Pat, the woman over the Hot baths, walked from behind the front desk with towels, soap and shampoo.

She looked out at the slim rowdy woman, who looked so pitiful. She did not know what the man could have said to her.

Pat turned around and looked back at Ronald, who was the front desk clerk.

Ronald looked at her and smirked,

He continued his inventory counting.

He looked up at the room, where the younger doctor was still sleeping.

Pat did not know what to do. She walked to the Hot baths area and stock all the rooms.

She hurried and went out and sat on the front porch next to the slim rowdy woman.

Lydia, her husband and their employees were passing by and they saw Pat from the Hot baths sitting next to the distraught slim rowdy woman.

Lydia touched her husband’s arm and said, “I want to know what is going on.”

He looked at her and they continued to walk down the street.

Lydia walked up and said, “Good morning ladies.”

Pat greeted Lydia with, “Good morning mame.”

The slim rowdy woman did not say anything.

She was so hurt.

She looked off in the distance.

Lydia said, “May I?” pointing to the front porch.

Pat nodded for yes.

Lydia wanted to know more about this slim rowdy woman.

Lydia reached over pat and touch the slim rowdy woman.

She said, “Excuse me Patricia. Is that right?”

Pat said, “You can call me Pat.”

Lydia smiled.

She looked at the slim rowdy woman and said, “Dear what is wrong?”

Lydia was thirty two years old.

She married early at the age of eighteen.

Her husband, of ten years, died in the army.

Lydia said, “My name is Lydia. I am thirty two years old. I married at eighteen years old to the love of my life. He was in the army and he died of wounds he suffered in battle.”

Pat touched her heart and said, “I’m sorry for your loss. But I am an army widow myself. Do you have any children from your love?”Lydia looked at Pat in surprise and shook her head for no.

Pat nodded to the stables and said that’s my son. He is the only thing have from that union and a small army pension. I told my son he is going to be a doctor. I hate the army.”

Lydia touched Pat’s arm and looked at the slim rowdy woman.

The slim rowdy woman stood up and walked down the street with the many people who were walking to work.

Lydia and Pat looked at the slim rowdy woman.

Pat turned to Lydia with her hand to her throat and said, “Oh dear I didn’t to upset her anymore.”

Lydia peeping through the people to get a glimpse of the slim rowdy woman,she said to Pat, “Anymore?”

Pat peeped down the road and said, “That fellow must have said something terrible to her because time daybreak she ran out the room and stood there and wailed.”

Lydia looked back in the hotel.

Ronald, the front desk clerk was standing in the doorway and said, “Ms. Pat you have some clients.”

Pat turned and looked back and saw a family standing waiting for baths.

Pat smiled and stood up and shook Lydia’s hands and said, “We must have coffee time to time.”

Lydia smiled for yes.

Pat said, “You didn’t say whether you had kids.”

Lydia held her head down and shook it for no.

Pat touched Lydia’s shoulder and said “I’m sorry.”

Lydia began to cry.

Pat looked at her and ran into the hotel and greeted her clients. She walked them to the hot baths.

Lydia sat and cried for a moment and then got up and walked to work with the rest of the service employees.

She had not thought about her husband in years. Her heart was broken because she could not gve him children. They constantly tried. Many told her husband to leave her and married a woman that could give him heirs.

He refused and cleaved to Lydia. They were two peas in a pod.

Wherever he was sent, he would get settled in and send for Lydia.

She was faithful to him and he was faithful to her.

She walked into her current husband’s restaurant and pulled her apron from the wall and passed him and went into the kitchen and got the dishes and cups ready for the breakfast that was sitting on their porch.

Lydia’s husband was eight years older than she.

He was in the military from fifteen to thirty five. After twenty years and with an injury to his leg. He retired and decided to use his training as a cook to open his own restaurant.

He decided to go to the big city to live, where he would not run into anyone from his military days, but he ran into Lydia.

Lydia moved to the big city to get away from the pain of her life with her army husband. After she was depressed for over two years her mother and sisters urged her to move away and start a new life.

Lydia and her younger moved to the big city and both were studying to be teachers.

Her younger sister met the older doctor over the local hospital and married him after a year and had a set of twin boys who are a year old.

Lydia meet Bruce at a restaurant where she and her sister would have coffee.

Bruce began to open up and tell Lydia about himself.

They married a year later also.

It was a winter wonderland wedding with snow.

They had a small reception at her sister’s home.

Lydia and Bruce had been married for a year.

Bruce watched Lydia in her somber mood and knew it must be about her first husband.

He wanted to stop and go to her but he had customers.

Bruce took over the restaurant from Ed.

Ed was ready to retire and move to a small town.

As a wedding gift ed gave Bruce the deed to the restaurant and later that day he and his sister began their travel to the sunny south.

Lydia turned the restaurant around. She took the restaurant from a grub place to a good food place. It nearly took it’s toll on their finances but once the word was out that their food was tasty the profits started coming in.

Bruce wanted to expand the business and Lydia did not . They had a terrible argument that nearly lead to divorce.

But in three months they were able to start saving for their retirement. Bruce was glad for a smart business wife.

The slim rowdy woman stood and waited for the salon to open.

The women saw the slim rowdy woman and unlocked the door for her.

They prepared her bath room.

The workers asked the slim rowdy woman what was wrong and she did not respond.

The workers looked at each other and one of the workers asked the slim rowdy woman what color dress she wanted.

The slim rowdy woman said nothing but began to cry.

The workers looked at the slim rowdy woman and then at each other.

The slim rowdy woman finally with trembling lips said, “He hates me.”

The workers were frowning up trying to figure out who the slim rowdy woman was talking about

And they both said, “Him.”

The workers said, “How do you know?”

The slim rowdy woman pointed to the room he was in the day before and said, “I heard him. He didn’t care if I heard him.”

One of the workers said,”Why would he say that?”
The slim rowdy woman, in between sobs,”I stink.”

The slim rowdy woman hung her head over the tub and wailed.

Two of the workers looked at her and shook their heads for her smell.

The three women tried to comfort the slim rowdy woman to no avail.

The worker that was on her knees at the tub got up and went to the dress shop and found a purple dress and head bands for the slim rowdy woman and brought them back and showed them to the other workers.

The worker hung the dress in the slim rowdy woman’s bath room and placed the headbands on the dresser.

She was so proud of her find.

The slim rowdy woman had fallen asleep in the tub of hot water.

The workers would replenish the tub with another pot of hot water as they talked among themselves about the slim rowdy woman and the man.

The younger doctor slept until around noon and was awaken by a knock on the door.