy!!!.”

Patrick said, “All the wrong I did I want to make up for it.”

Michael said, “That’s right grandpa.”

Hutch thought, “You better shut up.”

Nadine walked into the kitchen and could not breathe.

She was hitting the counter with her hands.

Everyone stopped.

No one knew what to expect from Thanksgiving on.

Earle walked in the kitchen to get breakfast.

He saw Nadine laughing he knew it had to about Brenda and the count.

Earle tried to reach and get the bacon.

Peter was quick and moved the bacon and pushed the streak of lean forward.

Earle got a cinnamon roll, streak of lean and a boiled egg.

Nadine was able to lift four fingers.

Peter made four additional plates.

Nadine could hardly balance the plates.

Peter used all the cooked food up.

He was not going to cook any more food.

He took the plates from Nadine and carried them through the formal dining room and he saw something out of the corner of his eyes and he stood and looked at Robert, Meredith and Lorraine on the floor hollering.

Josiah walked and got his plate and Mag’s plate.

Mag walked to the door and saw Robert, Meredith and Lorraine on the floor.

They heard a maid screaming it was Nadine.

Josiah stood and watched them.

Mag went back and sit down at the table.

Ben took his and Gen’s plates from Peter.

Percy and Bruce were sitting still.

Shirley leaned to Dr. Hutch and said, “Sorry.”

Eleanor said, “That’s right you need to apologize for you too.”

Eleanor was angry and sipped some orange juice.

Shirley looked at Hutch and said, “See that’s what happened yesterday.

Ben said, “Gen.”

He nodded to the family dining room.

Gen was crying laughing and walked in the dining.

Gen walked into the dining room.

Dr. Hutch stood up.

Ben walked to sit down.

Gen looked at Hutch and screamed, “HOT DAMN!!!”

Nadine crawled from the kitchen back to the hallway.

Peter stood and looked at them.

Meredith heard Gen.

She yelled, “Get away from him Gen. That’s my man.”

Peter stood and looked at Meredith as she was crawling with speed to the family dining room.

Josiah was trying to eat his bacon and stared at Meredith. He never seen a woman run rather crawl after a man before.

Hutch stood and was about to direct her to a chair next to Ben.

Ben could not believe Gen did that.

Eleanor was too angry to care.

Meredith made it to the family dining room.

Josiah and Peter followed her to the dining room.

Gen saw her and Hutch saw Meredith.

Gen walked and pulled her dressed to cover Meredith.

Nadine saw it and rolled over on the floor hollering.

Hutch smiled at Gen and he gently moved Gen to help Meredith stand.

Meredith was pulling up on the wall.

Meredith said, “Gen I will fight you for him.”

Ben stood and said, “Ain’t nobody going to fight nobody. Gen you are a married woman.”

Gen looked at ben and threw off her coat.

Meredith put her fists up.

Robert and Lorraine finally stood and ran to the family dining room.

Nadine crawled across the hall and pulled up on Peter.

She looked at Josiah and grinned.

Josiah thought, “Too old.”

Shirley said, “And he’s a doctor and he knows Dr. Parker.”

Gen looked at Shirley.

Gen threw her hat off.

Eleanor kept her head straight.

Patrick said, “If all of you don’t sit down!”

Patrick said, “What is wrong with you children?”

Shirley was turned sideways in her child and looked back at Patrick and said, “They do this all the time.”

Patrick looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor was sipping her orange juice and looked at Patrick.

Dr. Hutch directed Gen to her husband.

He smiled at Meredith.

Meredith was ready to fight and she tried to smile.

She walked out the room and rolled her eyes at Gen.

Gen was pitting her hat back on.

Gen looked and saw Mag and said, “Good morning. How are you.”

Mag was stunned.

Josiah walked in and sat next to Shirley.

They started talking about Ginger and Alice.

Shirley said, “I want to invite them over for a tea party.”

Josiah said, “Then me and Daniel can come. Do you know how to reach him?”

Shirley said,”Momma do you know how to reach Daniel?”

Eleanor rolled her eyes at Shirley.

Shirley looked at Eleanor.

Josiah said, “I guess that means no.”

Patrick said, “Young lady we have to talk.”

The boys looked at Shirley.

Shirley said, “About those gorgeous blue sapphire earrings.”

She raised her eyebrows and smiled at Patrick.

Patrick starred at Shirley.

Shirley grinned at Patrick.

Ben was eating his food and was looking at Hutch.

Peter turned and walked back to the kitchen.

Nadine followed him.

Everyone in the kitchen looked at them.

They did not say anything.

Nadine smiled all day.

Gary and Louis were bringing the hot water in the house.

Robert walked back in the kitchen.

He could not concentrate on his schedule.

He held his head down.

Nathan walked in the house.

Robert looked at Denise and said, “Oh God. I forgot you Denise. Do you mind if Nathan took you to town to the general store. I swear he won’t say anything.”

Thomas said, “Hell no.”

Peter said, “I’m about to say. It’s not about you Nathan. I believe Eleanor is going into town in the morning, Robert you go and ask if Denise can go with her.”

Thomas said, “NO. I will take her. That is Eleanor and the counts time.”

Peter said, “What?”

Earle walked in the kitchen to return his plate.

Everyone looked at him.

He looked at them and walked out.

He wanted to go riding and said, “Robert I want to go riding can I use a horse?”

Robert was pointing his pen and said, “Get one of s\*\*\*\*fied horses you brought.”

Nadine hit the floor.

Earle said, “What does that mean. Those horses belong to Percy, Bruce and Thomas.”

Thomas said, “What you doing taking it out on him?”

Nathan turned to walk out the house.

Peter said, “Nathan do you want some breakfast?”

Nathan said, “No.”

He walked out.

Gen said, “Why were they on the floor?”

She snickered.

Ben looked at Gen.

Gen looked at Ben.

Michael said, “Grandpa got grandma drunk and pulled off all her clothes.”

Gen and Ben had their forks to their mouths and could move them any further.

Bruce said, “And grandpa threw his big boots and knocked me and Percy’s brains on the other side of our heads that’s why Dr. Hutch is here.”

Gen could not put down her fork. Her mouth was still opened.

Mag said, “I think Josiah and I need to go.”

Shirley said, “Oh no stay. I’m sure grandma would love to see when she put some clothes on.”

Patrick stared at Shirley.

Josiah was laughing so hard he could not turn his head.

Eleanor threw her napkin on the table and said, “Listen Shirley.”

Meredith said, “Here comes Brenda.”

Hutch said, “I hope she has some clothes on.”

He looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor stood and ran to the door and screamed, “Momma!!!”

Robert heard Eleanor.

Meredith and Lorraine went down to the floor.

Robert ran through the billiards room and saw Eleanor running with Brenda down the hall.

He looked and saw Lorraine and Meredith getting off the floor.

Mag was confused.

Eleanor yelled, “Give all of them their baths.”

Lorraine and Meredith finally got off the floor.

The kids were moving from the table and running upstairs to take their baths.

Percy and Bruce stopped and hugged Hutch.

Josiah helped Shirley out of her chair.

She hugged Hutch.

She took her time and walked and held onto the wall.

Hutch stood and watched her walk.

When she reached the stairs Hutch ducked back.

Lorraine ran and caught one of Shirley’s hand and they walked up the staircase.

Gen looked at Hutch and said, “I want one.”

Ben hit his plate.

Patrick looked at Gen and Ben.

Hutch said, “Thank you for breakfast.”

Patrick said, “What are you field hands doing now that the season is over?”

Hutch said, “Nothing.”

Patrick said., “Nothing.”

They were talking about the type of work the field hands could be doing.

Robert and Nadine walked back into the family dining room.

Ben was still staring at Gen.

Nadine got a cup and saucer and poured hot coffee in it.

Hutch watched her and said, “What are you doing with that coffee?”

Robert stopped clearing the table and looked at Hutch.

Nadine looked puzzled and said, “Eleanor wanted me to bring it for Brenda.”

Hutch said, “Does Brenda have a headache?”

Nadine, “How in the …”

Patrick cut her off and said, “I think he wants to know if Brenda has a hangover.”

Everyone turned and looked at Hutch.

Hutch said, “Brenda needs to eat. Scramble two eggs, give her crackers and drizzle honey over the crackers and give her water.”

Patrick said, “Robert take Mag and Josiah to the storage area and prepare a hearty buffet for lunch. I am sure that is what Brenda or Eleanor would do.”

Robert looked at Hutch.

Hutch looked at Robert.

Patrick looked at Robert.

Natalie walked through the billiards room and spoke to Mag and Josiah.

Mag told Josiah to ask Patrick if he could send a telegram for Roger to come and meet them.

Josiah walked back in the family dining room.

Patrick looked up.

Josiah said, “Excuse me ask if you can send a telegram to dad for him to meet us.”

Patrick said, “To meet you?”

Josiah said, “It has been some weird things happening around town. I have my military rifle.”

Patrick said, “Sure I’ll send a telegram now to Roger I know the last train will leave at ten this morning and he can come all the way here to ride back with you two.”

Patrick was getting up from the table.

Gen said,” What kind of weird things?”

Ben said, “Yeah.”

Josiah said, “We have not seen anything. But people are sawing men are crawling about their houses or trying to steal their animals.”

Patrick stopped to listen.

Patrick said, “That’s not weird. That’s the mob trying to control the town by fear and intimidation.”

Hutch listened.

Patrick walked out the dining room.

Hutch said, “I need to go.”

Robert ran down the hall and got Hutch’s doctor bag and ran back to the family dining room with it.

Robert handed the bag to Hutch.

Hutch looked at Robert.

Hutch said, “It was good meeting you too.”

Gen said, “You know our Dr. Parker?”  
Hutch said, “I meet Dr. Kenneth Parker at the first hospital I worked until I was called to the civil war. That war destroyed me as a person and my love for healing. But little Miss Shirley said something very powerful to not be guilty because of the color of our skin.”

Gen thought and said, “Amen.”

Ben thought and said, “Do you do the same thing that they do?”

Robert said, “He is a field hand. No.”

Hutch looked at Robert.

Gen looked at Robert and pointed her finger and said, “You are jealous because he is good looking. It has nothing to do about his position because he is a physician. Go Robert before I tell Patrick. You know he will fire you in a minute.

Josiah went back to the storage and Patrick went to send the telegram to Roger.

Roger replied he was sweeping up and lock up and be there in a hour.

Eleanor forced the scrambled eggs down Brenda and water,

Brenda felt better.

Eleanor helped Brenda bathe.

Brenda said, “Eleanor I can wash myself.”

Eleanor said, “Momma I never want to bath you. I pray you always have your health and strength. I am going to look in your wardrobe for something different. Gen and Ben are here. She has a nice everyday dress on.”

Brenda was bathing and trying to think.

Eleanor told her about Patrick throwing his boots hitting Percy and Bruce and there was a field hand that was a doctor that stayed overnight and watched Percy and Bruce.

Brenda said, “Eleanor why on earth did Patrick hit them with his boots?”

Eleanor picked out a common dress. She walked back into the bath area.

Eleanor said, “Momma we have to buy you some new clothes.”

Brenda was rolling her eyes at Eleanor.

Eleanor finally saw her mother rolling her eyes at her.

Brenda said, “Eleanor you better start talking now and fast.”

Eleanor said, “Momma I had a hard day yesterday.”

Brenda started looking around for something to throw at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “Bruce and Percy were laying down with me. They slipped from the bed and ran downstairs and got gin to drink.”

Brenda said, “Did anybody see them or Patrick just thought they were?”

Eleanor said, “Chasity and Shirley told. Daddy ran and saw them and threw those big bots and hit them in the head.”

Brenda got out the tub.

Eleanor turned her head.

Brenda rolled her eyes at her and said, “This is what happens when I take one day off. And not a full day. You lose your mind. The former slave passed out. The count said you won’t marry him because you feel guilty about the slaves. Your children think it is okay to get drunk to solve their problems. Shirley has reverted back to crawling. The workers act like they just eat and sleep here. According to you, Gen and Meredith were about to fight over this doctor. The doctor prophesied to Shirley she will meet and marry a poor hardworking man and have two boys. That you and the count beat the mob by a few minutes to buy the property, because they were off in the carriage acting as if it was your marriage bed.”

Eleanor threw Brenda’s dress on the chaise and walked out.

Brenda said, “You throwing stuff too.”

Brenda heard Eleanor slam the door.

Brenda said, “I’m talking to her about what happened she up here talking about going shopping for dresses. It would have been different if she was talking about going shopping for businesses. I told her she needs to live in the real world and not in that fantasy life of shopping. I wonder what Gen and Ben have to tell. Let me what this dress on and comb my hair back.”

Brenda started laughing when she thought about how she said the count was running in place, but the loaded gun was not funny.

Eleanor went upstairs and took her bath and put on a plan dress and combed her hair back.

She was walking downstairs and saw Earle walking down the hall going to the count’s room.

Eleanor heard her children in the sitting room.

Brenda walked to the sitting room and spoke to her grandchildren and hugged them.

They were all talking at once and told about grandpa and his boots and the therapy.

Brenda said, “We all have some work to be done.”

Brenda saw Gen and Ben in the parlor and told them she would be back but wanted to see Mag.

Eleanor walked behind Brenda to the storage area.

Patrick and Hutch were standing in the storage doorway.

Brenda saw Hutch had his doctor’s bag.

She walked up and smiled and said, “Good morning.”

Hutch spoke.

Patrick leaned over and kissed Brenda on her forehead,

Brenda whispered, “We’ll talk later pervert.”

Patrick grinned.

Brenda walked in the storage area and greeted Mag and Josiah.

Mag said, “Brenda you have beautiful stuff.”

Natalie passed by to go upstairs and help bring the bathtubs.

Josiah saw Natalie walked by.

He left his mother and said to Patrick and Hutch, “Excuse me.”

He walked and leaned on the wall and watched Natalie walk up the stairs.

Patrick looked back and saw Josiah leaning on the wall watching Natalie.

He looked up the stairs to see who Josiah he was looking at.

Patrick shook his head.

Hutch grinned.

Brenda and Eleanor walked out of the storage area.

Brenda said, “Josiah go in there and help your mother. She cannot move that stuff.”

Nadine was watching Patrick and Brenda and their guests in the storage area.

She walked in the kitchen and put the plates, glasses and forks on the cart and was pushing it in the family dining room.

She looked at Thomas and said, “Did you mark what you wanted?”

Peter was looking through the kitchen to get a lunch buffet together.

Thomas made tea and hot apple cider.

Peter made different breads and jams.

He fried chicken and made macaroni and cheese and added fruit and vegetables and sauces.

Thomas said, “I was going to make macaroni and cheese for dinner.”

Peter said, “With a lunch buffet you won’t have to cook dinner but make soup. You know they like soup.”

Thomas started thinking.

Then he heard the skillet. He looked and Peter was frying fish.

Thomas thought, “hat else bad can happen today. I don’t want those folks to get my furniture.”

Natalie walked through to the kitchen and said, “Those tables and chairs that are left, Brenda and Eleanor are talking about putting them out here for the servants.”

Thomas got a headache and could not concentrate on his soup.

Brenda said, “I smell food.”

She saw Nadine pushing the cart into the family dining room.

Brenda stopped and said, “Nadine let’s eat in here.”

Nadine turned and brought the cart in the parlor.

Stanley walked into the house and saw Patrick.

Hutch turned from Patrick and walked with Stanley and they went to the laundry room.

Patrick adjusted Stanley back.

Margaret grinned.

Stanley was aching when Patrick finished.

Hutch said, “Get some liniment and rub down for three days.”

Margaret said, “I have some.”

Stanley said, “You caused this.”

Hutch walked out.

Nathan was walking in the house with his resignation letter.

He did not let anyone know he was homeless.

He lived on the street.

He would come to the house to bathe and eat.

The money they paid him he hid, because he wanted to have enough to rent a room and be off the street for the winter.

Margaret and Max would let him wash his clothes.

He left his nice coat on the horse at night.

It has started to get cold and his one old army blanket was worn out.

Thomas begin to think about what he was doing and he made a very hearty vegetable soup.

He said would he make cornbread sticks later.

Thomas said, “Peter we have to work on the menus together. You just don’t take my ingredients and use.”

Peter looked at Thomas and did not say anything.

Nadine walked in with the cart and said, Brenda wants to eat in the parlor.”

Patrick saw Hutch leaving and he called him.

Hutch turned and looked at Patrick.

Patrick walked to the kitchen and said, “Hutch stay for lunch.”

Nathan said, “Excuse me Mr. Stith.”

Patrick took the letter and read it.

He said, “Hell no. You and Hutch come for lunch.”

Nathan looked at Patrick.

Patrick walked into the kitchen and said, Thomas is that soup for lunch?”

Thomas said, “No sir for dinner.”

Patrick said, “What’s for lunch?”

Thomas pointed and said, “Peter is cooking lunch.”

Patrick said, “I know it will be as outstanding as brunch was on Sunday. I know this was a short notice.”

Thomas grinned and turned and looked at Peter.

Nathan and Hutch saw Thomas and Peter looking at each other.

Patrick walked pass the storage area.

They went through the billiards room to the parlor.

Eleanor was seated and laughing about the good looking Hutch.

Gen nudge Ben and said, “See there Ben, she got a count and was taken in by that man.”

Brenda said, “Gen what did you say?”

Gen said, “Hot damn!!”

Brenda laughed hard.

Ben tried to grin and said, “Even now I can’t grin.”

Eleanor and Brenda were falling all out in their chairs.

Brenda said, “You were going to fight who?”

Gen looked at Eleanor and said, “What that prissy one?”

Eleanor said, “Meredith.”

Brenda said, “Gen she’s kind of tough. “

Gen demonstrated how she threw off her hat and said, “Especially when little Shirley. I have to stop calling her little. With her messing self.”

Brenda looked at Eleanor and said, “What?”

Gen said and, “She turned and looked at me and said, ’he is a doctor too and he knows Dr. Parker’.”

Eleanor was laying on the chair and hitting the side of the chair with her hands.

Brenda hollered.

Gen said, “I did forget Ben for a minute because I was in the fight mind. I looked at Shirley and all I heard was doctor and sling that hat and I would have torn her up over a doctor. She all the way down the hall on the floor and when she heard me say ‘hot damn’, she growled that is my man. She crawled faster on the floor than anyone could run.”

Ben started laughing.

Eleanor was laid out in the chair laughing.

Brenda was laughing and crying hard.

She could not wipe her tears fast enough.

The count was walking up the hallway.

He stopped in the sitting room and was talking to the children.

He heard Eleanor laughing her heart out.

Patrick, Nathan and Hutch were standing in the doorway.

Patrick saw the food cart with the dishes.

The count walked to the parlor door.

He saw Nathan and Hutch and became jealous.

He sat on the chair with Eleanor.

Gen elbowed Ben and said, “See he came and went right to Eleanor.”

The count said, “You right with those good looking men standing in the doorway.”

Brenda hollered.

Patrick turned to Hutch and Nathan and said, “Yall have to excuse the women folk. I guess we must looked like a rat’s ass to them.”

Hutch and Nathan did not know how to respond.

Brenda leaned forward to get a good look at Hutch.

She laughed.

Meredith saw them going into the parlor.

She eased down the staircase.

She saw Peter bringing the food on the cart.

And flounced by the parlor.

Gen said, “There she is Bren. Was going to fight me over this man.”

Brenda leaned forward to see Meredith.

Gen was stirring her tea.

Eleanor was trying to sit up so she could see.

Meredith helped pushed the cart into the parlor.

Gen was sipping her tea.

Ben said, “Not a word.”

Gen elbowed Ben and frowned up.

She said, “Bren you know how it was in the old days.”

Meredith walked out to go to the kitchen and get Michael plate.

Gen leaned back to peep for Meredith.

Peter said, “She is going to the kitchen for Michael’s lamb chop. I forgot it.”

The count helped Eleanor sit up.

Gen said, “Let me say this quick before Miss Prissy get back. We knuckled brawl over a doctor. We slapped each other over a lawyer or a dentist. But a doctor is a fist fight.”

Meredith was returning with Michael’s plate.

Brenda said, “Meredith that was fast.”

Gen sipped tea and said, “Huh.”

Brenda nearly split her side.

Brenda said, “Meredith have the children come in here and can you please go to the storage area and tell Mag and Josiah to come to lunch. Where is Robert?”

There was knocking on the front door.

Meredith walked to the doorway.

Patrick said, “I’ll get it.”

Meredith ran to the sitting room and told the children to go to the parlor to eat lunch.

She turned and ran through the billiards room.

The count said, “Why is she running?”

Gen, Ben and Brenda hollered.

Hutch and Nathan caught on.

Roger was at the door.

Eleanor whispered and said, “She likes Hutch and she and Gen nearly fist fought over him this morning.”

The count back and said, “Way to go Gen.”

Gen winked her eye.

Meredith walked in the door.

Nathan looked at Meredith, he thought she was attractive and on the slim side.

Mag and Josiah and the grandchildren were walking in at the same time.

Bruce and Percy helped Shirley walked in.

Hutch was watching Shirley every movement.

Gen and Ben were watching Hutch watching Shirley.

Nathan was not understanding why they were watching Hutch watching Shirley.

Ben said, “Hutch do all of you doctors watch your patients every move?”

Then Nathan understood.

Patrick said. “Come on in. You are in time for lunch.”

They were walking down the hall time Meredith was running back.

She saw them and stopped and walked into the parlor.

Patrick thought, “If that man don’t want you, you will die.”

Patrick said, “Roger go into that room and wash your hands.”

Roger said, “Wait until I come back.”

Everyone laughed.

Patrick said, “We need the chairs out of the family dining room.”

The children said, “We want to sit on the floor.”

Josiah said, “I’ll go and get them.”

He and Nathan went to the family room and took the chairs to the parlor.

Mag, Patrick, Roger and Nathan sat in the chairs.

Josiah sat on the floor next to Shirley.

They were laughing and talking.

Bruce would interject something and they all would laugh.

Peter gave Michael spiced corn, cabbage and macaroni and cheese.

The count said. “My that corn smells divine, what type of corn is that?”

Eleanor peeped at the food.

Peter said, “Spiced corn.”

The count said, “I’ll wait until everyone is served.”

Eleanor looked and said, “Shirley can only have a tablespoon of mashed foods.”

Peter showed Eleanor Shirley’s plate he already prepared with macaroni and cheese, applesauce and a tablespoon of chopped up chicken.

Eleanor smiled and shook her head.

Brenda looked.

Gen said, “I want some fish.”

Ben said, “Me too.”

Meredith tried to be pleasant and said, “Ma am what else would you like?”

Gen looked at Brenda.

Brenda grinned.

Hutch and Nathan smiled.

Gen said, “Macaroni and cheese and that spiced corn. Sorry count.”

Nathan and Hutch looked at the count.

Ben said, “Can I have the macaroni and cheese and spiced corn.”

Everyone’s plates were fixed.

Patrick said, “Where is Robert?”

Peter thought and said, “I believe he took Denise to town to buy some yarn to knit the soldiers scarves for the winter.”

Patrick said, “He better.”

Mag said, “Oh God this corn is delicious.”

The count nodded his approval.

Eleanor was eating less and less food.

Hutch said, “Eleanor there is plenty of food why are you eating less?”

Eleanor put her fork in the plate and was about to leave.

Brenda yelled and said, “Sit down!!”

Meredith jumped.

Peter jumped.

Nathan looked.

Patrick said, “Meredith and Peter you are excuse. We know how to get seconds.”

Meredith nearly fell out the door.

Gen looked at Meredith.

The count looked at Brenda.

Patrick said, “Eleanor you cannot run away all the time.”

Nathan looked at Eleanor because he thought she was tough.

Hutch said, “Eleanor I am very concern. I saw both men and women and children eat less and less and they simply faded way and died.”

Eleanor wanted to run.

The count was enjoying his lunch.

He was rubbing her back for support.

Hutch said, “How long have you been starving yourself?”

Eleanor closed her eyes and turned her head.

The count had his corn on the upto his mouth eating it and looking at Eleanor.

Percy last year.

Bruce said, “Yeah that’s about right.”

Hutch said, “It always start out with a medical reason. A tooth ache, back pain, childbirth?”

Eleanor said, “A lost of a child!!”

Hutch said, “The child is with God. God needs you to live and be here with the five sitting on the floor.”

The count said, “And anymore.”

Everyone looked at the count.

The count said, “Not now, but we plan on marrying.”

Eleanor looked at the count.

The count did not put his spice corn to Eleanor’s mouth but some macaroni and cheese.

Brenda said, “Yesterday was hard on all of us. Mable talked about her five babies she buried at the big tree on the plantation. Denise was so afraid of a white man she passed out on the floor. I thought she was dead. I understand the pain, Nathan you saw. I understand the pain you felt Eleanor and we all had an emotional breakdown.”

She leaned and looked at Hutch and said, “I don’t know what you are running from.”

Genevia sat and tears swelled in her eyes.

Brenda said, “Genevia what’s wrong baby? You started something on Sunday at brunch.”

Ben looked at Gen and held her around her neck.

Gen had trembling lips and said, “Sharon is my late husband’s daughter.”

Eleanor was staring off in space.

Patrick was in shock.

Shirley said, “You talking about daddy’s girlfriend?”

Lorraine was standing outside the parlor door listening.

Lorraine covered her mouth.

Mag held her head down.

Mag said, “My oldest brother raped me several times. He would come up behind me and knocked me out.

Roger did a double take.

Patrick was leaning over in his seat and stared at Mag.

He thought, “That’s why she was so afraid of Roger.”

Mag said, “I felt like filth. I felt I had no purpose in life. I meet Brenda at underground railroad.”

Eleanor heard something about the railroad.

Ben sat there with his mouth open.

Josiah said, “Uncle Fred?”

Mag said, “Yes.”

Josiah tried to stand.

Mag said firmly, “Sit down.”

Shirley and the boys looked.

Mag begin to tell the story how they meet at the underground railroad. They would sneak into plantations and pretended to be slaves They would survey the slaves and see who wanted freedom and who was strong enough to run.

Then she and Brenda would plot the runway.

They would use Patrick’s family railroad to get the slaves on it to escape to freedom.

Robert walked into the hallway to see Patrick.

He walked in and stood and listen along with Lorraine, Natalie, Thomas and Nadine.

Mag told of their legendary meeting with the most famous conductor Harriet Tubman.

She told how they were captured by designed to get other conductors time to get the slaves free.

Mag said, “I was tortured merciless. I thought I could never have children. I did not want Roger to live with his inheritance.”

She touched Roger’s face.

Mag said, “I have terrible pain and suffering from that time we were captured. There were a lot of good Christian white folks that helped us. Gen was one of those people along with her husband the late ambassador.”

Eleanor said, “Momma you were a conductor on the underground railroad?”

Brenda said, “Yes.”

Eleanor said, “Why?”  
Brenda said, “To get rid of evil. I meet your father when I was coming here to the meetings. When I became pregnant with you, I quite the conductor part and your father funded a lot of the underground railroad.”

Everyone was quite.

Eleanor said, “All of this I was going through yesterday you would never told me that the guilt was not on me but the wicked men and women that done such a horrible thing.”

Brenda said, “Now you know. Stop running away.”

The count was rubbing Eleanor’s back.

Genevia said, “They wrote the law so we could never be charged with any crime.”

Hutch sat and listen.

Nathan sat and listen.

Shirley said, “Grandma, grandpa, Miss Gen and Miss Mag and Mr. Roger thank you.”

Bruce said, “Thank you.”

Percy looked at Nathan, Josiah and Hutch and said, “Thank you brave men for saving this great nation.”

Patrick looked and knew that with the statement Percy made, he was smarter than he thought.

Thomas said, “We are all free because of these brave people.”

The house was quiet for the rest of the day.

Mag said, “I found some quilts they made to raise money for the underground railroad.”

Nathan said, “Can I have one?”

Hutch said, “Me too.”

Gen said, “I would love to have one.”

The count said, “May I have one?”

Roger said, “I know this is a separate subject. Bruce left yesterday, with…”

Roger pulled out his note and said, “…Sharon, Danielle and Richard Russell.”

Thomas said to Roger that’s why she knows how to use the rifle.

He walked to the kitchen and finished his soup.

Hutch said, “Nathan where do you live?”

Nathan felt he could lie no more or not tell the truth.

He said, “On the streets.”

Patrick said, “Children go back in the sitting room.”

They did not argue but left.

Percy and Bruce helped Shirley.

She went back to her needlepoint.

Michael went back to reading his book.

Thomas and Bruce to their puzzles.

Percy went back to his boats.

Patrick said, “Nathan you could have said something earlier. We need someone to light the torches and help bring in hot water. The three that were fired. Lived out in the barn. The has it’s own bath and stove for heat and to cook. This winter is suppose to be bad.”

Hutch said, “Porter said men have been prowling over the land in the past several weeks. Tom has his two sons out there. I wanted to get them a room or an apartment to get them from out there.”

Brenda said, “Hutch what are you planning on doing?”

Hutch said, “I wanted to move on to work in another field.”

Brenda said. “Hutch…”

Hutch said, “I know I have to stop running.”

Roger said, “Eleanor, we got the message to remove Bruce from privilege riding. He was mad yesterday and there was no first class passages available.”

Eleanor said, “Good.”

Patrick listened.

Eleanor said, “Did you get his address in Philadelphia?”

Roger flipped the note pad and gave it to Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “Wait until he goes to the bank.”

Patrick said, “Nathan move into one of those spaces in the barn and check the schedule for lighting of the torches. I like them lit either just before dark or at dark. I don’t have a problem if you want to light them a little early. I believe everybody want hot water around seven am.”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “Come to think of it. No one is out in the barn but Louis. Tom can move in with his two sons. Whatever he is running from he needs to face it so his children can be free.”

Nathan followed Mag into the storage area and got a few blankets and his underground railroad quilt.

Gen walked to the storage area to get her underground railroad quilt.

Patrick said, “What did you’ll come over her to tell us?’

Ben said, “She found out Bruce and Sharon and her sister and brother-in-law stayed with Bruce’s parents from Thursday until they left Monday.”

Patrick said, “With all of those bags.”

Ben laughed and said, “They were going to wear you out.”

Patrick said, “I would never allow that.”

Mag selected a sofa, table for the living room, two lamps a rug and four chairs and two bedroom suites and rugs.

Eleanor had Nathan, Stanley, Louis and Gary drive the wagons and took all the furniture that day.

They left, went into town and unloaded the furniture and put it in the house and left and drove the hour back to the house before dark.

Nathan and Peter lit the lights.

Nathan helped Louis with the water for Wednesday and Thursday.

Nathan liked it because he had most of the day free.

He was getting constant pay.

Hutch told Tom that Mr. Stith said, move his boys into the barn.

Denise was excited about her yarn and knitted the seventeen soldiers heavy scarves for the winter.

She made them hats and gloves.

Eleanor went into Wednesday and she and the count spent their private time together.

They went to the lawyer and Eleanor signed the petition for divorce.

She gave Bruce’s address to the lawyer.

The lawyer went and notarized everything with the court.

He sent Bruce’s notice to his new address.

He sent it by the train and then messenger.

Patrick rode into town and went to his office.

He stayed there four hours.

He stopped by the sheriff and got an update on his office break in.

He went to the supply store to check on the barbed wire.

The manager told Patrick it was actually put on the train that morning and be there in three days.

He said, “Mrs. Simons made a good decision.”

Patrick nearly stumble over stuff in the floor. He looked down and it was tents that the troop ordered but did not need because they left town after they ran out the bounty hunters.

The captain of the troop got all of their information and wired it to the rest of the troops.

The sheriff arrested several of the mob men and they would be in jail until the new year and then they would have their trials and be sent to state prisons.

Patrick thought and said, “How many tents do you have?”

Manager said, “Forty.”

Patrick said, “Let me have them. I will send someone into town to get them by Friday.”

Patrick paid for the tents and left and went to Roger.

He told Roger the barbed wire fence should be in on Friday and asked Josiah can get as many people as he knew to help lay the barbed wire fence.

The field hands did not have anyplace else to go for the winter,

They sent Louis and Stanley in town to get the tents.

He had all the field hands to put up the fence.

It took a week to put up the back fence with twenty five men working.

It took another week to enclosed the property on each side and they had plenty of barb wire fence left.

Eleanor said, “Enclosed the property.”

The workers brought the barb wire to the entrance of the mansion.

It did not take away from the beauty of the mansion.

Jessie and his four rowdy boys left and would be back in the spring for the summer and fall planting of vegetables.

Jessie and his rowdy boys took their tents with them.

Josiah, John and Trevor made an extra fifty dollars weekly.

Mag fixed her house up nicely for the Christmas holiday.

Tom bought his boys gifts for Christmas along with two pairs of boots and a heavy coat.

Brenda asked Denise to knit Tom and his boys a scarf, hat and gloves.

Denise was making a lot of money knitting scarves, gloves and hats.

Brenda had Gary to take Denise into town to the bank and open her an account to deposit her money.

Chasity taught Denise and Mable to read, write and do arithmetic.

Gary was teaching them to speak German and French.

On the trip to town Gary let Denise know his feelings for her.

Denise rode to the house in the back of the wagon with her yarn.

Patrick and Brenda were standing on the back porch and saw them re-turn.

Denise grabbed her yarn and ran to the re-modelled supply shed.

Gary got out the wagon and stood and stared at Denise.

Patrick whispered to Brenda and Stanley, “Look at this mess.”

Gary turned to walk to the house, saw Patrick, Brenda, Stanley, Nadine and Wyonna staring at him.

Gary could not say anything.

He passed them and went into the house.

Nadine looked at Stanley.

Stanley looked at Nadine then Patrick and Brenda.

The count prepared his special Austrian dinner.

The dinner took most of the day to prepare and cook.

The guests had a good time socializing waiting for the count’s special food from his country.

The count invited Gen, Ben, The Gibson’s, the mayor and his wife, the governor and his wife.

The count cooked for the twenty people.

The Gibson’s son in law and Peter were watching all the ingredients the count was using.

In between cooking the different dishes, the count and the Gibson’s son-in-law played billiards.

The Gibson’s and Gen and Ben played poker most of the day.

The boys loved the food.

Shirley would only eat a small amount.

She looked at Eleanor while they were sitting for dinner.

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

She told Eleanor with tears in her eyes she would go back to the hospital only for a few months after the holidays, then she would come and go to Europe with all of them.

Eleanor said, “You are brave Shirley. You are strong. You have the right to marry and have children and to enjoy life.”

Eleanor asked Lorraine to go back to Philadelphia with Shirley.

Eleanor said, “I know it is a hard thing to go back to someone who rejected you. But he is good.”

Lorraine said, “Only for a few months and then to Europe.”

Eleanor and Lorraine cried and held each other.

Patrick, Brenda and the count peeped at them from the parlor.

Brenda and Patrick told Eleanor they would go to Philadelphia with Shirley.

They wanted to make up for those nearly three years of not visiting her.

The guests had a good time most of the day.

They loved the food of Austria that the count personally cooked for them.

Hutch and Meredith started dating.

Josiah and Natalie started dating. Natalie was older than Josiah.

Josiah wanted to go to college and become a teacher.

He only had a year and half to go.

He moved to another city to go to school.

Natalie decided to move with him.

They set a wedding date for June.

Daniel, Timothy and Laura grandson, would go to college out of state in the fall.

He started dating Ginger, the granddaughter of Lance and Hilary.

She and her sister Alice would go away to the state college in the fall.

The same college Josiah was attending to become a teacher.

Eleanor studied worker pay and taxes for the whole holiday.

She developed a plan to help the workers.

She hired physicians to attend to her workers and their families and send her the bills.

She started a program to deduct money from the worker’s pay to establish school and college funds and the railroad would match the funds.

Roger was the first worker to have his child’s education paid in full.

Mag would ride the train and go to Philadelphia to go to the hospital.

Ryan was back from his honeymoon.

He and Alice worked at his father’s hospitals.

Eleanor would send the workers and their families to Philadelphia to be treated by Ryan.

The workers incurred the hotels and living expenses.

She was thinking about how to help with the living expenses, while they were being treated.

Hutch was thinking the whole holiday about what he wanted to do.

He knew Meredith was the type of woman who wanted more out of life.

Bruce returned from Thanksgiving and went to his railroad office.

Eleanor’s letter from her lawyer accepting his request for a divorce was waiting for him.

Bruce was angry.

He thought about it and he knew Michael did not get his stationary and send Eleanor that type of letter.

Bruce went home on that Thursday and saw Sharon, her mother and father sitting in his parlor waiting for him to come home for them to eat dinner.

Bruce only had a maid and a worker to help around the house with coal and water and the horses and carriages.

Bruce thought he need to go to the bank on Friday.

Sharon still had large bruises on her head from her fight with Eleanor.

Her mother Danielle had a large knot on her head from Brenda’s rifle.

She tried to hide the huge knot by placing some of hair over it.

She was still having bad headaches and nightmares.

Sharon’s father Richard’s stomach was still swollen and badly bruised rom Brenda’s shotgun.

Genevia sent Richard an anonymous letter that he was not Sharon’s father.

She did not want it to be completely anonymous, she was the wife of an ambassador who was taught how to make anything anonymous.

She wanted them to know pain and betrayal the way she has known it for twenty five years.

Richard received the letter at their house.

They went to check on their house and get more clothes and he saw the letter.

He read the letter over and over.

Danielle saw he was different.

He looked at her and reached her the letter.

She sat and looked at the letter and knew Genevia sent it.

She walked to the fireplace and placed the letter in the fire.

She and Richard went and got in the carriage and drove to Bruce’s beautiful house.

Sharon was demanding the one maid to do double work.

The maid quit.

Bruce went to the bank and found Eleanor removed his name from every account they had for personal and business.

Bruce received only his salary as manager of the railroad and shipping business and the revenue from the hotel.

Patrick was going to take over the shipping business until Eleanor was able to take it over and run it.

Bruce started using his hotel workers to staff his home.

He, Sharon and her mother and father would eat a lot at the hotel.

Bruce asked Sharon did she send the letter requesting a divorce to Eleanor.

Sharon said, “Yes.”

He said, “You were trying to start the process?”

Bruce said, “You tried to make it seemed like Michael stole my stationary and wrote the letter and tried to convince him to confess to it. You called my son a thief and a liar. That was very devious and dirty.”

The following Monday Bruce received his divorce papers at the railroad office.

He worked all day and went home.

He drank a very tall glass of scotch.

Sharon, her mother and father knew it was not good.

Sharon told her parents Bruce found out she stole his stationary and sent Eleanor the letter requesting a divorce.

Her parents did not care they wanted the mansion.

Bruce said, “I received my divorce papers from Eleanor.”

Sharon was happy.

Danielle turned up her nose and said, “I still want that house.”

Richard said, “Me too.”

Bruce said, “I get nothing. She is going to fire me from working at the railroad and the shipping business. I get nothing. Everything belongs to her and always have belong to her.”

Bruce looked at the three and walked away.