Nadine was up with Peter and Thomas.

They had prepared breakfast and set the family dining room as a buffet.

Mike and John had the hot water baths.

They took Shirley’s bathtub of hot water.

They went to the kitchen to wait until the children left.

They waited to empty the tubs so they could go to the re-modeled barn to sleep until noon.

Peter bake a large amount of cinnamon rolls and made coffee for the workers.

The dish washers were eating cinnamon rolls and drinking coffee and playing cards when Jose went downstairs to the workers area and bathed and shaved.

Jose came back the dish washers were still playing cards.

Jose did not say anything but continued to his room and dressed.

Jose dressed and walked out his room and locked the door and walked out the house and immediately walked back in the house.

The dish washers were laughing.

It was freezing outside.

Jose was confused.

He could not understand how it got that cold overnight.

He stood and turned and walked back into the kitchen, Nadine, Peter and Thomas watched Jose.

Jose said, “It is freezing outside.”

Peter and Nadine looked at Jose.

Thomas stood and walked out on the back porch.

He rushed back in the house.

The dish washers looked back at Thomas and giggle.

They were used to the cold because they served in military.

Jose went to Eleanor and knocked on her door.

He knocked until she woke and walked to the door.

She stared at Jose.

Jose said, “It is freezing outside.”

Eleanor stood and stare at Jose.

Jose said, “You tell your children how to dress and they need blankets.

Eleanor said, “Jose.”

Jose firmly said, “They only listen to you.”

Eleanor said, “Jose it could not be that cold overnight.”

Jose walked in her suite and went to her patio door and cracked it.”

Eleanor felt the bitter cold at her door.

She said, “Jose close the door and go to the storage and get six blankets. Tell Peter to make hot cider and coco for the children. I am coming.”

Jose left and went to the kitchen and told Peter what Eleanor said.

Peter quickly made the cider and coco and had mugs ready in a picnic basket.

Jose went to his room and found his winter clothes and put on his hat, scarf, gloves and coat.

He thought, “God please don’t let this winter be this cold.”

He had plenty of socks, because he had Denise to knit him some all summer along with gloves, hats and scarves.

Thomas was sitting and thinking.

Peter and Nadine looked at Thomas.

Peter said, “Thomas are you alright?”

Thomas looked back at Peter and said, “Yeah it is freezing outside. I’m glad my horse is in the stables.”

Jose walked in the kitchen with the six blankets and he saw the picnic basket.

He went outside and the stable workers brought the carriage with two horses and were running back to the stables.

Jose put the blankets in the carriage.

The children were laughing and eating breakfast.

Thomas said, “This quiche taste like the ones in Paris.”

Bruce said, “It’s good.”

Nadine smiled and thought, “I have to tell Peter.”

Shirley was dressed and looked lovely.

Eleanor had dressed and washed her face and brushed her teeth.

She was running through the hall and brushing her hair.

She laid her hair on her shoulder.

Nadine looked at Eleanor and said, “Beautiful hair Eleanor. You should wear it down more.”

Eleanor handed Nadine her brush.

And said, “Thank you.”

Jose walked into the kitchen and got the picnic basket and took it to the carriage.

Nadine walked in the family dining room and said, “It is very cold outside. Do you all want to go…”

They all yelled, “Yes.”

Eleanor said, “You have to put on heavy clothes. Come to the storage area when you finish eating so I can find your coats.”

Eleanor turned to walk out the dining room.

Percy said, “I’m not wearing a coat.”

Michael said, “Me neither.”

Bruce was sitting and watching Eleanor.

Thomas looked at Eleanor when she stopped.

Shirley said, “I want Skip to see my outfit.”

Nadine was holding Eleanor’s hairbrush waiting for them to leave the dining room so she could take it upstairs to Eleanor’s room.

Eleanor stopped.

Nadine said, “Oh damn.”

Bruce was already scared to death. He started kicking his legs.

Percy sat and drank his juice like he was not disobedient.

Michael was eating his lamb chop.

Thomas was watching Eleanor.

Eleanor slowly turned around.

Bruce nearly fainted.

Thomas jumped in his seat.

Michael peeped through Thomas’ arms and saw Eleanor turn.

He nearly choked.

Nadine looked at him.

Eleanor walked to the table and stood by Shirley.

Shirley glanced at Eleanor’s hands on the chair.

Percy was still drinking his juice.

He put the glass on the table and looked at Michael and said, “Lt’s go and get in the buggy.

Percy stood and turned around and started to run.

He stopped a few feet from Eleanor.

Nadine moved over so she could see Percy.

Jose was walking in the dining room.

He saw Nadine before he entered the dining room and wondered what happened.

Eleanor stood.

Percy stood.

Shirley was scared to move.

Michael begin to shake.

Bruce was kicking his legs.

Nadine thought, “This boy is crazy.”

Eleanor heard Jose and said, “Jose go and get my momma and daddy. My heart is hurting.”

Jose ran down the hall hollering.

Nadine helped Eleanor sit.

Thomas and Bruce were too scared to move.

Shirley sat still.

Patrick and Brenda were sleep.

Jose was knocking on the door.

Patrick and Brenda jumped put of bed.

Patrick ran and unlocked the door.

Jose was bent over trying to catch his breath.

Mike, John, Peter and Thomas and Briana ran through the house to the hallway.

Patrick yelled, “Jose!!”

Jose said, “Eleanor.”

Patrick and Brenda ran out their bedroom.

They saw the workers standing and looking.

Brenda said, “Patrick.”

Patrick ran ahead and saw Nadine standing in the dining door.

Patrick saw Eleanor leaning back with her head on the back of the chair.

Patrick looked at a closed eye Eleanor and he began to cry.

Brenda kneeled by Eleanor and grabbed her hand and put it to her face.

Jose ran in the dining room.

He looked at Eleanor.

Thomas was crying and said, “Is momma dead?”

Patrick nor Brenda said nothing.

Michael stood and was scared.

Jose turned to Nadine and said, “What happened?”

Nadine said, “Eleanor told them to finish eating and come and get their coats. They said, they weren’t wearing coats and Percy jumped up to ran to the carriage without a coat. Eleanor turned and froe there.”

Brenda said, “If my baby dies because of your filthy fools I am going to kill all of you.”

Thomas started crying and said, “It wasn’t me and Bruce. It was Shirley, Percy and Michael.”

Brenda said get out of here and go and don’t come back.”

Patrick was trying to slap Eleanor.

Jose looked at Brenda and said, “You want us to leave? You want me to take them to the military headquarters?”

Brenda and Patrick looked at Jose.

Jose yelled and said, “All of you come on now!”

Thomas and Bruce ran to the storage area and found their coats.

Michael ran and found a coat and put it on.

Shirley put on her gloves and took a blanket.

The children went and piled in the carriage.

Thomas and Bruce sat in the back of the carriage and wrapped up in the blankets.

Shirley sat in the front next to Jose.

Michael sat next to Percy.

He knew Thomas and Bruce were mad with him and Percy and Shirley.

Jose wrapped up in a blanket.

Nadine was standing with the brush in her hand.

Eleanor finally opened her eyes.

Patrick said, “Eleanor.”

Brenda was crying.

Patrick said, “What’s wrong with you?”

Eleanor said, “My chest hurt and I guess I went to sleep.”

Eleanor said, “Momma all I told them was to get their coats because it was cold outside. They told me no.”

Nadine was standing back and nodding her head in agreement.

Brenda looked at Nadine and saw she had Eleanor’s hairbrush.

Brenda said, “Nadine go upstairs and straighten out Eleanor’s bed.”

Nadine stood for a minute and turned and walked upstairs to Eleanor’s room.

The workers were standing in the hallway.

Patrick picked up Eleanor and carried her slowly up the hallway to her bedroom.

Eleanor’s head was flopping.

Brenda said, “Peter I need you to go and get the doctor. Please hurry.”

Peter said, “Yes ma am.”

Peter wrapped up and ran to his buggy and rode fast to the doctor.

Patrick was holding Eleanor with all he had.

Briana watched them go up the stairs to Eleanor’s bedroom.

She looked down the hall at the family dining room.

Briana walked to the family dining room and begin to clean it.

Nadine stood outside Eleanor’s door and put her hairbrush on the dresser.

The workers were lingering in the house.

Jose rode with the children to the new military headquarters.

Thomas and Bruce sat on the back seats and cried all the way there.

Michael and Percy rode in the middle seat.

Percy was excited.

Michael kept looking back at Thomas and Bruce.

Shirley was in the front seat next to Jose.

She was smiling.

She put the blanket across her lap.

Michael wrapped the blanket around him like Bruce and Thomas.

Shirley told Jose to pull the carriage over.

Jose was not talking to any of them.

He watched Percy.

He thought Percy and Shirley were not normal.

The boys got out the carriage.

Jose sat in the carriage and watched these five children.

He saw a soldier walk out of the new military headquarters grounds.

He walked into the street and blocked all the horses and wagons.

Jose was looking and said, “Why?”

He heard a horn blew,

Jose felt the earth trembling.

He heard thunderous noise and thought it was an earthquake.

He jumped out the wagon and nearly fell out the wagon.

Jose was about to start running when he saw no one else was moving.

He heard the thunder and ran to the wagon and was peeping around the wagon and saw the troops.

He saw Robert and another leader being the first ones.

Jose’s heart was still beating hard.

He saw Emilou ran to Steven with her hands covering her ears.

Steven picked her up and walked away.

Alicia was standing with Shirley and turned and watched Emilou.

The people were waving at the troops.

Jose’s heart was still hurting. He thought Eleanor and shook his head.

He turned and peeped around the carriage and looked the children.

Bruce and Thomas were still crying.

Shirley were still standing Alicia with no coat on to show Skip her dress.

Michael was quiet and looking at Bruce and Thomas.

Percy was looking at the troops in excitement.

He did not have on a coat or blanket.

Jose looked around and saw people had made fires and had on a coats and blankets.

Jose thought it is a large troop.

A man walked up a bit to see the troops.

He spoke to Jose.

Jose spoke and said, “This a large troop.”

The man said, “It’s two troops. You saw those two men at the beginning. Each one is over a troop. This got to big for them to send two troops. We better pray. I’m going to church this morning.”

Jose looked up and saw Skip and Ben and Jake was behind them,

Skip saw Shirley and smiled.

He saw the boys crying. He turned around and looked at them.

Alicia ran to Steven and Emilou and wrapped up in a blanket.

Emilou was laying on the back seat wrapped in her blanket.

Emilou said, “I’m cold let’s go home.”

Steven said, “Right now Emilou. We should have brought the quilts.”

Emilou said, “We should not have come.”

Alicia looked back at Emilou and grinned and put the blanket over Emilou.

Steven pulled around Jose and leaned over and said, “Hey Jose.”

Jose looked and said, “Hey Steven, Alicia and I assume that bundle is Emilou.”

They all laughed.

Steven looked at Emilou and laughed.

Steven rode home fast.

Emilou jumped out the carriage and ran to the porch.

Alicia said, “Wait Emilou.”

Alicia got out the carriage and ran to the porch and unlocked the door.

Steven locked the fence and left the carriage in the front of the yard because they were going to church and then to the restaurant for supper.

Alicia said, “Emilou pulled off that dress until it is time to go to church.”

Emilou said, “No. I am cold.”

Alicia went into her bedroom and pulled off her dress.

She wrapped Emilou in her blanket and put her in bed.

Steven stirred the fire back up and pulled off his coat and boots and wrapped in a blanket and laid on his bed.

Alicia looked at herself in the wall mirror.

Steven laid on his bed by the window and looked at Alicia.

He turned his head and said, “Momma, I am trying to put them in society where you want them.”

Steven slept until he felt a shaking on his shoulder.

He opened his eyes and saw Emilou and Alicia with their coats on.

He jumped up and put on his boots and suit coat and he ran and got his long coat, scarf and gloves.

He grabbed his blanket.

He stared at the fire.

Alicia looked at Steven and they walked out the door.

Skip said to Ben, “The boys were crying, but Shirley was smiling.”

Ben said, “I saw that.”

Skip said, “I hope we can finish this assignment sooner than next spring.”

Ben said, “The tall slim one was grinning.”

Skip said, “Probably because he was the one that stirred something up and got the rest in trouble.”

Ben started laughing and said, “You have already learned them Skip. When is the date?”

Skip said, “It’s a long way away.”

Jake was thinking about Sarah.

Sarah was there with her uncle and aunt.

Joe and Peggy tried to smile and greet people but they were freezing.

Peggy said, “Where did this cold come from?”

Joe was looking around trying to see how to get out quickly.

Peggy ran to a fire and tried to warm herself.

Sarah was crying when the troop left.

Shirley and Alicia waved at her.

She waved back.

Sarah went home and cried all the way there.

She worked on Gen’s skirts and finished them by Monday morning.

Thomas and Bruce sat in the back of the carriage.

Michael and Percy sat on the middle seat and Shirley sat up front with Jose.

Percy was excited and tried to talk to Michael.

Michael leaned forward and put his elbows on his knees and held his head.

Bruce and Thomas were still crying.

Shirley was sitting in the front of the carriage smiling at the people.

Jose made up his mind he was leaving their employment. He could not take any more of their deaths and foolishness.

He looked at the neighbor he liked.

He rode through the neighborhood and saw a house for sale that was not for sale before.

Jose got out the carriage and walked to the house and looked at it outside the fence.

He tried to see it from the side.

The daylight was up and he could see the beautiful house.

He stepped back and nearly fell.

The people were in the house and were peeping out at Jose.

The man went and got his binocular and looked at the carriage and the symbol.

He Stith.

He said to his wife, “What is Stith?”

Wife thought and hit his arm and said, “The shipping and Railroad family.”

The husband grinned.

Jose caught his balance and when he looked up he saw the house across the street.

The house was a one story garden house like Gen’s two story garden house.

The husband and wife stopped grinning and followed Jose from window to window and watched him examined the one story house.

Shirley said, “Jose take us home. I am cold.”

Jose kept looking at the house and said, “You can’t be cold.”

He turned to get back in the carriage.

The husband fell back on the wall and the wife ducked to the floor.

Jose saw them and smiled.

Jose wrote the name of both realtors and got in the carriage and drove through the neighborhood.

He really liked the neighborhood, which had stately and grand houses.

That neighborhood lead into Gen’s neighborhood.

They passed Gen’s garden house which was beautiful. Then they came to her house and Shirley turned all the way around and looked at the house until it was out of sight.

They were only thirty minutes from home.

Percy was quiet because no one was talking to him.

Jose loved the way the neighbors flowed into each other.

Shirley smiled and turned around.

Percy was grinning and looking out the carriage.

Jose was riding into the yard as the doctor was leaving.

Jose nodded at the doctor.

The doctor nodded at Jose.

Percy said, “Who is that?”

Jose said, “The doctor.”

Percy said, “Why was he here?”

Jose did not say anything.

Shirley stopped smiling.

Michael said, “Jose is momma dead?”

Jose did not say anything.

Michael, Bruce and Thomas started crying over.

Shirley was quiet.

She knew Eleanor had made plans to ship her off to a sanatorium.

She wondered if Skip would find her.

Jose looked at Shirley.

Shirley saw Skip and cut her eyes at him and thought, “Did he hear me?”

Jose pulled up to the back door.

Percy looked and said, “Jose where are you going?”

Jose pulled up to the back porch.

He did not help any of them out the carriage.

He walked in the kitchen and looked at the workers.

No one said anything he figured Eleanor was not dead.

Michael ran in the house followed by Thomas and Bruce.

Percy helped Eleanor out the carriage and they walked in the house.

Nadine looked at the two,

Patrick saw the carriage entering the yard and saw when Jose took it to the back.

Patrick walked to the backstairs.

He stood at the top of the stairs and Michael, Thomas and Bruce stood still and looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “You can never see your mother again.”

Jose knees gave way.

Percy and Shirley were walking and talking.

Thomas said, “It wasn’t me grandpa. It was Percy and Michael and Shirley.”

Bruce and Michael started crying.

Shirley and Percy followed Bruce, Thomas and Michael’s eyes up to a very angry Patrick.

Patrick said, “Go to the parlor until it is time to go to church. Jose take them to church.”

Jose said, “Mr. Patrick I had planned on quitting now.”

Patrick stood and looked at Jose.

Shirley and Percy were looking at a shocked Patrick.

Thomas turned and looked at Jose.

Patrick said, “Let me speak to you up here.”

Jose walked upstairs.

Nadine said, “Jose said he is quitting now.”

Thomas smiled.

Nadine looked at Thomas and said, “They will not promote a cook to be the butler.”

Thomas looked at Nadine and aid, “They promoted Jose.”

Nadine said, “Because everyone was gone. There was no one here. They needed someone to keep the house on the schedule they had in place.”

Thomas huff and turned his head.

Peter was looking at Thomas.

Nadine looked passed Thomas to Peter with a puzzle look.

Nadine said, “I think Percy got a problem.”

Peter said, “Nadine be quiet. We have Thanksgiving holiday off. Did they get all of us turkeys? I prefer a goose.”

Mike and John were sitting on the cabinets listening.

Briana said, “You know the Stiths are expecting to let some of us not work.”

Veronica and Allen were walking in the door.

Monica and Harriet walked in before them.

They knew something had happened.

Harriet said, “They said, if it is very cold they did not want us out and trying to get to work.”

Nadine said, “That will cut our pay.”

Peter looked at Nadine.

Everyone turned and looked at Nadine because she and Peter were doing well.

They built a stable and bought two additional horses and a buggy.

Monica said, “What happened?”

Nadine said, “Eleanor told the kids to come to the storage area and get their coats because it got cold. Percy said he was not getting a coat he and Michael. Eleanor was on her way out to get the coats, when Percy drank his juice and jumped up to run out and get in the carriage when Eleanor turned around and could not move and told Jose to go and get her momma and daddy. The doctor just left and they just got back. Patrick just told the kids they will never see Eleanor again. Jose just told Patrick he is quitting now. I just gave you all the details and I am going back to bed because my tour is over and Harriet you take over from here.”

Nadine walked out the kitchen and went to her and Peter’s room.

Peter continued to make his apple pie for dinner and rolls.

Dan walked in on the last of what Nadine said.

Harriet told Dan what Nadine said.

Dan stood and said, “Why was getting a coat a problem?”

Monica said, “Eleanor had a heart attack that is what that was. I know I had several before. Because my children would not listen to me and continued to be disobedient and I could not take any more. I walked away and never looked back. It has been seventeen years and I don’t regret it. I went to Ryan and had him and Hutch check my heart. They said, it was weak but I should live another five to ten years. I am going to live happy.”

Monica walked out the kitchen door.

Mike and John peeped around the kitchen at Monica and saw Allen and Veronica.

No one knew nothing about Monica.

They knew she was a hard worker for the past two years and learned housework from Nadine.

Monica took her job seriously and Brenda trusted her.

Harriet went and put her coat and gloves up.

Maureen finally came to work and looked sick.

Harriet looked at her as she entered the back door.

Harriet said, “Maureen did you walk to work?”

Maureen said, “Yes.”

Allen and Veronica stared at Maureen.

Mike stood and walked to Maureen and said, “Where do you live?”

Maureen said, “Woodrow.”

Allen walked out the door and went home.

He told Veronica he was going to the capital and buy her a horse and buggy.

Veronica tried to look at Maureen and watch Allen.

Mike said, “You live alone? and why don’t you have a horse? you could at least wrap up in a blanket or quilt.”

Maureen held her head down.

Peter went and got Nadine.

Nadine was about to slip out her uniform.

Peter told Nadine about Monica and now Maureen.

Nadine rushed out the room and ran into the hall to hear Maureen.

Peter and Nadine stood to listen.

John stood and looked at Peter and Nadine.

John looked at a pitiful Maureen.

Nadine said, “Maureen did you walk to work in this freezing cold?”

Maureen could not speak.

John said, “Maureen are you alone? How long did it take you to walk to work?”

Nadine said, “No she is not alone. She is married and he had a son when she married him. I told you not to marry him.”

John was angry and said, “Nadine please.”

Peter looked at John and said, “Nadine hush.”

Nadine turned and went to her room.

Peter went back to finish his rolls and apple pie.

Thomas was standing looking at these women.

He thought Harriet was dumb and could not talk to nobody.

Dan shook his head and walked away into the kitchen.

John and Mike were waiting for Maureen to answer them.

Maureen lips were quivering and said, “Where is Brenda?”

Harriet was still staring at Maureen and said, “They had problems with Eleanor’s heart this morning. I ‘m in charge for Nadine. You need to go downstairs and warm up first.”

Maureen said, “No I am quitting.”

Mike stared at Maureen.

John did a monkey motion.

Thomas walked closer to the kitchen entrance.

John said, “You are going to walk back home and it will take you two hours.”

Veronica said, “Maureen what is wrong with you?”

Thomas said, “She married a no good friend of Ruth’s. That tells you the type of person Ruth is.”

John looked at Thomas who does not talk.

Maureen whispered, “It was my fault. She did not make me marry him.”

Thomas was angry and said, “But he did have you trying to take food from this house.”

Veronica’s mouth dropped.

Mike looked over at Thomas.

John said, “Why you have to say that.”

Maureen said, “It has been three horrible years. I put all of my pay into his house and the house is as horrible as when I first moved in. Yes, Thomas he told me to take Brenda’s food. I don’t know why I would even consider something like that. I am not that type of person. To this day I do not know why I would consider it.”

Thomas said, “You did not so something stop you.”

John shook his head.

Mike was quiet. She stood with folded arms and looked at Maureen.

Mike said, “Does your husband work?”

John said, “Mike?”

Mike said, “What will he do if you quit and have no money coming in the house?”

Maureen said, “I’ll live on the street.”

Harriet said, “Maureen stop. You can’t make it today in this cold weather and you will not be able to live on the street.”

Mike saw a house he was going to buy. He and John had been in the re-modeled barn with the two recovering security men.

They lit the lanterns at night and got the hot water and made the coal available for everybody.

They put the coal in the center of the yard.

The recovering security men were fine in the cold.

Mike and John were fine in the cold.

Mike and John like the work. It was easy and it did not take a lot of time to do.

The lanterns Eleanor had to replace the torches lasted longer. Mike and John would lit the lanterns and get the water on a low boil for the next morning and when they finish they would wash all the dishes and be back in the barn within two hours.

They felt bad for getting paid for something that easy and simple and had a place to stay.

John saw a house in Lorraine’s neighbor he was thinking about.

He had to quit gambling and losing his money.

He thought, “I’ll go and buy the house tomorrow. I’ll buy her a horse and buggy and buy me coal. What am I saying there is no coal.”

The children were sitting in the parlor.

Patrick was waiting for a telegram from Dr. Woodson about Eleanor.

He put in it what the doctor said.

Dr. Woodson was at the hospital that morning with everyone else.

Eleanor had the lanterns put around the hospital.

Everyone loved the lanterns because the wind and rain did not shorten the light time.

The grounds keeper would light the lanterns when he was leaving in the evening and they burned all night until day light.

The doctors heard the telegram machine.

Dr. Woodson unlocked the door and walked in and got the telegram and read and he gave it to Dr. Greene.

Dr. Greene said, “It’s nothing we can do for her. She needs to send those kids to Bruce.”

Hutch knew they were talking about Eleanor.

Dr. Greene said, “They left school, got on a train and had carriages waiting for them to bring them and some friends to a christening of a ship.”

Dr. Woodson chuckle and said, “They could not skip school and go to the fishing hole.”

Hutch laughed.

Dr. Greene said, “Michael went to the casino after midnight and accused the dealer of cheating.”

Dr. Woodson nearly hit the floor.

Dr. Ralph was laughing so hard until he was losing his breathe.

Dr. Greene looked at Dr. Woodson and walked away.

He Thought, “I am going to church this morning.”

He walked back to get his stethoscope and said, “The christening of the ship was fabulous. Eleanor pulled these massive events off and let those rascals, including Shirley, make her have a heart attack.”

Hutch said, “I’m concern about her. They only have one doctor in that big town somebody needs to go.”

Everybody looked at Dr. Woodson.

He kept his head down and said, “I can’t go.”

Dr. Ralph said, “Somebody needs to go. She is a friend to us and to this hospital.”

Nurse Sharon said, “I agree.”

She turned quickly and walk away.

Dr. Greene said, “I won’t go because Debra thinks she is suppose to live that life style. Not like I let her eat meat is not enough.”

Dr. Ralph and Dr. Hutch fell out laughing.

Hutch said, “I’ll go I want to check on my friends the security men. I heard the rest of them came into money.”

Dr. Greene said, “They robbed the dead mobsters. The mobsters had so much money they could not get it all.”

The nurses stopped working and looked at Greene.

The nurses looked back at Leon’s room.

Dr. Greene said, “Don’t you bother him nor look for any money.”

The nurses giggled.

Hutch said, “It is freezing. I went yesterday to buy me a coat and there were no coats. How can this city have no coats.”

Dr. Woodson said, “A lot of us are not prepared.”

Dr. Greene aid, “When Eleanor bought double coal and fuel for the hospital and the hotel and all of her railroads.”

Dr. Greene stopped and smiled and shook his head.

Dr. Woodson looked at him and said, “What?”

Dr. Greene said, “Do you all realize we personally know one of the wealthiest and powerful families in this country.”

Hutch said, “They are listed as one of the hundred richest families in the world.”

Dr. Greene was walking away and said, “I still think she need to whip those boys and their friends and send all of them to their daddy. Accusing the dealer of stealing.”

Dr. Ralph and Dr. Woodson were laughing.

Hutch was thinking.

Meredith and Felipe walked in the door.

Hutch slightly looked at them and said, “A train leaves at noon. Telegram and tell them I am coming and have someone pick me up and tell them to have me a ticket. Because I am saving every dime.”

Dr. Woodson said, “Sure.”

Hutch walked to Leon and talked with him as Dr. Woodson went and sent the telegram that Hutch would catch the twelve thirty train and request a ticket and for someone to pick him up from the train station on Tuesday.

Hutch went into the doctors’ bedroom and packed his one bag and walked out and Dr. Woodson said, “Take your doctor’s bag.”

Hutch turned and went back and got his bag.

Dr. Woodson put the instruments in it and aspirins and penicillin and other medicine.

Hutch walked out in so he can catch the train.

Patrick and Jose were sitting in his office.

Jose had the hat, scarf, gloves and coat on.

Patrick looked at a sullen face Jose.

Patrick said, “I’m sorry Jose that I have placed a big burden on you. I need you to be here and help us out this year. I knew you have done than what is expected of anybody. You helped my grandchildren when they were with Bruce. I don’t understand Percy. Eleanor wants to send them to their daddy and put Shirly in a sanatorium. I don’t think she can do that now because Shirley is functioning. I want my daughter. Her children can live with Bruce. You have been here. You probably know more of what goes on around here than me. I don’t want to lose Brenda and Eleanor.”

Jose said, “Brenda.”

Patrick said, “I was going to take her after thanksgiving to Ryan and Hutch. I don’t know what will happen in the future. But I want the present to be comfortable and happy for the two of them.”

The telegram machine came back.

Patrick said, “Thank YOU JESUS.”

Patrick said, “Wait a minute Jose.”

Patrick sent a telegram to Peter to give Hutch a first class accommodations and no limits on anything.

Peter was sitting at the telegram machine and read the telegram when Hutch was getting out the carriage with security man.

Petr sent a telegram he would do so.

Hutch got on the train and sleep until the next day.

He woke and did not realize he was that tired.

The train pulled into Mag’s city later that evening and had it’s hour layover.

Peter made it up and the train pulled into Cedartown the next morning at ten am.

Jose met the train and greeted Hutch.

Jose looked at Hutch and said, “It’s cold.”

Hutch said, “I know. Philadelphia had sold out of coats.”

Jose said, “Let’s rush to the general store. I saw people rushing into town.”

Jose took Hutch to the general store.

Jose stayed in the carriage with his blanket.

Hutch looked at the blanket and Jose turned his head.

Hutch grabbed the last two coats and bought him several pairs of long johns and socks, he bought a good pair of gloves and a scarf.

Jose saw Hutch coming back.

Hutch had on the coat and scarf.

Hutch jumped in the carriage.

Jose said, “I was surprise you came to check on Eleanor. I thought it was more like you escaping the holidays with Meredith.”

Hutch said, “Steer Jose.”

Jose said, “Of course. I think Percy is sick.”

Hutch said, “I was told Eleanor. Do you know what happened.”

Hutch looked at Jose and said, “So you re angry because of my reaction to your very astute analysis of my relationship to Meredith. Tell me what happened.”

Jose told Hutch what happened.

Hutch said, “Why Percy did not want to wear a coat and caused this big problem and now he may be sick?”

Jose said, “I quit that day but Percy asked me to stay and help out through the winter. I think Percy is crazy and he especially needs to be sent to his daddy. Let those two be together.”

Hutch was thinking the rest of the way to the house.

They placed the hundred turkeys in the hen house.

The workers were coming and picking up their turkeys.

Ruth came and picked up her turkey and saw Maureen and said, “You better go and get your turkey and take home to Craig, and your son.”

Nadine balled her fists and John and Mike saw her,

Hutch walked in the back door and spoke to everyone.

He went to Patrick’s office and greeted Patrick,

He and Patrick talked for a minute.

Hutch took his medical bag and went to Eleanor.

Brenda was sitting in a chair In Eleanor’s room.

Hutch spoke and he examined Eleanor over and over.

He sat on her bed and said, “Eleanor you have to make a decision. That decision is whether you want to live or die. I don’t have children. But there are other things that cause me worry and stress. I see you doing these momentous things and then let your kids get next to you. We can’t do anything about your heart. Only GOD. Let’s pray.”

Brenda walked to Eleanor’s bed.

Hutch said, “FATHER GOD. I need YOU to heal Eleanor’s body and Brenda’s. We don’t have the medical science now to see in her body and in the heart. YOU know what is in her heart. I ask you to raise her up and get her back on her feet and doing works for YOU so families can be fed. In JESUS’ name.”

Hutch said, “I’m going to let you rest today. But tomorrow you will get up. Where is Percy?”

Eleanor whispered and said, “Percy?”

Hutch stood up and looked back at Eleanor and said, “I was told he may have a cough.”

Eleanor went to sleep.

Hutch said, “She has been in that bed too long.

He and Brenda walked out Eleanor’s bedroom.

Hutch and Brenda sat in the sitting room and talked.

Hutch examined Brenda and told her, she would be going back with him.

Brenda primped her mouth to cry.

Hutch looked at her.

Patrick walked to the door and heard Hutch and saw Brenda’s face.

Hutch heard Patrick and caught Patrick before he ran away from the door.

Hutch said, “Patrick Brenda is going back with me. You can come if you want and we can examine you also.”

Brenda was crying and took out her handkerchief and wiped her eyes.

Patrick said, “Me?”

Jose and Nadine were standing back and listening.

Nadine whispered, “Why is Brenda crying? What’s wrong with her?”.

Hutch said, “If you be thoroughly examined now, you may not have to be examined again until I move here and work at your hospital.”

Brenda sniffed and looked at Hutch.

Patrick stood and ran to Hutch.

Hutch stood up and Patrick hugged him.

Nadine said, “They got one doctor.”

Jose grinned.

Brenda was sitting and Nadine and Jose walked to the sitting room to ask about dinner.

Brenda was sitting sideways on the sofa with her handkerchief and sniffing.

Jose looked at Brenda.

Brenda turned and saw Jose looking at her with worry in his eyes.

Brenda said, “Jose I am fine. I need you and Nadine to step in and do all the Holidays decorations, tree and menus for me. I have ordered everyone my Christmas gifts. I want them all to be wrapped in the red paper or paper bag paper. Use the red velvet ribbon to tie a bow. Get the hundred dollars out for all the workers, whether they work or not. Get my new dresses out for them to be airing out. Eleanor is sick. And I will be sick when they finish sticking me…”

Patrick had his hands on Hutch’s shoulder.

Hutch looked at an angry Brenda.

Brenda said, “… I will be here for Christmas and New Years. Ask each worker whether they want a ham, leg of lamb or goose for Christmas. Take all the toys to the orphanage the week of Christmas. Lock up my house. Let no one in.”

Jose said, “What about Bruce coming to see the children?”

Brenda wiping her nose said, “Shoot him.”

Hutch said, “Brenda.”

Jose said, “It will be my pleasure.”

Hutch said, “Jose you are no better.”

Jose said, “You don’t know what we went through with that psycho.”

Brenda said, “If the children return here. They get out of school the second week of December and return the second week of January.”

Nadine turned and walked out the sitting room.

Brenda looked and said, “Nadine.”

Nadine was gone.

Patrick walked to the door and saw the back of Nadine.

Brenda said, “I am the one dying.”

Jose walked out and went to the liquor table and poured a tall glass of scotch and began drinking it and walking through the house.

Hutch saw Jose and twisted his mouth and said, “Brenda all of us are dying to self daily to gain Christ. When did you do that to Jose?”

Brenda said, “I’m miserable and wanted hm to be miserable with me.”

Hutch stared at Brenda.

Patrick said, “Hutch we will make it worth your while if you come back and practice at our hospital.”

Hutch was still looking at Brenda and said, “Spoiled Shirley.”

Brenda’s head was turned and she was looking at the wall.

She turned her head and cut her eye at Hutch,

Hutch stared at Brenda and said, “Brenda I take my medicine very serious. I am good. I want to know if there is something that is wrong that we can work on now.”

Brenda was still crying and said, “I know you are dedicated to medicine. I thank you. You spent three days on a train to get to Eleanor. In a few years I can come to you or you can come to me in thirty minutes and not three days. We have to figure out a way to get better time.”

Patrick said, “Brenda we got a lot to think about.”

Hitch said, “Percy.”

Patrick looked at Hutch and said, “Patrick.”

Hutch said, “You act like Percy. You all are wondering why the children are all out of sorts. They picked up on your characteristics. From the drinking from the snobbing, whining…”

Brenda rolled her eyes at Hutch.

Hutch did not care he looked at Brenda.

He said, “…to the thinking about parties and dresses and gambling. Where is that one? I don’t hear any of them.”

Patrick said, “They are banned to their rooms until meal times.”

Hutch said, “Are you serious?”

Patrick shucked his shoulders and said, “We were mad.”

Hutch said, “That’s the best punishment you can come up with.”

Brenda said, “I like parties.”

Hutch said, “Brenda catch up.”

Brenda rolled her eyes at Hutch,

Hutch closed his bag and put his coat on and said, “I’m going to check on the security men. Where are they staying?”

Patrick said, “In the re-modeled barn. I’ll walk with you.”

Patrick rushed and went and put on his coat and scarf and walked back to the sitting room.

Brenda was sitting with her head turned to the wall.

Hutch stood and watched her.

Patrick walked to the sitting room.

Hutch turned from Brenda and walked with Patrick.

Brenda rolled her eyes and mimicked Hutch, “Keep up. Calling me dumb. I know you are here also Mister to avoid Meredith.”

Patrick and Hutch walked to the re-modeled barn.

They had a good conversation.

They joked about Michael telling the dealer he was cheating.

Hutch said, “They are really not bad boys. But Shirley has stuff in heart that GOD has to remove.”

Patrick said, “That’s true”.

He knocked on the door.

The security men saw Hutch and Patrick walking to the barn.

They were counting their money.

The security men looked at each other.

One walked to the door and opened the door and greeted Patrick and Hutch.

Hutch said, “I went to examine you and make sure everything is going good.”

The security men looked at Hitch.

Hutch said, “Look Jerry and Blain you are grown former soldiers that are use to pain. And why is it cold in here?”

Blain said, “We like it cold.”

Hutch said, “You need some heat because you are still healing. Put enough coal in the fireplace to knock off the cold.”

Jerry said, “We can do that but not your therapy.”

Hutch said, “You need still medical therapy until you are a hundred percent.”

Hutch was angry.

Blain said, “We don’t care about you getting mad Hutch. You don’t hurt after that therapy.”

Patrick looked back at them and said, “Hutch came all this way and you don’t want help?”

Jerry and Blain looked at Patrick.

They wanted Hutch and Patrick to go so they could get ready for their gambling that night.

Patrick and Hutch stood on the porch and were talking.

Patrick said, “We have to get some men to ride the train to New York maybe into Canada to bring the coal back here.”

Jerry and Blain heard Patrick as they stepped of the porch to walk back to the house.

Mike and John were watching out the window and held their heads down when Hutch and Patrick returned.

They wanted to know where Hutch was going with his doctor’s bag.

They looked back at re-modeled barn.

Patrick and Hutch were still talking.

Mike and John heard Patrick say Eleanor needed a few men to ride the train and bring the col back to Cedartown for the people who did not order coal.

Mike and John looked at each other.

When they went to gamble with Jerry and Blain Mike asked, “Why was that doctor out here?”

Blain said, “That’s Hutch he use to work with us in the fields until Patrick found out he was a doctor. He came to check on us and give us therapy.”

Mike said, “Why didn’t yall let him.”

Jerry looked around and said, “We had to count our money and that mess hurts for days.”

Mike said, “I heard them talking that Eleanor needs men to train the train to New York or to Canada to bring the coal back here.”

Jerry said, “I don’t care.”

John said, “I care. I bought that house this week and need coal. There is no more coal on this side of the country. Eleanor worked until she found some. There are others that need coal too.”

Mike said, “Are you going to give that woman some coal?”

John said, “Yeah.”

Jerry said, “What woman?”

John said, “Maureen a maid. Her husband don’t work and they live off her little salary. He tried to get her to steal food from Brenda but she did not.”

Blain said, “She still with him?”

Ike said, “She walked Saturday in the freezing cold for two hours to get to work.”

Jerry looked and said, “Does she have any kids?”

Mike said, “Her husband has one they say is just like him.”

John said, “Nadine balled her fists up I didn’t know who she was going to try to fight.”

They all laughed.

Blain said, “That train ride would be an adventure.”

Mike said, “Are you thinking about it? Patrick won’t go for it especially since you did not get that therapy.”

John said, “I’m thinking. I don’t plan on doing anything until the spring.”

Mike said, “Who is going to get the hot water, coal and light all of these damn lanterns?”

They all laughed but Mike.

John said, “I heard Nadine crying to Peter and said, Brenda they think is dying and she left all the things for the holidays for Nadine and Jose to finish. Brenda got everything organized. That doctor came to really see about her than Eleanor.”

Jerry said, “We are talking like old woman. Let’s change the subject.”

Blain said, “Mike you are loyal to them?”

Mike said, “They took me in and gave a job to make me feel like a man and again at their worst I don’t want to abandon them.”

John said, “You two can’t go because you would be drunk and the coal would be going down another track,” motioning with his head.

Blain said, “Maybe Allen.”

John said, “Changing the subject have you seen the maid Allen is dating?”

Mike said, “Nice.”

Jerry said, “I want more.”

They begin to talk about each woman that work at the house.

Hutch went upstairs and spoke to the boys.

They were happy to see Hutch.

Hutch examined Percy and said, “You don’t have the flu but a bad cold. I got some medicine to give you. You go back in a week you should be well.”

Hutch gave Percy a tablespoon of the cold medicine.

Hutch had Nadine to bring Percy some soup in his room.

Hutch checked on Shirley and gave her therapy after dinner.

Shirley screamed.

Brenda smirked.

Patrick swung Brenda’s hand to stop displaying her happiness at Shirley’s pain.

All Brenda could think about was her Eleanor.

The boys stayed up late talking to Hutch.

Thomas said, “They don’t want us anymore. Because we made momma sick.”

He started crying.

Hutch’s hard heart broke.

Hutch said, “Why you all didn’t want to put on coats?”

Michael said, “We wanted to be like the soldiers.”

Hutch said, “I was a soldier. That is training you go through to live in bad weather. That is why Percy is sick. All you have to do is do what they tell you to do. You heard Meredith talk about the very bad things her bad parents did to her. There are so many bad people on this earth. Why would you not do something simple. Percy hanging out with killers and robbers. That is terrible. It is really really bad. Bruce you running an extortion ring and taking money from other students. That is incredible bad. Michael where in the world did you learn to gamble and then tell the dealer he was cheating?”

Michael said, “But he was.”

Hutch said, “Michael, in this world bad people do bad things all the time. You three have been identified as bad children that will grow up to be bad people. Who wants to be around bad people, not good people. Look Lorraine left because she has been with you all of her life and you have turned bad. She left. Meredith has gone. Even your bad daddy has left you. He left you on your mother so when you turned out to be bad, he can accuse her and say it is her fault that you turned out to be evil. Whatever is in your petty minds that you think you can outsmart the devil you cannot. He was bad from the beginning until GOD threw him out of heaven. Do you want GOD to threw you away from him?”

Michael broke down and fell on the floor and boohooed.

Hutch looked at Michael and did not move to help him.

Thomas said, “If being thrown away by God feels the way to be thrown away by my family. I want to ask God to help me.”

Thomas was shaking his head adamantly.

Hutch looked at Thomas and said, “Thomas I can help you pray but you have to ask GOD for yourself.”

Thomas nodded his head for yes.

Patrick and Brenda and had tipped to the sitting room and were standing back listening.

Hutch looked at Bruce and said, “What about you Bruce. You want to leave your family? Or stay?”

Bruce said, “Stay. I don’t want God to throw me away. I don’t like the way I feel now with my grandpa and grandma throwing me away.”

Michael was still on the floor boohooing.

Patrick and Brenda could see Michael through the crack of the hinges on the door.

Jose was walking and checking the house before he went to bed.

He saw Patrick and Brenda and walked down the hall and thought, “I can’t get my sherry. Why don’t they go to bed. Nobody can save those bad ass children, the murderer, thief, saboteur and gambler. Shirley got so many bad things, take a pick. I know Eleanor she is not a bad person. All of this is Bruce’s side of the family.”

Jose looked at Patrick and Brenda and walked pass them and checked out that side of the house.

He was walking slow so they could go to their suite, and he could go to the liquor table.

But they were listening.

Hutch said, “Let’s get on our knees this is o bad we have to give GOD HIS full relevance.”

He, Bruce and Thomas got on their knees.

Michael was still boohooing on the floor.

Thomas did not wait and said, “God help me. I don’t want to hurt momma. I don’t want to hurt grandma and grandpa. I need them. I can’t grow and live without them. Amen.”

Bruce said, “God I feel bad some times help me not feel bad. I love my momma. She depends on me to help her and be strong. I have money I did not have to take those boys money. I just wanted money. I’ll give it back to them God. Don’t throw me away. Let momma love me again. Oh my grandpa and grandma don’t love me anymore. Amen.”

Bruce feel over on the floor and cried.

Jose was standing behind Patrick and Brenda and was peeping through the crack.

Hutch did not stop or comfort Bruce.

He said, “Michael you need to pray!”

Michael rolled over on his back and threw up his hand so helpless.

Patrick bit his lip and Benda was crying.

Hutch said, “LORD GOD Almighty changed these boys’ hearts and minds so the devil will lose his grip on them and won’t use them to do his evil works on your earth. Give them peace and joy and never let them go down this path nor any other path ever again. Heal their relationship with their mother, grandma and grandpa. Help them to mend the relations at their schools. Keep the devil from placing them in the place of their uncles, Christopher and Patrick Jr.”

Brenda shook Patrick.

Jose looked at Brenda.

Brenda grabbed Patrick’s arm and pulled him to their suite.

Jose ran to the liquor table and poured him a whiskey and turned the glass up and he filled it again and turned it up and turned.

Hutch, Bruce and Thomas were looking at him.

Bruce said, “Jose why did not you leave us?”

Jose took a big swallow and said, “I was but Patrick asked me to stay until the spring.”

Jose walked away and said, “With your bad asses.”

Thomas and Bruce were crying and they started all over again.

Hutch walked the boys upstairs to their bedrooms and put them in bed.

He opened Percy’s door and noticed Percy was still asleep and should have been woke.

Hutch thought.

He opened Eleanor’s door and checked on her.

He looked at her patio, he walked over and opened the patio door and stood and looked out over the beautiful landscape.

Eleanor had been working on the scenery for years.

She loved to sit on her patio and look out.

She designed her ships so the people who wants to sit out could take in God’s scenery.

Eleanor had another ship being build.

She showed the ship design to Patrick and Brenda before all the trouble.

Patrick and Brenda were so very happy.

Eleanor had contracted with the ship builders to start building that ship from her trust fund money until the profits start from her new ship and the new railroad stations.

Patrick was counting the money.

Brenda was counting the number of ships and railroad stations.

Htch turned and walked back from the patio and locked the door.

Eleanor had turned and saw her door open but did not have strength to get up.

She saw Hutch and whispered, “Hutch.”

Hutch walked over to her bed and said, “Eleanor.”

Eleanor said, “I was hoping you were Joseph.”

Hutch said, “Baby Joseph is with JESUS. Leave him there. He is fine. We have to work on you. I talked and prayed with Thomas, Michael and Bruce.”

Eleanor said, “I don’t like to say this but Thomas.”

Hutch cut her off and said, “You can have a favorite child. But I see you love all of your children the same. Don’t ever feel guilty about having a favorite.”

Hutch looked around Eleanor’s bedroom and said, “Your bedroom is so beautiful. Like you. You will get up tomorrow and work on living. Joseph don’t want you with him until you finish all of this amazing work that GOD actually trust only Eleanor to do out of all the people on HIS earth. If that don’t make you shout. It makes me shout.”

Michael was crawling up the stairs to go to go to bed.

Hutch and Eleanor saw him.

Hutch continued to talk.

Eleanor whispered, “Michael.”

Hutch said, “Leave him alone. Let him get all of that guilt of his bad self out of him. He will be alright before he goes back to school.”

Hutch said, “Now I need to check on Shirley.”

Shirley heard Hutch she tried to get up and lock her door.

Hutch said, “Listen to her.”

Eleanor tried to laugh.

Hutch walked out and closed Eleanor’s door.

He rushed to Shirley’s door and she locked it just before he opened it.

He laughed and said, “Tomorrow Shirley.”

Eleanor laughed.

Shirley sat on her bed and stared at the door.

She saw Hutch’s shadow pass.

She sat on her bed and slid to the floor and cried and said, “God please. Am I that bad of a person. I love Skip. How can I love and be evil? Michael hates me. My momma, grandma and grandpa do want me anymore. Momma is trying to lock me away for the rest of my life. I rather walk away and live by myself. Change me dear God. You healed me. Wanted all the way. You made me sixty per cent whole. I enjoy life I never knew I could have. I can sit, stand, run, breath, hear, see, eat and feel a different type of pain. Skip said You made me to help fix sick people. If that is why You made me let me fix me and for my family to be fixed.”

Shirley put her head on the floor.

She woke the next morning on the cold floor.

She laid on the floor and sighed over and over and over.

Brenda and Patrick prayed the whole night.

Brenda said to Patrick, “I thought we had failed GOD and that our punishment was these evil children. The devil had gotten Christopher and Patrick Jr and John now he reached over to get Eleanor and her children to pull them into evil so the great work GOD is doing for man can be destroyed. I never thought about it until Hutch prayed. I beat myself …”

Patrick said, “And me and Jose.”

Brenda said, “Patrick could all of this sickness be an attack by the devil on our health to get us out of the way so he can destroy the children to pull them into darkness and use them?”

Patrick sat and thought and said, “Brenda I believe so. I am so glad Hutch came. He brought strength and wisdom we need for right now.”

Brenda said, “I’m going to fight the devil for my family and especially these grandchildren.”

Patrick said, “Brenda I know you don’t want to hear it.”

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “We have other grandchildren.”

Brenda threw her hands up in the air and started screaming, “JESUS! JESUS! JESUS!. I hate those wicked bad kids. Kill them LORD JESUS. Kill them please. Please! Please! Don’t let them live. Kill them JESUS. Kill them. “

Patrick jumped off the bed and ran to the door and cracked it open and looked up and down the hall.

When he turned to look back Hutch was standing outside of his door looking at Patrick and hearing a screaming Brenda.

Patrick closed the door and locked it and ran back to Brenda and said, “Brenda we have guest.”

Brenda said, “I don’t give a damn. I don’t want those demons to ever be a part of my life nor these children’s lives.”

Brenda fell on her knees and reeled backwards and hollered and cried.

Hutch went back in his room and shook his head.

Hutch thought.

He got on back on his knees and continued to pray.

He said, “Let them all get out all this hurt. I know YOU have given them a lot of work to do The devil is trying to stop it and take away the heirs. YOU stop him killing, Thomas, Michael and Shirley (Twice). Since he could not kill them the ones he thought he could were easy, Percy and Bruce make them powerhouses.”

A thought came to Hutch.

He stood and went to his doctor’s bag and opened it.

He saw the cough and cold syrup was half gone.

He held it up and said, “Thank YOU LORD. I thought so. I knew Percy should not have been sleep like he was. This has alcohol in it. Is he an alcoholic or on the way to be an alcoholic. Either way I ask YOU to overturn the devils’ plan of addiction and let Percy be delivered, so the devil cannot use him through alcohol.”

Hutch put down his doctor’s bag and the cough syrup on his dresser.

He said, “LORD GOD Almighty what is your plan for him right now. What has his mind gripped. I am not putting up with it.”

Hutch sat on the bed and got his bible from where he was praying and thought.

He said, “FATHER when did Percy get this?”

A thought came to him when they were at dinner.

Hutch said, “Give me wisdom to handle this LORD.”

Hutch open his bible and read for hours from different scriptures.

He woke with a knock on his door.

He had fallen backwards and was sleep.

He said, “Come in.”

He was sitting up on his bed, when Mike and John opened the door with his hot tub of water.

Hutch heard a snicker he look and Eleanor was standing in the hall fully clothed.

Hutch jumped off the bed and ran out in the hall and grabbed Eleanor and hugged her.

Mike and John realized Eleanor was back.

Mike stood in the hall and watched.

John walked to the spare room to get Patrick and Brenda’s hot bath water.

He though, “This is easy work for the pay. I can’t stay here. I have become rich. God has blessed me with all of that money. I bought me a lovely house in a very good neighborhood, across from that drunk Lorraine. I see why she drinks. God blessed me because I helped fight the mob. Now I need to grow.”

Patrick was looking for their bath water.

He opened their door and saw Hutch holding a woman.

John saw the look on Patrick’s face and stop and turned to look at Hutch and Eleanor.

Eleanor laughed.

John saw Patrick’s eyes tear up.

Patrick nodded his head for yes.

John smiled at Patrick.

Patrick exhaled and nodded at John.

Patrick said, “Hot water.”

John said, “Yes sir.  
Patrick let Hutch and Eleanor have their time together.

John got the water and walked to the door and said, “Mike.”

Mike turned and walked to the door with John.

Hutch said, “Eleanor wait for me. I won’t be that long.”

He went in his room and closed the door.

Eleanor looked out the window for a while.

She loved the way she decorated that side of the house.

She went into each suite and looked around and out on the balconies and was delighted at her house.

Jose was walking to announce breakfast was ready.

He knocked on Patrick’s door.

He saw another suite’s door opened.

Jose was about to walk away when Patrick opened the door.

Jose was peeping at the room and walked on the opposite side of the hall to look.

Patrick said, “Jose.”

Jose in his sour voice, “Breakfast is ready.”

Patrick looked at Jose and followed his eyes to the opened door.

Patrick knew it had to be Eleanor.

Brenda refused to bath and go to breakfast.

Jose walked down the hall.

Patrick watched him.

Jose walked to the room and stood in the hall.

He saw the back of the woman walking backwards out the room.

Elanor closed the door.

Jose stood and tears were falling.

Patrick said, “Brenda come and look.”

Brenda was still cursing.

She walked to the door and snatched it open.

Brenda walked out into the hall and looked both ways and saw Jose.

Brenda said, “What that damn spoiled drunk Jose.”

Patrick walked out and looked at Brenda and said, “Shut up. Jose has stood by us and with us Brenda you respect him I don’t care how mad you are we are going to do right by those other grandchildren but John’s.”

Brenda was still cursing and turned her head to look at Jose and she saw the long light chestnut hair backing out in the hallway.

Brenda stopped cursing.

Eleanor back out the room and bumped into the tearful eyes of Jose.

She turned and around and saw Jose’s tearful face and slapped him.

Hutch walked out his room to see it.

Jose did not move.

Eleanor’s arms went around Jose’s neck.

They cried and cried.

Hutch exhaled.

Patrick and Brenda stood and watch them.

Brenda waited.

Hutch walked back in his room and brought the cough and cold medicine out.

Eleanor and Jose stop hugging each other and were standing.

Eleanor looked up and saw her momma and daddy.

She knew they would be with her until the end.

Eleanor nodded her head and said, “I knew you two would be with me to the end. It is the end of wanting to die.”

Patrick could not talk. He nodded. He reached his arm to Brenda to go to breakfast.

Brenda looked at Eleanor and smiled.

She turned and went into their bedroom and bathe and dressed.

Hutch walked with the half bottle of cough and cold syrup.

Eleanor looked at the bottle.

Jose looked at the bottle.

Patrick looked at the bottle and said, “Percy?”

Hutch said, “No one else was out of sight.”

Eleanor said, “Percy has to come out of that school and go to Bruce.”

Jose said, “He is going to be resentful that you kept the others.”

Eleanor said, “Shirley can live on her own with a maid. I won’t sent her to a sanatorium. I have set up a fund to release only a very small part of her trust fund once per month. She can live off the money from dress shop.”

Patrick said, “You know Bruce will try to bleed you dry for Percy’s sake.”

Eleanor said, “I knew Bruce would try to get money from me for the children. In my divorce he is required to pay for all their education expenses and daily living expenses.”

Patrick said, “Eleanor what caused you to get off that death bed?”

Brenda was walking out their bedroom plaiting her braid.

Eleanor looked at the spare bedroom and said, “My beloved Joseph. He let me know he wanted me to live and love life and enjoy my family and friends.”

Eleanor swung Jose’s hand.

Hutch nodded his head.

Brenda look at her son’s room and whimpered.

Patrick said, “I miss him very much, but I don’t want to go with him now. Eleanor you were trying to go with Joseph in the middle of all of this stuff. You are a chicken.”

Hutch was stunned and looked at Patrick.

Eleanor was taken aback.

Brenda started flapping her arms and turned around and started a clucking sound.

Patrick turned and he and Brenda walked down the hall to the family dining room.

Jose said, “The honeymoon is over,” he walked behind them to the family dining room.

Hutch looked with a shock look at Jose.

Eleanor’s mouth was still open.

Hutch slightly turned his head to Eleanor and said, “Breakfast.”

Eleanor took a deep breath.

She walked to Hutch and said, “They are picking at me.”

Hutch said, “I see. I always thought of them as stately.”

Eleanor said, “They are but when they are messing with me. Why did you come.”

She looked at Hutch.

Jose heard her and yelled back, “Meredith.”

Hutch looked at Jose and said, “He’s right. I saw Meredith walk in with Felipe and I broke down. I wanted Meredith but I could not get her to release those demons. I believe Felipe was the person GOD had for her. She has gone through a life of hell. He has gone through a life of hell. They can help each other.”

Eleanor was walking and thinking and said, “How is Bradley?” as she touched the necklace he gave to her.

Hutch looked at her and said, “I’m sorry you and Bradley did not work out. He is getting himself together.”

Eleanor said, “I love him as a true friend. But my heart belongs to Joseph. I don’t know why God took him. But Bradley was there through all of our bad times. I really hope God has someone extraordinary for him and you.”

Hutch said, “You were that extraordinary person for him. Me …”

Hutch smirked his mouth.

They saw Michael and Thomas slowly walking downstairs.

Eleanor whined.

Hutch said, “Be strong.”

They looked at each other and laugh.

Shirley was up had bathe and comb and brushed her hair.

She was slowly walking down the stairs.

Bruce was standing at the balcony looking down the hall at the others going to the family dining room.

He held his head down.

He turned to walk to his room.

Eleanor said, “Bruce.”

Bruce looked over at Eleanor’s bedroom.

Bruce did not move and he did not see anyone in Eleanor’s bedroom.

He got scared because he thought she had died.

Shirley held her head up and looked at Eleanor and Hutch.

She stopped walking and then held her head down and continued to walk to the family dining room.

Eleanor said, “Shirley good morning.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and sniffed and said, “Good morning momma.”

Bruce turned and ran to the balcony and saw Eleanor standing with Hutch.

Bruce flew down the stairs and ran to Eleanor and hugged her.

She nearly fell and Hutch caught her.

Bruce was holding her waist so tight.

He said, “Momma. Momma where were you? Where did you go?”

Hutch thought, “That boy sensed that. Huh.”

Eleanor said, “With Joseph.”

Bruce said, “I love you too and wanted you here.”

Shirley was crying.

Eleanor said, “Joseph let me know to stay with you all.”

She kissed Bruce on his forehead and said, “My strong one.”

Bruce said, “Momma I have not been strong.”

Eleanor said, “You have been.“

They walked to the family dining room.

Bruce said, “I won’t turn you loose again momma.”

Eleanor said, “I love you Bruce. I won’t turn you loose again Bruce.”

Eleanor looked at Shirley and said, “I love you Shirley.”

Shirley was wiping tears from her eyes.

Hutch was walking with Eleanor and looked at Shirley and said, “After breakfast.”

Shirley thought and then stood still.

Bruce said, “Someone is at the door.”

Shirley turned and went running upstairs.

There was a knock on the door.

Jose went to the door and peeped.

He opened the door.

A hollering Gen ran in and pass Hutch, Eleanor and Bruce and ran to the liquor table.

Brenda was bent and was about to sit and heard Gen and froze.

Patrick stopped.

Eleanor could only think Ben is dead.

Shirley stopped in the middle of the stairway and thought, “I don’t have any black.”

Eleanor looked at Shirley like she heard Shirley.

Shirley jumped and walked down the stairs and walked to Gen.

Gen still had on her nightclothes and her extremely long hair was loose and down.

She rode a horse and did not bring a buggy.

Brenda was too scar for Gen to leave the dining room.

Patrick and the boys ran to Gen.

Thomas and Michael looked at Eleanor.

They stood and stared.

Jose closed and locked the front door.

Hutch thought, “This locking of all the doors is getting on my nerves.”

Jose, Nadine and Briana rushed to Gen.

Gen was finishing her first glass of whiskey.

Gen filled the glass again.

Patrick grabbed her hand and put down the glass on the liquor table.

Hutch was looking at the squalling Gen.

Shirley ran to Gen and was holding her.

Patrick said, “Gen! Gen!”

Gen turned to get her glass of whiskey and it was gone.

Nadine had snatched the glass of whiskey and ran through the billiards room.

Gen stood and her mouth was quivering.

Briana and Jose stared at Gen.

Gen looked pitiful to them.

Brenda sat in the family dining room.

She did not want to know why Gen was squalling and left the house in her gown and robe and rode a horse through the streets.

Brenda held her head and thought, “I hope none of her enemies saw her. Especially Abigail and Tamara. With all of that hair blowing in her face and behind her head.”

Bruce held Eleanor tight.

Thomas and Michael stood in front of Eleanor and looked at her.

Eleanor and Hutch were standing sideways looking at Gen.

Patrick grabbed Gen and shook her,

Gen said, “I told you to never shake me.”

Patrick turned Gen loose.

Gen exhaled and cried quietly.

Shirley held on to Gen.

Patrick said, “Gen where is Ben?”

Gen said, “Home.”

Patrick said, “Is he alright?”

Gen started crying again.

Gen looked at Shirley and said, “Why are you dressed?”

Shirley smiled.

Gen pointed to the parlor.

Patrick walked her to the family dining room.

Hutch turned and followed.

Thomas and Michael were standing in front of Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at them and said, “Good morning.”

Thomas and Michael were so glad they grabbed Eleanor.

Hutch looked at them.

They all worked into the family dining room.

Nadine was coming back through the billiards room.

Briana and Jose could not believe Nadine.

Nadine brought the washed glass and returned it to the liquor table.

Nadine was drying the glass and put it down and walked to the family dining room.

Jose said, “Nadine?”

Nadine turned around and said, “Sir?”

Jose said, “Why did you take that glass of whiskey?’

Nadine said, “Patrick was not going to give it to her.”

Nadine belched and hit her chest.

She turned to go to the family dining room.

Jose said, “Nadine go to the kitchen and stay.”

Nadine, “Stay. That sounds like a dog command.“

Nadine barked and walked through the billiards room back to the kitchen.

Eleanor looked at Hutch and said, “Was that a dog?”

Hutch looked back and saw Jose and Briana walking to the family dining room.

Briana said, “She’s drunk.”

Jose said, “She didn’t eat anything. That’s peter’s problem.’

There was a knock on the door.

Jose peeped and walked to the door.

Patrick looked and said, “Briana who is that?”

Briana stopped in the doorway and said, “Mr. Olsen.”

Brenda said, “Thank YOU JESUS. I thought Ben was dead.”

Gen sat at the table next walked to Shirley.

Shirley knew enough to be quiet.

Bruce went to his chair after Eleanor kissed him.

Michael and Thomas were holding onto her.

Eleanor kissed them and seated them.

She was standing to see Ben.

Hutch sat next to Bruce.

They watched the door.

Jose closed and locked the door.

Hutch flinched.

Eleanor looked at Hutch.

Hutch smiled and turned and looked seriously at the door.

Ben walked in and his eyes searched for Gen.

He looked at the back of her hair and exhaled.

Ben said, “Good morning.”

Brenda said, “Ben, why is Gen upset?”

Patrick looked at the always well dressed nay man, who had his night shirt on and a pair of pants and jackets.

Gen held her head and squalled.

Hutch looked at Gen and thought, “Her heart is broke.”

Ben stood to the side of Gen and said, “It’s about Thanksgiving dinner.”

Everyone’s eyes went to Gen.

Gen put her head on the table and cried.

Thomas stood and walked to Gen and patted her back.

Eleanor looked at Thomas.

Ben said, “Her sold her…”

Shirley started hollering.

Jose yelled, “Shirley shut up. You think he sold that damn dining room suite.”

Gen and Ben nodded their heads.

Shirley jumped up and started screaming.

She was jumping up and down like she was marching.

Ben said, “We went over yesterday to clean and dust and set the table. No table, no china.”

Brenda jumped up and said, “What? Patrick and I bought that china for Gen and John.”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “That china that took two years to get here from China.”

Patrick fell into his chair.

Shirley turned and said, “What color?”

Ben said, “Red.”

Shirley started hollering.

Gen was crying.

Brenda started crying.

Hutch looked at Eleanor and said, “You?”

Eleanor looked at Hutch and said, “I’m waiting.”

Shirley was on her knees and pulled herself to Gen’s chair and said, “Aunt Gen you promised me those dishes.”

Gen was squalling and nodding her head.

They cried.

Patrick was sick.

Brenda was boohooing like a baby.

Bruce sat and stared at Brenda.

He reached for Brenda’s hand and held it.

Brenda felt the smaller and softer hand that securely held her hand.

She knew Bruce would be with her until the end.

She was too heart broken to look at him.

Ben said, “We started searching the house.

Eleanor held her chest.

Michael looked up at Eleanor and her hand on her chest.

Ben looked at Eleanor and said, “He sold the bedrooms suite you gave to Gen when you were a child for her twenty-fifth wedding anniversary to your second father. He sold all the wine out of the wine cellar. You know how much that wine was worth.”

Gen was hollering.

Shirley was on her knees and said, “Bedroom suites?”

Hutch quickly turned and looked at greedy spoiled Shirley.

Eleanor flopped in her chair.

Michael said, “Momma are they making you sick this time?”

Eleanor said, “Baby momma is fine.”

She patted Michael’s face.

Michael held his face on Eleanor’s hand.

Eleanor looked at Michael and thought, “God I am sorry. I just wanted Joseph and was willing to leave my children.”

Jose said, “What about Thanksgiving dinner?”

Briana said, “Yes.”

Briana had planned to spend her Thanksgiving with her close family, eating and quilting and reading and telling stories.

Brenda hollered, “Where are we going to seat and eat on?”

Jose said, “I have scheduled nearly everyone off Brenda.

Patrick was sick.

Hutch said, Patrick are you alright?”

Patrick did not say anything.

Everyone looked at Patrick.

Shirley popped off the floor to see Patrick.

Ben said, “That’s not all.”

Jose said, “What?’

Patrick cut his eyes at Ben.

Ben said, “Gen told them the exact amount of the people. I don’t know why Gen did not walk through the house last week.”

Gen was pushing her chair back and reaching at Ben at the same time.

Ben grabbed her hands and said, “I’m not going to let you beat me again Gen. I did it last night to relieve your anger but not anymore.”

Patrick said, “I’m sick.”

Hutch said, “What?”

Patrick said, “I’m sick over those dishes. I don’t remember about stuff Brenda buy, but I remember those dishes. They cost a very large amount of money.”

Shirley was on her knees peeping over the table at Patrick.

Patrick said, “I want to beat them myself.”

Michael pushed his chair back and said, “Let’s go grandpa.”

Hutch said, “Michael your grandpa did not mean it that way.”

Eleanor looked at Hutch.

Patrick cut his eyes at Hutch.

Eleanor knew she had to watch how she answered her children.

She said, “Michael.”

Michael looked at Eleanor.

She said, “Sit in your chair.”

Michael said, “Yes ma am.”

He sat and looked up in Eleanor’s face searching her face for her true feelings towards him.

She looked at him with true love.

Michael was satisfied.

Jose was annoyed and said, “Anything else?”

Ben said, “Betty invited her family and a lot of their friends. Because she wanted to flaunt you, Brenda and Patrick to her low life family and friends. And yesterday she was trying to sit in the parlor so Gen could not see the dining room and suggested we sit in the parlor and eat.

Gen got up and walked and saw the furniture, dishes and wine were gone, but Betty was acting like it was nothing and then said to Gen.”

Patrick was sitting sideways in his chair.

Brenda was shaking.

Hutch looked at Brenda.

Ben said, “Tell Brenda and Eleanor to send over their servants to clean and got the house ready and bring over about twenty five chairs so my family can sit at the temporary tables.”

Jose and Briana stood and looked.

Peter and Thomas were standing in the e

Eleanor looked at a destroyed Gen.

Ben said, “I am tired and bruised. I had to stay awake all night and sit in front of the gun case. I locked the gun case. Gen went and got a hammer and was about to bust that gun case. I don’t know who she thought was going to clean it up. I want a hot bath and shave and a long nap.”

No one said nothing.

Jose stomped.

Brenda sat.

Thomas and Peter walked in with the breakfast trays.

Gen was all over the table.

She kept saying, “My son betrayed me. “

Shirley was on her knees on the floor and holding onto the legs of Gen’s chair and hollering.

Shirley said, “I know. I know.”

Eleanor stood and looked at Shirley.

Jose said, “Shirley the old Eleanor is back. You better shut up and got off the floor.”

Michael said, “Who they sold your stuff to?”

Gen waved her hand and said, “French something.”

Jose looked.

Briana looked.

Jose said, “They used to work here. Why don’t you go and see if they still got the furniture?”

Shirley stopped hollering and looked at Jose.

She was pulling herself off the floor.

She stood looking at Jose.

Shirley sat at her chair.

Ben looked at Shirley and said, “Shirley why you stop squalling?”

Shirley turned and Thomas put her omelet in front of her.

Shirley looked at Ben as she was unfolding her napkin and said, “That furniture is very expensive maybe they still have some of it. I am going to town after I eat and see if any is left. When did they sell it Aunt Gen?”

Gen shook her head.

Briana said, “Mrs. Stith is Thanksgiving dinner to be here?’

Brenda looked at the calm Shirley who said, her grace and begin to eat her omelet.

Gen was hysterical.

Brenda was hollering and said, “Yes.”

Jose looked at Brenda.

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Gen was so exhausted she could barely talk and said, “No Bren.”

Brenda said, “Jose what do we have in the house.”

Jose smirked and said, “A turkey.”

Eleanor laughed.

Jose turned his head.

Michael looked at Eleanor.

He was so delighted that Eleanor laughed.

Michael enjoyed staring at his momma.

Thomas was standing by Gen.

Patrick saw the love in Michael’s eyes from his heart for Eleanor.

Patrick said, “This is a mess.”

Bruce was still holding Brenda’s hand and said, “Grandpa that is what we get a lot and make things better.”

Brenda looked at Bruce with tears flowing.

Patrick said, “Bruce how would you make this better?”

Bruce said, “I would have dinner here.”

Jose cut his eyes at Bruce.

Bruce said, “I would tell everyone dinner is here except for Miss Gen’s son and daughter.”

Gen started crying all over.

Shirley held out to Gen a fork of her omelet.

Gen bit it.

Eleanor looked at a surprise Shirly.

Michael looked at Shirley and said, “Heifer.”

Eleanor said, “Michael. We all have to please God. Shirley knows Miss Gen love food.”

Thomas and Peter were still in the family dining room.

Gen looked back and Thomas walked to her and bent down.

Gen pointed to Shirley’s omelet.

Brenda said, “The dishes. The dishes.”

Gen started crying again.

Shirley said, “The furniture. The furniture.”

Eleanor looked at Shirley.

Michael said, “May I have my plate with eggs and grits and a biscuit.”

Peter said, “No scones?”

Michael said calmly, “A scone instead of a biscuit.”

Peter said, “May I suggest something?”

Jose had planned for all of them to be gone all day. He ordered an extra bottle of whiskey that he put in his room and was going to start drinking that night.”

Jose turned around and stared at Peter.

Briana looked at Peter.

Peter said, “We all are off tomorrow with plans. We can clean the house which is not bad. I can bake the rolls, bread and sweets. I know there are plenty of sweet potatoes and there are two pumpkins and plenty of butter. I can make a cider and a winter punch, plus you will select your wine and other alcohols.”

Briana was standing and listening and said, “We can clean and set the formal dining room for twenty-five. Because I do have plans for the whole holiday.”

Thomas was walking back with Gen’s omelet. And placed it before her.

Peter said, “Monica will be here and can put all the linens in the laundry room until Monday. Ruth and several more workers will be here and can wash the dishes.

Gen held her head up and looked at Brenda and said, “Bren we can cook. Remember those Thanksgivings before. Me, you and Eleanor and pretty girl…”

Shirley grinned.

Eleanor said, “Hell no. Jose, I will pay the workers overtime to cook the food and an extra week off. I am not cooking no food.”

Thomas said, “I agree. Everything will be out of order. I will go home and take care of my property and come back here and spend the night for Thanksgiving and the breakfast. Dan will be here then and can take over. We have two turkeys, which is enough for twenty five people.”

Jose said, “No it’s not.”

He looked at Gen.

Gen saw Jose and said, “You are calling me fat.”

Jose said, “No I am not.”

Gen said, “Yes you are.”

Ben said, “Gen said, please finish your omelet so we can go home so I can go to bed.”

Gen started crying again.

Brenda said, “Spend the night here so you won’t be available to John Jr. and Betty.”

Gen cried hard.

Ben said, “Bren that is a great offer but we need to be at home.”

Brenda looked at Ben and said, “Not with guns Ben.”

Patrick said, “I agree Ben. You don’t know.”

Shirley looked at Patrick then at Ben.

Shirley wiped her mouth and put her napkin down.

Briana poured Shirley a half of cup of juice.

Hutch looked and said, “Shirley, Dr. Woodson said you can have another quarter of a cup of orange juice.”

Shirley put her glass out and Briana looked and poured a few more swallows.

Shirley said, “I am going to town Thomas do you need any groceries. Grandma I want to invite Lorraine. I know it late, but I will go and invite her. I have to make up to here.”

Thomas said, “She is bringing Monica to work and pick up her turkey and Harriet’s turkey.”

Brenda said, “Let’s eat breakfast. Ben after Gen finish eating, take her home and pack your bags for a few days and come and stay here until after Thanksgiving. I am going to ride with Shirley into town. Briana whatever you can do would be appreciated. Where is Nadine?”

Jose said, “Not well.”

Peter did not say anything.

Thomas said, “The menu is simple.”

Shirley said, “Jose can you get me a carriage?”

Jose said, “It’s one out there.”

Shirley said, “Jose, the French shop is it across from the train station?”

Jose said, “Yes.”

Patrick said, “Jose you are really taking this bad.”

Eleanor looked at Jose and said, “Like an extra bottle of whiskey for yourself. That is how you planned on spending your Thanksgiving.”

Brenda looked at Jose.

Jose said, “Dr. Hutch is Eleanor well?”

Hutch said, “No fighting.”

Jose turned his back and looked out the window.

Thomas went into the kitchen and took inventory.

Thomas walked to the buffet and made a plate for his momma of a biscuit and sausage gravy and fruit like his grandma. He brought the plate and placed it in front of Eleanor.

Eleanor looked into Thomas’ eyes and smiled.

Thomas knew his mother’s love was a little more for him.

Hutch watched Eleanor and Thomas.

Bruce and Thomas went to the buffet and made their plates.

Hutch made a plate of fruit, oatmeal, eggs.

Patrick said, “Ben eat. This is a mess, but we have to overcome it. Like we do everything else. Come and eat. Then you and Gen can go home. Don’t tarry but get out of there.”

Ben was looking at Gen.

He walked to the buffet and got eggs and a scone.

He sat next to Gen and bowed his head to pray and just kept shaking his head.

Brenda said, “Jose make sure everyone get their turkeys and leave on time today. I know everything will be hectic today and with the bad weather. Will we have anyone here for the hot water and lighting the lanterns and putting coal in the house?”

Jose said, “I’ll check. If not I will be here.”

Michael laughed and was eating his lamb chop.

He was turned and looking at Jose and said, “Thomas can you see Mr. Jose in a wagon lighting the lanterns and bringing in coal? That’s like me and you doing it.”

Jose turned around and looked at Michael.

Thomas looked at Michael then he looked at Jose.

Eleanor snickered.

She said, “Michael, if you keep it up I will have you doing it.”

Michael stared at Eleanor.

Hutch was tickle and had to turn his head.

Jose looked at Michael and said, “One more thang.”

Patrick and Brenda did not pay Jose any attention.

Gen said, “Jose, how is your parents? I usually run into them at the capitol wives’ luncheon?”

Briana turned and looked at Jose.

Patrick raised his head and looked at Jose.

Eleanor turned from looking at Michael and looked at Jose.

Brenda stopped making her plate and looked at Jose.

Ben looked around the table at everyone. He was surprised they did not know about Jose’s parents.

Hutch looked at Ben and then the rest of the table.

Brenda got a biscuit and sausage gravy and coffee.

Shirley was humming and went upstairs and got her coat, hat, scarf and gloves and bag.

She walked to the parlor and sat.

She felt the fabric of the sofa and grinned.

Thomas walked back to the family dining room.

He said, “Jose I am leaving to get some things we need and spend time at home and I will return before dark.”

Jose said, “Fine.”

Gen said, “Jose?”

Jose said, “They are fine. Did not want anyone to know anything about him.”

Gen said, “Patrick, are you using Gibson to build your hospital. If not use Jose’s family.”

Jose walked out the family dining.

Patrick said, “Gen, Jose’s family has a building business?”

Gen said, “Yes, Caldwell’s construction.”

Patrick stopped eating and looked at Brenda.

Eleanor was thinking and remembered the company.

She said, “I’ll talk to Jose.”

Gen was looking at Brenda’s plate.

Hutch looked at Gen.

Gen said, “Dr. Hot Damn don’t look at me like that. I am upset and I eat when I am upset.”

Jose went into the kitchen and had the workers to cut the vegetables that were to be cooked. Brenda finished eating and went and got her coat and gloves and two blankets and walked to the parlor and told Shirley she was ready.

They walked through the house to the back.

Thomas saw Lorraine sitting in the buggy dropping off Monica.

Thomas said, “Lorraine they want to see you.”

Lorraine tied her wagon and went into the house and found Eleanor and Hutch.

Lorraine said, “Hutch, why are you here?”

Hutch said, “For Eleanor, but she is doing so much better.”

Brenda saw Lorraine and said, “Shirley you go and invite Lorraine to Thanksgiving tomorrow.”

Shirley looked at Brenda.

Brenda said, “Have you written Alicia’s invitation to your holiday tea?”

Shirley looked at Brenda.

Brenda was about to walk out the back door.

Jose was looking at her and Shirley.

He turned and looked at Thomas and said, “See if Lorraine wants her turkey. I don’t want my turkey.”

Thomas said, “I counted your turkey. I am not saying anything to Lorraine.”

Brenda and Shirley walked pass the kitchen and heard Lorraine and Hutch in the hallway.

Hutch was on his way upstairs to give Percy some cold medicine.

Eleanor was talking to Hutch about Percy’s punishment.

Lorraine looked at the half bottle of cold medicine.

She smirked.

Brenda saw Lorraine and looked at the bottle of cough syrup.

Jose walked through the hall from the formal dining room.

Ruth, Glenda and Mellissa were working to set up the formal dining room.

Lorraine heard Gen crying.

Lorraine walked away to the family dining room.

Hutch said, “She has a genuine caring heart. She is a very good nurse.”

Brenda looked at Lorraine as she sashayed into the dining room.

Lorraine looked at Gen.

Patrick looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine walked to Gen and patted her shoulder.

Gen grabbed Lorraine’s hand and leaned her head on Lorraine’s hand.

Jose and Briana looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine looked up and said, “Good morning.”

Michael said, “Lorraine I miss you.”

Thomas said, “Me too.”

Bruce stared and said, “Will you come back?”

Lorraine said, “No baby.”

Michael said, “Why are you here?”

Lorraine said, “Thomas said, somebody wanted to see me.”

Patrick was getting up from the table and said, “That’s Shirley’s mess. You should have seen her.”

Lorraine said, “I saw the carriage.”

Patrick walked out the family dining room.

Lorraine walked out with Patrick.

Jose walked out to ask Lorraine about her turkey.

Jose stopped and looked in the formal dining room.

He saw how nice the formal dining room looked and it took them a few minutes to make it up.

Brenda say Jose looking in the formal dining room.

She loved that dining room.

Patrick and Lorraine continued to walk to Brenda.

Jose followed them.

Lorraine walked and said, “Good morning.”

Shirley was nervous.

Eleanor looked at Shirley then at Lorraine.

Lorraine said, “Thomas said somebody wanted to see me. Who and for what?”

Nobody said anything.

Lorraine turned to walk away.

Brenda looked at Shirley and said, “You better speak up.”

Shirley said, “Miss Lorraine.”

Lorraine turned around.

Hutch looked at Lorraine he thought, “GOD she looks like Eleanor.”

Shirley said, “Can I make up with you?”

Lorraine said, “No.”

Patrick shook under surprise.

Brenda was looking at Lorraine.

Hutch said, “Lorraine you and Eleanor?”

Patrick said, “Hutch?”

Hutch looked at Patrick.

Jose was looking at Patrick.

Shirley started crying.

Lorraine said, “I don’t care about you crying Shirley. Think about all those other handicapped students whose feelings you hurt.”

Michael, Thomas and Bruce walked behind Lorraine.

Michael said, “Heifer.”

Lorraine turned and looked around and saw the boys standing behind her.

She said, “Michael apologize. And did Eleanor whip you for gambling?”

Michael held his head down and looked under eyed at Lorraine.

Hutch turned and stared at Lorraine and then Eleanor.

Patrick saw, “Hutch are you on the way to see Percy?”

Brenda stared at Patrick.

Jose walked up and said, “They need your turkey.”

Lorraine looked at Jose and said, “Why are you in this conversation? Just for that no you can not have my turkey. Where is it Jose?”

Jose said, “Go and get it yourself.”

Eleanor said, “You two stop.”

Lorraine said, “I don’t work for you anymore.”

Jose said, “Since you are back. I can leave.”

Eleanor said, “You made a commitment to my daddy.”

Jose said, “How do you know about that.”

Eleanor said, “Joseph told me.”

Lorraine and Jose looked at Eleanor.

Hutch looked at them then Eleanor.

Jose and Lorraine hollered.

They laughed at Eleanor so hard they had to hold each other up.

Brenda was watching Hutch looking at Lorraine.

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “Don’t start.”

Eleanor started arguing with Lorraine and Jose.

Lorraine said, “What are talking about Eleanor. You’ve been too much talking to Joseph. Where is money last pay from Shirley.”

Eleanor said, “I’ll get your money.”

Lorraine said, “Do you need Joseph to count it up for you?”

Jose and Lorraine hollered.

Jose was bent over and had his hands on his thighs.

Brenda said, “I got to go. You three fools get it together.”

Hutch was looking.

Brenda said, “All of you act like siblings.”

She turned and looked at Patrick.

Jose could hardly talk he said, “Trust fund.”

Lorraine love money and stopped laughing and looked at Jose and then slowly at Brenda.

Eleanor was still fussing with Jose.

Jose said, “Michael! Get the wagon to light the lanterns and haul that coal in the house.”

Hutch looked at Michael.

Michael started jumping in place.

Eleanor said, “Leave him out of this.”

Shirley was standing with her mouth opened and tears drying up.

Lorraine turned and looked at Brenda and said, “Momma my trust fund.”

Hutch hollered.

Lorraine ran to Brenda and was hugging her.

Jose said, “Momma.”

He ran to Brenda and hugged her.

Brenda said, “Get off of me.”

Eleanor stood and said, “Nobody get any money but me. Move from my momma.”

Bruce, Thomas and Michael stood and watched the three of them act up.

Michael walked to the stairs and he and Thomas sat of the stairs and watched the adults act up.

Brenda pushed them off her.

Lorraine said, “Momma. Don’t push me away.”

Jose started laughing and said, “They did all of them.”

Lorraine stood and looked at Jose.

Brenda said, “I only gave birth to one of you.”

Lorraine said, “Momma it’s about time you acknowledge me.”

Jose fell to the floor.

The boys watched them.

Patrick shook his head

He reached for Hutch.

Brenda was fixing her clothes on her.

Briana was watching from the family dining room.

She smiled.

Gen and Ben got up to leave.

Lorraine looked back and said, “Does Gen have on her nightgown?”

Brenda peeped and said, “Yes.”

Patrick said, “That’s just a mess.”

Shirley yelled, “Lorraine I apologize.”

Lorraine was still watching Gen and Ben leave.

Lorraine and Eleanor said, “Girl shut up.”

Brenda looked at Patrick and stomped out the house.

Shirley ran behind Brenda.

Hutch stood and watched Shirley run.

He said, “Shirley is running.”

Lorraine said, “Better. With her nasty ass.”

Michael said, “Nasty heifer.”

Eleanor ran to Michael.

Michael and Thomas jumped off the stairs.

She grabbed Michael.

Hutch and Patrick jumped.

Eleanor kissed Michael all over his head.

She grabbed Thomas and kissed him.

Thomas and Michael loved it.

They were laughing and hugging Eleanor.

Thomas walked through the hall.

Lorraine said, “You can have my turkey. That is too much meat for me. What I can give it to Stanley and Alice.”

Patrick said, “They are coming to dinner.”

Lorraine said, “You can invite them to dinner and not me?”

Eleanor said, “That is what Shirley wanted to do to have a chance to make up with you.”

Lorraine said, “I can only take so much of Shirley.”

Patrick said, “You are not coming to dinner?”

Lorraine said, “No. I need Harriet turkey. Give me a small one for her.”

Jose said, “How can you tell someone to get her a small turkey?”

Michael said, “I know Jose.”

Lorraine said, “Michael I know where the rest of your suckers are. Keep on talking. You will never get them.”

Hutch looked at Michael who was staring at Lorraine trying to see how serious she was.

Thomas said, “All the turkeys are about the same size.”

Thomas went into the kitchen to get a turkey for Harriet.

Michael looked up at Eleanor then back at Lorraine and said, “You don’t work here anymore.”

Lorraine said, “Boy I’m family.”

Jose hit the floor again.

Brenda was running through the house to get the name of the wine Gen love.

She heard Lorraine and rolled her eyes at Patrick.

Brenda said, “Eleanor what is the name of the wine Gen love?”

Eleanor was trying to think.

Lorraine said, “Momma it is…”

Brenda looked at Lorraine and said, “You know Gens liquor?”

Lorraine said, “We have the same tase. Rich taste.”

Jose could barely stand.

Thomas was coming back with a turkey for Harriet.

He handed the turkey to Lorraine.

Lorraine said, “Thank You.”

Thomas looked at Eleanor and then at Lorraine.

Brenda hitched up her eyebrow.

Patrick was sick.

He walked over to the stairs and put his elbow on the handrail.

Thomas stood and looked at Lorraine.

Thomas looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at Thomas.

Hutch looked at the two. He did not know why Jose and Eleanor were looking at Thomas.

Patrick did not care he had to resolve this issue with Brenda. He did not want to contact his brothers.

Brenda knew he did not want anything to do with his brothers.

But he had to find out who Lorraine’s parents are.

Lorraine took the turkey.

Brenda saw Thomas and thought, “Now him.”

Lorraine begin to leave and said, “Now momma I want my trust check. I can wait until Monday.”

Jose hit the floor.

Patrick shook his head.

Hutch looked at Jose.

Brenda shook her head at Lorraine.

She looked at Patrick.

Hutch saw Brenda and thought, “Could it?”

He and Patrick went upstairs to attend to Percy.

Jose and Bruce looked at Thomas.

Thomas walked back to the kitchen.

Eleanor said, “He would never survive.”

Jose fell out laughing.

Michael said, “What momma?”

Lorraine was in her carriage and went home.

She went to Harriet and dropped off the turkey and Harriet was up and making some quilts.

Lorraine went home and started on another batch of her bath products.

She sold all she had and put the money in her private place.

She went back outside and feed her horse and gave it water.

Lorraine brushed the horses and checked their hoofs.

While she was in Europe she had a stables build.

She put the horses in there until Monday when she takes Harriet to work and pick up Monica.

Lorraine looked around the back and sides of her house and loved every inch of it.

Lorraine stood on her front porch and was about to go in the house when she noticed the house in front of her was empty.

She thought, “When did they move? Was I that drunk? God, I need help. Who bought the house? I don’t see a for sale in front of it.”

Joe and Blanche were returning home and saw Lorraine standing on her porch.

Blanche stood up in the wagon and yelled, “Lorraine!”

Lorraine turned and saw her friends waving at her and yelled, “Hey!”

They all grin.

Blanche said, “Turn around Joe.”

Joe turned the wagon.

Lorraine walked out in her yard.

She pointed to the house.

Blanche and Lorraine hugged.

Joe and Lorraine hugged.

Joe said, “George got a job with the governor to train the state’s police. They moved to the capitol.”

Lorraine said, “They gave up that beautiful house.”

Joe said, “A worker from the Stiths bought it.”

Lorraine said, “Really. I wonder who?”

Joe said, “John Richards.”

Lorraine looked at Joe and shook her head for no.

Joe said, “How many people work at the house?”

Lorraine said, “At least one hundred.”

Joe and Balance stood totally stunned by the number of employees.

Lorraine was still looking at the house.

She noticed Joe and Blanche were quiet.

She looked at them and said, “Why are you quiet?”

Joe said, “Is that house that big?”

Lorraine laughed and said, “Yes I guess I have gotten use to it. Mrs. Stith runs it like a business. She has three butlers and four cooks and dish washers and laundry workers, window washers and grounds men. Every type of person to keep the house.”

Joe said, “My God.”

Lorraine laughed.

Joe pointed at Blanche and said, “She needs a job.”

Blanche said, “My job is to tell you what to do.”

Joe said, “How many rooms?”

Lorraine quickly thought about the mob and no one knew who was in the mob she said, “I have worked there all of my life. I never went into all the rooms. I have never heard any workers say the number of rooms. Everyone has a different uniform.”

Blanche said, “So if you are in the wrong place you are spotted.”

Lorraine said, “You know Blanche you maybe right. I was the nurse for the children.”

Joe said, “So you did not have time to do anything.”

Blanche said, “No wonder you were tried when you returned home every day.”

Lorraine said, “I don’t work there anymore. I quit last week.”

Joe looked in shock.

Blanche looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine said, “I can live off my bath items.”

Lorraine looked back at the house and said, “I hope he likes liquor.”

They all laughed.

Lorraine said, “Let me go and finished the batch I am working on.”

Blanche said, “What scent?”

Lorraine said, “The candles are evergreens and cinnamon.”

Balance said, “Oh. I want some. Will you have any ready tomorrow. We have guests coming for Thanksgiving dinner.”

Lorraine said, “I’ll try to cool them with this cold weather. If I am able I will bring you some around noon.”  
 Lorraine walked back to her house and went in and locked her door.

She leaned her back on the door and was thinking.

She went to her drawer and took out her gun and loaded it.

Lorraine opened her secret place and looked at her guns.

She got the shot gun and loaded it and placed it by the kitchen door.

She closed all her curtains and got her hot water in the house through the backdoor.

She filled her tub.

She walked in the house and passed all the candles she made over the pass two weeks.

Lorraine went in her bedroom and fell on her knees.

Hours later she stood and went into the kitchen.

She took some of the water out her tub and put it on the kettle and placed it on the stove.

She added some coal.

She stood at the stove and cried.

Joe and Blanche rode home from Lorraine and cut their eyes at each other.

Blanche said, “She is clever. She did not answer us.”

Joe smirked.

Joe and Blanche waved at all their neighbors and grinned and smiled.

Lorraine undressed and got in the tub and thought, “The water was not that cold and this small kettle heated this water.”

Lorraine enjoyed a long bath.

She stared straight in front of her.

The shotgun could be seen out of the corner of her eyes.

Lorraine dressed for bed and went to her armoire and pulled out her old clothes and thought, “I can take these to the rest stop this week.”

She went to her bed and kneeled and puled out the clothes she bought on Europe.

She placed some of her scented paper in her armoire and put her new European clothes. She wore an outfit to Meredith’s wedding and one to Stephanie’s wedding.

She held the outfit in her hands and cried and said, “GOD even Stephanie. I am lonely.”

She said, “I know GOD I should have gone to Thanksgiving dinner, but Shirley makes me sick.”

Lorraine heard a knock on her door.

She leaned back and yelled, “Who is it?”

Stanley yelled, “Stanley.”

Lorraine sashayed to the door and said, “Stanley who? I don’t know a Stanley.”

She unlocked the door and looked at Stanley.

Alice was in the carriage.

Lorraine waved to Alice.

Stanley said, “I have a message from your momma.”

Lorraine started laughing.

Stanley said, “She told me to tell you exactly what she said, ‘You better bring you’re a--- to dinner and pack a bag to spend the night. Because she does not want you to come home in the dark.”

Stanley and looked.

Lorraine said, “Stanley. Don’t do that. You are scaring me.”

Stanley stood and looked around.

He said, “Lorraine how come you don’t have a light on your front porch?”

Lorraine said, “I was rushing in the house.”

Stanley said, “Why were you rushing in the house?”

Lorraine said, “I had a feeling.”

Stanley said, “Get me a light and pack your bag to spend the night at the house. I am not coming back tomorrow to check on you.”

Lorraine ran in the kitchen and got a light.

Stanley took the light from Lorraine and lit the torch.

He said, “Tomorrow Lorraine lock up your guns and leave a little lit coal in your fireplace and put a lit candle in that kettle I see, that can burn most of the day. I’ll come by after we leave dinner and light this torch on the front porch and I saw one on the back.”

Lorraine said, “Joe and Blanche stopped by and told me that a Stith worker bought George’s house.”

Stanley looked up from the torch and said, “Nice torch. Who bought the house?”

Lorraine said, “Eleanor changed all the torches out for lanterns and they have the torches in back to throw away. Everybody was getting them. John Richards.”

Stanley thought and said, “Good. He is a former soldier that helped defend the house the last time.”

Lorraine said, “So he got some of that money.”

Stanley did not respond but said, “Why are you crying?”

Lorraine said, “Lonely.”

Stanley said, “I’ll see you tomorrow.”

Lorraine locked her door.

She was holding onto every penny and bought only three dresses.

She hung the dress up she wore to Stephanie’s wedding she took out the last dress she bought and held it up and walked to her mirror and smiled.

She packed a bag and made a gift basket with candles.

She put the gift basket and her overnight bag by the door.

Lorraine learned over the years to have a second set of essentials.

She laid in her bed and held onto her pillow and cried sorrowfully and went to sleep.

She was sleep and thought she heard something she.

Lorraine was sleep but reached for her gun and put her on the trigger.

She did not hear it again in her sleep.

She continued to sleep and woke Thanksgiving Day and heated her water.

While her water was heating she went outside and hitched her two horses to her carriage.

She smiled at her expensive carriage, she bought once she returned from Europe, because she saved every penny.

She thought and looked in her stable and said, “Harriet and Monica can have that buggy. They have to buy them a horse.

Lorraine feed the horses and gave them water.

She brushed the horses.

She said, “God it is cold.”

She went into the house and brought her bag and gift basket and put them in the carriage and put a quilt she had been working on for years and finally finished earlier that week.

She took the carriage to the front of the house.

Lorraine took another bath and locked her back door.

She put the shot gun up in the secret place.

But she was going to keep the gun with her.

She cleaned her house and had to unlock the back door again and pulled the tub out and dumped the bathtub water. She looked around at the houses and smiled.

She was glad she moved there.

She brought the bathtub back in the house and locked the door.

She put the bathtub behind the back door.

Lorraine took one of her large candles she made in the kettle and put it on the cold stove and lit it.

She took a few coals and put them in the main fireplace.

After checking all the windows.

She went and dressed.

She spent a long time grooming herself and finally put on her French dress and got her old wrapped and hat and scarf and gloves.

Lorraine thought, “Why I did not think about buying me a coat and gloves over there?’

She wanted to forget Joe and Blanche, but she gave them her word.

Lorraine looked at the time and went into the work area and took three candles of cinnamon and wrapped them in pretty paper and walked out her door and locked it.

Lorraine walked off the porch to go two minutes down the road to Joe and Blanche.

Lorraine said, “GOD watch over me and my property, Stanley said he will light the torches. I hope they have some left so he and Alice can get them. They last for dusk to dawn. With whatever this is we need light.”

Lorraine pulled in front of Joe and Blanche nice home and moved her quilt from her lap and stepped out the carriage and picked up their cinnamon candles.

Joe was watching Lorraine from the window.

Blanche walked and peeped and said, “What are you looking at?”

Then she saw Lorraine walking to their door.

The neighbor across from Joe and Blanche was watching their house.

Lorraine did not see him.

She knocked on their door.

Joe walked to the door and unlocked the door and opened it wide and looked across at the neighbor that was looking at them.

Lorraine wanted to turn around but tried to pretend she was not aware of anything.

Joe said, “Come in. Happy Thanksgiving,”

Blanche ran out the kitchen and said, “Hi Lorraine. Come in.”

Lorraine said, “Happy Thanksgiving. I can’t come in, but here are a few cinnamon scented candles that should last through dinner. I have to go.”

She reached the cinnamon scented candles to Blanche and rushed to her carriage.

She looked up and saw the elderly neighbor and waved and said, “Happy Thanksgiving.”

The elderly neighbor smiled and said, “Happy Thanksgiving.”

His wife was standing in the door with an apron on and waved at Lorraine.

Lorraine was getting in her carriage and said, “Oh God what is this. Destroy this evil and never let it take root anywhere else. Amen and Amen.”

Lorraine put her quilt on and looked down and saw the gun on the floor of the carriage covered by the quilt.

She turned the buggy around and rode fast to the house.

She could still see the elderly couple staring at Joe and Blanche.

And Joe and Blanche staring at the elderly couple.

Stanley watched Lorraine earlier when she was out at her stables.

He and Alice were spending time together that morning and drinking coffee.

They bathe and dressed and left their house around one thirty to get to the Stiths by two pm.

Stanley rode around the back.

Alice said, “Stanley where are you going? You don’t work here anymore. I want to go through the front door of this grand house.”

Stanley went to the area of the torches and get six and put them in the back of their carriage and rode back around to the front door.

He pulled over and John took the carriage.

Stanley shook John’s hand and said, “Did you buy the house in front of Lorraine?”

John said, “Yes.”

Stanley said, “I’m glad you got it.”

Alice smiled and said, “Welcome to the neighborhood. It is a good neighborhood.”

John said, “Thank You.”

He rode the wagon around the back and he smelled the oil and he looked in the back of Stanley’s carriage and saw the torches.

John walked to the back of the yard and looked.

He saw four torches were left.

He took the four torches and put them in the remodeled barn until he went to his new home.

He smiled.

Gary was sitting on the porch of the re-modeled supply shed.

Denise was spending the holiday at the rest stop and was having dinner with Nathan.

Thomas cooked her turkey and dressing and she took it with her when Nathan came and got her early that morning.

Gary was used to being cold because he never had coal.

But he took a pail of coal and put it in the shed because it was cold.

He kept a low fire in the fireplace.

Gary helped put the coal in the yard for everyone to get some.

He helped to light the lanterns and helped with the hot water.

Mike and John were thankful.

Gary did not want to ride the carriages to the back.

He went into the re-modeled supply shed and read his homework and completed the tasks.

Thomas had cooked the workers meal that night and they ate all during the day.

Hutch and Patrick went to Percy and woke him.

Eleanor, Bruce, Thomas and Michael stayed downstairs in the sitting room.

Eleanor checked the liquor table.

She and Jose went into the wine cellar and selected the wine for dinner and placed the wine upstairs in the formal dining room.

She walked through the suites and had Michael, Thomas and Bruce help her make the suites nice for their guests.

Michael said to Thomas, “I like holding the towels and sheets for momma than riding in a wagon lighting the lanterns and bringing in coal to the house.”

Eleanor snickered, because she meant it.

Eleanor, Bruce, Thomas and Michael clean and fix the guests washroom.

Eleanor said, “We need flowers.”

Eleanor saw Monica and knew Monica was good with flowers and said, “Monica, what are you doing? I need flowers for the house tomorrow can you help me?”

Monica looked at Jose.

Jose looked at the kitchen help and said, “You can go Monica.”

Eleanor put on her wrap and Monica put on her wrap and hat.

Eleanor looked at Monica’s hat and said, “I should get me hat, but let’s hurry.”

Eleanor said, “Bruce you, Thomas, and Michael stay in the house.”

She and Monica ran out the house and went into Brenda’s flower garden.

They quickly picked the few flowers that were not dead.

They picked up some straw and leaves and ran back in the house.

They looked up and saw Bruce, Thomas and Michael watching them.

Eleanor pulled off her wrap.

Bruce walked and said, “Momma give it to me. I’ll take it to your bedroom.”

Eleanor looked in Bruce’s eyes and said, “My Bruce.”

He smiled and helped her out of her wrap and walked upstairs.

Monica took her hat and coat to her room and she and Eleanor work for a hour and made a beautiful center piece for the formal dining room.

They made a center piece for the hallway console and they used the remaining flowers and made an arrangement for the parlor room.

She had Michael and Thomas go and get coal for the parlor room.

Michael and Thomas looked at Eleanor.

Monica saw the look of terror on their faces and said, “The coal is in a large bucket near the back door.”

Eleanor laughed at Michael and Thomas.

Thomas and Michael picked up the pail from the parlor and filled it and brought it back to the parlor.

Bruce was watching them.

Eleanor kissed their foreheads.

She hugged Bruce.

Thomas looked at Bruce.

Eleanor saw Thomas looking at Bruce.

Eleanor was satisfied with the appearance of the house.

She stood in the hallway and looked around.

She saw the front door was not locked and said, “Bruce lock the front door.”

Bruce ran and locked the front door.

She said, “Thank you.”

Thomas looked at Bruce.

Bruce looked at Thomas.

Monica saw the boys’ reaction to each other.

Briana and the other workers were leaving.

Eleanor looked around and said, “I think that is it. You can go back to whatever Jose had you working on.”

Monica said to herself, “Nothing.”

Peter and Nadine were leaving.

Jose was glad they were leaving.

Jose thought, “Dan will be here in the morning. Everything is set but the food. I can help with that.”

Jose was giving everyone their turkeys.

He smiled at Briana.

Briana smiled and her family was outside waiting for her.

They spent Thanksgiving with her grandparents.

She packed a few days ago and her parents brought her bag.

She walked out with the turkey and her family smiled.

Jose held the door for her and Maureen.”

Jose said, “Maureen how are you getting home?”

Maureen said, “Gary said he will take me.”

Jose saw Gary pulling a wagon around.

Jose said, “Maureen you are off until Monday.”

Maureen held her head and cried.

Mike and John were sitting in the workers area playing cards.

They turned and looked back at Maureen.

Jose said, “What is wrong Maureen?”

Maureen shook her head and walked out to Gary.

Gary got out the wagon and took the heavy turkey.

Gary said, “What’s wrong Maureen?”

She shook her head for nothing.

Gary looked back at Jose.

Jose closed the back door.

John said, “She got troubles. That man is going to kill her.”

Ruth was walking through and peeped out the door to see who they were talking about.

John and Mike looked at Ruth.

Ruth said, “Craig won’t hurt Maureen.”

Mike said, “You better hope not.”

He threw a card on the table.

John and he did not look at Ruth.

Jose thought, “Oh damn.”

He ran through the kitchen to the formal dining room.

Thomas thought he heard it but pretended he did not hear anything.

Ruth was shocked and slowly walked to the kitchen.

Thomas put his book up in his face and slowly lowered it to watch Ruth.

Ruth was a street person.

No one knew anything about her until she introduced Maureen to Craig.

William and Nadine had an argument about her introducing Maureen to Craig.

Nadine said, “I did not introduce Maureen to Craig. I went to town with those two one day. Ruth introduce Craig as her friend to Maureen.”

William said, “You were there.”

Nadine said, “You know Maureen is slightly stupid. She makes her own mind up. You don’t put that on me.”

Wyonna was standing and listening.

She saw Maureen walking down the hall and cleared her throat.

Nadine and William stopped fussing and went their separate ways.

Jose was standing looking over the formal dining room table setting.

Ruth walked in and said, “Jose one of those dish washers threaten me.”

Jose looked at Ruth and stared at her.

Ruth looked at Jose and was wondering what he was thinking.

Jose said, “Ruth, why would anyone threaten you? Threaten you how? You know if it is personal and not job related the house does not get involved.”

Ruth looked at Jose who was staring at her.

Ruth walked away.

Hutch and Patrick talked to Percy.

Hutch said, “Percy I want you to go back to school. You cannot go back if you are drinking and taking cough syrup.”

Patrick said, “Percy do you understand how serious this is?”

Percy did not say anything.

Hutch said, “You will not get any more cough syrup.”

Hutched examined Percy and left him with Patrick.

Patrick sat in Percy’s room and talked with him for a long time.

Percy did not say anything.

Eleanor went upstairs and got he boys’ clothes ready for Thanksgiving and hung them on the armoire.

She walked in Percy’s room and looked at him and Patrick.

She finished and walked out the room.

Eleanor went to her room and pulled her outfit out and hung it on the armoire.

Eleanor had Thomas to make a vegetable soup for dinner.

Thomas was pleased with the huge soup he made.

Theresa, Sue, Mellissa, Ruth, Glenda, Monica, Dora and Stephen were staying at the house for the whole holiday.

Jose had Stephen to help with the laundry, with the silverware and the dishes.

Shirley and Brenda arrived in town.

Brenda allowed Shirley to steer the carriage.

Brenda was still thinking about Patrick and Lorraine and how Hutch saw the resemblance.

Shirley was steering the carriage towards her dress shop.

Brenda took the rein to steer the carriage to the next street.

Shirley grinned.

Brenda cut her eyes at Shirley.

Brenda was wrapped in two blankets.

She placed the quilt for Sally in the back of the carriage and was to put it on the train that left that evening.

Shirley and Brenda saw people rushing to the train station.

Shirley grinned and said, “Money.”

Brenda said, “People travelling to visit and have a good time.”

They saw the furniture.

Brenda pointed.

Shirley nodded and said, “Grandma I see it. I want to get some of Aunt Gen’s stuff back.”

Brenda said, “You want to get what she promised you.”

Shirley stopped the carriage and said, “Grandma!”

Brenda said, “Shirley I know you.”

Several people were peeping out the windows of the shop.

Brenda said, “Shirley these people used to be our staff. You better be polite and show them the upmost respect.”

Shirley said, “I was going to do that grandma because I don’t want them to say they don’t have my stuff.”

Shirley stopped and cut her eyes at Brenda and burst out crying.

Brenda rolled her eyes at Shirley.

Brenda said, “Dry your face and get in here and be sweet and charming.”

Shirley took out her handkerchief and dried her face.

Brenda stepped out the carriage.

A man walked to the furniture shop door.

He looked out the window and saw the familiar exclusive carriage with the “Stith” embossed on it, He knew the embossed carriage was Patrick and Brenda’s. the regular carriages had the “Stith’ printed on them.

Thompson quickly opened the door to the furniture shop.

He did not see anyone, but soon Brenda walked around the front of the carriage.

Patrick all their married life tried to stop Breda from walking in the front of carriages, because his best friend was killed when the horses bucked and rolled over him.

Thompson saw Brenda.

He looked at this exclusively dressed woman that was always kind to him.

He ran to Brenda to shake her gloved hand.

He stopped with his hand in mid-air and stared at the person climbing out the carriage.

Brenda smiled.

Sheryl and Linda ran out the shop looking at Brenda but stopped in the door and looked at the young woman climbing out the carriage.

Brenda peeped around Thompson at the two women.

Brenda was trying hard to remember their names and said, “GOD help.”

Everyone was frozen and watched the young woman.

Brenda felt tears flowing down her cheeks because they people are witnessing a miracle of GOD.

Shirley stepped out the carriage and fixed her clothes and looked.

She saw Brenda with tears flowing.

She saw several people staring at her.

Shirley looked at the man that was near the carriage and stared at him.

She remembered the blue eyes.

He would pick out the blue marbles and play them with her when no one was looking.

Shirley began to cry and walked to the man with her arms stretched out and hugged him.

Both of them wailed.

People bustling about the town for the holiday saw them and stood to watch this very well dressed young woman.

Shirley looked him in his eyes and turned to Brenda and said, “Grandma I remember him because of his blue eyes. He would pick out the blue marbles and sneak in my room and play marbles with me when no one was watching.

Brenda was crying.

He held Shirley back and stared at her.

Thompson could not talk.

Briana was running to their carriage from getting her sister from the train.

She saw the Stith carriage and pointed to it with her sister.

Then she saw Brenda and Shirley.

She took her sister by the hand and walked to Brenda and looked at the scene of Shirley and the man.

Brenda looked and said, “Hi Briana.”

Brenda looked at the young woman with Briana and saw they looked alike.

Briana saw her father get out of their wagon and said, “This is my sister Leslie she studies music and ballet in New York and we hope she can go to France.”

Brenda looked the pretty girl up and own and saw she statute and presence.

She said, “Briana wonderful. Love meeting you Leslie.”

Briana saw her father waving they ran to their father.

Brenda turned and watched them run to their father for the happy reunion.

Brenda said, “Shopping. Huh.”

Thompson wanted to say something but could not.

He looked at Brenda.

Brenda smiled.

She saw people were gathering and she did not want Shirley to be a spectacle.

Brenda touched Shirley’s back and gently pushed her towards the shop.

Thompson could barely walk.

Brenda smiled and walked into the furniture shop.

Sheryl and Linda moved back into the furniture shop and stared at Shirley.

Thompson walked in behind them and Brenda heard him say, “Shirley.”

Linda ran behind them and said, “Shirley?”

Shirley was scanning the shop for her furniture and dishes.

She turned and looked at the woman.

She stared at the woman.

The woman went into her pocket.

Brenda was about to panic because she thought the woman was pulling out a gun.

The woman pulled out a caramel.

Shirley grabbed the caramel and unwrapped it and ate it and walked through the furniture shop.

Brenda said, “Shirley!!!!”

Linda was crying and said, “Mrs. Stith it is ok. She always did that for years.”

Brenda hugged Linda who was overcome and boohooed.

Linda went into the storage area and sat to become composed.

Sheryl shook her head and said, “How?”

Brenda said, “Only GOD.”

Sheryl started crying and Thompson came and put his arm around her shoulder.

They watched Shirley as she yelled, “Grandma!!!”

Brenda looked back at Thompson and said, “You bought some furniture from Genevia Olsen’s house do you still have it?”

He looked at Sheryl.

Brenda ran to an excited Shirley.

Brenda saw her dishes she and Patrick gave to Gen and John.

Thompson ran to Brenda.

Brenda said, “These. Do you have all the pieces?”

Thompson was looking.

Sheryl ran back and nodded her head for yes.

Brenda said, “Sheryl can you wrap these as a gift for me?”

Sheryl touched her heart and said, “You remembered my name?”

Brenda said, “Yes. You would always sneak to the liquor table with a cigar and pour a shot of scotch before work and after work.”

Thompson mouth dropped open.

Sheryl said, “You did not have to remember that Mrs. Stith.”

Brenda laughed.

Shirley screamed.

Brenda turned and ran to her.

Thompson ran behind Brenda.

Shirley was pointing at a beautiful table.

Brenda said, “That’s not it.”

Shirley started crying and ran to Brenda.

Brenda said, “Thompson is there anything else?”

Thompson ran through the shop and found the china cabinet and server.

Sheryl was wrapping the china up for Brenda.

Thompson was running through the shop and he got their book and said, “I can’t tell whether we bought any thing else. What would it have been?”

Brenda said, “Two bedroom suites.”

Sheryl stopped and stared at Shirley walking through the shop.

She shook her head.

Brenda saw the small gold cross around Sheryl’s neck.

Thompson said, “Do you remember how it the bedroom suites look?”

Shirley had not found anything else and walked back to Brenda.

Brenda said, “I did not buy them. They were a gift and I will send the one here to see if they can recognize the bedroom suites.”

Thompson smiled and said, “Who Mr. Stith?”

Sheryl was smiling and wrapping the dishes.

Brenda said, “Eleanor.”

Sheryl nearly dropped the dish.

Linda slammed the storage room door shut.

Thompson nearly dropped his book and he had to juggle to keep from dropping it.

Shirley was first shocked at the people’s behavior and then she put her head in her Brenda’s arm and wrapped her arms around Brenda’s arm and laughed.

Brenda looked at the time and said, “Sheryl I have another errand. Can you and Thompson put it in my carriage outside?”

Sheryl said, “Which one is yours?”

Brenda looked at Sheryl.

Sheryl laughed and said, “Sure.”

Brenda said, “How much is all of it.”

Sheryl looked around and said, “It will take us a week to count up the entire store.”

Brenda looked at Sheryl and said, “The dishes, the table, chest and server. Thompson what about the chairs?”

Thompson smirked and then frowned and said, “I don’t know. That was a lot of chairs for me not to remember. Let me do some checking.”

Shirley was walking to the storage room.

Thompson watched Shirley.

Shirley opened the door and reached her hand out.

Linda gave her another caramel.

Shirley closed the door.

She did not say than you but unwrapped the caramel and ate it.

Thompson looked at Shirley.

Shirley walked back eating the caramel.

Brenda stared at her.

Shirley looked at Brenda chewing the caramel and said, “What?”

Brenda said, “You go back and say thank you and stop being rude.”

Shirley stomped away to go back to the storage area.

Thompson said, “And she is spoiled.”

Brenda said, “Yes.”

Sheryl said, “Mrs. Stith.”

She turned the bill of sale around and showed the amount.

Brenda thought, “We have to re-Thompson and Sheryl looked at Brenda.

Thompson said, “Is it too much?”

Shirley was stomping back from the storage area.

She looked at the bill of sale and pulled out the cash and paid it.

Shirley said, “Jose will figure out about the furniture.”

Sheryl nearly cried and said, “Jose?”

She held her head down and cried as she wrapped the dishes.

Brenda grabbed Shirley’s hand and they rushed out the shop.

Thompson nodded his head at Brenda.

Shirley was looking back at Sheryl.

Brenda went to the carriage and got the box for Sally.

Shirley said, “What is that as she looked in the shop as they walked pass.

Brenda said, “A pretty yellow quilt for Sally.”

Shirley said, “I thought momma sent that last week.”

Brenda said, “Your momma has been sick since last week. You did not step up to do any tasks.”

Shirley said, “I was banned to my room.”

She cut her eyes at Brenda.

Brenda looked at Shirley.

They made it to the train.

Barry was there as the manager.

Brenda gave him the bag for Sally.

She said, “Brian will take this to the bone hospital when it got there Saturday.”

She and Shirley turned and walked back to the furniture shop.

They saw Thompson and Linda wheeling the dishes out to the carriage.

Brenda and Shirley stood and watched.

Brenda shook Thompson’s hand and Linda’s hand.

Shirley hugged them and Linda sneaked Shirley another caramel candy.

Brenda looked at Shirley.

Shirley turned and looked at Linda and said, “Thank you.”

Linda smiled.

Shirley got in the carriage and pulled off.

They stopped at the dress shop.

Wendy had just returned from the train station and was in the back unwrapping the dresses that came in from Margaret.

She and Selma were excited about receiving the dresses before Thanksgiving.

Shirley was excited.

She said, “Selma where are the skirts that Sarah brought here?”

Selma said, “Sold.”

Brenda said, “Sold!”

Selma said, “Sorry. Sarah brought six skirts. Alice and Mrs. Olsen got one each and the mayor’s wife bought the other four.”

Brenda said, “How can you sell something without a price?”

Selma said, “But we waited until yesterday but no one came to the shop or sent any messages. The mayor and his wife left Tuesday to visit their children in New York.”

Brenda said, “I need to see the skirts, where is Mrs. Olsen’s skirt.”

Selma went in the back where the excited Wendy was unwrapping the dresses.

Shirley wanted to go.

Brenda said, “You better not move.”

Stanley and Alice walked in the dress shop.

Brenda and Shirley turned and saw them and spoke.

Selma was coming back with Gen’s skirt.

Alice said, “Hey Selma. I ‘m here to get my skirt too.”

Stanley looked at a flustered Brenda.

Selma handed the skirt to Brenda and went into the back and brought Alice’s skirt.

Brenda and Shirley were examining the skirt.

Shirley said, “Pretty.”

Brenda was looking at the stitching and design and examining the quality of the fabric.

Brenda said, “How much did you sell the four skirts for to the mayor’s wife?”

Selma said, “Five dollars each.”

Stanley was listening.

He saw Brenda was not pleased.

Shirley said, “I guess that is about right.”

Selma said, “Mrs. Olsen suggested that price.”

Alice said, “She did.”

Brenda was thinking.

Alice eased her five dollars to Selma.

Selma rolled her eyes.

Shirley was easing to the back room.

Wendy opened the door and begin to bring the dresses out.

Shirley stopped.

Wendy begin to hang the dresses.

Shirley and Alice were looking at the dresses.

Brenda said, “I would have sold the skirts for four dollars. Shirley come and pay for Mrs. Olsen’s skirt.”

Shirley was going in her purse and said, “Four dollars.”

Brenda said, “Five dollars. That is the price that was said.”

Shirley heard Alice said, “Oh”, she tried to hurry and pay for the skirt.

Alice walked over to Selma and said, “I get a dollar back?”

Brenda and Selma looked at Alice.

Stanley was nervous and looked at Alice.

Alice said, “Just joking.”

Wendy brough out some more dresses.

She went back and brought out the last bunch of dresses.

Selma said, “Mrs. Stith we need to put a price on theses dresses.”

Brenda said, “I don’t know how much those dresses should cost. I don’t buy retail.”

Selma looked at a huff Brenda.

Brenda said, “Are these dresses similar to the previous ones?”

Shirley and Selma said, “Yes.”

Brenda said, “Was a profit made after all the expenses were taken?”

Shirley looked at Selma.

Selma grinned and said, “Yes ma am.”

Brenda said, “Until Eleanor says different then sell these for the same price.”

Wendy held up a dress and said, “Not this one ma am.”

Shirley said, “I want that one.”

Brenda said, “No Shirley.”

Shirley puffed out her mouth.

Stanley turned his head.

Alice said, “I want it.”

Stanley quickly turned his head and looked at Alice.

Wendy said, “I wanted it and you are pregnant.”

Alice looked at Wendy and said, “Where are you going to wear it?”

Wendy said, “To church if no where else.”

Alice said, “You can’t wear that dress to church. It is too fancy.”

Wendy said, “Not on this side of town.”

Wendy took the dress in the back.

When she returned she said, “How much for that dress?”

Brenda said, “Shirley?”

Shirley said, “I don’t know. It’s nicer than the rest.”

Several women walked in the shop.

Selma looked at Brenda.

Brenda said, “Put the price tags on the dresses. Give us Mrs. Olsen’s skirt.”

Shirley said, “Grandma, Thanksgiving dinner.”

Brenda said, “Yes, Mrs. Olsen’s Thanksgiving is cancelled it will be at our house tomorrow at two pm.”

Brenda said, “I don’t know who all she invited, but I remember Alice and Stanley, Selma you and your husband.”

Selma stopped putting the price tags on the dresses and looked at Brenda.

Brenda looked at Selma. She was ready to tell Selma off.

Stanley looked at Selma.

Brenda said, “Yes Selma.”

Selma’s voice cracked and she swallowed and said, “You are inviting me and my husband to your home for Thanksgiving Dinner?’

Brenda said, “Yes. Are you coming?”

Selma was so shocked.

Stanley stepped around Brenda to see Selma.

He knew Brenda thought she was acting like that because she was black.

Selma’s mouth was quivering.

Brenda looked at her.

Shirley looked at Selma.

Shirley said, “Grandma make Lorraine come.”

Brenda said, “Look Shirley I cannot make Lorraine come so you can make up with her.”

Shirley started crying.

The women in the shop were trying to listen.

Stanley smiled and nodded at the women.

He knew when Brenda gets angry she does not care who listens.

Alice was listening and knew she did not have a proper dress to wear was looking at a dress when one of the women put her hand on the hanger.

Alice jerked the dress and smiled at the woman and took the dress to Selman.

Stanley saw when the woman told the other women that Alice took the dress from her.

He was thinking, “This is a mess. Over a dress.”

Alice stood at the counter with her back to the women.

She looked back at Stanley.

One of the women said to Selma, “Ma am where are those skirts?”

Selma smiled and said, “They are sold out.”

The woman said, “Will you be getting any more in?”

Sarah and Peggy were walking to the door with an armful of skirts.

Selma said, “Stanley can you get the door?”

Selma said, “Give us a few minutes.”

Brenda turned and saw Peggy at the same time Peggy saw Brenda.

They laughed.

Stanley opened the door.

Selma looked at the three women waiting for the skirts.

Peggy and Sarah put the skirts on the counter.

Wendy begin to sort out the six skirts.

Peggy and Brenda hugged.

Stanley smiled because the tension broke.

He thought, “Is this part of being a minister. I was only thinking about preaching a sermon?”

Stanley said, “Ms. Stiths, Mrs. Olsen wanted to invite this young lady and her family.”

Peggy and Brenda were holding each other and were cheek to cheek.

Brenda peeped around at Sarah.

Shirley was upset about the dress.

She, Sarah and Wendy were going through the skirts.

Shirley said, “Sarah why these skirts have a pen on them?”

Sarah said, “The lady that was here asked for these colors.”

Brenda said, “Peggy, Joe and Sarah are invited to our house for dinner tomorrow at two pm. Gen was going to have it at her house. But we are having dinner at our house and inviting all of her guess.”

Shirley turned around and said, “You are inviting everybody but Lorraine.”

Stanley looked at Shirley and quickly walked to the window and looked out and begin to whistle.

Alice looked for Stanley as she was watching the skirts.

She thought, “What is wrong with me?”

Brenda and Peggy looked at Shirley.

Sarah looked at Shirley.

Brenda thought, “This is not a good way to start the holidays.”

She said, “Lorraine already said no. If you want to invite Lorraine again, You can. I am not going to find her and ask her again. Do I make myself clear Shirley?”

Shirley said, “Yes ma am.”

Several women walked into the shop.

Peggy said, “Brenda, me and Sarah don’t have the type of dress to wear to dinner tomorrow. And you are not buying us any. I mean it Brenda. Do I make myself clear?”

Brenda could not say anything.

Stanley turned and looked at Brenda.

Brenda said, “You can wear whatever you want.”

Peggy said, “No. You and Patrick always accommodate us. No more.”

Shirley said, “Clear grandma?”

Brenda looked at Shirley.

Stanley looked at the floor and thought he saw Shirley on the floor.

He shook his head and thought, “If it was Eleanor she would be on the floor.”

He quickly walked to Alice at the counter to pay for her dress so they could leave.

Sarah said, “I want to go. That will get my mind off Jake.”

One of the women said, “You’re the young lady who made these skirts?’

Sarah turned and smiled and said, “Yes ma am.”

The woman said, “These are lovely.”

Sarah said, “Thank you.”

Shirley said, “We sold the skirts for five dollars each.”

Sarah was surprised.

She saw the dresses and aid, “Shirley when did these dresses come in?”

Wendy was helping the six women with the skirts and said, “A few hours ago. We just hung them and put them out a few minutes ago”

One of the women said, “So the town does not know there is a new shipment?”

One of the women said, “Lovely.”

Sarah turned and started looking at the dresses.

She made a face.

Shirley walked over and whispered, “Get you and your aunt a dress for tomorrow.”

Sarah said, “I don’t have this type of money.”

Stanley heard them whispering.

He said, “Selma I am paying for their dresses. Add it up.”

Alice leaned back and saw Sarah and smiled.

Stanley said, “Tell her Alice.”

Alice walked over and said, “Sarah, Stanley has paid for you and your aunt’s dress. Pick out one for you and her.”

Shirley grinned.

Sarah turned and looked at Stanley.

Stanley winked his eye.

Shirley laughed.

Brenda and Peggy looked over at Sarah, Alice and Shirley.

Sarah started shopping.

Brenda said, “Come Shirley we need to get back home. I need some flowers.”

Peggy said, “You better hurry.”

Brenda said, “We are looking for you three tomorrow.”

Brenda was walking out the door and said, “Get Gen’s skirts and pay for those other two.”

Shirley ran to the counter and got the two skirts and pulled out the ten dollars and paid Selma.

She was running out the door to get in the carriage.

She stopped and said, “Stanley do you and Alice live near Lorraine? I thought she said something like that.”

Brenda walked back in the shop to holler at Shirley.

Stanley was walking out with Alice and said, “She lives behind us.”

Shirley said, “Can you tell her to please come to dinner tomorrow,”

Brenda said, “She is a single woman and I don’t want her going home in the dark. If she says ok Stanley tell her I said pack a bag to stay overnight.”

Alice said, “Us too.”

Brenda looked at Alice.

Stanley elbowed Alice.

Alice laughed and said, “Just kidding.”

Brenda and Alice went to the buggy and hurried to the flower shop.

Shirley looked back at Stanley.

Brenda went into the flower shop and bought the last of the flowers.

She and Shirley hurried home.

Stanley said, “Alice now I have to go and buy me a suit for tomorrow.”

Alice grinned and said, “Let’s go.”

They rode their carriage to the store.

Stanley bought him a suit, shirt and tie.

Alice sat in the carriage while he paid for it.

Stanley was please and said, “It won’t be nothing like Patrick nor the boys.”

Alice jerked to Stanley.

Stanley looked at her.

Stanley stared at Alice.

He said, “Alice I don’t know what you are thinking but I am not asking those people for their children clothes.”

Alice sat back in her seat and said, “Well fine I will.”

Stanley stared at her and said, “I mean it. And how dare you invite yourself to spend the night with those people?”

Alice said, “I want to say that I stayed the night in a fabulous mansion.”

Stanley said, “Something happened the reason why Mrs. Olsen had to change dinner today. I know how that house operates. If they are not having functions they are on a skeleton staff. She probably don’t have enough workers to accommodate us. She is very thoughtful. She does not let people with children work if their children are sick or out of school or if it is bad weather. So she did not invite us to overnight therefore it was not practical.”

Alice said, “Huh.”

Stanley looked at her and raise his eyebrows.

Alice said, “Can we eat dinner at one of these restaurants?”

Stanley said, “No.”

Alice said, “Alright you have to make a fire in the stove.”

Stanley steered pass the sheriff’s office and kept going.

Nathan was standing in the window looking out when they passed.

Alice said, “You know this way home?”

Stanley said, “As Wendy said there is another side of town. The side by the military headquarters.”

Alice said, “Hallelujah.”

Stanley grinned.

They kept going and passed through Woodrow and was a few minutes form the main street.

They found Robert’s restaurant.

Robert and Bethany hired two people to help them.

They were still opened.

Stanley and Alice had dinner and a great time with Robert and Bethany.

Alice got up to walk with Bethany.

Stanley looked around the restaurant and back at Robert and said, “You were there that night?’

Robert said, “Yeap.”

Stanley said, “You got paid?”

Robert held out his hands.

He said, “I am still shaking.

Stanley said, “the military don’t care about the money. Can you imagine the amount of money the government got. Money we don’t know about. Be comforted they are not looking for us. GOD had us there. HE paid us for being helpers for HIS work. I am enjoying myself.”

Alice said, “We’ll give them a few more minutes so they can finish talking.”

Stanley said, “I’m going to college.”

Robert said, “Great.”

Stanley said, “To be a minister. But I am seeing it is more than preaching a sermon.”

He stood to let Alice sit.

Alice said, “I am going to college to be a teacher, but I am thinking about going to be a nurse. The Stiths children are building a hospital here.”

Bethany said, “We need one. When Robert Jr got sick we had to go to the capitol and spend all that money to find a place to stay.”

Stanley jerked and sat straight.

Robert looked at Stanley said, “I am feeling that. Let’s talk about that.”

Bethany said, “What? A hotel?’

Robert said, “We’ll talk later.”

The workers were cleaning up.

Robert said, “We are closed tomorrow.”

Alice as excited and leaned over the table grinning and said, “We are going to the Stiths for Thanksgiving dinner.”

Bethany said, “I don’t miss that.”

Robert looked at Bethany.

Bethany said, “Well.”

Robert said, “It was busy. But it was fun. You had to work on precision.”

Bethany grinned and said, “Christmas was fun. We would be so drunk. Patrick and Brenda would not say anything. That damn Bruce would try to run the house over Patrick and Brenda. When they found out what he was doing.”

Robert said, “I saw sides I never want to see again.”

Stanley said, “Who Patrick.”

Robert said, “Brenda. I will never cross her.”

Stanley was shocked.

Alice said, “That’s Eleanor’s husband?”

Stanley said, “Divorced.”

Bethany was holding Robert Jr. and said, That Christmas everybody was happy. They gave us our bonuses early and they always give us a meat.”

Robert was nodding his head in agreement.

Bethany said, “That damn Bruce tried to pull one over on Patrick and Brenda. Brenda runs that house as a business. She might not seem like she is paying anything any attention, but she is counting every penny. She is a shrewd business woman ”

Alice said, “I saw that today.”

Stanley looked at Alice.

Bethany said, “Bruce was trying to bring his entire family down on their train in first class. He was trying to make Eleanor give him the key to the owner’s suite for his mother to have a party.”

Robert said, “Did you know that Patrick and Brenda pay for their own tickets and anybody that is with them?”

Stanley said, “What?”

Bethany said, “There are thirty bedrooms upstairs and the six suites downstairs.”

Alice said, “Whoa.”

Bethany said, “The house is nice. But it is their home. Bruce told me and Nadine to prepare the rooms upstairs and the six suites downstairs and go and get all of this liquor. While Brenda and Patrick were in the capitol at a party with the governor, Bruce made his move. I sent a telegram to Gail to give to Patrick and Brenda. They were back the next day. Before they got back they sent a message to the train not to allow them to board.”

Alice said, “Where was Eleanor?”

Robert said, “Bruce had beaten down emotionally every since they were children. Because she is black he and his family would always abuse her about her color. Patrick and Brenda found out and went and got Eleanor from over there and brought her home. Then Bruce followed Eleanor home.”

Alice said, “I think of Eleanor as this bad rough person.”

Robert and Bethany said, “Her children.”

Robert said, “And her momma and daddy.”

Bethany said, “Patrick threw Bruce out the house.”

Alice said, “He told him to leave.”

Bethany and Robert looked at Alice.

Robert said, “No. Patrick told him he was a thief and he nothing to do with their businesses and money. He picked him up and I opened the front door and Patrick threw Bruce out of his house. Bruce was lying out on the ground and started cursing Patrick. I heard boom and saw dirt popping up. It was Brenda. She got that famous shotgun. Bruce realized it landed near his head, he could not get up fast enough to run. Brenda ran out the front door and shot again boom. It as GOD that kept her from hitting him. She shot three times before me and Patrick realized she was shooting. She ran pass us. Patrick grabbed the shotgun. I grabbed her by the waist.”

Alice mouth was opened.

Robert said, “Brenda is quick and a direct hit.”

Bethany said, “Brenda was one of those people who freed the slaves.”

Robert said, “That shotgun is legendary. Treat her, Gen and Mag with respect.”

Alice said, “We will.”

Stanley said, “we have to be going. We will be coming on this side of town more often. So this is the up and coming side. We are in the old town,”

Alice said, “I love it. I like this too.”

Bethany said, “Keep us up on your news. Maybe we can have a baby shower?”

Stanley and Alice went home.

Stanley turned and went around the corner to Lorraine.

Alice said, “I was so full I was falling asleep. I forgot about Lorraine.”

Stanley said, “It’s too dark around here.”

Alice said, “It’s not well lit like the new town.”

Stanley knocked on Lorraine’s door and delivered the message from Brenda.

Shirley and Brenda arrived at the house.

Jose opened the door and walked outside.

Brenda said, “Jose I see Gen and Ben carriage. Did they bring their clothes?”

Jose said, “Yes I put them across from Hutch.”

Shirley was grinning her beautiful smile.

Jose looked at Shirley.

Brenda said, “You can tell him.”

Shirley said, “We found Aunt Gen’s dishes.”

Jose said, “And.”

Brenda hit him in his stomach and said, “Get help and bring them in the house and put them in the parlor.”

The dishwashers were looking out the window and saw Brenda and laughed.

Thomas watched for Brenda and said, “Mrs. Stith the number for Thanksgiving dinner?”

Brenda said, “I counted twenty one. Leave everything at thirty. Do you have enough food for seconds?”

Thomas said, “Yes ma am.”

Brenda said, “I smell sweets. What did Peter make?’

She walked in the kitchen.

Mike hid his books.

Thomas said, “Peter made four apple pies. He used the peaches you brought and made three peach pies, three pecan pies, two pumpkin pies, a rhubarb pie and one cherry pie and he made a lot of whipped cream to go with the pies.”

Shirley grinned.

She said, “Everything is coming alone, and if Lorraine comes Thanksgiving day will be grand.”

Thomas looked at Shirley.

Brenda thought, “No Thomas.”

Jose walked back in the kitchen and told Stephen to come and help him.

Brenda said, “Monica, I bought the last of the flowers from the shop. You and Ruth go and get them from the carriage.”

John said, “Polite but I am the boss.”

Mike looked at Brenda.

Shirley said, “Grandma if Lorraine comes it will be twenty two.”

Brenda said, “Put another place setting at the table. “

Shirley grinned and said, “Seat Lorraine next to me.”

Brenda looked at Shirley and said, “No. She will strangle you if you say the wrong thing. I am going to enjoy my company and food. Seat her next to Hutch.”

Thomas said, “Yes ma am.”

Brenda heard the dish washers snickering.

Brenda walked through the kitchen to the formal dining room.

She jumped when she saw the centerpiece and how beautiful it blended the fall theme with Thanksgiving.

Shirley was grinning.

Monica and Ruth walked in with the flowers from the carriage.

Brenda turned and said, “Monica did you do this?”

Monica said, “Me and Eleanor.”

Breda and Shirley said, “Eleanor!”, at the same time.

Monica said, “We got the last living flowers from your garden.”

Brenda said, “That is fine. This beautiful. What are those candles for?”

Monica said, “Jose wanted to add the candles to the centerpieces through out the house.”

Brenda said, “Throughout the house?’ You had enough flowers for that?”

Monica said, “Yes ma am.”

Brenda said, “Let’s see.”

Brenda, Shirley, Monica and Ruth walked to the hall and saw the same but different centerpiece on the main table.

Brenda grinned.

Shirley was touching it.

They went to the parlor and saw the arrangement on the table.

Brenda grinned.

Jose and Stephen were wheeling the dishes to the parlor.

Brenda said, “Jose I love your idea of adding candles to the floral centerpieces. Go ahead and add the candles.”

Jose and Stephen put the dishes on the floor by the fireplace.

Brenda said, “Monica make a floral arrange for the guests’ rooms and if any is left a vase of flowers on my desk.”

Monica said, “Yes ma am.”

Monica and Ruth put the flowers in the family dining room and pulled off their coats and looked at the time they had an hour before dinner.

They work quietly but fast.

Monica made the arrangements and sent them by Ruth to the guests’ rooms.

Ben and Gen were sitting in the hall talking.

Hutch was in the library.

Patrick was in his office going through the mail and telegrams.

Eleanor was in her office.

The boys were upstairs in their rooms. Hutch told them not to be in Percy’s room but in the hallway.

Gen looked and saw Brenda walking in the hall.

Gen and Ben waved at her.

Brenda stopped at Patrick first.

She sat in his office and told him Shirley bought the dishes and the dining room suite. She said Thompson had to find out where the chairs are.

Patrick said, “You want to give Gen the dishes tonight or tomorrow?”

Brenda said, “Tonight. I don’t want her to be grieved another day. Thompson does not remember the bedrooms suites. I told him Eleanor would come and identify the bedroom suites. Terror stroke all three of them…”

Patrick hollered and leaned back in his chair and clapped his hands.

Brenda said, “… Linda slammed the storage door. Sheryl nearly dropped a dish and Thompson did a juggling act to keep from dropping his inventory book.”

Patrick was heartily laughing.

Brenda said, “Patrick all of that junk Eleanor was shipping back here from Europe we gave to them and they started a business and it looks good. Do you think that was the way GOD was paying them back for being here and helping us?”

Patrick thought and said, “Brenda I don’t know. Maybe so. I sure did not want that stuff in the house.”

Brenda grinned.

She saw Ruth passing with two floral arrangements.

Brenda walked to Patrick and leaned down and kissed him.

She said, “I love you but I won’t rest until I find out about Lorraine.”

Patrick raised an envelope.

Brenda looked at the envelope.

Patrick said, “Rest.”

Brenda sat in his lap.

He said, “I would not open this until you were here. I did not know where to start. I started at the college Lorraine went to here to get her nursing degree. I said I need to verify her information and asked for a copy of her application. And can you believe they must have sent it.”

Brenda said, “Very sneaky. Open it please.”

Patrick was opening the envelope and kissed Brenda again.

He opened the envelope.

He and Brenda read the application information.

Patrick exhaled.

Brenda teared up.

Patrick took the information and returned it in the envelope.

He put the envelope in his drawer.

Brenda said, “Now where. Gen is good at tracking information. So was George.”

Patrick said, “Gail can help more. I want that orphanage record to see what it states when she arrived there and who brought here there and why.”

Brenda said, “Patrick, I know Lorraine is not your child. I just needed proof. But suppose she is one of your brothers’ children?”

Patrick said, “Benda, it is not a question in my heart and mind. That I welcome her into our family. In that way she and Eleanor would not go to jail for fighting in public.”

Brenda hit Patrick’s stomach and laughed.

She put her head on his shoulder.

Patrick said, “I told you Brenda about hitting people. But I will be with you through it all.”

He kissed her on her forehead.

Brenda rested in Patrick’s arms.

Hutch was passing to go to Shirley.

He stood and looked at the loving couple.

Patrick saw Hutch.

He thought, “You better not be thinking about a woman. Brenda will hurt you.”

Hutch walked on and found Shirley.

Shirley started crying.

Hutch said, “Shut up. You slipped out this morning and thought you got away. I am not Dr. Woodson.”

Brenda raised her head.

Patrick said, “Hutch. Therapy.”

Brenda put her head back in it’s usual place.

Patrick said, “Hutch did me, Gen and Ben. He got Eleanor too.”

She went to her office and locked the door. I have not seen her since breakfast.”

Brenda laughed.

Patrick said, “Hutch don’t care. He has a job to do. He is going to do that job. Eleanor didn’t care about her children. The children started slamming and locking their doors. I think that got on Hutch’s nerves, because he was looking at the doors to see how to block the locks.”

Brenda was laughing.

Brenda said,”Patrick suppose Lorraine is our family. Do you think GOD orchestrated for her to grow up with us? Is that the reason she is always sad because nobody wanted her and gave her away? Do you think she remember any of it?”

Patrick said, “Too many questions. This just the beginning of this. I won’t leave her in this world by herself Brenda.”

Brenda said, “I won’t ether. What about money. We gave all the money out.”

Patrick thought and said, “I am not going to my brothers. I will give her a portion out of my part.”

Brenda sat up and kissed Patrick and said, “I’m glad you said your money, because if you would have said, the family’s money you had to hurt Eleanor.”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “Doesn’t she love money. She is as bad as Shirley. When I told her she had to use her money to buy the jewelry shop and she could not use the house workers for her business she nearly had a heart attack.”

Brenda said, “I remember. Let’s go and tell Gen somethings were recovered and her skirts came and we got them. I got a surprise for you.”

Brenda stood.

Patrick stood and looked at Brenda,

He said, “A good surprise or a bad surprise?”

Brenda said, “Isn’t that something we always expect something bad.”

Patrick said, “if it is good, you can tell me later.”

Brenda grinned and grabbed his hands and said, “Later.”

They walked out Patrick’s office and heard Shirley.

Brenda said, “I’m not going to be adjusted until we get to the hospital next week. I am going to be back here at the end of the first week of December. Huh.”

Patrick said, “Huh.”

Brenda said, “Huh.”

Brenda said, “I don’t feel like walking all the way down there.”

Ruth was coming pass with two more flower arrangements.

Brenda said, “Ruth put one in the room next to Gen and Ben and the other arrangement in the room next to Hutch.”

Ruth said, “Yes ma am.”

Ruth had been thinking about Mike all day. She saw Jose did not care because he did not try to find out what was going on. His attitude is to leave. Ruth was thinking about how she met Craig.

Brenda said, “Come on you two. I don’t want to walk all the way down there and back up here.”

Gen and Ben stood and walked to Brenda and Patrick.

Ruth looked at the husbands and wives.

Gen and Brenda held hands and walked to the foyer.

Hutch was coming down the staircase.

Gen squeezed Brenda’s hand.

She said, “I still say Dr. Hot Damn.”

Brenda snickered.

Brenda said, “Hutch dinner in a few minutes.”

Hutch said, “Brenda after dinner.”

Brenda stopped and started crying and said, “Patrick.”

Patrick and Ben kept walking.

Hutch said, “It did not work with Shirley and it won’t work with you.”

Gen was still sniffing.

Brenda was looking at Hutch and Hutch was looking at her.

Gen said, “Bren suppose all of them show up here. I didn’t say anything to anybody. But they have enough sense to figure it out.”

Brenda looked at Gen and said, “We won’t them in. They are not invited guests.”

Hutch looked at the women as they walked into the parlor.

Gen looked at the flower arrangements and said, “Ow. Absolutely beautiful.”

Gen looked at the liquor table.

Brenda said, “Let’s not stop.”

They walked to the parlor and Patrick and Ben were seated.

Shirley was whining and walking down the stairs for dinner.

She saw them walking to the parlor she ran down the stairs into the parlor.

Hutch was coming up the hall and shook his head.

He said, “LORD GOD Almighty a true miracle. No bones but she can run.”

He walked to the foyer and into the parlor.

Brenda saw Shirley and said, “Shirley you want to?”

Shirley said, “Yes grandma.”

She looked back and saw Hutch and turned her head and whimpered.

Patrick did not care about Shirley’s attitude. He knew the therapy helped a lot.

Shirley said, “Aunt Gen we found your stuff.”

Brenda said, “Some stuff.”

Gen sat and stared at Shirley.

Shirley pointed to the box.

Patrick and Ben moved the box.

Gen looked at the box.

She opened the box and saw her dishes and cried.

Patrick said to Ben, “She found what Gen was going to give her.”

Gen reached for Shirley and Shirley bent down and hugged Gen.

Gen said, “You take these now.”

Shirley said, “Thank you.”

Brenda looked at Shirley and wanted to knock her out.

Eleanor walked in the parlor to see Gen open the box and give the dishes to Shirley.

Shirley sat down and closed the box and said, “I’ll leave them here and have Jose put them in the storage room. We found your dining room suite, they to find the chairs.”

Eleanor said, “Shirley?”

Gen waved at Eleanor.

Eleanor did not say anything.

Gen said, “Baby I am so glad you thought and you took action to help me out of my hurt and the betrayal I felt. We can order and have you chairs made for the table.”

Shirley was grinning and said, “Thank you.”

Eleanor was embarrassed and shook her head.

Hutch looked at Eleanor.

Brenda stared at Shirley.

Shirley said, “Momma they don’t know if they have the bedrooms suites you bought and you have to go and look.”

Eleanor said, “Shirley I am going to be busy from now up to Christmas. I have to get that coal here. I may have to go and get it. But it is moving it should be in New York Friday.”

Gen leaned back and looked at Eleanor and said, “I can go. I remember how it looks.”

Brenda said, “Gen you are up to that.”

Shirley said, “I can go with her and pay for it. And have Jose move it to the storage rooms.”

Brenda threw her hands up in the air and slapped her thighs and said, “Stop you little selfish person.”

Shirley said, “Why buy it and put it back in Aunt Gen’s house and John Jr and Betty sell it again?”

Gen said, “Brenda I won’t use it again.”

Shirley said, “The bedrooms can come here also.”

Shirley was thinking.

Brenda was angry with Shirley’s selfishness.

Eleanor and Patrick were embarrassed.

Ben never lived in the grand house.

Shirley said, “Aunt Gen. I want to buy your house.”

Eleanor nearly had a stroke.

Gen said, “I want to give you the house, but I have to have money for me and Ben to live off.”

Ben said, “Gen we can make it off my military pension and the sale of my house.”

Shirley said, “I remember the amount of that house. You need more money to live.”

Patrick mouth dropped.

Brenda stared at Shirley.

Hutch was watching everybody.

Shirley said, “Thank you Aunt Gen. I have been thinking about the house. You have ten bedrooms I want to change four of the bedrooms to bathrooms like momma is doing here.”

Eleanor said, “Shirley, stop. This is Gen’s misfortune and you’re talking like it is business.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and said, “It is business.”

Brenda said, “When have you had time to think about re-modeling Gen’s house?”

Shirley said, “Since she told us this morning.”

Brenda stared at Shirley.

Hutch was tickle.

He thought, “Shirley knows what she wants and will fight for it. She does not care about everybody is angry with her.”

They heard the boys running down the stairs.

They stopped at the parlor and looked at the Gen’s dishes.

Hutch would not allow Percy to come around the family.

Hutch told Percy he had to see how he felt on Thanksgiving day.

Thomas said, “You found her dishes that grandma and grandpa gave Aunt Gen?”

Shirley grinned and said, “Yes I did. I also found her dining room furniture but her chairs.”

Bruce said, “Aunt Gen you feel better?”

Gen said, “Yes.”

Michael walked pass Shirley and stared at Shirley.

He walked to Gen and took her hand and patted her hand to comfort her.

Jose walked to the door and said, “Dinner.”

Eleanor looked back at Jose and said, “That’s it?”

Jose stared at Eleanor.

Shirley said, “Jose, put these dishes in the storage room. Thank you.”

They all went to dinner.

Thomas had made a delicious vegetable soup and different breads.

They enjoyed the soup and had a nice dinner.

They all went to the sitting room and spent the evening.

Hutch and Ben went to the billiards room and played billiards for hours.

Patrick and Michael were in the library reading.

Patrick sat on the leather sofa with his legs crossed and read his book.

Michael laid on the floor on his stomach with his legs in the air and his right elbow on the floor reading.

He loved reading books about animals and seeing the pictures of the animals.

Michael would ask Patrick had seen the different animals and Patrick would say no.

Michael would get up and show Patrick the animal and tell him facts about the animals.

He would go back and get into his position.

He said, “Grandpa can we go to Africa next with the family for a year like we did to Europe?”

Patrick could not answer Michael but looked over his glasses and smiled.

Patrick did not want to go to Africa with tigers and lions.

Eleanor said, “Jose, make a very light breakfast since we will be eating Thanksgiving dinner early.”

Jose said, “Bacon, eggs, toast and oatmeal, juice coffee and tea.”

Eleanor said, “Perfect.”

Hutch was passing the library and saw Michael first then he saw Patrick.

Patrick raised his head from his book to see who was standing outside the library.

Hutch smiled and walked in and picked the book he was reading the night before.

Patrick said, “I wondered who was reading that book.”

Hutch grinned.

Patrick said, “Good book.”

Hutch looked over at the book Michael was reading.

Michael sat up on the floor.

Patrick said, “Michael, run upstairs and go to bed. You are getting too big for me to carry.”

Hutch looked at Michael.

Michael staggered out the library.

Ben and Gen and Brenda were hollering walking down the hall.

Patrick opened his book back and said, “It’s good to hear Gen.”

Brenda reached and hugged Michael and said, “Good night Michael.”

Patrick said, “He’s halfway up stairs.”

Hutch looked up.

Gen and Ben were passing to go to their room.

They said, “Good night.”

Patrick said, “Good night.”

Hutch said, “Good night.”

Hutch put his book down.

He walked to the book Michael left on the floor and flipped there.

He was amazed at the photographs.

Patrick looked at Hutch.

Hutch looked at Patrick and said, “Good night.”

Patrick looked at the time and said, “I better go to bed. Good night Hutch.”

Patrick put his book on the table and blew out the light and went to bed.

He and Brenda prayed.’

They talked and Brenda said, “I thank GOD we had the money to pay for Gen’s things. Rather Shirley paid for everything.”

Patrick said, “She better with her selfish self.”

Brenda was laughing.

Patrick said, “Brenda you know those workers we gave all that junk Eleanor sent back here from Europe. I thought about what you said, how they played marbles and would give caramel to Shirley. Those people were helping us and helping Shirley. GOD allowed us to help pay them back for helping us by bringing a little joy to Shirley. And helping our minds to be lifted from the moaning and groaning.”

Brenda said, “Patrick the holidays start tomorrow.”

Patrick looked at Brenda and smiled.