

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST stood watch the holy angels preparing to go to the next town where the little girl would go and fight the devils.

JESUS looked around and it was Christmas Eve and it was bitterly cold.

HE and the HOLY GHOST went into the house and talked with the little girl.

Betsy had placed red and green ribbon through out the house.

She made seven cakes for the new settlement.

Wes did not want anyone to come to the cute house for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day celebration.

Joshua had D. Obersteen to buy two turkeys and two whole hams the day of Wes and Betsy's weddings.

Joshua would go and care for the turkeys each day.

When Harold came to kill the turkeys, Joshua ran home screaming.

Emma caught Joshua in the dirt road and covered him with a blanket.

They heard wagons and she grabbed Joshua and pulled him to her.

Mattie and Dr. Obersteen heard the wagons and ran to the dirt road.

Dr. Obersteen told Mattie to stay in the campsite.

He looked at his guns and mounted his horse and rode down to the cute house and Wes came out the house and it was the same men from before.

They had additional coal to deliver.

Harold was there.

Harold said, "That's strange."

Wes said, "Yes."

He reached his hand out and got the bill of sale and examined it and signed it.

The man said, "Bring in the coal."

Wes thought.

He said, "No."

The man turned and looked at Wes.

Wes walked to the dirt road and looked and said, "How many wagons do you have?"

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST stood on the porch and watched.

The man looked at JESUS.

Wes looked at the front porch and said, "Who are you looking at? No one is on the porch."

Harold stood behind Wes and looked at the porch and then at the man.

The man said, "Three wagons."

Wes said, "Leave a wagon here."

He nodded towards Harold and said, "Take a wagon to his homesite."

Wes said, "Take the last wagon to Mike. And ask whoever you are looking at on the porch to give them enough sense to know how to burn the coal to last. Unless you are going to deliver coal each month."

The delivery man said nothing but directed one wagon to the house.

Harold got on the second wagon and showed them the way to Mike's place.

Harold said, "Mike we got more coal. Wes said, for this coal to last you, Shelia and Thomas for the rest of the winter."

Mike said, "I can't stand Shelia and I don't want to have nothing to do with her. So why can't you take a third of the coal to her and leave a third here and a third to Thomas."

Harold just stood in the bitter cold wrapped in a knitted cover looking at Mike in disbelief.

The driver jumped off the wagon and unhooked the side and dropped exactly a third with Mike.

Shelia heard the noise and had come out of her tent and was trying to peep over the hill.

The wagon turned and stopped at Shelia.

The driver got down and unhooked the wagon and dropped off a third of the coal.

Shelia said, "You gonna bring some more next month right?"

The men did not say anything.

Harold thought. "Their horses seem fast."

Harold was fed up with Shelia and yelled, "Don't burn up all the coal. Use the wood also so the coal can last."

Shelia said, "Why?"

She pointed to the coal and said, "We have coal."

The men looked at Shelia.

Harold started cussing and stomping.

The driver said to Harold, "Let us go to the last person."

The driver pulled the wagon from Shelia.

Shelia waved and said, "Thank you."

Harold was still cussing.

The driver looked at Harold as they approached Thomas' homesite.

The driver jumped down and unhooked the wagon and dumped the rest of the coal out.

He said to Harold, "Don't curse the woman. Her mind has stopped functioning and she is only living for the moment. She does not know how to be rational and reasonable. Apparently, she has had great trauma in her life and her mind has shut down and is not being reasonable."

Thomas came out and was jumping up and down in excitement and threw his hands in prayer to God.

The LORD GOD Almighty was watching everyone.

HE told the angels to tell Harold Shelia would not be there at spring.

The driver said, "Come and we drop you off at your homesite."

The second wagon arrived.

The driver asked Harold where the coal was to go, "Harold said. A third here. A third half a mile down the road and another third a quarter of a mile. Straight."

The driver looked at the driver and the second man and dumped Harold's coal.

They went to the Richard and to the children's father.

Harold was so thankful for his coal.

He thought he did not have to carry pails everyday and hide it in his tent.

The men stood in Harold's yard and waited for the wagon.

The driver and the second man looked at Harold.

The second man told Harold, "You know you were very nasty to the woman, Shelia."

Harold turned his head.

The man continued, "Her mind is not stable. The only thing she can think on are pleasant things. I never seen a person come back from that stage."

Harold said, "What are you talking about?"

The second wagon was approaching.

The man said, "You have a lot to ask God to forgive you for. The thing that stands out the most is your selfishness. You did not care about why the woman was acting the way she was. You wanted to leave a third of coal with each of them so you would not have to be uncomfortable to help them or aide them."

The second wagon stopped.

The men looked.

Harold looked at the man and notice the men looked alike.

The man continued, "You did the same thing with the second wagon of coal. You divided the coal between you three men and there were women up a little farther."

Harold said, "They will be ok. I do plenty around here. Wes did the same thing and you did not scold him. He did not want to be bothered with none of us. Only with his family."

The man said, "You have a good heart when you want something. God has been good to you. He has kept you through it all and you have not once asked Him for forgiveness for your sins."

Harold turned his head and looked at his tent. His demeanor was to tell the men to leave him alone.

The men and the wagons disappeared.

Harold fainted.

He woke when Mike drove the wagon with Shelia and Thomas to pick him up to go to the cute house for Christmas Eve celebration.

Harold jumped up from his mattress and falling on the floor and kicking trying to get up and sat on the floor.

Mike screamed, "Harold are you crazy too?"

Mike ran out of the tent to the wagon.

Shelia was sitting on the back of the wagon, wrapped in a knitted covering and smiling to herself.

Thomas sat in the front of the wagon next to Mike and touched his sister shoulder.

Thomas knew his sister's mind was gone and he knew he could do nothing for her.

Emma made a very large batch of her famous yuletide punch.

The first lady sent a wagon of fruits, fancy cakes, hard candies, vegetables and a special gift to Dr. Obersteen.

Her aide drove the wagon with two armed aides and another other driver.

The first lady aide wanted to see Natalie.

He spoke to the first lady and asked if she was sending a good will wagon to the new settlement.

She looked at him as she and the governor were sitting having their quiet time before the day's festivities.

Shelia looked at David, as he was shuffling and reading through papers. He was frowned up.

David said, "Go ahead and used the money from our personal bank account. I never want to have an appropriations issue."

Shelia jumped up and kissed David and whispered to him, "Whatever it is you'll find it and resolve the problem."

David mumbled.

Her personal aide ran with her,

He went and got their personal wagon.

The first lady flew out the mansion and jumped in the front with her aide.

The governor was standing in the window watching them.

He love when Shelia is excited. He has loved her for nearly half of her life.

He knew her aide wanted to go and see Natalie and she wanted to send a love note to Dr. Obersteen.

David giggled.

A knocked on the door and the door was opened by the butler.

The vice governor walked in with his full staff.

He knew David was going to resign.

David had the full government staff to enter through a separate door.

The vice governor sat without being directed to.

David continued to stand and the full government staff was directed by David to sit.

They all sat.

The vice governor looked around at them and smiled.

His chief of staff sat as if he was next in command.

David could hear Shelia's wagon drive off.

He said, "I have been governor for less than thirty days."

The vice governor mumbled to his chief of staff, "Here it comes."

Other government officials heard the vice governor.

They could not believe his disrespect for the governor.

The governor looked at him and said, "Sir. Direct your conversation to me only when I address you and do not commandeer my meeting."

The vice governor very sarcastically said, "Pardon me."

Everyone in the room began to gasp and mumble against the vice governor and his staff.

Shelia went to the market and said to her aide, "We only have four days before Christmas how are we going to get this gift to the new settlement and you be back for Christmas?"

The aide stopped walking with the first lady.

The shop owners were coming out to get the first lady's attention.

She spoke to the people and turned back to her aide.

She said, "William I need you here. Who will help me complete all the gift wrapping and making sure all dinners are prepared and the guests are seated properly."

The aide looked at the first lady and said, "Mame I completed all of that. May I suggest my mother and father to help you. They were the prior governors' butler and governess. I think they will do well."

The first lady said, "William you won't spend Christmas with your mother."

William, "Mame, I have to see if this is true. If not I know to move on."

A shop keeper ran and put a fancy cake in Shelia's face.

Shelia blinked and held her head back.

William said, "Sir do not walk upon the first lady. If she wants your wares she will come to you. Be gone."

The first lady said, "Who can do that but you?"

William smiled and said, "My mother. Who do you think taught me."

Shelia looked at him and finally gave in.

William said, "We must hurry."

Shelia said, "Tell him to bring me a sample of his fancy cakes."

William beckon for the shop keeper.

The shop keeper ran to William.

William said, "The first lady want to sample your fancy cakes."

The shop keeper said, "What?"

William said, "Bring her a cake and a fork."

William walked to the first lady and he saw she was upset.

William said, "First lady my parents will do you honor."

Shelia said, "They better or you will be out of a job. And I will fire you myself."

The shop keeper ran with the fancy cake in his hand and a fork and put it in the first lady's face.

She turned her head and walked away.

William hit the shop keeper's arm and said, "You don't have any manners."

The shop keeper looked at William as William walked away.

The other people looked at the shop keeper, who walked away with his slightly down.

One of the owners of the stall of apples said, "Hey you make it bad for all of us. She may never buy from us or come back here."

The shop keeper went back to his bakery shop.

Shelia purchased her goods.

William escorted the workers to the wagon.

Shelia had calm down and stopped in front of the bakery shop and looked at the mini cakes.

The shop keeper did not know whether to come and greet her or stay in the shop.

The other sellers watched him.

Williams ran to the first lady and said, "The wagon is full, Mame."

Shelia said, "You go in and buy a fancy cake and taste it."

William said, "I don't eat cake."

Shelia turned and looked at William.

William went into the bake shop and paid for one fancy cake and tasted it.

He walked to the first lady and said, "Very sweet."

The first lady opened her purse and gave William money to buy each household a fancy cake.

The sellers applauded the first lady for shopping with them.

Shelia nodded and went to the wagon.

William helped her into the wagon.

Shelia looked down and saw a packed bag William had under his seat.

William was happy until he saw Shelia's glare.

He followed her eyes and saw she was looking at his bag.

He did not say anything.

They were going back to the governor's mansion, when Shelia saw her favorite perfume shop.

She bit her lips and grinned.

William thought all was forgiven.

Shelia said, "Pull over."

William knew she was still angry from her tone.

William pulled the wagon over and went to the seated first lady and helped her out the wagon.

She went to the perform shop.

William stood at the wagon.

He looked up and saw a clothier.

He counted his money.

He got the attention of the store clerk who was watching the first lady.

The store clerk opened the door and yelled to William. "What do you want?"

William said, "I want to buy a dress for a thin woman."

He used his hands to show the clerk how thin.

The clerk was watching for the fashionable first lady.

The first lady browsed the men's cologne.

She bought Dr. Obersteen's favorite.

She bought her favorite she would always buy him.

She told the store manager to wrap it.

As she left the shop the store clerk saw the first lady leaving and ran out her door with several dresses for a thin woman.

She ran in front of the fashionable first lady and said, "Pardon me first lady."

Shelia looked at William.

William pointed to the dress he wanted and asked the store clerk how much.

The store clerk was busy looking at the fashionable first lady.

The store clerk's manager was looking out the window.

William said to the store clerk, "Take the money and wrap the dress and bring it back now."

William saw the first lady had her gift wrapped.

Shelia said to William, "Well William you have just spent half your wages and it is freezing cold there. Have you thought about that or have you already pack it in the bag?"

William did not respond to the first lady.

The store clerk returned with the dressed wrapped and her store manager, who spoke to the first lady.

The first lady spoke.

He invited her to come to his shop and Shelia said at another time.

They drove back to the governor's mansion.

Shelia was seated in the wagon and everyone saw her.

The people waved.

Shelia waved back.

She passed a restaurant and saw the vice governor's wife having lunch.

Shelia was thinking why the vice governor's wife was in that particular restaurant.

Shelia hoped she gave her husband good publicity that day.

She twisted in her seat trying to decide whether to go to the restaurant or go to the mansion.

Shelia felt something was wrong.

William pulled the wagon over and said, "Go first lady."

She looked at William and was surprised he anticipated her actions.

The first lady ran to the restaurant and the people on the street saw her and move out of her path.

The people were glad to see she was out and about with the common people.

The first lady eased in the restaurant and was led to a table near the vice governor's wife and several men.

She heard them talking about removing her husband from bring governor because he was too young and inexperienced.

The first lady stood up and walked to the table and stood. When the people recognized her they sat in shock.

Shelia did not know what to do but she knew David, would know what to do.

Others in the restaurant watched because they knew it must have been something bad.

The first lady walked to the door and the manager opened the door.

She walked to the wagon and said to William, "Fast to the mansion."

William looked at the first lady and knew it was serious, he flew to the mansion.

Shelia ran into the mansion and was greeted by William's father.

She looked back at William and he looked at her.

Shelia gave her hat and gloves to William's father.

She never gave anyone her purse.

She went to the door of the meeting room.

The guard would not let her in.

William's father walked over and pointed to the governor's study.

Shelia was surprised she was not allowed to see her husband.

Shelia and William's father went to the governor's study across the hall.

William's father closed the door and he still had her hat and gloves.

He peeped at the guards across the hall.

Shelia stood and watched him.

He turned to her and said, "I am William senior."

She said, "I know."

He said, "You cannot go into a governor's full staff meeting."

Shelia said, "The vice governor's wife and others were talking about throwing David out."

Shelia began to cry.

William Sr, walked to the governor's desk and looked at all the papers on the desk and gave Shelia a tissue.

He said, "Wipe your face."

Shelia was appalled.

He leaned into her face and said, "You got to be a whole lot tougher and smarter than them. If you want to help your husband to stay a step in front of them. He has good ideas. Those who want to make money will always send in their agents to do their dirty work to sabotage his plans. From experience I can tell you to get fresh faces to be over major projects. And fix the time frame so they would be finished before they can be bought."

Shelia wiping her nose said, "I don't know what you are talking about."

David opened the door and looked at Shelia and the butler.

Shelia ran to David and said the vice governor's wife and three men were talking about removing him from office.

David looked at the crying Shelia and said, "I know."

Shelia said, "What?"

David nodded to the butler, "Th governor told me he was the best help. Listen to him. Why do you think I hired William as your personal assistant?"

He kissed Shelia and walked out.

William said, "Everyone know you helped the governor with his plans while he was in the senate. Now help him with his plans for the state. Then he can move on higher."

Shelia said, "I don't understand."

The butler said, "Everything has been arranged for Christmas. My son wants to visit some young lady. We taught him to keep his ears opened."

Shelia sat still.

The butler said, "The governor left these papers on his desk so you can go through and review them use the note pad he left to write down any questions or bizarre facts. He can't say anything but he is letting you know he needs your help. The vice governor's wife play the political game better than anyone else. You know her father and uncle were the governors of the state. I worked under her uncle. They stole a lot of money from the state's hard working people."

Shelia said, "I invited her to lunch with me tomorrow."

William, "Lunch with her at the restaurant you saw her today. Limit her access to this mansion, I t is your home. Send a note by courier for her to meet you at the restaurant and always have an aide with you. Never let her be around your children she will try to draw information from them. You need to study these papers to find out what your husband is looking for. Dinner will be at six pm in the family dining room. The table is being set for the Christmas banquet in two days."

Shelia said, "Why are you telling me all of this?"

William Sr., "Because I am just temporary. Can my son leave now, he can make it in three days if he leaves now."

Shelia said, "Of course."

William opened the door to walk out and Shelia yells, "Wait a minute."

Shelia had scribbled a note for the vice governor's wife to meet her twelve pm at the restaurant.

William read the note and said, "I'll send it but she will probable decline."

Shelia looked at William Sr. and said, "But you said."

He cut her off, "I said, don't give her assess to the mansion because it is your home. If you keep her away from the mansion she would not be willing to go because her play is to throw up in your face how great it was when she lived here. She wants to always make you feel insecure and need her help to get through these trying times and show people you can't be the first lady because you are always calling on her to do your first lady work, until her husband root your husband out of his elected position."

Shelia, "They are not going to destroy my David."

William, "Get smart. Never talk business outside your bedroom."

William opened the door again.

Shelia said, "My family and the governor's family will be here tomorrow."

The guards were listening.

William said, "Their rooms are made and extra room for their wagons and horses have been made."

Shelia looked out the window and saw William standing by the loaded wagon.

She felt bad and walked to him and said, "You can leave. I will see you when you get back. Leave the wagon and the horses with Wes. Take your horse for you to ride back."

His father was listening from the inside of the door and he stepped out and said, "You can't make that drive alone. I hired some fellows to go with you."

The men walked around the corner.

The armed security had their horses.

The driver had his horse.

Shelia said, "William be sure to give Dr. Obersteen his gift from me and David."

William looked the first lady real funny and said, "Sure."

William Jr. went to the stables and got his horse he rode to work.

His mother and father were waiting for him on the steps by the kitchen.

He walked over and kissed both of them, he said, "Your Christmas gifts are on the fireplace mantel."

He tied his horse to the wagon.

He started off driving and he pushed it until daybreak.

He slid over and the other driver continued to evening.

They all slept until the next morning.

They pulled into the new settlement at the cute house at night fall the day before Christmas Eve.

Wes stepped out and saw the wagon and the men.

He recognized the first lady aide.

The armed security men and the other driver turned and speed away. They could make it home by Christmas day.

Wes stepped off the porch.

William walked to Wes and shook his hand.

Wes said, "What is all of this?"

Betsy walked to the door.

William peeping for Natalie.

Wes said, "Natalie is in the house."

William wrapped his arms around himself said, "God it is freezing here."

Betsy looked back and said, "Natalie."

Natalie walked to the door.

William waved.

Natalie waved at William.

She turned and went back to the little girl.

William looked at Wes.

Wes did not say anything.

William began to jump up in the air to stay warm.

William walked to the wagon and said, "A good wish gift to the new settlement residents. Wes she said for you to have the wagon and the horses. She loved the way you take care of people."

William nodded to the house.

Wes looked back and said, "I'll tell you later."

William said, "I came a long distance and put my job on the line."

Wes said, "You can sleep in the house."

William grabbed his bag and through shattering teeth said, "Thank you."

Wes nodded.

William ran into the house.

Then he remembered he left his quilts and blankets in the wagon.

He ran outside and went to the end of the wagon and pulled out his beddings and ran back in the house.

He dressed for bed and made his mat and fell on his knees and said his prayers as Wes and Betsy walked in the house.

Natalie walked in the living room while William was praying.

William fell on his face and went immediately to sleep.

Wes put William's quilt on him.

He checked on and the little girl.

The little girl's eyes were opened.

Wes said, "Hello."

Betsy and Natalie ran to her.

They sat and held her hands.

Wes sat on the floor and wrote everything in his note pad.

He placed the note pad back in the drawer.

He stood and told the little girl, "See you later."

Wes left to go to bed.

Betsy said, "I know Joshua told you me and Dr. Wes are married."

The little girl closed her eyes.

Betsy said, "Baby, I am going to let you rest, because this is strange to you. Natalie is here with you."

Betsy kissed her on the head and walked out.

She looked back at Natalie.

Natalie walked in the living room, and looked at William on the floor, to get her quilt from the chest.

Natalie went and made her mat on the little girl's floor.

The little girl was fully awake.

She kept her eyes closed. She was confused and disoriented.

She knew the people in the house were good people and have helped her.

She heard William snoring in the next room and she knew Natalie was not sleep.

Natalie was lying on her back with her arm across her head.

Natalie said, "I know you are not sleep. Try to get some sleep. Tomorrow is Christmas Eve. I want you to enjoy it."

Wes was dressed for bed.

He laid on his side reading a medical journal by the oil lamp Emma found in their stuff.

Betsy walked in the tent and dressed for bed.

She fell on her knees and face on the mattress, with her butt in the air.

Wes looked at her.

They bought two knitted coverings from Cate and double the covering on the walls.

They only felt the cold when the tent door is open.

Wes keep the fire going all day and night and the fire under the black pot.

Betsy said, "What kind of person is she after the attack?"

Wes said, "Who?"

Betsy said, "The little girl."

Wes said, "I am trying to read and see if there is any help."

He turned on his back and continued to read.

Betsy's face and mouth were on the mattress and she tried to talk and said, "What are we going to do?"

Wes looked at Betsy and said, "We. All you have done is sit with her. I am scared to death because there are no articles about this. Talking about "we".

Betsy started saying, "Oh. Oh."

Wes looked over at Betsy and said, "Are you alright?"

Betsy said, "I'm pregnant."

Wes looked at Betsy and said, "I know. I got you pregnant. Don't play with me about being sick Betsy. You can play about anything else but being sick."

Whack.

Wes said, "Damn."

The strange angel said, "Bossy woman."

Betsy scooted under the quilts and pulled off her gown and turned to Wes.

Wes said, "You think I am going to turn you down because you hit me."

Wes put down his journal and turned off the oil lamp.

Betsy laughed.

The strange man smirked.

The new commander walked to the next town.

He returned.

The strange man looked at the new commander's face.

The new commander said to the strange man, the attendant and the six thousand holy angels, "They have fortified against her. I did not see the strong man."

JESUS seated at his desk with a very large book in front of Him, said, "He is not there, but he will be there when she gets there."

The attendant was ready for the encounter. He danced all over the front porch and in the air all night.

The LORD GOD Almighty walked over the earth, and watched every man, woman and child, within a split second.

He watched Shelia bemoan her children.

He knew she wanted her children and had withdrawn from life.

The LORD GOD Almighty said to Shelia in her dream, "I will give you another time to decide if you want to home and be with your children or if you want to live the rest of your life for JESUS the Christ and come home with full glory for you and your children."

The LORD GOD Almighty looked at Mike's homesite.

The LORD GOD Almighty looked around. It was very cold in the new settlement and the surrounding towns and cities.

The LORD GOD Almighty would not change his decision about the bitter cold. The earth had to heal. HE to the holy angels, "You did well by having them delicacies being sent by the first lady. Bring them three wagons of coal tomorrow afternoon."

He called the attendant.

The attendant bowed.

The LORD GOD Almighty said, "Lay it on Wes and the others hearts to invite all the people to the Christmas Eve celebration."

The attendant said, "Christmas?"

The LORD GOD Almighty said, "Let them decide if they want to share Christmas."

The LORD GOD Almighty looked at the angel over the state and the angels assigned to the governor and his wife.

He looked and told the angel over the governor and his wife and said, "Stop the assassination of the governor and his wife. Let the wound be not to death. Have them call Wes to help. Let William Sr. discover the identities of all involved and let them be executed."

The LORD GOD Almighty ascended into heaven.

The governor ended his meeting with the state's department heads.

He resolved their budget issues and resolved their personnel problems.

The staff was so shocked how quickly he made so many wrongs right.

The governor had lunch and dinner served.

They worked late into the night.

The governor had each department head and their staffs to sign each amendment and resolution.

When the meeting ended at ten pm.

Everyone felt they had accomplished great things.

The newspapers reported how the state was busy helping people during the holidays.

The department heads and staff felt very proud.

People saw them the next day and would applaud them.

Some of the staff would bow or tilt their hats to the people.

The next day the governor had to go gift shopping.

The first lady volunteer to go.

The governor and William Sr, reminded her that she was to have lunch with the vice governor's wife.

William Sr. reached her the vice governor's response to the invitation.

Thelma took it and read it.

She held it up in the air and said, "She said she's not well. What is this?"

The governor said, "It is a game to them. Do not invite her to anything, only the essential things. "

William Sr said, "First lady, may I suggest that you send her a reply regretting that she is sick today and she would not attend the Christmas banquet with her husband. I heard she spent a lot money on her dress to the Christmas banquet."

The governor shook his head at the butler and said, "I do not want to spend time playing these political games with these people and their spies they have everywhere. Shelia follow William's lead and keep the vice governor's wife away from you and our children."

Thelma said, "What am I to do?"

William said, "Pray. You will become very religious in this mansion. Why do you think you did not see the last two first ladies?"

David walked down the stairs.

William turned and walked down the stairs behind David.

Thelma said, "William where are you going?"

William said, "I'm the butler I am going with the governor for him to do his Christmas shopping. Why don't you send the vice governor's wife your reply."

Thelma began to descend the stairs.

David looked at her and William said, "Where are you going?"

Thelma, "You can take my reply to the vice governor's wife."

William said, "No."

Thelma, "No."

David took Shelia by the hand and walked her to an office and opened the door.

He said, "Good morning."

The people said, "Good morning governor."

The governor said, "This is the first lady. Identify yourselves to her and what your jobs are."

David kissed Thelma and closed the door and left with William Sr. to do his Christmas shopping.

David was putting on his gloves and said "William do you have my money? I do not see the wallet."

The security people were looking and listened.

William said, "What sir we are not going to use the people money?"

William laughed.

The governor did not laugh.

The security aides did not laugh.

William pulled out the governor's wallet and said, "That was a joke governor."

The governor walked down the steps to go outside and he completed putting on his gloves and said, "William, a joke is how lies and evil thoughts get planted."

William Sr, bowed his head and, "I apologize."

The governor said it in the hearing of the spies.

The first lady walked out the office followed by a clerk.

She went into the governor's office and pulled out his chair.

The clerk pointed outside and said, "First lady you have your own office."

Thelma was looking on the desk for a writing note pad.

She looked up at the clerk.

She was angry that he spoke to her.

Thelma stood up and said, "Where?"

The clerk walked her to her office which was next door to David's office.

He opened the door and was very impressed.

Thelma walked in and the clerk followed.

Thelma walked and touched the French provincial desk and chair and chaise.

One of the employees was watching them from the table next to Shelia's door.

Thelma caught him.

He looked at her and walked away.

The clerk realized that Thelma does not like to be told anything he said, "First lady may I address you?"

David told Thelma she had to stop acting like people were her slaves and not her employees and that was only making unnecessary enemies.

They took a long walk in the yard under the eyes of the employees.

He told Thelma she had eight years to get her attitude in check before he won the election and he planned on moving and going to the Whitehouse and she better make up her mind if she would go with him. He told her she was used to a handful of people but now there are many people and many snakes.

The governor was very angry and walked away from Thelma and left her out in the garden until dinner.

He walked to the balcony and said, "Dinner."

He turned and walked back inside and sat at the table with their children.

He said, "Bow your heads for grace."

Lydia their youngest said, "Dad are we going to wait for mother?"

David said, "She knows what time dinner is."

Thelma walked in and sat and bowed her head.

Their ten year old son David Jr. asked, "Can I say grace?"

The governor said, "Yes."

David Jr said the grace he said, "Father help us to adjust and be better people. Help daddy be a better daddy, a better husband and the best governor this state has ever had. Let us be better and help him and stop fighting with him."

Thelma was looking at David Jr and cut him off and said, "Amen."

David looked at his wife who sat next to him and was holding his hand.

Their children watched their mother.

The eldest girl, Naomi who was twelve said, "Our house is much smaller than this mansion. It was easy to go through that house. But we get lost in this huge house."

David sat up and was about to address his daughter, when Thelma said, "Eat dear."

The children looked at their mother who was leaning over the table to eat.

David said, "What are you doing?"

Thelma said, "Eating."

David said, "Have your bags packed and be out of here in the morning."

His son had his mouth opened to put a forkful of mashed potatoes.

Thelma said, "You don't tell me what to do."

Davis stood up and threw his napkin in his plate.

The staff came and removed his plate.

David leaned down to Thelma and looked her in her eyes and said, "I damn well tell you what to do. If you think you are going to be my enemy in my bed and spy on me for my other enemies, It will never be. This not a game. I will put you back on the street where I picked you up. Get out now and go and pack."

Thelma saw the governor was not playing with her.

This was not a game.

He was finished with her.

David did not believe in mistreating anybody and talking down to people.

He warned Thelma about those bad traits of hers over and over. Now he is in the most important and dangerous position he has ever been in and Shelia has not grown up.

The youngest daughter Lydia walked over and touched her mother's hand and said, "Come mother."

Thelma was so shocked she jerked from Lydia and sat and was perplexed.

The security aides walked in and pulled her chair from the table and said, "First lady the governor said for you to leave the table and go and pack and be escorted out at daybreak."

The governor was out on the balcony smoking.

Lydia cried.

The other two children sat and continued to eat their mashed potatoes, fried chicken, peas and biscuits.

The next week was Christmas week.

Thelma wanted to be there and show off her clothes.

She went and began to pack.

The bedroom door was opened.

The security aides were positioned on either side of the door.

The governor went into his office and studied papers all nights.

The children passed their mother's room and went to their bedroom.

They played most of the night until their governess told them to dress for bed.

Thelma was getting nervous.

Her husband was sending her out the governor's mansion back home.

She would not see him nor the children at Christmas.

Her family was coming to spend Christmas with the governor in the governor's mansion.

She stood in the middle of the floor with a dress thrown over her arm.

The security aides looked in at her, when they did not hear her moving.

She left all the outfits she bought for Christmas and the New year.

She thought, "He loves me. He always forgive me and put up with me. I saw his eyes tonight. He hates me. I have turned my true love into my enemy who hates me."

She ran and closed the door and cried out and cried.

She laid in the window seat for hours.

One of the security aides opened the door and said, "Have you finished packing? Where are the bags to be carried down?"

Thelma sat up and said, "Where is the governor?"

The security aide said, "In his office."

Thelma stood up to walk out the bedroom.

The security aide held his arms out and said, "Your under house arrest."

Thelma could not comprehend she could not move, she said, "Can you tell the governor I want to see him."

The security aide left and went downstairs to the governor's office.

Thelma at on the bed with another dress wrapped around her arm, crying and staring off in space.

The governor was talking to the governess.

He said, "You betrayed me and family to the vice governor. You are fired. Pack and be out by daybreak. Do not be s minute late."

The two head of staff were watching the governor.

The governor was angry.

The governess stood and said, "I will be out tonight."

David saw the security aide and said, "Make sure she is out and never returns for nothing."

The security aide said, "Yes sir. Your wife asked for a word with you.

The governor looked at his two heads of staff and said, "Get me William Sr You may leave."

He looked at the security aide and said, "Where are my children?"

The security aide responded, "They fell asleep in the playroom."

The governor stood and walked up the stairs and went to his children.

Thelma saw the governor when he walked passed their bedroom and did not look at her.

He continued to his children.

Thelma ran to the door and watched him.

David closed the door.

He woke the children and walked them to their bedrooms and he bowed his head in prayer.

He closed their bedrooms door and walked back to his bedroom.

Thelma tried to run to David.

David put up his hand for her to stop.

The security aide stood behind David and stared at Shelia.

Thelma said, "Can we talk?"

David, "About what?"

Thelma said, "In private."

David said, "This is as private as you will ever get. What---do--- you--- want Thelma. My mind is made up. Nothing will change."

Thelma said, "Can I stay until the New year?"

David said, "Fine that's it. Then get out forever."

David went back to his office.

The day before Christmas Eve, governor and his wife ran downstairs to greet their families and guess.

They dressed for the traditional governor's Christmas Eve ball.

The vice governor's wife did not come to the ball.

She held up the Christmas Ball dress and vowed she would wear it that season.

The vice governor entered the Christmas Ball with two lady staff workers on each arm.

He walked over to the governor and introduced them to the governor.

Thelma was angry.

But everyone knew the governor has thrown her out forever.

Everyone heard of the governor kicking out the first lady because of the way she talked to the workers and the governor did not like it.

Wes got up and Christmas Eve morning and talked and played with Betsy.

He put on his clothes to begin the day's chores.

Betsy was laying on her stomach with her head raised and quiet.

Wes said, "I know it is early, but I don't like for you to be on your stomach."

Betsy did not give him a smart answer.

He looked.

He sat on the mattress.

He stroked her beautiful hair and said, "What?"

Betsy laid her head on the mattress and turned on her side.

Wes said, "Turn all the way over."

Betsy turned all the way over onto her back.

He smiled.

Betsy said, "Invite everyone to the Christmas Eve celebration."

Wes stood and walked out the tent.

Betsy said, "Oh God. I need help."

He did not even think about it.

He went and got several pails of water and put in the black pot to fill it up.

He got the water for the house.

Wes walked in and saw William was still asleep.

He bathed the little girl and gave her the herbal therapy.

He told Natalie, "William came all the way here and nearly lost his job so he can spend Christmas with you. Go and wash and get dress and prepare him something to eat. The governor and the first lady sent us a wagon of food. I don't know what is out there."

William woke and said, "Fancy cakes, fruits etc."

Wes said, "Good morning."

William said, "Good morning and fell back to sleep."

Natalie walked in the living room to get her clothes.

She looked over at William who was snoring again even louder.

Natalie went and washed and put on her red dress and ribbon.

She cleaned the bath shed.

Natalie put her basin on the porch and went to the wagon and looked at all the food the governor and the first lady sent.

Betsy had drifted back to sleep.

Natalie walked in the house and put up her basin and closed the dresser door.

She was leaning with her back to the door.

She watched William sleep.

Natalie wondered what type of man he was that he wanted her.

The little girl moved.

Wes looked at her.

Natalie saw the movement out the corner of her eye and ran to the little girl.

Natalie had a piece of red and green ribbon left.

She said to the little girl, "Which do you prefer red or green today and the other tomorrow."

Natalie said, "No answer. Already I will choose. I have on red and red ribbon. I want you to match. I'm giving to give you red too."

Wes was watching the little girl and notating everything.

Natalie was tying the ribbon to the little girl's hair.

The little girl giggled.

She scared Natalie.

Wes watched Natalie. She was scared but did not want anyone to know.

Natalie tied the ribbon and kissed her on the cheek.

Natalie rubbed the little girl's hair and sat down in the chair.

Wes was thankful he was not the only person scared of the little girl.

H stared at Natalie and she looked at him and turned her head.

She took the bible the attendant left and turned to Luke 1 and began to read out from verse 26.

Wes stood to leave.

Natalie was still afraid of Wes and said, "When will everyone come to get some food?"

Wes said, "What?"

William was sitting on the mat and said, "The governor and the first lady sent the food for all the people in the new settlement."

Natalie looked at Wes.

Wes stood for a minute and said, "Natalie you can tell them to come here at three pm.

Natalie said, "Me. It's cold outside. Betsy! Betsy!"

Wes was so shock.

He said, "She is outside in the tent probably sleep. What are you calling her for?"

Wes said, "Be quiet before you wake her."

Natalie said, "She will be alright. I won't."

Natalie continued to call, "Betsy! Betsy!"

The little girl giggled.

Natalie and Wes heard the little girl.

Natalie rubbed her leg.

William jumped up with his quilt over him.

Wes said, "Where are you going?"

William said, "To get Betsy."

Wes looked at Natalie.

Natalie turned and was looking out the door at William.

William ran out in his night clothes and ran to the tent and said, "Betsy, Natalie is calling you."

He said it several times until Betsy woke.

Wes went to the coal pile.

He knew somebody was stealing the coal.

He could not put it on Harold because his coal was on the other side.

Wes filled the pails and was returning to the house.

Betsy threw on her nightgown and slippers with a knitted covering.

She ran to the house and ran into Wes.

He was standing at the steps and rolled his eyes at William.

William looked at Wes then Betsy.

William said, "Oh Betsy you have beautiful hair."

Wes hit at William.

William ran in the house behind Betsy and fell back on his mat and went back to sleep.

Wes put a few pieces of coal on the fire in the living room and thought that was not like him and he put half the bucket of coal in that fireplace and took the remaining and put it in the fireplace in the bedroom.

He stood and listened as Natalie said, "The governor and the first lady sent the food to the residents of the new settlement. And Wes does not want them to get any and then he tells me to go and tell them to come around three pm. And it is cold outside."

Betsy said, "Fine. I'll ride with you."

Wes stood was shocked at Betsy and could not say anything.

Natalie was confused and turned her head to do a double take.

Natalie said, "Betsy did you hear me say it is cold outside."

Betsy said, "We need to wrap up good."

The little girl giggled.

Betsy touched her leg and patted it.

Betsy passed Wes.

Wes looked at her.

Betsy went and got her bath basin and dressed.

Wes was waiting for her.

He said, "You ride my horse and let Natalie ride your horse."

Betsy said, "Did you feed the horses and give them water?"

Wes said, "Of course."

Betsy nodded and said, "Those."

Wes turned and looked at the two additional horses and William horse.

Wes said, "He better get up and help."

Betsy said, "Wes he drove three days to get her let him rest until he is able to get up."

Wes leaned and kissed Betsy.

They walked into the house.

Betsy had her winter coat and a quilt.

Betsy said, "Natalie you look nice."

Natalie looked at Betsy, and stood.

Betsy said, "Natalie we have to invite Richard or do you want to take him food now?"

Wes was watching Natalie.

Natalie became nervous and began to shake.

Wes said, "Sit down Natalie. I will go and tell all of them to come around two pm so they can leave before dark."

Betsy walked to Natalie and held her and put her head on Natalie's head.

Wes walked and looked at the sleeping William.

Wes went outside and fed the other three horses and gave them water.

Wes was thinking about what to do about Richard and Natalie.

He went and washed and put on a good shirt and his thermals and his heavy coat and a quilt.

He walked in the house and William was sitting on the mat.

William looked around the cute house and said, "Dr. Wes where are you going?"

Wes bit his lip and said, "To tell everyone to come around two pm to get the food the governor and the first lady sent."

William said, "Can I go?"

Wes said, "Of course. Go around the back to the bath shed."

William said, "I remember."

William got his clothes.

He the used the water basin to dip some hot water.

He washed and shaved and dressed for the day.

He felt so much better.

His father told him to put on two sets of thermals and sleep in them and wool socks to keep his body warm as they did in the military.

William put on a pair of wool pants, long boots and two flannel shirts and a wool sweater.

William saw the ones at the house were very clean.

He cleaned the bath shed.

He was cold but not freezing.

Wes was outside drinking coffee.

William went in the house and rolled his mat and quilts and took one out to use when he was on the outside.

He cleaned the living room.

He sat with Wes and drank coffee.

They finished their coffee and Wes went into the house and told Betsy they were leaving.

Wes said, "Natalie it's your decision about Richard."

Natalie said, "Invite him. I'll just stay in the house."

Wes turned and walked out the house.

Betsy watched Wes and William from the window.

She ran back to Natalie and said, "What you think about William?"

Natalie had began to cry.

Betsy said "You need help to get through this. Maybe you can talk to Mattie. I don' know."

Wes stop at Betsy's campsite and they saw Dr. Obersteen heating their water.

William stayed on his horse.

He did not like the cold when he moved.

Wes had on his long coat and a quilt.

Dr. Obersteen could take much of the cold over the rest of the people.

He was building their fires and heating their bath water.

Mattie and Joshua were in their tents.

Joshua's tent and Mattie's tent were warm.

The fire kept the cold air from their tents' doors and their sitting area.

Dr. Obersteen was a little concerned about Emma.

He kept the fire going all the time for her. But their tent did not have cold air coming in.

Wes walked to Dr. Obersteen and said, "Good morning."

William waved.

Wes said, "That's right you don't know William. He is Shelia's aide. She and the government sent us the residents of the new settlement a wagon loaded with good things. I know we decided to meet at three for our celebration. But those three decided we need to share the goods with the other residents."

Dr. Obersteen said, "I know you don't care for them but the well wish was for all the residents. It is Christmas Eve."

Wes walked away.

Dr. Obersteen said, "What about Richard?"

Wes said, "Natalie said him to."

Emma laid and listen.

Wes told William, "Lets go out to the furthest and then tell these two on our way back home."

They ran into Harold who was by Frank and Glenda.

They spoke and continued to ride to Mike.

Joshua got up and dressed and was running out their campsite when he saw Harold.

Joshua continued to run down the dirt road with his knitted covering.

Joshua heard them talking that Harold was going to prepare the turkeys.

Like he was stupid and did not know that meant he will kill the turkeys.

Joshua had fed the turkeys and played with them since they came back from the big city.

Wes told them not to let Joshua play with the turkeys.

He had baby chicks for Easter one year and when the chicks got bigger they ate the chicks and sent Wes into shock.

Wes got off his horse and called for Mike.

Mike knew Wes did not play with him.

Mike went to his tent door.

His heart dropped when he saw the man with Wes.

Wes wondered why Mike had that look on his face.

Wes said, "This is William the first lady's aide. She and the governor sent us some goodies. Collect Harold, Shelia and Thomas and come and get your share at two pm."

West got on his rode and they rode to Shelia.

Wes called Shelia.

Shelia came to the tent door wrapped in a quilt.

Wes told her, "Mike would get her and Thomas and bring them to the cute house for the Christmas eve celebration.

They stopped at Thomas and told him.

Wes said, "Be sure to get Shelia and dress better."

Thomas was dirty and unshaven.

They rode to the children's father and invited him and asked him to drive his wagon and pick up Richard.

Wes slowed up by Richard's homesite.

He told Richard the governor and the first lady sent them goodies and to come around two pm. He said the children's father would drive his wagon and get him.

Richard did not say anything.

William said, "What's his problem?"

Wes slowed down and told William all they knew.

William looked back at Richard's homesite.

Wes said, "I decided to come and bring you with me so I could tell you away from Natalie's hearing. She can hear very well."

Wes stopped at Cate's homesite and called her.

Cate came out and Wes introduced William.

Cate gave William the eye.

Wes looked at her and then it dawned on him she was flirting with William.

William did not respond because he was thinking about Natalie.

Wes said, "He's Natalie's friend. He is the first lady's aide. She and the governor sent us goodies. Come at two pm and get your share. Maybe I should have asked the children's father to pick up you, Frank and Glenda."

Cate turned and stumped to her tent.

Wes remembered and yelled, "I'm sorry."

They stopped by Frank and Glenda and invited them.

Wes and William rode back to the house.

Dr. Obersteen went into their tent and gave Emma a cup of coffee.

They heard Joshua run out of the campsite.

Dr. Obersteen said, "This is a mess."

Emma said, "What?"

Dr. Obersteen said, "Joshua and those turkeys."

Emma put her coffee cup away from her on the ground.

Dr. Obersteen pushed it further away.

Emma smiled.

They stayed in their tent the entire morning.

Wes told William he needed that wagon for the ones nearest the cute house.

Wes and William had started to unload the wagon.

Betsy heard the noise and looked out the window.

She ran out with a red tablecloth and begin to reorganize the goodies.

She did a great job.

Wes said, " Betsy can you step aside so we can finish?"

Betsy slowly moved and walked to their tent and pulled off her coat.

William and Wes looked at her and finished unloading the wagon.

Betsy laid down.

Wes was thinking about Cate.

He told William, "He would leave at one thirty to go and get the rest of the residents."

Betsy laid down for a good while.

She went back into the cute house and William told them of the governor and the first lady.

Betsy laid her head in Wes's lap.

They all were so shock at the governor and the first lady.

Natalie stood in the doorway so she could watch the little girl.

They heard the wagons and jumped and ran outside and saw the coal wagons.

Joshua was upset and ran home.

Harold put the turkeys in the hot water they had prepared.

Harold left with the coal wagons to deliver coal to the other new settlement residents.

William was very handed.

He knew how to cook the turkeys and how to cook the ham.

They made the front porch look very festive.

Mattie had gotten up and washed and dressed and made the stuffing.

Nobody wanted Mattie to work.

Emma had made a very large batch of her yuletide punch.

She and Mattie gathered the dishes together earlier.

Now with everybody coming they wondered if they had enough food.

Betsy baked seven cakes over two days.

Wes figured she was tired.

Wes took the wagon and went to pick up Cate, Frank and Glenda. He thought this Christmas Eve and they did not spruce up.

Wes picked up Mattie and dishes and the food.

Emma was bathing Joshua and they would come later.

Dr. Obersteen was putting coal on the fires to keep them lit.

They had taken one of the coverings for the coal and made a covering for their bath area.

Dr. Obersteen, Emma and Joshua rode on his horse to the cute house.

Harold rode with the children's father.

Ricard did not come.

Everyone was concerned about Shelia.