JESUS and the HOLY GHOST walked into the cute house.

The LORD GOD Almighty heard Dr. Obersteen heart the night before.

He touched Wes that morning and Wes got up and dressed and went to the hospital and examined Mattie under the watchful eye of Emma.

Emma had learned tricks when she was a little girl and they were coming back to her memory.

She learned to rest when Mattie was resting. She was up every two hours to give Mattie the pain medication.

Emma was not going to let anything happen to Mattie.

Mattie was the last descendent on her grandmother’s side.

Mattie’s mother died in childbirth and her father was a military man.

He carried Mattie with him until it was too hard.

He thought he might marry a good Christian woman who would love Mattie as he did. But he soon realized tat was not going to happen.

He sent Mattie to his mother.

Several months later he was killed in battle.

Mattie’s grandmother raised the five year old girl until she passed away ten years later.

Emma grandmother called her while she was in her bed dying.

Her grandmother looked at Emma for a long time and said, “Emma.”

Emma touched her grandmother hand and said, “I am here grandma.”

Emma’s mother and father were standing in the doorway. Her father was holding onto his wife.

His mother had always lived with them, because the farm was his father’s and mother’s.

They only had the two sons.

His brother wanted to serve his country he joined the military.

Three years later he came back on leave and met Mattie’s mother who was visiting relatives in the small town.

They kept in touch.

He came back for Christmas and they married at the small church under a blanket of snow.

A year later Mattie was born, and her mother died.

Emma was only a year older than Mattie, but Emma was fast and smart.

Her grandmother wanted her to leave with Mattie and go out of state to college and become a teacher.

But Emma’s heart was on Bill.

She would not leave the small town.

Her grandmother knew she would not.

She thought education would put Emma in a better station in life.

Her grandmother wanted Mattie to go away to marry a man that was educated and not a military man.

She did not want the military to take away Mattie’s husband.

Her grandmother knew Betsy was fiery and would catch the man of her dreams.

She knew Betsy would be a great business woman and open doors for girls to own businesses.

Emma’s grandmother said, “Emma. Mattie has no one.”

She coughed and continued, “You have been her best friend. Betsy has been great too. But you have felt Mattie’s heart. I am going away and I won’t be coming back to help get you’ll out of your mess.”

Emma’s mother begin to cry out.

Betsy and Mattie ran in from school.

They saw their parents crying.

Betsy and Mattie looked and saw Emma in their grandmother’s bedroom and ran to her.

Their grandmother said, “My girls.”

She smiled her last smile and closed her eyes.

Emma had always kept her grandmother charge to safeguard Mattie.

Emma felt she failed Mattie.

Mattie had been home three months.

She taught at the local school.

That horrible evening Mattie was leaving school with her head in a book.

Everyone in the neighborhood knew Mattie and that she loved to read.

Someone grabbed her.

She was violently raped and beaten and left for dead.

Emma had never gotten over that and bossed Mattie around to control where she went and what she

Did.

Mattie wanted to leave and go to another city.

Her college boyfriend was a dentist in that city.

He wrote many times to Mattie but did not receive any responses.

He came to their small town.

Emma and Betsy told him what happened to Mattie.

Mattie was at death door.

Her college boyfriend sat by Mattie’s side for months until she delivered Joshua.

He wanted to take her and the red hair baby boy back with him.

But Emma and the boyfriend had angry words.

Emma was angry because she did not protect Mattie then and the boyfriend told Emma it was her fault for not protecting Mattie.

The boyfriend tried to get conservatorship over Mattie and the baby but could not win in court.

The judge ruled for Emma.

Betsy was angry with Emma.

She told Emma, “Mattie could not have a life in that small town and no decent man would want to marry her.”

Mattie’s boyfriend father was a lawyer and he handled the case for him.

He told his son he would not win the case and to come home and forget about the damaged sweet woman he knew and loved.

After two years Mattie struggled but physically recovered.

She had to learn to walk and talk and read. But Emma was there.

It was hard on Emma to rise two babies.

When Mattie recovered from all her physical injuries she wanted to take Joshua, whom Emma named, and go to her boyfriend.

Then Emma produced the conservatorship papers and Joshua’s adoption papers.

Betsy moved Mattie next door to her house.

Betsy did not have anything to do with Emma for years.

She would always go and get Joshua and bring him to Mattie.

Emma would try Betsy and get smart telling her she would not let Joshua go.

Mattie and Betsy would have planned picnics and fishing and week end trips for Joshua.

The first two times Betsy went with Emma control.

The third time Emma told Betsy no, Betsy beat Emma onto the floor.

Betsy stood over Emma and punched her in her head over and over until Emma was nearly unconscious.

Bill was holding the toddler.

Betsy grabbed Emma by her hair and held her head up and said, “You failed your nana. Now your job end. Give me that damn baby. You better never ever say no to Mattie about her own child. Failure!.”

Betsy kicked Emma hard.

Betsy turned with her fists balled up.

She walked to Bill to jump on him.

Bill swallowed hard and rushed Joshua to Betsy along with his bag.

Betsy walked back to Emma and stooped down with Joshua and yelled at Emma, “You better revoke that conservatorship over Mattie. I mean now. Bitch.”

Betsy punched Emma hard in the head and Emma tried to cover her head.

Betsy kicked her in the side and walked out the door with Joshua looking at Bill.

Bill stood there and heard Betsy talking so sweetly to Joshua and walked out to the wagon and handed him to Mattie.

Emma went and had the conservatorship over Mattie revoked.

Betsy and Mattie would never speak to Emma and Bill.

They did not celebrate any holidays nor birthdays with the two.

They held separate birthday celebrations for Joshua.

Emma prepared a very large six year old birthday celebration for Joshua and invited Mattie and Betsy who did not come.

Emma was embarrassed.

Mattie and Betsy had given Joshua an early birthday celebration.

The bad feelings between all of them began to abate over the years.

Betsy kept her eyes on Emma.

Betsy was always concerned the sheriff never found out who attacked Mattie.

She and Mattie felt the person was not a drifter but someone locally who knew Mattie’s routine.

Emma laid in the bed and watched Wes.

She began to think back over her but whipping by Betsy for failing Mattie.

Wes left the ward and went to the nurse’s station and returned with Mattie’s chart. His distracting the nurses gave Emma enough time to give Mattie the two hour herbal pain therapy.

Wes returned and sat next to Mattie and studied her chart for about two hours.

Emma went back to sleep and tossed and tossed.

She threw the covers back and attempted to jump out the bed but fell on the floor.

Nurse Watson and Wes were so shocked by Emma’s nightmare they did not move.

Emma finally got off the floor and reached for her bag and got her change of clothes and walked to the wash closet.

Wes and the nurse had their eyes on Emma and followed her out the ward.

Wes and the nurse looked at each other.

The nurse said, “Doctor does she need medication or be placed on another ward?”

Wes new the nurse was talking about the psychological ward.

Wes took his doctor stand with the nurse and said, “I’m not concerned about her becoming a patient. It is quite apparent she had a nightmare from some past experience.”

Wes was thinking, “I married into a crazy family. Betsy knows I am nosey and I want to know their dark secret.”

Wes looked at his watch.

The Nurse Watson looked at him.

Wes said, “I want all the blood and urine tests done now.”

The nurse said, “Are you sure?”

Emma was walking back in the ward looking sane and refreshed.

Emma slowed to listened to them.

The nurse and Wes watched Emma.

Wes tried to mitigation the situation with Emma, he said, “Emma are you feeling ok?”

Emma sounding like herself, “Yes Wes.”

She felt like a fool because that was the first time anyone saw that besides Bill.

Wes said, “I have ordered some test for Mattie today.”

Emma looked heart broken.

Wes said, “The tests are blood and urine tests. They are simple. I believe while she is at rest these test should be done.”

Emma knew Wes was telling her to give Mattie the thirty minute herb and the two hour pain therapy.

Wes touched Mattie’s foot.

The nurse noticed his care for Mattie and was impressed.

Wes walked the nurse out of the ward.

Emma reached and grabbed the red and yellow bottles and poured them into Mattie’s mouth and put them back in her bag.

She was brushing her hair and staring off in space.

The nurse and returned to the ward.

The nurse looked at Wes.

Wes waved his hand at the nurse.

He walked over to Mattie and bent down and said, “Mattie. I know I told you toay you would rest but I have ordered a number of blood and urine tests.”

Mattie began to move.

Wes looked at her body and knew she was uncomfortable.

Emma was still staring off in space.

Wes said, “Emma.”

Emma slowly turned and looked at Wes.

He said, “Mattie needs your attention.”

The orderlies were walking in.

Emma walked over to Mattie and said, “Baby the test maybe uncomfortable but after these we will go home.”

Wes stood in shock.

The orderlies carried Mattie out.

Wes touched Mattie’s arm.

He looked back at Emma.

The Nurse Watson followed his eyes to Emma.

Emma was putting her hair in a bun.

Wes walked over to Emma and said, “You are not taking Mattie away.”

Emma very calmly said, “I have the conservatorship over her.”

Bill and Joshua walked in the ward.

Bill heard the word conservatorship and saw Mattie was gone.

He told Joshua to go to the waiting room.

Wes was stunned.

The nurse said to Wes, “You want me to have the orderlies take her to the ward?”

Bill walked over and said, “No.”

Wes said, “I am the doctor and I make all decisions over the health of my patients.”

He stared at Bill.

He continued, “Bill, Emma had a nightmare and fell out the bed. I do not trust her to help Mattie.”

Bill said, “Emma will do her job.”

He touched Emma arm.

Wes was confused, he said, “I am going to be with Mattie. When I come back we all are going to sit and talk.”

Bill hugged Emma.

Wes walked out and Joshua was standing in the ward door.

Wes rubbed his red hair and walked out followed by the nurse.

Wes stayed with Mattie.

He consoled her.

He noticed she was not in as much pain because the pain medication was working.

He was very impressed.

He thought, “Oh God if we did not have these herbs.”

The city hospital administrator heard Wes ordered the tests.

The city hospital administrator walked into the test room.

He beckoned for Wes.

Wes walked over and the city hospital administrator said, “You said a of rest.”

Wes said, “I cannot put my hands on it, but I believe these tests will help me quickly diagnosis the problem.”

The city hospital administrator said, “I need you to train my doctors to do the procedure you performed yesterday.”

Samuel and Zachery were standing out the door waiting for the city hospital administrator.

Wes said, “I cannot be here for the entire summer. I will have my first child and I plan on being with my wife. So we have to re-negotiate the contract.”

The city hospital administrator said, “I am willing to re-negotiate because the procedure was very impressive.”

Wes bowed his head.

The city hospital administrator said, “I did not know your wife was pregnant. Huh.”

He walked away.

Wes looked at the city hospital administrator and shook his head.

He said, “Betsy is my wife. Go and find your own.”

Wes tuned up his nose and walked back t Mattie.

They were drawing the last tube of blood and began the urine tests.

Mattie was very uncomfortable but not screaming out in pain.

Mattie was returned a little bit over the two hour pain window.

Emma had her herb pain therapy available.

Wes got two chairs and brought them into the ward.

He saw Bill and Emma sitting on her bed.

He saw Betsy sitting in one chair reading with Joshua sitting in her lap.

Wes was thinking.

He knew he had to be very careful with Betsy about her physical contact with Joshua.

He noticed Betsy was tossing and turning most of the night.

He could not sleep.

Then he remembered him and Betsy’s relationship time and smiled.

He pulled the chair around and handed it to Joshua.

Joshua was very comfortable in Betsy’s lap and rolled his eyes at Wes.

Wes was very stern he looked at Joshua, but not Betsy.

The Nurse Watson walked in and sat in the other chair.

Wes did not turn around to her, she stood up to leave.

Wes said,”Take Joshua with you.”

Joshua jumped up and stumped out.

The nurse wrapped her arm around Joshua’s shoulders and escorted him out to the waiting room.

Wes looked at Betsy and she had on the purple dress he bought her.

She looked as though she belonged in the big city.

Wes said, “Betsy you packed light. How many dresses did you bring?”

Emma walked over to Mattie and gave her the herbal pain therapy.

Wes was watching Emma.

He said, “Wake Mattie.”

Emma said, “No.”

Betsy looked.

Wes stood up and walked to Mattie and slightly shook her shoulders and said, ”Mattie I need for you to wake.”

Mattie started fluttering her eyes.

Wes said, “Good.”

Betsy watched Emma and Bill and then Wes. She knew something was going on.

Wes peeped in the ward to see how many people were there but most of them were at the end of the ward.

Betsy looked at her husband and said, “Three.”

Wes turned around to sit in his chair and said to Betsy, “Three what?”

Betsy said, “You asked me how many dresses I brought. I brought three.”

Wes said, “Why did you bring only three”

Betsy was getting irritated and yelled, “Because I had not planned on leaving the room.”

Wes understood what Betsy was saying.

He smiled.

Bill held his head and grinned.

Emma did not care what they were talking about. Mattie was going home in a few days.

Mattie struggled to wake.

Betsy reached over and rubbed Matties’ cheek.

Wes said, “The city hospital administrator has invited us to a reception tomorrow. You need another dress.”

Betsy leaned forward and said, “I don’t have another dress!”

Wes said, “You better not holler at me again woman.”

Bill held down his head and snickered.

Wes said, “Emma do you have another dress…”

Before Wes finished his sentence, Betsy said, “Hell no.”

Mattie tried to laugh.

Bill giggled and looked under eye at Wes.

Wes knew Betsy was hired spirited and would beat him down.

When Wes heard Mattie tried to laugh, turned from looking at Betsy to looking at Mattie.

He touched Mattie’s legs.

Wes said, “I ordered a lot of blood and urine tests for Mattie today. I believe ordering these tests right after the test performed yesterday will give a better and a quicker diagnosis and could stop the battery of test they want to do on Mattie. Emma said she has conservatorship over Mattie and they will leave in a few days.”

Betsy looked and Emma who sat and looked off in space.

Bill looked at Betsy and then Emma and held his head down.

Betsy looked at Mattie.

Wes was watching all of his crazy family.

Betsy stood up and walked to Mattie and kissed her on the cheek and said, “This will work out.”

Mattie closed her eyes.

Wes wanted an answer.

Betsy put on her shawl and gloves.

Wes said, “Are we leaving?”

Betsy walked to Wes and looked up to him and said, “Baby get your coat.”

Wes looked at Bill then Emma who did not blink.

He looked at Mattie who was sleep.

Wes passed Joshua and went and retrieved his coat and hat.

Betsy kissed Joshua on his cheek and waited for her husband.

Wes walked and stood by Betsy, as he put on his coat.

They walked out the city hospital.

Betsy held onto Wes’ arm and said, “Where did you buy this dress?”

Wes said, “Betsy I do not think we have enough money.”

Betsy looked at him and touched his lips.

They walked a good while in silence.

Wes was thinking about they had no money. He could not marry poor and bring a child into proverty.

He was also, thinking about the crazy family. He wanted to talk to Betsy. He wanted to tell her to keep Joshua off her lap.

He thought about what Dr. Obersteen said, “To be careful with Betsy because it seemed as if she had a new womb.”

They passed a small church.

Betsy looked at Wes and he looked at her.

She nodded to the church.

They walked to the church and went in and talked to the pastor.

They told him there was no church in their area and they wanted to marry.

The pastor told them to get the license and come back with their witnesses.

Betsy was excited.

Wes said, “How much.”

The pastor said, “Marriages, Births and deaths are free.”

They all laughed.

Betsy and Wes walked out of the small church and ran into a physicians and his wife who were entering to pray.

Wes had seen the doctor at the hospital but did not have time to talk to him.

The physician introduced he and his wife.

He told Betsy and Wes they come once per day to pray and aske God and Jesus to heal the sick.

The pastor saw the two couples talking.

He walked back to his office.

Betsy said, “That’s one expense you don’t have to worry about.”

They passed a toy shop.

Betsy stopped.

Wes said, “Why are you stopping Betsy?”

Betsy looked at her husband and said, “Come on.”

They walked into the toy shop.

Betsy yelled in excitement and pointed to a tea set.

She was very excited and the toy shop clerk got excited.

Betsy said, “I want that tea set.”

Wes looked at the tea set and smiled at the toy shop clerk. He whispered to Betsy and said, “Betsy we don’t have any money.”

Betsy kept walking and saw a train set and with excitement pointed to the train set.

The toy shop clerk passed Wes and retrieved the train set.

Betsy went to the counter and opened her purse and pulled out the envelope that had Natalie written on it.

Wes patted his coat pocket and said, “How did you get that?”

Betsy leaned forward and said to the toy shop clerk and said, “How much?”

The toy shop said, “Ten dollars.”

Betsy said,”Love it.”

She counted out the money and gave to the toy shop clerk.

Wes got the packages. He saw how the toy shop clerk smiled with admiration at Betsy.

They were leaving when the doctor and his wife were entering the toy shop.

They spoke again and continued to the dress shop.

Wes was so proud of Betsy.

She was not country in the big city. She knew how to act in whatever environment she was in.

Wes wanted the answer how Betsy got Natalie’s envelope and how she knew to buy a tea set.

Betsy said, “Wes when we are all in the house before we left Natalie handed me the envelope and asked me to get the baby and Joshua a toy for Christmas, She wanted the little girl to have a tea set and Joshua a train set. She asked for a new dress and told me whatever was left to get me something. My something is going to be a new dress for the reception tomorrow.”

Wes said. “OK. Now about Emma and Mattie and you.”

Betsy pointed and said, “Is that the clothier?”

Wes looked and said, “Yes.”

They walked in.

The workers remembered Wes.

Wes found a seat and sat.

The workers said, “You have on one of ur dresses and you look stunning.”

Wes thought that is no sale talk it is so true Betsy looks good.

But she better talk to me about this crazy family I am getting in.

Betsy had to throw up and the workers showed her the backroom.

Wes stood, but the workers motioned for him to sit.

He sat down and thought she did not have anything to eat. I can’t feed her.

He began to rub his forehead.

One of the workers selected a dress and ribbon for Natalie and walked over to show it to Wes.

Wes did not look up but said, “It’s fine.”

The worker looked at Wes and told him how much it was.

Wes stopped rubbing his head and said, “How much?”

The said, “The doctor’s at the city hospital have accounts here. You can get what you want and pay monthly.”

Wes said, “I’m leaving next week and will not return until the spring.”

The worker went to the head person and was talking to them when Betsy staggered out the back room.

Wes stood and went to her and guided her back to his seat.

He looked around and was about to ask for a glass of water when one of the workers brought her a glass of water.

The other doctor and his wife walked in.

The physician said “we are constantly running into you.”

Wes said, “Yes sir?”

He and his wife looked at the sick Betsy.

The doctor said, “How is your wife?”

Wes said, “Pregnant.”

The doctor and his wife said, “Oh.”

The worker was standing over Betsy.

Betsy very weak said, “Wes please get the dress for Natalie.”

The doctor’s wife looked at the dress and said “Lovely. Is there another one in my size?”

The worker took Natalie’s dress to the counter and showed the doctor’s wife the dresses.

Wes went to the counter to pay for Natalie’s dress, but he pulled out his envelope.

He realized Betsy had Natalie’s envelope.

He looked in his envelope and blinked. He knew he did not have that much money left and he thought he left the envelope on the dresser in the cute house.

The doctor walked to Wes said, “You know your name is all over the city.”

The manager of the clothier was listening.

Wes was counting out his money and said, “What?”

The doctor said, “The procedure you perform yesterday put the hospital on the map. You must be at the reception tomorrow.”

Wes counted the money and gave it to the manager.

We said, “She has to buy a dress. It looks as though that will not happen today.”

The manager leaned forward and said, “Let’s help. She is wearing one of our dresses and she looks stunning. We can pick out a dress for you and a shirt for you.”

Wes looked at the manager.

The manager said, “Doctors have to looked good too.”

Wes was counting his money and said, “Get her a dress.”

He counted out the money to the manager.

The manager took the money and he took a few more dollars and said, A new shirt for you.”

Wes said, “I have to go.”

Betsy was finally sitting up.

Wes walked to Betsy to help her up.

The manager had a note book and pen and said, “What’s the address so we can deliver?”

Wes said, “Hospital doctor’s rom and my name is Wes Ross. And she is Betsy.”

The manager cut in and said, “Betsy Ross.:

Wes said, “Send the dress today or first thing in the morning.”

Wes and Betsy walked slowly back to the hospital.

Wes put Betsy to bed.

He left Betsy and went to check on Mattie for the night.

He ran into the city hospital administrator leaving for the evening and said, “You’re here late.”

Wes said, “I came to check on Mattie for the night.”

The city hospital administrator said, “Make sure you and your wife attend the reception tomorrow afternoon.”

Wes walked into the ward and Bill and Joshua were leaving.

Bill said, “Good night.”

Wes said, “Good night.”

Wes went to Mattie and examined her for the night.

He walked over to Emma and said, “It’s time for her herbs.”

Emma did not say anything but gave Mattie the herbal pain therapy.

Wes left and wrote in Mattie’s chart for a specific test the next morning.

He came back to the ward and told Emma, “Mattie has a test in the morning at eight am. Give her the yellow at seven thirty am.”

Emma said, “Yes sir.”

Wes walked out and then turned back he said, “Emma whatever it is you can talk to me. I am a doctor.”

Emma got in the bed and went to sleep.

Wes thought, “Has Emma had anything to eat? What about Bill and Joshua?”

He walked back to the physician’s resident.

The clerk told him a package was delivered for him.

Wes picked up the package and went to his room.

He did not see Betsy in the bed but heard her in the bathroom.

He sat in the chair and pulled out his envelope.

Wes waited until crawled out the bathroom.

He picked her up from the floor and put her in the bed.

She was unconscious.

He leaned over her and kissed her lips.

He said, “She doesn’t she is in this world.”

He went into the bathroom and dressed for bed.

Joshua and Bill ate the last of the eggs for dinner.

Joshua said, “Da what’s for dinner tomorrow?”

Bill said, “Probably hospital food.”

Joshua stuck out his tongue and blew.

Wes laid down but immediately got up and put a little coal on the fire.

He went into the bathroom and got a wet washcloth for Betsy and placed it on her for head.

He sat in the chair and was thinking about everything of that day.

His eyes fell on the packages and then he remembered his envelope. He pulled it out coat his coat.

Wes thought they may just have enough money to make until next week.

A thought came to him he has to replace Natalie’s dress money which would give them a little more cash for their living expenses but he still had to pay for their marriage license.

He noticed Betsy flipping on the bed and then she begin to groan.

Wes looked at Betsy and went to bed and massage her stomach, which helped to calm her down.

He went to sleep holding Betsy.