Natalie went to the bath shed and washed and changed clothes while Wes was taking care of the little girl.

Natalie was wiping the cabinet of the bath shed.

Her mind was blank but she was thinking about the little girl wondering in the house last night.

She really scared Natalie.

Natalie laid awake and watched her for hours looking out the window.

Natalie walked out the bath shed with all of her stuff.

She had her head down and the older driver was coming from the black pot from Wes and Betsy.

He saw Natalie’s face and he knew she was worried about something.

He the breakfast tray in his hand.

He added the bowl he saw that must have been the little girl’s bowl.

He walked side by side with Natalie up the steps she opened the door and he walked in and put the tray on the coffee table.

The older driver did not speak to Wes because he was still mad with him.

When he was about to leave out the house a thought came to him to at least look at Wes and speak.

The older driver looked up in the bedroom and the little girl was sitting in the bed and watching him.

She smiled at him and his heart melted.

The older driver took a step to the bedroom and Wes stood from the chair he sat and put his notebook in the dresser.

Wes did not see the older driver.

Wes went to the bed and the little girl raised her arms for Wes to pick her up.

Wes picked her up and wrapped her in a knitted shawl.

She laid her head on Wes and said, “Outside.”

Wes said, “It is freezing cold outside. You are becoming strong. You talk so bold.”

Wes walked out the bedroom and saw the older driver standing and watching him.

Wes was still mad about the cookies.

The little girl said, “Hi.”

The older driver said, “Hi baby. So you have been the mysterious baby.”

The little girl giggled.

Wes did not say anything.

She took Wes chin and lifted it toward the older driver.

Wes looked into her big brown eyes.

He knew she wanted him to speak to the older driver.

The older driver saw the little girl’s action and his heart swell in him. He was mad with Wes all night and fussed all morning.

He took the assignment to leave his fuss box wife. He felt men don’t fuss as much as wives and he was wrong when he met Wes. The older driver made a commitment to William and his brother William Sr.

The older driver thought what his mother told him all his life, “Don’t hold a grudge.”

The older driver swallowed and looked at Wes and said, “Good morning Wes.”

Wes turned his head from the little girl and looked at the older driver and nodded his head.

Natalie stepped out the living and watched Wes and the older driver and the little girl.

The little girl looked at Natalie.

Natalie stood and looked at her.

Wes looked at Natalie, because Natalie would be rushing to hold the little girl.

Before the little girl could reach for Natalie, Natalie walked into the living room and sat on the sofa.

Wes said to himself, “Damn!”

The little girl held her head down.

Wes walked to the living door and said, “Natalie what is the problem? Tell me now.”

The little girl laid her head on Wes’ chest.

The older driver said to himself, “I need to see this.”

Natalie was making tea, because she had an upset stomach.

The little girl reached for Natalie.

Natalie sat and looked at her.

Wes said, “She can only hold her arms out for a minute.

The little began to cry.

Natalie grabbed her and hugged her.

The older driver saw the little girl’s back and nearly hollered.

Wes looked at him.

Wes pointed to one of the chairs.

The older driver said, “Thank You Wes.”

Wes turned back to Natalie and said, “Natalie explained this.”

The older driver watched Wes.

He saw Wes was a hard doctor for his patients.

JESUS stood in the living room and watched them.

Natalie sat the little girl in her lap.

Natalie tried to wipe her nose and she better not use her dress sleeve.

Wes turned and went into the chest and gave her a washcloth.

Natalie wiped her tears and blew her nose.

Wes turned his head.

The older driver looked at Wes and thought, “snooty.”

The little girl was sitting on Natalie’s lap crying and watching Natalie.

Wes was getting impatient with Natalie.

Wes said, “Natalie.”

Natalie said, “Wait.”

Natalie got her composure and said, “She scared me last night.“

Wes looked at the little girl.

The older driver looked at the little girl.

The little girl crying looked at her friend Natalie.

Wes stood with is hands on his hips.

Natalie said, “I heard something while I was slept. You know how scary I am. I cracked one eye opened and saw her crawling along the floor.”

Wes looked at the little girl.

The little girl stopped crying and watched Natalie.

The older driver looked at the floor.

Natalie said, “She went to the front door trying to get out. She began to cry because she could not move the chair I put behind the door, You now I am scary.”

Wes said , “Yeah Natalie.”

Natalie said, “Then she crawled over to the window and pulled herself on the window sill and stood there for hours tapping on the window and mumbling. She really scared me and when left, she got on the floor and crawled to the bedroom and said, “Good night Natalie.” She knew I was watching her all those hours.”

Wes said, “I don’t know what all of that means.”

The older driver looked at Wes.

Wes bent down and looked into the big brown eyes of the little girl that were filled with tears and said, “Baby there are soldiers out there with big guns they will shoot you. If you want to go outside ask us to take you outside so the soldiers wont shoot you.”

The little girl said, “Outside.”

Wes bowed his head and sighed.

She looked at Wes.

Wes looked at Natalie.

Natalie turned her head.

The little girl looked at Natalie and said, “Natalie not my friend anymore.”

The little girl cried.

Wes picked the little girl up and held her.

The older driver watched Wes tenderness towards his patients.

Natalie stood up and went and touched the little girl’s arm and said, “Baby I am always your friend. But you know I am scary and you scared the …”

Wes said, “Natalie.”

Natalie said to the little girl, “What was you doing?”

The little girl looked Natalie in her eyes and she heard JESUS say tell them because they will pray for you on your journey.

The little girl said, “I was praying to my Father the King.”

The older driver was stunned.

Wes looked down at the little girl who put her head on his chest.

The little girl said, “I want Betsy.”

Wes said, “Me too. But she is staying with Joshua for a few days so I can get some rest.”

The little girl turned her head from Natalie and said, “Give me sleep.”

Wes thought how smart she was.

Wes kissed her on her head and said, “No. You are getting better. You have sleep for six months that’s a long time.”

She looked up at Wes.

Wes looked down in her eyes and said, “You probably hold the world’s record for sleeping.”

Natalie went and got several quilts and knitted shawls and walked back to the little girl.

Natalie reached for the little girl.

The little girl pulled back from Natalie to burrowed herself in Wes chest and folded her arms so Natalie would not touch her.

Natalie was so stunned.

Natalie began to cry.

The little girl immediately reached to Natalie and giggled.

Natalie reached for her.

Wes said, “Both of you need to eat before going outside it is freezing cold.”

Natalie sat on the sofa with the little girl.

Wes made the little girl a little oats with mostly milk.

He gave the small cup to Natalie to feed the little girl.

Wes poured the little girl a little water.

Natalie began to feed the little girl.

She looked at the little girl and said, “Good.”

The little girl said, “Good.”

Wes got a boiled egg and an apple.

He drank black coffee.

The older driver leaned forward and said, “Wes can I ask her a question?”

Wes looked at the older driver.

The little girl was looking at the older driver.

The older driver said, “Baby why were you trying to go outside late at night in the dark?”

The little girl said, “To stop you and Wes from fussing. Since I could not get out I asked my Father to stop you.”

Natalie gave the little girl another small spoon of oats.

The girl was watching the older driver and holding her mouth opened for the oats.

The older driver sat stunned.

Wes leaned forward and looked at the little girl.

The little girl said, “Did HE?”

The older driver said, teared up and said, “Yes.”

Wes kissed the back of her head.

Natalie stopped feeding her for a minute and held her head backwards and held the spoon back.

The little girl looked at Natalie.

Natalie said, “Since you are talking. Why were tapping on the window?”

The little girl said, “I was sending blessings to Momma Betsy and the people in the next town.”

Natalie looked into the big brown eyes of love.

The little girl looked at Natalie and said, “Give me that food.”

Natalie burst out laughing.

The older driver was still crying.

Wes finished his breakfast.

He looked at the clock over the mantel and said, “I have to go out there with the governor and his wife.”

The little girl said,”They will be good.”

Wes kissed her on the back of her head.

He put on his coat and said, “Natalie only thirty minutes outside no longer. Then put her to bed.”

Wes said to the driver, “Can you get her milk from that next town, the cream maybe too heavy for now. Let me give you money.”

The older man said, “I don’t get nothing from that town. I’ll get her milk from the command post. They may get it from there but I don’t spend a red cent there.”

The little girl listened.

Wes said, “Can you speak to the captain and let him know…”

Nodding at the little girl, ...”That she is wandering and for his men not to shoot.”

She looked up at Wes.

Wes was buttoning up his coat when the governor started vomiting.

They could hear him in the house.

Wes said, “What?”

The little girl pointed and said, “JESUS.”

The soldiers were at the steps.

Wes said, “I hear him.”

Wes ran to the governor and helped him not to choke.

He put a pail by the governor and turned him on his side so he could throw up in the pail and not on his bed.

Thelma began to cry out in pain.

Wes let her scream.

He continued to work on the governor.

He cleaned the governor up and changed his sheets.

Wes swept over all the vomit.

He gave the governor the herbal therapies and an IV.

Wes turned to a screaming Thelma.

He patted her on the shoulder and said, “You are getting better. Your screams are not as loud.”

She continued to scream while Wes worked on her and cleaned her up and gave her much medicine in her IV and gave her the herbal therapies.

Wes changed her sheets.

He washed Thelma, because Natalie was busy with the little girl.

Thelma opened her mouth to say something.

Wes said, “Thelma what are you saying?”

Thelma took great breathes and said, “John would not like.”

Wes started laughing.

He patted her on her head and said, “Your children will be here soon. Rest.”

Wes cleaned up the tent and looked around to see if anything was left out or exposed.

He took the trash out and looked at the house and saw Natalie and the little girl sitting out on the porch.

The older driver brought out a chair and they sat in the chair.

Wes did not say anything but went and burned the medical trash.

He checked back in the tent and the smell of vomit and waste was lighting up.

He did not want their children to smell anything.

Wes moved his quilts to the other end of the tent.

He thought and stood and walked out the tent.

Natalie jumped up and rushed in the house.

The older driver looked at Wes and carried the chair in the house.

The older driver would leave everyday and go and be with the military.

He stuck around that day.

The military men were rotating guards that day.

The captain was on his way with the second in command.

The captain was thinking he could not have a traitor and an assassin in his troop.

The captain sent telegrams out yesterday evening.

He sent one telegram to Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen was at the hospital making his round when he received the telegram.

He walked out the ward and stood in the hallway and got his composure back.

He went back to his patients and continued his work.

He went to his office and spent hours working on paper.

He left and went home.

He moved out of his apartment to the beautiful three bedroom house with a large back yard for Joshua.

Dr. Obersteen went into the cold house and went straight to his vodka.

He had a thought, he did not have vodka when he was being torn a part with Joshua’s trauma and God brought him through. Another thought was he needed a fire.

Dr. Obersteen did not have time to hire a housekeeper, but he said, “I will work on that tomorrow and order coal. Did they need coal. What am I thinking about Thelma. The state is providing all their needs now. Thank God.”

Dr. Obersteen went and dressed for bed.

He pulled his clothes together for the next day.

He put on his thick sleeping socks and covered up with his quilts.

He thought about the telegram from Bruce and said, “GOD your will on earth as it is in heaven.”

Dr. Obersteen went to sleep in peace.

An angel was standing against a wall in his bedroom watching him sleep.

The older driver realized Wes was very hard when it came to his patients and he wants you to do exactly what he says because if anything goes wrong he will take full responsibility’

The older driver though, “Natalie has learned that. She knew he said thirty minutes she was out there over nearly two hours. Here comes the wagon.”

The older driver went in the house and cleaned up the living room and he went to the goodies the governor and the first lady sent.

He made a very pretty tray and put it on the table.

He was about to leave when he heard the little girl sneezed.

Natalie stood at the bed and was scared.

She turned and looked at the older driver.

The older driver put coal in the fireplaces in the living room and the bedroom and he ran out the house.

Wes heard the wagon and was walking around the cute house.

He and the older driver saw each other at the same time.

Wes knew something was up because how the older driver flew out the house.

The older driver went and washed the dishes and put a lot of coal in the fire pit by Wes and Betsy’s tent.

Wes stood and watched the older driver.

The older driver said, “He’s going to ruin everything we went through today.”

The captain and his second in the command rode in the yard.

The two wagons carrying the soldiers replacements pulled on the dirt road.

The twenty soldiers got out the wagons.

The second in command spoke to Wes and said to the soldiers follow me.

Wes was counting the soldiers.

Some of the soldiers were giving their knitted coverings to some of the other soldiers,

The captain said, “You have your issued supply.”

The second in command looked back.

The captain walked to Wes and spoke.

Wes spoke and said eight more soldiers?”

The captain looked at Wes.

Wes saw Bruce was not going to answer him.

Bruce looked at Wes and Betsy’s tent.

The older driver was filling the black pot with water.

He passed Wes and the captain and fed the horses and gave them water.

The governor’s children rode up.

Wes said, “Only thirty minutes.”

The captain turned as the children jumped out the wagon and ran into the yard and to the tent,

Wes watched them.

The captain told their security escort only thirty minutes.

The older driver pulled out the yard and joined the two wagons going back to the command post.

The second in command said, “You four back here.”

The captain said, “No put five back in the woods.”

The second in command put five soldiers in the woods going to the house, eight covering the governor’s tent and seven around the perimeter. The second in command rode back behind the wagons to the command post.

The captain walked and reviewed the soldiers.

Wes felt that it was colder than usual.

He put coal on the perimeter and lit the fires.

Bruce watched Wes.

Wes had on his quilt.

Bruce looked at the pile of coal.

He looked at Wes looked at him.

The captain said, “Can my men use your coal and I will replace it?”

Wes said, “Yes.”

The captain called a soldier and pointed at the pile of coal and said, “Start fires and used that coal.”

Bruce turned to Wes and said, “I don’t know why I did not think of that earlier.”

Joshua entered the yard on his bike.

He put the bike against the house.

Bruce looked to the dirt road, and he did not see Emma entering.

He looked at a wrapped up Joshua.

Joshua looked at the soldiers and said, “Good morning. New soldiers I have to break in.”

The captain said, “Where is your momma?”

Joshua started up the steps and said, “Yours or mines?”

Bruce did not respond.

The children soldier was at the door and opened the door for Joshua.

The captain said, “Mines.”

Joshua said, “They all are sleep. I heard the wagons and got up washed my face and brushed my teeth and came down so I can play. Is he gonna bar b-cue the ribs today? I hope so. I don’t want anymore wet food.”

The captain said, “Wet food?”

Wes said, “Soups and stews.”

Joshua entered the house.

He went into the living room and saw the tray of refreshments of meats, cheese, cracker and jellied crackers.

He picked up a bottle of drink .

He went to the bedroom and spoke to his friend who sneezed.

Joshua went out to Wes with the bottle and said, “What is this?”

Wes read the label and said , “It is made with honey you can drink some.”

Joshua said, “Why is my friend sick.”

Wes turned and ran up the steps and the governor’s children started screaming.

Wes ran off the porch.

The captain ran to the tent.

Joshua ran to the tent.

The soldiers stood and watched.

Shelia bandage came loose and she was bleeding badly.

Wes ran to her and looked at the mess and said, “What happened.”

The governor’s children started pointing at each other.

The captain stood in the tent.

The governor’s upper body was nearly half way off the bed.

Wes said, “Children go into the house.”

Joshua said,”Come on. We got refreshments.”

Wes said, “Bruce put him on the bed.”

The captain looked at Wes.

Lydia folded her arms and said, “I’m not going anywhere.”

Thelma began to scream.

The children ran out the tent.

Bruce wanted to run but stood to show he was strong.

The captain walked to the government.

The governor slightly looked at Bruce and said, “The man who saved my life and hers.”

As Thelma screamed.

The captain put the governor back on the bed.

The governor barely could whisper and said, “Wes.”

Wes said, “Yes.”

The governor said, “No children.”

Wes said, “Yes sir.”

The captain took a deep breath and walked out he tent.

His men looked at him.

The captain said, “You may hear that during the day.”

He turned to the soldier that escorted the governor’s children and said, “Tell the doctor to join me down at the fire.”

The captain went and sat at Wes and Betsy’s tent.

He thought about the telegrams.

Wes finished with the first lady.

He touched her forehead and smelled her breath and realized the herbs were working and flushing out her body anything that would impede her healing.

Wes went to the governor.

The governor screamed.

Wes completed working on them.

He gave both of them the herbal sedative and took the trash out and burned it.

Wes went into the woods and gathered much of the sedative herb.

He came back to the house and was about to step on the porch when the soldier said, “Sir the captain wants to see you at your tent.”

Wes looked at the herbs in his hand and he got a water pail and put water from the brook and sat the pail on the porch.

He walked to his tent and sat across from Bruce.

He looked around and the area did not smell like Betsy’s vomit anymore.

He saw where the older driver hand covered it.

Wes said, “Bruce I am very busy.”

Bruce reached Wes the list of assassins.

Wes looked at Bruce and read the list.

Wes looked at Bruce.

Bruce said, “You have to tell them.”

Wes said, “I am not telling them a damn thing. You are the captain. This is what you do.”

The captain reached for the list.

Wes looked back at the house and though about the little girl crawling around at night.

Wes said, “The little girl is starting to be woke more. She is trying to walk but she is crawling now. Please tell your men so they won’t shoot her. Also, that may explain how the assassins knew where to come but it does not explain how they knew there was no military presence. And where is your medic? Don’t bring the governor’s children until Sunday. Somebody has to take Joshua home because I can’t take him. I guess I do need to take Joshua home and check on them. They should be awake now. I don’t know if Joshua should know, especially since he is still recovering. When is this trial and the executions?”

The captain looked at Wes and said, “Anything else?”

Wes said, “How long have you know?

The captain said,”I will take Joshua home and check on the tree. I will my military escort to take the children and not to bring them back until Sunday, that gives their parents time to get better. I will tell my men not to shoot the little girl. Betsy would kill me. I will tell them in a few days about Bill.”

They walked to the house.

Wes got his pail of herbal sedative and they walked in the house.

The little girl sneezed.

The house was quiet.

Natalie’s heart stopped.

The governor’s children were on the floor playing.

Natalie was sitting on the sofa with the little girl.

Wes said, “What happened to your momma?”

The children did not say anything.

Wes said, “Well you can’t come back until Sunday and then only for a fifteen minutes until they heal. I don’t want anymore setbacks.”

Wes said “You can complete your play time with them and go home.”

He turned to the little girl and she sneezed.

He looked at Natalie.

Natalie put her head on top of the little girl’s head and turned her face in the opposite direction.

Wes went into the bedroom and make the herbal sedative and put it in large bottles because he got a lot.

He cleaned everything up and looked at the little girl’s bed and went to the chest and got the last clean sheets.

He said to Bruce, “When will the workers arrive to do the laundry?”

Bruce said, “In two days.”

Wes changed the little girl’s sheets.

He sat and began to write in her note book.

Wes put up her note book in the dresser,

He looked at the herbal medicines on the dresser and shooked his head.

Bruce watched Wes.

He heard the one for infections.

Wes went into the living room and reached for the little girl.

She waved to the governor’s children.

Wes put her to bed and covered her up.

He gave her the herbs for infections.

Wes leaned down and kissed yawning little girl’s head and said, “Sleep and no wandering. You know Natalie is scary.”

He closed the door.

The captain was outside talking to his men.

He said, “A patient who is a little girl around ten is in the house. She has been asleep nearly six months. She was basically eaten alive by a pack of dogs. She is coming to and has started wandering around crawling. Don’t shoot her. Questions?”

One soldier said, “So we give away our positions with all these fires?”

The captain said, “I told you either move away from the fires or use your issued supplies. How many don’t want the fires?”

The men raised their hands.

The captain said, “Don’t mess with the fires they got burning.”

The older driver was entering in the yard.

The captain looked at his timepiece and it was three hours later.

The cute house door opened and Wes stepped out with the governor’s children.

The captain dismissed his men.

The escort on the porch walked the children to their wagon and drove them home.

When he reached their house he knocked on the door and the governess opened the door and the children walked in the house and handed her their blanket.

The military escort said, “They were told not to come back until Sunday and that will be for fifteen minutes.”

Ida said, “What happened?”

The military escort said, “I don’t know. All I know the first lady screamed in pain.”

Lydia said, “I jumped on momma’s bed onto her sore.”

Ida said, “My God.”

She turned to the military escort and said, “Thank you.”

The soldier took the wagon around the back and feed the horses and gave them water.

He got his horse and went around the front and said, “Where are the two security soldiers?”

Ida peeped towards the back and said, “I don’t know.”

The two security men went to check on the soldiers at the beginning of the town’s marker.

They were coming back when they saw the escort leaving.

He stopped and for them, said,”Evening. You cannot leave your post. You suppose to be here twenty four hours a day.”

They said, “We went o see the team at the beginning of the town.”

The escort said, “There are more of them than you. They are not required to protect the governor’s children. Leave again and I will tell the captain.”

The escort rode away.

The security soldiers thought and said, “We are wrong. Let’s stay put.”

Wes was walking out the house with the children and a bottle of the herb sedative.

Joshua was going to get his bike.

Wes said,”Leave the bike. You are riding on my horse.”

The older driver said, “I can take him home. Besides I have to drop off their dinner.”

Joshua started licking his lips and said, “What you got?”

The older driver said, “Fried veal, beans and cornbread.”

Joshua said,”Ok.”

Wes walked to the wagon and gave Joshua the bottle of sedative.

He said, “Joshua give this to your momma.”

Bruce snickered.

The older driver pulled out the yard.

Wes looked the yard and walked to the dirt road.

The captain joined him.

The older driver came back in a half hour.

He pulled the wagon into the yard with Joshua.

Wes and the captain walked to the wagon.

Wes helped Joshua out the wagon.

Wes said, “What ‘s wrong?”

Joshua walked in the house.

The older driver said, “A cat fight. That boy shouldn’t be around that.”

The older driver got the food for the house and took it inside.

The captain went to his horse.

Wes said, “Thank you.”

The captain turned his horse around.

Wes said, “Where are you going?”

The captain said, “To my command post.”

Wes said, “You’re not going to stop them?”

Bruce said, “I have been around them for half of their lives. They fight. I am not going down there.”

Wes said, “Betsy is pregnant.”

Bruce said, “She needs to sit down.”

Bruce rode the dirt road to his command.

Wes stood and looked down the dirt road, until the first lady started screaming followed by the governor.

Wes ran to the governor’s tent and took care of them for the evening.

He knew he needed rest he pulled out his quilts and slept in his clothes with many quilts over him.

He got every two hours to see about the governor and his wife.

Wes rested when he did not hear a whistle.

Joshua, Natalie and the older driver ate dinner and played games from Christmas until late.

Finally Emma, Mattie and Betsy settled down and ate dinner and went to bed.