Patrick and Brenda woke at sunrise and put their prayer pillows on the floor and prayed about everything they could think about.

Patrick was concerned about Mike, the train conductor with the ‘Freedmen’.

He told George to keep an eye on him and make sure he does not go anywhere near the ‘Freedman’.

He was counting on Josiah, Trevor and John to defend the ‘Freedmen’.

Brenda was hoping they shot Mike down.

Brenda remembered their abolitionists, Sam and Rhonda in Philadelphia.

She said, “Patrick let’s telegram Sam and Rhonda in Philadelphia and see if they can meet the train tomorrow and help the ‘Freedmen’?”

Patrick said, “That’s a good thought Brenda. They may not be doing that anymore. I’ll go now. I think I have the way to contact them. If not I will telegram George for the ‘Freedmen to stay on the train overnight and he can help get them to shelter. Especially the little boy with the big grin and whip scars that stole Eleanor’s heart. ”

Brenda said, “Thank you Patrick.”

Patrick looked at his wife and felt her heart for these people.

Eleanor could not sleep.

She tossed all night.

She could not pray to God, because she enjoyed her life of sin with the count and she knew she had to give that up and repent for God to forgive her and hear her. She did not know if Brenda was lying to make her do what she her to do. She thought about a with the ’d’ on stuff in the storage area. Then she became angry with Patrick and Brenda for trying to put her nine and seventeen year old children before her like she was stupid or retarded.

Eleanor got out of bed and put on a wrap and opened her door and walked out on the balcony and thought, “They tried that with Percy and she did not say anything. But Percy heard them and told Bruce, ”Momma didn’t say anything when grandpa and grandma called me slow.”

Eleanor said, “I have to talk to Percy. Today. This morning. I will not delay like momma and daddy are saying.

She looked out as far as she could see and thought how the mob was really trying to take over the country and she did not want none of them living near her and trying to associate their evil into her family and children. She thought about opening a railroad station in the city where people would not have to take a coach for five days but get to Philadelphia or to their town in a day and a half.

She was thinking about what Mr. Scott said, the army would take nearly a week to get there.

 She heard the servants coming into the house to wash and start their busy day.

Eleanor went downstairs to her study now her office and sat and wrote business plans.

She stared at the railroad map on the wall.

She heard her children running downstairs to breakfast.

Eleanor yelled, “Percy.”

He turned and ran to her study,

Percy said, “How did you know it was me?”

Eleanor was putting her papers in her desk drawer and locking it.

Bruce ran behind Percy to see why Eleanor was calling Percy.

Bruce said, “Why are you locking your drawer?”

Eleanor looked up at her two boys and smiled and said, “Good morning Percy and good morning Bruce.”

She pointed to the chairs in her study and said, “Sit please.”

Eleanor said, “I will be taking over the railroad. Daddy gave it to me.”

Percy and Bruce’s mouths dropped open in excited surprise.

Eleanor laughed.

She said, “I have to wait and tell the others. This is our secret for now. If the count ask to marry him, I will.”

Percy said, “Good choice.”

Bruce said, “Then we can move back to Austria with him and live in the castle. It’s smaller than our house.”

Percy said, “Yeah.”

Eleanor said, “I don’t know about moving to Austria because I have to run the railroad.”

Percy sat and looked.

Eleanor looked at Percy and said, “Percy you told Bruce one day that grandpa and grandma called you slow and I did not say anything.”

Percy shook his head and said, “That’s right.”

He looked at Bruce and said, “ I told you Bruce.”

Bruce looked at Percy.

Eleanor said, “I apologize to you Percy for not defending you. They called me slow too.”

Bruce said, “Why?”

Eleanor said, “Percy is a thinker. He thinks about the different angles of a situation.”

Eleanor looked at Percy and said, “Is that right Percy?”

Percy said, “Yes I think about things before I answer.”

Eleanor said, “I do to. Because of that grandma and grandpa think we don’t process the problem fast enough. They come from a time in history where they had to act quickly.”

Percy said, “Like what?”

Bruce jumped and said, “Yeah like what?”

Eleanor thought for a minute and said, “For instance if the cows broke out and running away. Quickly you will say run them back to the pasture…”

Percy said, “And fence them in better.”

Bruce said, “Right.”

Eleanor said, “We don’t quite live in that time anymore. One thing, we have servants who are trained and now what to do without telling us the problem.”

Patrick and Brenda were standing outside of Eleanor’s office listening.

They felt bad that Percy and Eleanor felt their parents and grandparents were calling them slow.

Eleanor said, “Percy and Bruce can you think of a problem that require you to think for a minute and one that require you to think for a longer period of time?”

Thomas and Michael ran downstairs and saw their grandparents standing outside Eleanor’s office listening.

Patrick and Brenda both put their fingers up to their mouths for quiet.

Thomas and Michael looked at their grandparents and ran into Eleanor’s office.

Michael loved Eleanor’s desk he ran to the desk and begin to rub the corner of the desk.

He walked to Eleanor and leaned and kissed her on one cheek.

Thomas ran and kissed Eleanor on the other cheek.

Eleanor grinned at her two boys.

Michael said, “I can think about a problem.

Everyone said, “No lamb chops.”

Bruce said, “She asked us Michael.”

Percy said, “That’s right.”

Thomas said, “You had minutes and I haven’t heard anything yet.”

Patrick nearly hollered. He liked the way Thomas talk.

Percy, “First, I am the oldest. Why I am named Percy and not Bruce.”

Eleanor looked at Percy and said, “You have been thinking about that?”

Percy said, “Yeah.”

Eleanor said, “You were the first boy. We wanted to honor your grandpa’s daddy and name you after him. He was a great man with a great vision that started all of this. We wanted you to be like him.”

Percy said, “I will be. Now I have a problem.”

Eleanor said, “Percy what is the problem that you have to think about?”

Percy said, “The railroad track got damaged and you have two trains that have to cross that damaged piece of track. One train will travel over it in an hour and the other train in two hours.”

Michael said, “How are you going to fix the piece of track Percy?”

Percy said, “I would patch the track just enough for both trains to get over without stopping.”

Patrick was listening.

Brenda was still upset her daughter and grandson thought they were calling them slow. They were but did not think they caught on.

She said, “I got to repent.”

Percy said, “I would always have a worker on the trains that know how to repair the track and have his supplies on the train. So the train would only be delayed and not stopped for days. Then I would send crews to the area and repair the damage piece. I would also send out workers on each track and check for damage track to repair it constantly.”

Patrick stepped in Eleanor’s office and said, “Very good Percy. Me and your grandma ask for forgiveness for calling you and your momma slow. I see now you are thinkers.”

Percy said, “Yes me and momma are thinkers. I accept your apology.”

Percy did not look outside but he looked at the doorway and said, “What about you grandma.”

Brenda walked into Eleanor’s office and said, “Forgive me. I will not even think that anymore.”

Bruce said, “Swear grandma and grandpa that was not a nice thing to say about Percy and momma.”

Thomas said, “What about you Bruce?”

Bruce jumped and looked at his grandparents.

Patrick and Brenda turned and looked at Thomas.

Thomas started laughing.

Bruce and Percy were not laughing.

Michael fell on the floor laughing.

Eleanor did not think it was funny.

Patrick said, “Bruce, me and your grandma have never said anything ever about you. I have to watch those two.”

Shirley was at the top of the staircase and heard their voices.\

She forgot how large the house was.

She yelled, “Come and get me.”

Bruce jumped up and ran up the stairs to get Shirley.

Patrick said, “I better go and bring her down the stairs. I don’t want her to fall.”

Patrick said, “You two bare watching.”

Thomas and Michael were still laughing.

Patrick walked out Eleanor’s study.

Percy walked out Eleanor and walked behind his grandpa and was looking up at Patrick.

Patrick felt Percy looking at him and he looked at him and said, “What are you thinking about now?”

Percy said, “What you really think of me and momma.”

Patrick started going up the stairs to get Shirley he said, “Boy you better go into the family dining room. What are you watching me for like I can’t go and get Shirley.”

Percy did not say anything but stood and watched Patrick carrying Shirley down the stairs.

Bruce watched Patrick also.

Patrick looked at Bruce and said, “What are you two the watchers?”

Brenda was smiling at Shirley.

Bruce ran and stood next to Percy and watched them down the stairs.

Patrick looked at them and said, “Brenda you see them watching me with Shirley?”

Brenda said, “I don’t care. They have been doing that for years.”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “What? For years.”

Brenda took Shirley’s hand and kissed it and said, “Good morning my sunshine.”

Shirley grinned.

Patrick held one hand and Brenda held Shirley’s other hand and walked pass Percy and Bruce to the dining room.

Patrick looked back at Bruce and Percy who had serious looks on their faces and watched every step Shirley walked.

Patrick said, “They are about to make me call them another name.”

Shirley leaned her head on Patrick’s hand and laughed.

Percy and Bruce ran pass Patrick, Shirley and Brenda to the family dining room.

Patrick looked back.

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “I started to trip those two up, but Eleanor may have seen me.”

Shirley laughed and said, “Grandpa.”

Eleanor, Thomas and Michael walked out of her office and she locked the door.

They walked behind Patrick, Shirley and Brenda.

They entered the dining room and everyone sat.

Shirley sat next to Bruce.

Patrick looked at Percy and Bruce watching him and whispering.

Brenda sat and looked at them and Patrick.

Patrick was thinking about the mob and his land.

Percy and Bruce looked at Patrick.

Percy said, “Grandpa you are going to say grace this morning, you are kind of slow.”

Patrick cut his eyes at Percy.

Eleanor laughed and held her head down.

Thomas and Michael looked at Eleanor.

Bruce did not grin but sat with a sour look on his face.

Patrick said, “Father GOD, bless this food and help Percy, Bruce, Shirley, Thomas and Michael. JESUS’ name. Amen”

Shirley said, “Thank you grandpa. I needed to hear your voice. Being in that hospital bed and only hearing my voice praying all day was sad.”

Brenda teared up.

Patrick tried to be strong and said, “Baby, me and your grandma prayed for you…”

He looked at the sour face Percy and Bruce and continued, ”… and your brothers everyday.”

William was standing and listening to Shirley who he thought was pitiful, but he sees she has more feelings and sense than the rest of them.

The maids were bringing in their plates.

Shirley waited for the maids to place everyone else plates in front of them.

She looked around at everyone eating.

William looked.

Ruth and Vivienne stood and waited.

Patrick and Brenda looked.

Shirley said, “Excuse me ma am, where’s my plate?”

Eleanor looked up and was about to put a spoon of soft boil egg in her mouth.

Lorraine ran down the hall with Shirley’s plate.

William moved out the way.

Lorraine ran in the family’s dining room.

Shirley saw Lorraine and tried to get out of her chair.

Lorraine ran and kissed Shirley and hugged her.

Jose ran in behind Lorraine.

Meredith walked in.

Shirley said, “I love you Lorraine.”

Lorraine put Shirley’s plate in front of her.

She said, “Dr. Ralph said hello and happy Thanksgiving.”

Shirley was so surprise and opened her mouth and looked at everyone and said, “I have an egg.”

Eleanor nearly cried.

Patrick said, “The train is not due in for another hour.”

Meredith and Jose were looking out the front door.

William walked to the door and peeped.

Meredith said, “The porter said, Bruce had given them instructions not to stop at the stop.”

Patrick had his orange juice to his mouth and yelled, “There better not have been any patrons to be picked up there.”

Everyone looked at Patrick.

William peeped in the dining room at Patrick. He never herd Patrick yell, curse sometimes but not scream.

Lorraine and Shirley were still hugging each other.

Michael walked over and hugged Lorraine.

Meredith rubbed Michael’s hair.

He hugged her.

Jose said, “Bruce and Sharon and her family are on their way here.”

Eleanor was drinking her orange juice and looked at Jose and said, “Why here?”

Patrick looked.

Brenda was puzzled.

William was looking out the window he saw Wyonna speeding back.

William started looking for another carriage.

Wyonna ran in the house and knocked on Alice door and Alice turned over and was sleep and said, “What?”

Wyonna said, “They are here.”

Alice woke and realized who Wyonna was talking about.

Thomas walked out in the hall and said, “Who?”

Wyonna said, “Bruce and his woman.”

Dan said, “Oh s\*\*\*t.”

He was so nervous because he wanted to run around to see and hear, but he knew he better not burn nothing or Eleanor would knock him out.”

Earle heard Wyonna. He hurried and dressed and ran to the count.

The count was still sleep.

Earle ran to the kitchen and said, “Who suppose to get the count his hot water?”

Dan raised his head from the stove and said, “Me and Peter.”

Peter said, “I am not going to get in that mess.”

Dan said, “We are being paid for the water and I am not bringing that hot water in here by myself.”

Peter threw down his dish cloth and said, “Come on Dan.”

He and Dan ran out and got the water and pulled it through the house to the count’s suite.

William said, “Several carriages are entering.”

Brenda said, “Entering here?”

William, Jose and Meredith looked back at Brenda,

Brenda and Patrick were dressed.

Eleanor and her children had on their nightgowns.

Eleanor jumped from the table and yelled, “William you lock that door and better not let them in this house.”

Alice was trying to get dressed fast and was falling and kissed buttoning her dress. Some of her pieces were hanging down.

Wyonna said, “I’ll help as much as possible when they get here you are on your own.”

Denise and Mable stopped washing the dishes and looked at each other.

Gary was coming in from grooming the horses for the day.

Eleanor ran upstairs to change clothes.

Percy, Bruce, Thomas and Michael ran upstairs behind Eleanor.

Percy said, “Momma what are you doing?”

Earle waken the count.

The count jumped up and sat on his bed for a minute.

Earle said, “Sir you need to wash your face and brush your teeth.”

He turned his head.

The count stood up and blew his breath at Earle.

Earle turned his head and rubbed his nose.

The count washed his face and brushed his teeth.

He was looking at the brandy glass Earle was taking out the room.

Dan and Peter were lingering in the hall.

Earle saw Eleanor and the boys running upstairs.

He kept walking to Dan and Peter.

Wyonna, Alice and Thomas eased around through the billiards room and had a direct view to the grand foyer.

The count put on his morning coat until he had bathed and dressed for the day.

He was walking down the hall with his arms behind his back.

He saw his love running up the stairs.

The count heard Percy’s question to Eleanor.

He heard Eleanor’s answer, “I am putting on fighting clothes so I can stomp your daddy and his…”

The count yelled, “Eleanor!”

Eleanor slammed her door.

The boys ran to their rooms to dress.

The count stood at the bottom of the staircase.

He saw Dan and Peter and said, “I don’t understand, who is Bruce bring here that Eleanor is this upset?”

Dan said, “His w\*\*\*e, and her family.”

Peter said, “Like you and your workers.”

Earle walked back from the kitchen and heard Dan and Peter.

Thomas came back down the stairs.

The count said, “Good morning Thomas. Why aren’t you getting dressed like your brothers?”

Patrick stood from the table and was walking out.

William said three carriages nearing the house.

Brenda said, “Patrick, bring me my shotgun.”

Jose, Ruth, Vivienne, Meredith, Lorraine looked at Brenda.

Shirley said, “Grandma you going to shot daddy?”

Patrick stood in the foyer and looked out the glass door and saw Bruce in the lead carriage.

William locked the door.

Thomas said to the count, “That’s just Bruce. He’s not worth me fighting.”

Michael ran downstairs and went back to the family dining room.

He sat in his chair and said, “Shirley how does the egg taste to you?”

Lorraine was feeding Shirley.

Thomas walked in the family dining room and sat next to Michael.

The count walked in the family dining room.

He had a concerned looked on his face.

Thomas said, “Michael here is the lamb chop I ordered for you.”

Michael hurried and got the lamb chop from Thomas and put it on his plate.

The count watched Thomas and Michael.

The count said, “Good morning.”

Everyone spoke but Lorraine.

Jose and Meredith looked at the distinguished looking count.

They looked at each other and smirked.

Meredith and Jose looked at each other.

Shirley said, “Thomas why did you order a lamb chop to cheat and give it to Michael when Eleanor is trying to stop Michael from eating only lamb chops?”

Michael hit his fork on the table as he was chewing a big piece.

Thomas said, “Why do you have your nurse feeding you?”

Michael said, “Dr. Ralph and Dr. Woodson said, for Lorraine to stop babying you.”

Lorraine started crying.

Brenda looked at Lorraine and said, “Patrick, you got my shotgun?”

Brenda was standing up from the table and walking around the table.

Shirley looked at Lorraine and leaned her head on Lorraine.

Shirley said, “You miss Dr. Ralph?”

The count was watching Brenda and he turned to look back at a crying worker and Shirley.

Lorraine said, “Yes. He did say for me to stop babying you.”

Shirley said, “He’s not here.”

She leaned her head on Lorraine.

Michael looked at Thomas.

Michael had a mouth of lamb chops and hit his fork on the table.

The count was confused and watched the two boys.

Thomas said, “You are cheating Shirley. Is that not cheating Michael?”

Michael shook his head for yes.

Shirley snuggle to Lorraine and said, “I don’t care what you say Thomas. All you do is sit around to figure out how you can blackmail people.”

Ruth and Vivienne hollered and turned to look out the doorway.

Eleanor ran out her room and was putting her thick hair up in a bun.

She ran downstairs.

Bruce and Percy were waiting on Eleanor and they ran behind her.

The count saw Eleanor and walked out he dining room and said, “Eleanor.”

Eleanor saw the people getting out the carriages.

The count said, “What are you doing?”

Alice and Wyonna were on the floor in the formal dining and yelled. “Move man.”

The count looked.

Eleanor looked but recognized the voices.

Everyone in the foyer turned to look at who were n the dining room.

William recognized his wife’s voice.

The count looked up he saw Earle, Dan, Peter scoot back.

Ruth was laughing.

Vivienne, Meredith and Lorraine were not saying anything.

Eleanor looked at William and said, “Open and closed the door after me.”

Wyonna said, “Damn.”

Alice said, “What?”

Wyonna said, “Eleanor is going outside.”

Wyonna was getting up on her knees and made it to the window.

Alice whispered, “Why?”

She followed Wyonna to the window.

William nearly passed out when he saw them walking on their knees through the formal dining room to get to the windows.

Patrick walked outside and Brenda walked outside.

Eleanor saw the carriage drivers taking out luggage.

Eleanor said, “Drivers don’t take another piece of bags out the carriages.”

Bruce looked up and saw Patrick, Brenda and Eleanor standing outside with the door closed.

He saw Wyonna and Alice in the formal dining room looking out the windows.

Alice bent over.

Wyonna said, “What you doing that for? We don’t work for them.”

Sharon was snarling up at them.

Alice looked at Wyonna and said, “That’s right.”

Wyonna said, “Look at that heifer looking at us.”

Alice started making faces at Sharon.

Sharon grabbed Bruce’s arm and said, “My dear.”

Holding her chest like she was offended.

Bruce saw Alice and said, “Ignore them.”

Sharon’s mother and father tried to grin at Patrick and Brenda.

Patrick said, “Bruce this is my house. You ain’t paid a dime here and your name is not on anything. Whatever this is, you better leave, while you can.”

Brenda was still.

Sharon pulled on Bruce’s arm and said, “You promise.”

Bruce looked at Sharon and he looked at Patrick and said, “Can I show them the house?”

Brenda yelled, “William shotgun!!!”

Wyonna and Alice mouths dropped open.

They leaned from the window to see William running down the hall.

William ran into Brenda’s study and unlocked the door and then her cabinet with the guns from her abolitionist time.

William locked the cabinet back and then he locked her study door.

He tried to walk and not run.

He took the shells out and put them in his pocket.

Meredith, Lorraine, Jose and Bruce and Percy were in the windows looking.

Ruth and Vivienne were looking out the windows in the family dining room.

Thomas, Michael and Shirley were sitting in the dining room.

Everyone was listening.

Bruce was shocked and said, “Brenda. Your shot gun. Why?”

Brenda said, “You told me and Patrick not to try to see Shirley for nearly three years we did not see our baby.”

Eleanor turned slowly and looked at Brenda.

Thomas said, “You see Shirley. It was Bruce all the time. Not grandma and grandpa. If Michael was not there with you would not have had anybody.”

Shirley started crying.

The count turned and was listening to the children.

William did not know what to do and he looked at the count.

The count did not move he did not know what to think.

He thought, “Brenda is just bluffing.”

William handed Brenda her shut gun.

Brenda lifted the shotgun and checked the shotgun and twirled the shotgun around.

Patrick had his eyes on Bruce.

Eleanor jumped when she saw how expertly her mother handled the shotgun.

Wyonna and Alice saw Brenda and looked at each other in shock.

Jose and Meredith, Lorraine looked at Brenda.

Jose said, “You see this s\*\*t.”

Ruth and Vivienne started laughing.

Dan, Peter and Earle ran into the foyer.

The count was stunned at this gentle woman he has come to love, handled the shotgun as an expert.

He wondered at her past.

He heard Shirley crying but was not going to leave the foyer.

Bruce dropped his mouth open and turned with Sharon holding his arm and tried to walk away.

Alice and Wyonna were making faces at Sharon.

Sharon’s mother said, “Sharon this will be your house after the divorce. Demand we stay here.”

Sharon stopped and said, “You’re right mother.”

Bruce continued to the carriage.

The carriage drivers threw the bags in the carriage and started turning the carriages around when Brenda started twirling the shotgun.

One of the carriage drivers was stunned. He could not figure out how the richest woman in the state knew how to handle a shotgun as an expert.

Sharon turned and was walking back to the house.

Brenda said, “Eleanor you better meet her and kick her ass. Or I will kick your’s. She has done evil to your children. And now she says she has a right to your house.”

Eleanor started walking to Sharon.

Shirley said, “Help.”

The count ran and grabbed Shirley and walked outside.

Thomas and Michael jumped from the table and walked outside.

They started looking for rocks or sticks.

The count watched Thomas and Michael.

Gary ran through the house into the kitchen and grabbed an apple and gout the back door.

Thomas followed him along with Nadine and Stanley.

Thomas said, “Gary why did you get an apple?”

Gary said, “I was trying to decide if this is going to be a one apple fight or a two apple fight.”

Thomas said, “Who are you betting on.”

Nadine and Stanley looked at Thomas and Gary.

Gary said, “I don’t know. That woman is younger and she looks fit and she has come to someone else home and dared them to let her stay.”

Thomas said,
“Your right I got ten on the other woman.”

Nadine said, “You two are crazy.”

Stanley, “ I got ten on the other woman.”

Gary said, “I’ll go with my boss girlfriend, Eleanor for twenty.”

They all walked around the house to see the fight.

Brenda had the shotgun on Sharon’s mother and Father.

Bruce ran to the carriage and jumped out and was calling Sharon.

His driver was ducking from Brenda’s shotgun.

Shirley yelled. “Eleanor she hurt me.”

The count looked at Shirley.

Lorraine ran out the house and said, “Shirley did she touched you?”

Shirley pulled up her sleeve and showed a bruise.

Lorraine said, “That bruise has not healed yet. Shirley you told me that you hit your arm. Why did you lie to me.”

Shirley said, “I know you would fight her and daddy would fire you and I could not lose you too.”

Patrick turned and saw the bruise on Shirley.

Lorraine said, “Brenda give me that shotgun.”

Patrick said, “No body is getting that shotgun but me.

Eleanor stood and looked at Sharon.

Sharon said, “This is going to my house after Bruce divorce you.

Bruce began to yell, “Eleanor! Eleanor!”

Eleanor heard Shirley.

Eleanor said, “You hurt my baby.”

Bruce said, “Sharon. Did you put your hand on Shirley?”

Sharon’s mother said, “She was disrespectful to me.

Brenda ran off the porch with the shotgun and flipped the shotgun hit Sharon’s mother in the head and knocked Sharon’s mother out with the butte of the shotgun.

Nadine said, “I’ll put ten on Brenda.”

Stanley said, “Too late.”

Thomas said, “Brenda was not a part of the bet.”

Gary had the apple in his mouth staring at Brenda as he flipped the shotgun.

Brenda turned and hit Sharon’s father with the butte of the shotgun straight across his stomach, until he balled over.

Eleanor took both of her fists and rammed them into Sharon’s chest.

Causing Sharon to stumble.

Percy and Bruce ran to Eleanor.

Wyonna and Alice ran out the house.

Sharon threw off her coat and hat.

Eleanor waited.

Bruce was stooping behind the carriage.

Bruce had never seen Brenda do anything hurtful to anybody.

Bruce said to the carriage drivers, “Go and put them in the carriage.“

Bruce said, “I’ll give you twenty dollars each.”

The carriage drivers did not move.

Stanley and Gary ran and dragged Sharon’s mother and father to the carriages.

And held their hands out to Bruce and Bruce stared at them.

Especially Gary with a half eaten apple in his mouth.

Bruce pulled out his wallet and gave them twenty dollars each.

The count looked at Gary.

Eleanor and Sharon began to fist fight.

Shirley was yelling, “Eleanor! Eleanor!”

Michael said, “Grandma you don’t have any sticks?”

Thomas said, “Or rocks.”

Brenda was walking back to the porch with the shotgun on her shoulders.

Patrick was watching Eleanor and Sharon fist fighting.

Brenda said, “I can’t stand that begging b\*\*\*h.”

Shirley reached and said, “Grandma.”

Brenda looked back at Shirley and said, “Baby stay there. I am busy now. I’ll get you in a minute.”

Lorraine was walking and looking in the yard with Michael and Thomas for a stick or rock.

There was nothing.

Lorraine sat on the ground and took off her shoes and put them on her hands as gloves.

Eleanor tripped Sharon and while Sharon was falling Eleanor was beating her in the stomach.

When Sharon fell Eleanor sat on top of Sharon and her arms pinned down and Eleanor hit Sharon in the head and face over and over again.

Bruce yelled. “Eleanor that’s enough.”

Bruce and Percy ran and was fighting Bruce.

Thomas and Michael saw them and ran pass the count and went and joined Percy and Bruce to fight Bruce.

Eleanor was in a blind rage.

She saw the ugly bruise on Shirley’s arm yesterday and could not figure out how she got it.

Eleanor was going to send Dr. Woodson a telegram to ask how such an ugly bruise got on Shirley.

The count walked to Lorraine and stooped down and sat Shirley in Lorraine’s lap.

Earle followed the count.

Patrick and Brenda him and Earle and did not care what they were doing.

The count went to Eleanor and pulled her off Sharon.

Earle tried to help a half-conscious Sharon from the ground.

Gary was just about through with his apple and he was looking confused and said, “Earle what you doing?”

Earle said, “Gary come and help me with her and then we go and get the boys.”

Earle looked over and saw the boys beating Bruce.

The count carried Eleanor in the house and put her in the parlor.

He ran to the bar and poured her a large glass of sherry and gave it to her.

He held Eleanor while she drank the sherry.

Jose said, “The count did not care about nobody but Eleanor.”

Ruth laughed.

Earle finally got Sharon off the ground and was walking her to the house.

Brenda flipped the shotgun.

Earle walked Sharon to the carriage with her parents.

The carriage driver pulled off.

The carriage with the bags pulled out behind that carriage.

Earle ran to stop the boys from jumping on Bruce.

Gary said, “I’ll collect that bit now.”

Thomas said, “We did not know who was going to win until the end.”

Nadine said, “You give him the ten dollars and better run in there and see about all those birds before you get the same thing not from Eleanor but Brenda.”

Thomas pulled out the ten dollars and gave it to Gary.

Stanley pulled out his ten dollars and gave it to Gary.

Nadine looked at the calm Brenda with the shotgun swung over her shoulders.

Brenda said, “Percy, Bruce, Thomas and Michael come and get your bathes.”

Earle was trying to pull them off Bruce.

The boys turned and ran to Brenda and Patrick.

Patrick and Brenda turned to go in the house.

They looked at Shirley.

She reached up to them and Patrick picked Shirley up and the boys ran in the house and the up the stairs to get their baths.

Nadine looked how Brenda swung the shotgun around her neck and carrying it as if she was wading through water.

Nadine looked at Stanley and said, “That’s who we need to be careful, damn Eleanor.”

Stanley was watching Brenda with the shotgun.

Wyonna and Alice sit on the grass with Lorraine and laughed and talked like nothing happened.

Earle helped Bruce to the seat of the carriage.

The carriage driver asked Earle, “Where to sir?”

Earle looked at the carriage driver and said, “Sir, I do not know. He is conscious, ask him.”

Earle looked at Gary who was walking back to the kitchen with Nadine and Stanley.

Jose, Meredith and William walked back inside the house.

Vivienne and Ruth cleared the family dining room.

They came back and cleaned the house.

William walked throughout the house and checked the house.

William knocked on the parlor door and said, “Sir your bath water is getting cold.”

Eleanor said, “I hope the food is on track because my behavior today is inexcusable and the servants may not have done their chores properly.”

They heard the boys jumping and playing like nothing was wrong.

The count kissed Eleanor.

He opened the door to go and take his bath.

He looked at the sherry but continued to his bath.

Everyone went into the kitchen.

Jose helped out with the workers dinner.

Brenda went to her study and unlocked the door and put the shotgun in the cabinet and locked it.

Patrick carried Shirley upstairs to her room.

Shirley wanted to take a nap.

Patrick said, “And not take your bath first?”

Eleanor was sitting in the parlor with the door opened and drinking her sherry and said, “That’s fine.”

Patrick put Shirley to bed.

He walked back downstairs and looked at Eleanor sitting in the parlor and drinking her sherry.

Brenda was walking down the hall and saw Patrick.

Patrick stock and got a small taste of Scotch.

Brenda said, “Rum please.”
Patrick gave Brenda only a swallow of Rum.

He said, “Let’s to our room for the next few hours.

Eleanor sat and thought about the events of today.

Nadine told Dan and Peter to take Eleanor hot bath water.

Most of the servants were working and did not know the fight took place, until Nadine told it to the house servants and Gary and Stanley told it to the servants in stable, barn and field.

Thomas was quiet.

He continued to baste the birds and make the dressing and cranberry sauce some with orange and an orange sauce for the ducks.

Dan and Peter returned from filing Eleanor’s tub with hot water.

William saw them and went to petty cash and paid them.

Dan was so shocked by Brenda’s behavior he could not grin or say anything smart or cute.

Thomas looked at Dan and thought, “Good.”

Thomas saw William and said, “I saw Jose. Where is Robert?”

Jose walked into the kitchen and said, “Somewhere with Bethany. They decided to get married. But you did not hear it from me.”

Natalie said, “After all of these years.”

Chasity laughed. She was glad they started hiding together because she was sick of pushing Robert off her.

Chasity started working there out of school. She attended school to become a teacher. Brenda helped.

Chasity was leaving in the new year to begin to teach.

Brenda asked Chasity to help Denise and Mable read, write and do arithmetic.

Brenda paid Chasity on the side besides her regular duties.

Chasity met a young man at school and they decided to marry in the spring.

Brenda told Chasity she could have the side lawn area to have the wedding or reception.

Brenda was busy ordering flowers that should bulb and come forth for the spring wedding.

Chasity’s husband was a teacher and preacher.

His father and all the men in his family were preachers.

The women were teachers.

 Chasity grinned and walked out the kitchen to put the containers of hot water for the guests to wash their face and hands.

She thought the room was a good idea.

Brenda told Chasity that morning to sit and control the room and keep the guests from wandering through her house.

Chasity walked into the grand foyer and turned and looked at the grand staircase.

She stood and looked at the staircase.

Eleanor was leaving out the parlor.

She glimpsed someone in the foyer and returned her head and saw Chasity.

Brenda told Eleanor that Chasity may have her wedding there.

Eleanor looked at the grand staircase and thought it was quite beautiful.

She heard Lorraine and Meredith bathing Shirley and they were rowdy and laughing.

She grinned and went into her bedroom and had a long leisurely bath.

Eleanor dressed and put on a beautiful dressed from Paris.

She put on the expensive pearl earrings from Joseph.

Eleanor made her hair beautiful.

She went to Shirley’s room and knocked and Lorraine opened the door.

Meredith was putting on Shirley’s dress.

Eleanor stood and admired the dress and said, “Shirley you are beautiful. You have grown. You are much taller than when we bought you the dresses.”

Eleanor turned and looked at the wall of cheffoniers.

She loved how she decorated Shirley’s room before she went to Europe.

Shirley had not seen the house nor her room in nearly three years.

Shorley loked at Eleanor and said, “Momma you are pretty.”

Eleanor never thought of herself as pretty.

She turned and looked at her deformed daughter that could find beauty in everything.

Eleanor said, “Shirley you are the beautiful one.”

Lorraine looked at Eleanor.

Ellen was different.

Lorraine looked at Eleanor’s dress and then the expensive earrings.

Shirley said, “Momma I heard grandma tell daddy he told them not to come and see me. Is that true?”

Meredith and Lorraine looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor started crying.

Thomas and Michael ran into Shirley’s room and hugged Eleanor.

Meredith returned and looked at Eleanor and Lorraine stood and looked.

Lorraine figured Bruce had said or done something to keep Brenda and Patrick from coming to see Shirley.

Brenda and Patrick had walked upstairs to check on everybody.

Eleanor said, “Shirley I was weak. I wasn’t strong enough to fight Bruce for you and Michael My guilt of having you and causing you to be disabled tore me apart everyday. Everyday you were sick and in pain because of me. I could not let go of the guilt that ate me a live. Especially after I had four healthy children.”

Lorraine reached over and touched Eleanor’s shoulder.

Shirley said, “I thought you were strong and would fight for me.”

Meredith looked at Shirley.

Brenda and Patrick stood in the door.

Patrick said, “Precious Eleanor we don’t fault you for the fall nor having a beloved Shirley. You have never know anything but this house and your small environment. But when you left your children and your life was torn from you by Bruce you had to get to know life a bigger life. Me and your mother are so proud of you for wanting to grow. You came back when it was time you are strong enough to fight Bruce. We are here forever with you.”

The count was standing in the hallway and heard the conversation.

Chasity and Dan stopped their work and inched to the doorway so they can hear.

Brenda said, “My love Shirley. Me and your grandpa hurt over you and Michael everyday. Not sleeping most nights. That’s why we sent Lorraine, Jose and Robert to watch over you. I chose them and paid them. I am your grandma and Patrick is your grandpa. Robert sent us messages every week about you and Michael.”

Shirley said, “How come you did not come and get me?”

Brenda said, “Because we did not have a legal right.”

Earle stood behind the count.

The count could see Bruce and Percy standing behind Brenda and Patrick.

Shirley said, “Eleanor you fought today.”

Eleanor said, “I told you Shirley never call me by my name unless you have an emergency.”

Shirley yelled, “I have an emergency!!!How come you did not come and get me. That is my emergency Eleanor!!!!!!”

Brenda and Patrick stood.

Lorraine and Meredith were shocked at the mild manner Shirley.

Eleanor stood and said, “Shirley I told you I was weak and could not think about fighting Bruce. Who was my best friend and the only man I ever knew. My life hung around him and him along, not even motherhood, a career, friends or cause only Bruce. You survived because of the prayers of your grandma and grandpa.”

Percy yelled, “And mine’s.”

Eleanor said, “I survived by their prayers to become stronger and be free from guilt and shame so I could fight for you and Michael. I started that legal process. I will not lose. I will take you and Michael away with me.”

The count and Earle looked at Percy and Bruce shaking one another.

Eleanor said, “I will not leave until I defeat Bruce forever. That means his control over my head and my heart.”

Percy said, “Can and Bruce go back with the count and you send Thomas and Michael to the military academy.”

Eleanor yelled and said, “Boy didn’t I tell you I will make the only and final decision. You better hope you and Bruce are not shipped to the military academy Monday.”

Bruce turned and ran down the stairs.

Percy ran behind Bruce.

Bruce said, “I told you Percy it was too soon to tell Eleanor of our plans.”

Thomas walked out to the staircase and looked at Percy and Bruce and said, “You really did it.”

Michael walked out and said, “Why you gonna tell her where to send us? Now you have made her mad.”

Eleanor walked over to Shirley who tried to push her away.

Eleanor said, “The guests will be arriving soon. Thomas go and bring me Shirley’s gift we picked out in Europe.

Percy and Bruce ran upstairs.

Thomas saw them and held out his hand for them to stop.

Thomas ran into Eleanor’s room and yelled, “The blue or black?”

Eleanor said, “Bring both and looked on my dresser and bring me the purple bow.”

The count stood and listened.

Earle was looking around at the house.

He thought about how twisted Eleanor was from only have one man, one house, one set of friends and one environment she knew.

He thought, “She must have been scared to death to travel across the oceans to different countries and people and tongues. But she is stronger.”

The count was wondering what gift did they buy Shirley.

Thomas ran back to Shirley’s room and hit Percy with his hip to move out of his way.

Thomas rolled his eyes at Percy.

The count snickered.

Eleanor sit next to Shirley and asked Meredith to give her Shirley’s brush and comb.

Eleanor began to comb and brush Shirley’s hair.

Thomas ran back with the boxes and the bow.

He sat next to Shirley and they waited for Eleanor to finish curling Shirley’s hair with her brush.

Lorraine said, “Eleanor that is pretty.”

Thomas reached Eleanor the purple bow.

He said, “Here momma put Shirley’s bow in her hair.”

Eleanor took the purple bow and pinned it in Shirley’s hair and it matched perfectly with her outfit.

Eleanor looked at Thomas and reached for the boxes.

Eleanor gave him the black box and said this is your grandma’s.

Thomas ran and gave the black box to Brenda.

Bruce said, “Open it grandma.”

Brenda looked at Percy, Bruce and Thomas.

She opened the black box,

She covered her mouth with her hands and started crying.

Patrick kissed her on her head.

He said, “Happy anniversary Brenda.”

Lorraine laughed.

Meredith clapped and said, “What is it?”

Percy said, Grandma, grandpa said get you something beautiful. Is it beautiful?”

All the count and Earle could hear was Brenda sniffing.

Chasity and Dan were trying to peep.

Gary walked in and caught on to what was going on.

Brenda was so nervous she could hardly open the box.

Meredith and Lorraine ran to see.

Meredith said, Oh Mr. Stith. You got to find me a husband with your taste. I want that Dr, Woodson, but he only thinks about his patients.”

Lorraine said, “I want Dr. Ralph but he only love his work.”

Lorraine begin to cry.

Brenda said, “You two better go after those men. I met Dr. Woodson, he is a GOD sent and if Dr. Ralph is anything like him they are a blessing.”

Lorraine ran out the Shirley’s room.

Brenda said, “You hear me Lorraine?”

Patrick kissed Brenda and he and Meredith helped put her beautiful triple strand of pearls with the diamond clasp and the matching pearl earrings encircled with diamonds.

Shirley walked to the door to look for Lorraine.

Lorraine ran out the front door and down the pathway.

William was standing in the grand foyer and opened the door for Lorraine to run out.

William said, “I hope she doesn’t run into any guests.”

The count looked at William.

William looked at the count and Earle and walked through the house and he was well pleased how Eleanor took the house from casual to beautiful.

The count looked around William at the door.

William turned and saw Christopher and his wife and three children.

William ran to the door and locked it and ran through the formal dining room to the kitchen.

Chasity looked and said, “It’s Christopher with his bad ass children.”

She and Dan continued to watch the drama upstairs.

Brenda looked outstanding.

Eleanor heard the knocking on the front door.

Earle looked up the staircase and said, “Should I get the door?”

Chasity said, “Do you work here!”

Chasity could not stand Christopher’s wife. She grew up in the same neighbor with her and then all of sudden she was better.

Chasity remembered the times she had to fight other kids off Sue.

She remembered when she helped her dumb self with her simple homework.

Sue met Christopher.

They dated and married a year later.

Sue parents wanted Brenda and Patrick to throw a lavish series of parties at the mansion leading up to their wedding.

Brenda refused.

Christopher and Sue married at her small church and had a small reception at the church.

Sue constantly was working to get her parents moved into Brenda and Patrick’s mansion.

So Brenda and Patrick could take care of her parents.

Brenda and Patrick hated them.

Brenda heard the knocking on the door.

Percy ran and got Eleanor’s mirror and said, “Here grandma.”

Brenda took the mirror and looked in it.

She looked worth every million they had.

Thomas said, “Wait and see Shirley’s gift.”

Shirley turned around and walked back to Eleanor.

Eleanor reached Shirley the blue box.

Shirley took the box.

Brenda and Patrick walked back into Shirley’s room to see.

Percy was so excited he was jumping up and down.

The count laughed.

Dan and Chasity looked at the count and then each other.

Dan raised his eyebrows.

Shirley stopped and started laughing at Percy.

Bruce said, “Please Shirley the guests are arriving.”

Shirley said, “They have to wait. This is my time. I had not had in three years.”

Eleanor touched Shirley’s hand.

Shirley looked into Eleanor’s eyes and saw love.

Shirley leaned over and hugged Eleanor.

Bruce sighed and walked to the staircase and saw Christopher.

He said, “Grandma are those bad kids going to stay here?’

Brenda did not turn around and said, “Never Bruce.”

Bruce stood on the staircase and watched them.

William was walking to the foyer.

Bruce said, “William put up a block so they know not to go that hall or up these stairs.”

William stood.

Patrick said, “William do it.”

William saw Earle and pointed and said, “Earle you keep all children and others from that hallway.”

Earle said, “I don’t work here.”

He looked at Chasity.

Chasity turned her nose up at Earle.

The count said, “Do it.”

The count was still trying to see the gifts.

Shirley open her box and looked at Eleanor.

Michael said. “Let me see.”

He said, “That is pretty.”

Thomas said, “See the three diamonds in each earring they represent grandma, momma and Shirley.”

Eleanor helped put the earrings on Shirley’s ears.

The count was trying to think were those the earrings he picked out. He will see in a few minutes.

Patrick said, “My women are beautiful. Let the others see.”

Patrick and Brenda were walking down the stairs.

Shirley said, “Wait for me.”

Patrick and Brenda put Shirley in the middle.

William was standing back so Christopher could not see him.

Brenda said, “I said in my message to him one pm not twelve.”

Patrick looked at William and William walked to the door and unlocked it.

Because Christopher was trying to unlock the door.

William opened the door.

Christopher said, “William why did it take you too long to open it?”

Sue turned her nose up at William.

William knew Sue’s history because Chasity told everybody.

Brenda said, “Christopher, this is my home. You do not come into my home and demand anything from any of my servants.”

Christopher said, “But I was knocking over ten minutes.”

Patrick said, “Your invitation said One pm not before.”

Brenda said, “Either step in the door or leave so my guests can enter. You Christopher did not speak nor your wife nor your children.”

Patrick saw Ben and Gen walking up.

Gen saw Shirley and ran to Shirley and pushed Sue out of her way and looked at her.

Shirley grinned and hugged Gen.

Ben ran in and ran spoke and he ran to Shirley.

Ben said, “Shirley you have grown.”

He picked her up and kissed her.

Ben said, “You know you are the reason why me and Gen found each other and got married.”

Patrick was peeping at the other guests.

He greeted the mayor and his wife.

They were standing in the foyer.

Patrick said, “I want to hear how Shirley brought Ben and Gen together.”

Brenda said, “Me too. I have never heard this.”

Ben said, “it was this little princess that came to that poor and out of the way hospital that you Patrick and Brenda told Genevia about to get treatment for her broken hip. If she veer took your advice. I would never have met her. But it was GOD’s plan that after all of those years HE sent little Shirley who is growing tall. To the same rinky dink hospital to get well.”

Shirley said, “Now you have it.”

Everyone laughed.

Gen said and Brenda hugged.

Gen said, “Baby you don’t know the pain I went through with that broken hip to find this man and he was worth it all.”

Ben said, “Being retired navy. Sometimes the worst storms of life lead you to the most beautiful and peaceful places on earth.”

Shirley said, “I can understand that better now because I just went through the storm with momma, grandma and grandpa.”

Eleanor and the count walked up with the boys and were listening.

The mayor elbowed his wife and said, “You Brenda’s jewels?”

The mayor’s wife pushed her husband out the ay and said, Patrick I need to be next to you.”

Everyone laughed.

Gen said, “Brenda those are beautiful.”

Brenda was flaunting the jewels.

Shirley said, “Momma gave me some.”

Everyone looked at Shirley’s earrings and said, “They are beautiful.”

Ben put Shirley down.

He saw Eleanor and said, “You are Miss Eleanor. I know you because when your children needed help they called your name. Shirley called your name every day.”

Eleanor teared up.

Shirley walked to Eleanor and laid her head on Eleanor’s chest.

Eleanor held Shirley.

Percy said, “You’ll missed the fight this morning.”

The mayor looked.

Gen said, “They showed up here?”

Patrick said, “With all of their luggage to stay in my house.”

The mayor said,” Who?”

The Gibson’s were arriving with son-in-, daughter and grandson.

They all greeted one another.

Mr. Gibson’s eye went to the liquor table.

William walked around into the foyer with a tray of appetizers along with Nadine.

William was angry because he knew Mr. Gibson was a lush and would beat Eleanor drinking the sherry.

Which meant he meant not have any for later that night.

Eleanor introduced the count from Austria.

The governor’s wife said, “And such a good looking count.”

The women said, “Oh.”

Patrick, Mr. Gibson, the mayor and the governor walked to Patrick’s study.

Brenda looked around and did not Patrick.

Ben said, “They must have a secret language when I looked around they stopped at the liquor table and went around the corner.”

Gen said, “Speaking about liquor.”

 She pointed and said, “What is wrong with Lorraine?”

Shirley said, “Where is she?”

Gen said out in the pathway.

Brenda said, “She and that one there.”

Meredith was walking through the foyer to look at the formal table. She always loved looking at the formal table.

She looked at Brenda.

Shirley said, “Lorraine love Dr. Ralph and Meredith love Dr. Woodson.”

Ben said, “I love them too.”

Gen slapped him on his shoulder.

Brenda said, “I told them to go and get them.”

Shirley said, “Yeah.”

Gen and the mayor’s wife laughed.

Eleanor said, “Shirley lets go to the parlor.”

Shirley turned to Eleanor and said, “They are my friends. And Dr. Ralph and Dr. Woodson.”

Eleanor whispered and said, “Shirley they have to work those things out.”

Shirley said, “You can’t help them.”

Gen said, “Nobody can.”

Meredith started crying and ran down the foyer and through the side room.

Shirley said, “Meredith come back. You know I can’t run yet.”

The count said, “Yet…”

Brenda said,”She still has hope.”

Shirley was walking down the hall to find Meredith.

Percy and Bruce walked on each side of Shirley.

The count watched them.

Brenda looked back and said, “They have walked with her ever since they could walk.”

Gen said, “Dr. Ralph and Dr. Woodson are great doctors. They are not willing to take time away from their patients.”

Ben said, “I just don’t want them to spend their whole lives only in the love of healing.”

Gen said, “If it weren’t for their dedication to medicine and to healing you and me would have never met and would be living a life of total pain.”

Brenda laughed and said, “I never met dr. Ralph. But we did have Dr. Parker, Dr. Greene and Dr. Woodson as our guests for your wedding.”

Gen said, “All of them are beautiful people.”

Brenda said, “Patrick was not that tough on Dr. Greene.”

Ben said, “Why?”

The men were coming back from Patrick’s study.

Patrick heard the conversation.

Mr. Gibson stopped and got some more sherry.

Mrs. Gibson wanted a tour of the house.

Eleanor looked back at Earle and said, “Come on.”

The count, Mrs. Gibson and her daughter, son-in-law and gran and ten year old grandson alone with Thomas and Michael took a tour of the bottom level of the house.

Patrick said, “I made a joke about physicians.”

Brenda started to laugh.

The governor said, “I am a physician and can’t wait to get back to practicing medicine. I like those physicians and would like to study with them for a while.”

Gen said, “It’s addictive you might love it and stay.”

The governor looked at his wife.

She shrugged her shoulders.

Brenda looked around and said, “I can’t talk any sense in Lorraine and Meredith.”

Ben said, “We just have to pray for them.”

Ben said, “gen who are those people.”

Brenda looked and it was Christopher and his wife.

Brenda said, “My son Christopher and his wife Sue.”

Patrick said, “Why?”

Gen elbowed Ben.

Brenda said, “Don’t do that.”

The governor looked at Gen.

Ben looked at Gen.

He said, “That woman was complaining and complaining that you told her not to bring anybody and yet you have guests that brought people.”

Patrick pulled the locked door.

William was standing by the door and saw Patrick.

He looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “Let that trash in.”

Brenda said, “I told you I did not want them here.”

Patrick Jr., his wife and three boys walked in.

Patrick Jr. looked at everybody and did not speak.

Patrick said, “You infidels walked into my house and did not speak. What the hell is wrong with you animals?”

Patrick Jr. looked around and said, “Afternoon.

His tramp wife said, “Hello.”

His three teenage sons stood and looked.

Patrick said, “Go in the parlor and wait for dinner. Your placed is marked.”

Brenda was thinking.

John walked up and pulled the doorknob like it was his house.

William kept locking the door and taking his time to open it.

John saw everyone standing and talking in the foyer.

He wanted to be announced.

William unlocked the door and opened.

John said, “You announced me.”

Willian acted like he did not hear John.

Ben turned and looked at the young man.

Gen looked at John.

Patrick said, “What did he say?”

Ben and Gen would not answer.

William closed the door and locked it and walked into the kitchen.

John and his wife rolled their eyes at William.

Patrick watched them.

John was seething.

He walked through the foyer and did not speak.

His wife tried to speak.

Patrick and Brenda looked at them.

Brenda said, “I never want to see any of them ever. Including those children. They act like monsters. Me and Patrick work harder with them than Eleanor. They have turned out to be evil. They want us to give them and their children this house and their in-laws to stay here and for me and Patrick to use our life’s work to take care of them.”

Patrick said, “Brenda there is a reason I wanted to invite them here. Trust me.”

Patrick had a small scotch and gave Brenda a small rum.

The governor’s wife said, “With those jewels what not to trust.”

Gen and Ben laughed.

Patrick told them about that morning fight with Sharon and her parents and how the boys jumped on Bruce.

Brenda could not talk anymore.

Shirley walked to Brenda and hugged her.

Brenda said, “What’s the meaning of this?”

Shirley said, “You look like you needed a hug.”

Brenda said, “Yes I did and I feel better.”

William looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “All the guests are here let’s sit.”

Robert came to work.

He called all the guests to dinner.

Robert nearly fought John.

Earle looked and said, “Sir.”

Patrick turned and walked down the hall.

Percy and Bruce walked behind Patrick.

William looked and locked the front door.

He walked down the hall.

John said, “Who are you but my servant.”

Patrick said, “What the hell is going on in my house in front of my guests?”

Robert was ready to fight.

William walked to block Robert.

Eleanor and the count and Mrs. Gibson and family were returning from the tour.

They knew something had happened.

Eleanor escorted the Gibson’s to the end of the hallway.

Chasity directed them to the formal dining room.

Thomas and Michael ran to Bruce and Percy.

Eleanor looked at Chasity.

Chasity shook her head for bad.

Eleanor walked to the guests’ room.

John said, “This servant would not get my towel and clean my boots.”

Patrick looked at John.

The count walked behind Eleanor.

Thomas said, “Hello Uncle John.”

John did not speak.

Patrick looked at Robert and said, “Thank you Robert for not ruining my dinner and holiday. I will remember that. Go and into the kitchen and have dinner with the rest of the staff.”

John said, “I want him fired.”

William shaved Robert to the kitchen area.

William stood to face the accusations.

John looked at William and said, “I told this one to announce me and wife and he did not and walked away.”

Patrick looked at William and said, “Let’s eat William.”

Patrick and everyone turned from the guests’ room and walked down the hall to the formal dining room.

Everyone found their names.

Mable made beautiful name tags out of maple leaves.

Mrs. Gibson was standing and talking to Brenda.

She said, “Brenda, we need to start spending more time together. Our children are out of our way. They have to find their own way.”

Brenda watched Sue as she made an attempt to switch seats so they could sit next to the governor.

Brenda walked to Sue and said, “Don’t sit. Leave now.”

Christopher said, “Over a seat.”

Brenda said, “Over your constant disrespect for me and your father and your ungodly disrespect for our home and our friends.”

Patrick heard them.

He walked behind Brenda and said, “Get out.”

Christopher and Sue looked at Patrick and Brenda and all their guests.

Christopher stood up and his chair fell and he stormed out the house.

William caught the chair with his knee.

Chasity looked at Sue and smiled.

Sue said, “Come children. Your grandparents don’t want us here.”

The two girls and one boy turned up their noses and snatched their heads off and walked behind Sue.

Chasity ran and got all their bags and gave them to Sue.

She locked the door.

She grinned.

Everyone sat.

Patrick said grace.

The maids brought in the food.

Thomas carved the turkeys.

William and Dan served the turkey.

The count did not know how to eat the dressing and cranberry sauce.

He was sitting by Shirley.

John looked at the count.

Shirley sat between the count and Eleanor.

John had four teenage boys, that were bullies.

They were expelled from their school.

John came to Patrick and wanted him to pay for his four sons to go to private school.

Patrick said, “No. I did not spend money like that on none of you. You need to teach your children to respect other people.”

John was furious.

He moved his chair to be at the head of the table at the bottom of the table.

Everyone saw him.

Brenda whispered, “Patrick.”

Patrick kept eating and said, “Brenda. Hold on.”

The governor sat next to Brenda and said, “I’ll eat fast so we can adjoin to the parlor.”

Patrick and Mr. Gibson laughed.

The count sat across from the mayor and he said, “I really want to cook and invite their friends over to taste my homeland foods.”

Thomas sat next to the mayor and said, “He cooks good.”

John was leaning over the table and eating.

William re-arranged John and his family’s chairs.

He put space between the guests and John four teenage boys.

William and everyone in the town heard about John’s terrible boys and that John would use his name to threaten people from calling the sheriff on them.

No one told Patrick nor Brenda.

Eleanor was in her own world with her children and especially Shirley.

Patrick Jr. had gone to the train and told Roger to put his in-laws in the owner’s suite.

Roger said, “Sir, I can’t do that.”

Patrick Jr. said, “I just told you.”

He looked back at his wife and her parents.

Roger said, “I don’t have the key.”

Patrick Jr. said, “Get it!”

Roger said, “You father has the only key to the owner’s suite. Because he is the owner of this railroad. You should have stopped by and got the key from him. Remember that the next time. Now you need to buy your guests their tickets.”

Patrick Jr. started paying for their tickets he did not have enough money to buy their tickets.

He turned to them and said, “My money is not good enough here.”

Patrick sat and looked at Patrick Jr.

Patrick Jr. did not Roger told Patrick everything yesterday.

John was leaning over the table to eat.

Everyone was looking at John.

His boys were moved from Percy and Bruce.

Michael was sitting next to Thomas, then one of John’s boys.

The boy balled his fist and hit Michael’s thigh.

Michael yelled.

The count looked up.

Everyone stopped eating and looked at Michael.

Then John’s boy grabbed Michael’s by his neck.

Earle was watching everything.

He walked in and grabbed John’s boy and Eleanor stood up and said, “Michael come with me.”

John said, “They are just kids playing.”

Mr. Gibson’s son-in-law was physician, he stood and walked behind Eleanor.

His wife was furious.

Their ten year old son was seated next to one of John’s son.

Mrs. Gibson said, “You don’t play at the dinner table. I know your parents taught you that.”

Patrick had turned red. The governor picked up his scotch and said, “Patrick calm down before you have a stroke.”

The count was disturbed by the behavior of John’s children.

He heard Thomas clearly speak to John.

John did not address Thomas.

Thomas stood and walked from the table.

The count knew Thomas had something in his hand.

John said, “Count you say. You been sing Eleanor money’s mother, really my money to fund your castle.”

His wife giggled and said, “John.”

Everyone stopped eating.

John’s boys started laughing.

The count said, “Sir. I usually don’t address he sadistic never. But I heard that is what your wife does with every man and some women to keep your fat bad sons in peanut butter and fat back.”

Everyone looked at John.

His wife was still in the midst of her laugh when she realized the count had exposed her secret to the other people at the table.

Mrs. Gibson’s daughter said, “Cheers” and drank some sherry.

John did not know what to say.

The physician returned and rolled his eyes at John’s son and looked at Patrick and Brenda and said, “Bad bruise.”

The doctor knew something had happened.

His wife was giggling too much.

He took her glass of sherry.

The mayor was angry.

He heard of John and his wife and their teenage boys.

He told his wife. They argued because she said for her husband to tell Patrick and he would not.

The physician’s wife whispered to her husband what happened.

Thomas walked passed the boy that hit Michael.

The count was watching Thomas because he knew Thomas was about to do something.

The count saw Bruce and Percy watching Thomas.

He took a deep breathe.

Thomas hit the boy on his neck with his spoon handle.

The teenage boy jumped up.

Percy and Bruce stood.

John four sons jumped up.

Thomas said to the teenage boys, “Sit down fools. Just like your daddy said kids playing.”

The mayor hollered and Thomas walked to find Eleanor and Michael.

The count looked at Shirley.

Shirley looked at the count.

He said, “Hello beautiful bluest eyes.”

Shirley leaned and looked at Patrick.

Patrick was angry.

He said, “Shirley looking at him.”

He winked his eye at her.

The count watched Percy and Bruce whispering.

Shirley watched Percy and Bruce.

Bruce leaned forward and looked at Shirley and said, “You liked your turkey?”

Shirley said, “I had capon and a tablespoon of creamed potatoes.”

Percy said, “Shirley was it good?”

Shirley, “Yes. I can’t eat any more.”

Bruce said, “When the count cooks I will help eat your food.”

Percy said, “He can cook.”

The physician said, “I want to be invited.”

His wife said, “Me too.”

Her mother said, “To what?”

Her daughter said, “When the count cooks.”

Mr. Gibson was drinking the last of his sherry and said, “I heard your ale is the finest in the world.”

Mr. Gibson was looking for William saw him and was hiding to keep from giving him any more sherry.

Eleanor was returning to the dining room with Michael and Thomas.

The count and physician stood.

Everyone looked at Michael.

Eleanor said, go and sit next to Shirley.

Eleanor stood and watched Michael walk pass the bad teenage boys.

She looked at the one who hit Michael.

Thomas was standing staring at him with his fist balled up.

Eleanor looked at Thomas and said, “Sit dear.”

She sat next to the boy who hit Michael.

Shirley looked at Michael and said, “Sit next to me Michael.”

Patrick Jr. laughed at Shirley like who she was to protect somebody.

Everyone looked at Patrick Jr.

His wife did not say anything.

She saw everybody hated them.

William walked in and removed Eleanor’s plate and said to Michael, “What you like?”

Michael cut his eye at Eleanor and was rubbing his thigh.

Shirley said, “Lamb chop and creamed potatoes.”

Everyone looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor was angry but did not say anything.

Michael said, “Thank you Shirley.”

Shirley said, “You are welcome Michael.”

Eleanor sat next to the bully and stared at him.

He stared back.

Eleanor said, “Hit me with your bad ass.”

John looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor stared at John.

She sat and stared at John.

Brenda was thinking.

John turned sideways and was drinking the last of his sherry.

He looked at William who was taking Mr. Gibson’s request for sherry.

John belched.

His wife and teenage sons laughed.

Brenda was thinking.

Gen and Ben were sitting close to John and his family.

Gen heard John’s wife whispered and said,“Look at the necklace your mother has on and that deformed girl’s earrings.”

Ben was quiet.

John was staring at Shirley.

Then he looked at his mother’s pearl necklace and then earrings.

The mayor heard something he could not say for sure what was said.

Bruce started speaking in German to Thomas.

The teenage bully who hit Michael started making gobble sounds at them.

Thomas started laughing.

The count watched John.

He knew it was something about him but he could not put his hands on it.

Earle kept walking to the dining room and watching John and Patrick Jr.

The mayor was thinking.

He regretted not telling Patrick and Brenda about his suspicions about John.

Patrick Jr.’s wife ate in silence.

She and Patrick Jr. had two boys and a girl.

Patrick felt free.

He looked at a nervous Brenda.

She looked over at Patrick.

He smiled.

She always melt with his smile.

They finished dinner.

Dan and the other cooks brought the desserts.

John said something to his wife.

Dan froze in fear.

He could not contain himself.

He walked out to the kitchen.

The mayor watched several other men saw Dan’s reaction.

Shirley said, “Bruce you have to teach me and Michael German.”

Percy said, “You will be there soon.”

John stopped and looked and said, “What you say boy.”

Eleanor was so angry with Percy.

Eleanor rolled her eyes at Percy.

Percy sit still and said nothing.

John said, “Boy I asked you a question.”

John’s soon and Patrick Jr’s sons started laughing.

Eleanor leaned over the table and stared at John with venom.

John did not see Eleanor.

His wife saw Eleanor.

She nodded to her husband and he looked at her and looked towards Eleanor and everyone was watching John, it had become clear to everyone at the table.

Patrick Jr. saw everyone looking at him and John.

Patrick Jr., his wife and their three children left before dessert and never saw Patrick and Brenda since that Thanksgiving.

Patrick and Brenda gave their four children an equal trust fund.

Christopher, John and Patrick Jr. spent their entire trust funds living high lives instead of starting a business or going to school.

They used all their money up and wanted to move into Patrick and Brenda’s house with all of their children and with their in-laws.

John did not have enough sense to leave from the dinner.

His wife looked at Shirley and said, “Little girl those are lovely earrings. Where did you get them?”

Shirley sat and stared at John’s wife.

The teenage bully looked at Shirley tried to make a face about Shirley’s face being bashed in.

Everyone looked at John’s wife.

John said, “She’s talking to you.”

Shirley stared at John.

John tried to make a face and stare back at Shirley.

He swallowed a piece of pie and it went down the wrong pipe.

His wife jumped up to help him from choking.

His wife said, “Doctor.”

The physician sat there.

He looked at the count.

The count looked at him then John.

The physician stood and went to John and helped him.

Brenda turned her head.

The physician went back to his wife and sat.

He was telling Shirley his duck was divine.

Eleanor stared at John.

He was watching Shirley and her earrings.

He said, “Hey…”

Before he could say anything else.

Eleanor said, “John from this second on never say anything to my children.”

John stared at Eleanor.

Their eyes meet in mutual hatred.

The count looked at Eleanor.

The physician watched John.

He told his wife, “I should have let him choke to death.”

His wife drank some white wine and said, “I told you don’t move.”

John wife looked at the physician and his wife.

Eleanor took her trust fund money and gave it to her grandparents to invest for her.

When they died they left their equal shares in the railroad and shipping businesses to Eleanor.

She lived off the interest.

She had enough to buy the coal distribution and the motel.

Now she is to run the railroad business and start the shelter for ‘Freedmen’. She did not ever want John near. He was different. She hated him from the hour he was there for dinner.”

Eleanor saw the white wine the Gibson’s were drinking.

She called William to her and he bent down.

Eleanor said, ”William there are several bottles of sherry in the billiards room. Remove the empty bottles of sherry and replenish our guests’ glasses.

The Gibson’s daughter heard Eleanor and put down her white wine.

Her husband looked at her.

The mayor grinned at him.

William understood what Eleanor said.

There was about a glass of sherry left from the old bottle.

William began to sing and opened the second bottle.

He walked in the dining room and John stopped him first and had William to fill his glass to the rim.

William was happy, because he knew Patrick and Brenda would never invite them to the house again for ever.

The physician’s wife looked at William.

The physician put his hand over her glass.

She looked at her mother.

Her mother said, “Over here.”

William went and carried the near empty bottles to the kitchen and gave them to Wyonna.

Alice looked and said, “I want some.”

Wyonna took the bottles to their room.

William went back to the guess.

He emptied the scotch bottles and brandy bottles.

He took them to Alice.

She took them to her room.

The staff came in and out and ate a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner and sat around for a while.

Some of the soldiers that fought in the civil war saw Denise and Mable.

William and Robert whispered and said, “Do you have a problem with them?”

The soldiers said, “No.”

One said, “It’s hard to see them free.”

Robert said, “They are scared to death. Just leave them alone.”

The soldiers said, “We understand.”

Denise, Mable, Nadine, Ruth and Vivienne washed dishes all day.

Robert walked over and said, “Denise and Mable go and get your Thanksgiving dinner and sat and eat.”

Thomas was sitting by the stove reading a book, he looked over at Denise and Mable.

He stood and got two plates and put turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, green beans and greens on the plates and put two forks on the plates and made them follow him to the eat in area that Eleanor set up for the servants.

Gary walked in and said, “I’m hungry.”

Thomas said, “Don’t start that s\*\*t Gary.”

Gary started laughing.

Thomas said, “I will fix your plate. What do you want?”

Gary said, “It’s my first Thanksgiving.”

Thomas walked out.

He sat with Denise and Mable.

He knew was the first holiday in their lives that they were free.

He did not know what to say.

He knew the fellows at the other tables were the soldiers that fought to get them free.

Thomas walked back with the same plate and told Gary he gave him a slice of duck and turkey.

William knew Thomas love brandy.

William got a new bottle of brandy and gave it to Thomas for saving him.

Thomas put the bottle in his bag.

Made a plate and went and sat with the fellows outside, because there was no additional seats inside.

Nathan came and made a plate and sat outside.

Thomas went inside and looked at Lorraine and said, “You want something to eat, because I am getting ready to leave and be back Sunday for brunch.”

Lorraine said, “I can make me something to eat.”

Meredith was standing and looking straight.

Thomas looked over the food and thought it should be more than enough for them.

Jose asked William where were they to sleep.

William went to Eleanor and asked for sleeping arrangements.

She said, “Jose and his friend and Robert and Bethany in the supply shed with Denise and Mable. I am going to ask Lorraine if Meredith can stay with her for a few days.

Gen could not understand John’s listening.

William went back in the kitchen.

Jose and Nancy were sitting outside eating.

William saw Robert and Bethany walking up.

He said, “Eleanor said, for you four to share the re-modeled supply shed with Denise and Mable.”

Bethany was looking and said, “Those are the slaves?”

William said, “You want hell from Brenda you say anything out of the way to them or stare at them.”

Bethany said, “I’m just curious.”

William said, “Where were you two most of the day?”

Robert said, “Looking for a house.”

William said, “How soon you will move?”

Robert said, “Tomorrow.”

William said, “I will tell Brenda you will be here overnight.”

He looked at Bethany.

William walked back in the house.

Lorraine and Meredith were making them plates.

William said, “Lorraine Eleanor said can Meredith stay with you a few nights?”

Lorraine said, “Sure.”

William said, “Do you need a ride home?”

Lorraine said, “Yes.”

William walked back out and said, “Nathan can you take a carriage and drop off Lorraine and Meredith tonight.”

Nathan said, “Yeah. But how are they going to get back to work.”

William said, “Stanley can you get a horse and buggy ready for Lorraine and Meredith and you need to have two ready for tomorrow for Eleanor and one for Mr. Stith.”

Stanley said, “Yeah.”

He watched William walk in the house and he said, “That will take about fifteen minutes.

He looked at the field hands and said, “What are you fellows during this evening?”

They said going back to the field and bury our pay.”

One of the field hands said, “We heard you’ll gamble your wages away.”

Peter and Dan ran out and got in the wagon and lit the lights in the yard.

They rode up the pathway and lit the torches.

They came back and met Louis and got the water together for Friday.

William was in a good mood, because he got he and Wyonna full bottle of sherry.

Alice got two glasses of brandy and a glass of scotch.

William said, “Alice should have no more than that.”

The maids cleared the dining room.

Thomas left for his off days.

Meredith and Lorraine ate their Thanksgiving dinner and was friendly to the other servants.

They picked up their bags and books from the corner of the kitchen.

Stanley looked up from his pie and walked to the stables and rode a buggy out to them.

Lorraine and Meredith got in the buggy and rod the thirty minutes to Lorraine’s house in silence.

They got to Lorraine’s house and she unlocked the gate and rode the buggy into the yard.

They got out the buggy and Lorraine locked the gate.

She waved at her neighbors.

She went in the house just before dark and found the candles.

Lorraine lit the candles and the torches at her front yard and the ones at her back yard.

She gave the horse water.

Lorraine had a pretty house.

She had a large living room and kitchen combined.

She had two wash closets and two bedrooms.

Meredith said, “Lorraine, this is nice.”

Lorraine said, “You can do this two. You just have to put everything down on paper.”

I heard Robert telling William, he and Bethany found a house today and will move tomorrow.”

Meredith said, “Yes I heard him.”

Lorraine said, “Meredith you did not date Dr. Woodson. I dated Dr. Ralph for nearly two years. I thought I could squeeze into his heart. I know he loves me. But he loves healing people. I can’t fuss. I knew that going in. But I thought if he got a taste of me, he would open that gate for me. You need to talk to Dr. Woodson straight and find out if he is interested in getting married and if you are the type of woman he is looking for. If he say no, then find someone else.”

Meredith stood and thought.

Lorraine checked the windows and doors and locked them.

She looked at Meredith and said, “Good night.”

Lorraine went into her bedroom and closed the door and cried.

Meredith sat in the living room and cried.

She fell asleep in the chair.

She woke late in the night and went to bed.

Meredith got on her knees to pray but was so confused she stood p and laid on the bed and slept until she heard the chicken crowing.

Meredith jumped up and looked around.

She heard Lorraine moving in the next room.

They both opened the door and walked out.

Lorraine started a fire under the water she brought in last night.

William introduced Bethany, Robert, Jose and Nancy to Denise and Mable and said, they would be sharing the quarters with them until they relocate.

Jose and William watched Bethany staring at Denise and Mable.

Jose looked at William.

The maids cleared the tables and went through the house collecting glasses and dishes and cleaning rooms and closing doors.

Every washed and dried the dishes.

The kitchen was clean and the floor mop.

Dan wrapped up pie for the mayor’s wife and the governor’s wife.

There were games of billiards that had to be completed at a different time.

Nathan rode home.

The drivers of the carriages and buggies came to the back and Jose and Robert feed them.

There was no food remaining.

Jose said, “Thank God. I hate turkey leftovers.”

William and Dan walked through the house to see if anything was out of place.

They looked outside.

They checked all windows and doors and locked them all.

Eleanor put all her children to bed.

The count was playing billiards with the Gibson’s.

Mrs. Gibson and her daughter were talking to Brenda.

The count looked at Eleanor and said, “Mrs. Stith when can I cook for you and you invite these delightful people over?”

Brenda looked at the Gibson’s and said, “What is a good day?”

The physician said, “I am only off the week-end.”

Eleanor said, “Patrick does next Saturday sound good to you?”

Patrick said, “That’s sound good. I trust Bruce and Percy’s opinion.”

The count was excited and missed his shot.

The physician laughed.

The count gave the physician and Mr. Gibson a bottle of ale.

Mr. Gibson and Patrick were talking in private and he was getting out of the chair and said, “Son if your coking is anything like this ale. I am going to enjoy every bit of the food.”

The physician lifted the ale up and said, “It is good.”

The Gibson’s daughter said, “You know we have school tomorrow?”

Their ten year son was playing with Thomas and Michael.

Eleanor put Bruce, Percy and Shirley to sleep.

Mrs. Gibson said, “Brenda and Patrick Eleanor’s children were adorable. I don’t think you will ever see John and Patrick Jr. ever in this life, but that John is up to something. Shirley acted refined and she knew when to speak and when not to speak.”

Mrs. Gibson said, “Good night. We are trying to get them to move in with us. Our house is no where large like this, that is the reason why everybody wanted to move in here and bring their family. I would like to farm that land in the back.”

Brenda smiled and they hugged good night.

The count and the physician were walking through the hall and talking.

They stood outside and Mr. Gibson sped off.

Eleanor called Thomas and Michael.

She put them in bed.

She checked on Shirley.

She got her clothes ready for the next day.

She said, “Joseph are you going with me to the town in the morning?”

The count stood for a minute.

He said, “Eleanor are we going to see any more slaves?”

Brenda and Patrick looked at the count because he was emotionally distraught the other day.

Eleanor said, “I don’t want to see any.”

He was hesitant and said, “What time?”

Eleanor was thinking and said, “Daddy you are going to be in town until lunch time?”

Patrick said, “probably later.”

Eleanor said, “I thought we could meet at the pub for lunch.”

Brenda said, “I want to go.”

Patrick said, “Fine.”

Brenda said, “They have the best corn beef.”

The count was thinking and said, “You are going to leave the children here all day?”

Patrick said, “Count Joseph there are a hundred servants here and then your two.”

The count laughed and was still a little nervous.

Eleanor said, “I leave at eight thirty.”

The count said, “Make it eight.”

Eleanor said, “Fine.”

The count was standing at the bottom of the stairs grinning and he turned and saw Brenda and Patrick staring at him.

He tried to cut off his grin. He could not he walked fast to his bedroom and undressed. He laid out his clothes for the next day and went to bed.

Benda and Patrick walked through the house especially the kitchen and saw it was cleaned and the floor mopped.

Patrick stopped and looked.

William thought he heard someone talking he cracked his room door.

Brenda heard William and said, “It’s us William.”

William put on his robe and walked in the kitchen and said, “Is everything ok?”

Brenda said, “I like the kitchen is very clean.”

William and Wyonna had poured full glasses of sherry and was about to go to bed.

Alice heard them talking and she poured the full glass of scotch and laid on her bed and read.

Robert was gone home and would be back on Sunday.

Patrick looked and said, “Is this back door unlocked.”

William said, “We usually don’t locked it in case the workers need something.”

Brenda said, “Let the workers get what they need when they leave. Locked the doors at eight pm.”

Brenda knew they were gambling and going meeting others for rendezvous.

Patrick locked the door and put out the lights.

He and Brenda walked through the formal dining room and bac to their suite.

Brenda said, “Patrick cut off the lights in the front of the house.”

Patrick said, “I was thinking about that to.”

They cut off the lights and walked to their suite.

They washed and prayed and slept until daybreak.

The count went to sleep with a smile on his face.

Dan was off until Monday.

Eleanor left the breakfast menu and lunch menus and fried chicken and potato salad and carrots and beans for dinner.

Alice was listening to William and Wyonna next to her and thought, “My God they worked all day and sill have time for that.”

Gary was laying in his bed practicing poker.

Earle was counting the time until Margaret got back on Saturday.

Eleanor was up and in her office.

She was writing business plans and going over the plans she wrote.

She pulled out the papers out of her desk and reviewed them.

She put all the papers in her pouch.

She went upstairs and took a bath and dressed.

The count was snoring.

Patrick and Brenda were dressed.

Patrick knocked on his door, then he saw Earle coming.

Earle smiled and spoke.

He went in and woke the count.

Louis and Peter brought his hot water and put it in his suite while he was sleep.

Brenda was very organized, she had to write the papers for the ninety five workers.

She went to her office and wrote all amounts.

She had the papers filled out but for the amount.

Patrick unlocked his office and checked for the telegrams and read them.

He received the telegram their abolitionists friends met the train and sheltered the ‘Freed men’.

Patrick said, “Thank You JESUS.”

William and Wyonna woke around seven and went to wash.

Peter was up around six thirty.

He and Louis brought the hot water in the house for everyone.

Peter was thankful he had simple meals for the next few days, since the other two cooks were off.

Eleanor was eating a soft boiled egg and drinking orange juice.

She added stewed prunes to Patrick and Brenda’s breakfast.

He locked his office.

He passed Brenda and saw she was busy paying the workers.

Patrick walked to the family dining room.

Michael and Thomas came down an sat.

Eleanor said, “Oh God Shirley.”

She jumped up.

When she got to the dining room, Bruce and Percy was holding Shirley and brought her down the stairs to breakfast.

Lorraine and Meredith were in the kitchen drinking cooking and eating boiled eggs and toast.

Patrick said, “Shirley I got a telegram form Dr. Woodson he said you can have an egg twice a week.”

Shirley clapped.

Eleanor said, “Shirley how do you fell?”

Shirley said, “My stomach hurt a little, but I ain’t more than I usually do.”

Eleanor looked.”

Lorraine walked in the family dining room with Shirley’s plate.

Lorraine said, “Good morning.”

Eleanor spoke.

Patrick and Brenda looked at Lorraine.

They saw Lorraine’s face and knew she had decided to let Dr. Ralph go.

Eleanor said, “Dr. Woodson said, Shirley could have an egg what about her therapy?”

Meredith walked in with Michael’s one lamb chop, oatmeal and egg.

Shirley had an egg and oatmeal.

Percy, Bruce and Thomas, had sausage, oatmeal and eggs.

They had their scones and different biscuits and orange juice.

Shirley said, “I don’t want the therapy an more. That means I have to be there.”

Patrick said, “Your grandma is planning on sending Mable there to see if the doctors can help. If Mable agrees, then me and your grandma will be there and that will give us time to check on the shipping business.”

Shirley said, “It really hurt.”

Patrick said, “I know. But look at you Shirley.”

Eleanor said, “Lorraine do know any of the therapies the doctors were doing?”

Lorraine said, “I know two. They certified me to do those two.”

Shirley was rolling her eyes at Lorraine.

Lorraine said, “Shirley it has been a week. You need your therapy. Look how you have improved. You have grown six inches.”

Bruce said, “See Percy I told you.”

Lorraine said, “Dr. Ralph worked on your intestines and looked you have a flat stomach and you have cycles. Your eyes are becoming straight.”

Michael said, “The headaches have just about stopped. You can see better and your ears are opened up.”

Eleanor did not know about the headaches and the clogged ears.

Michael said, “I think we should go before Christmas and spend two weeks there and come back and spend the two weeks before Christmas.”

Brenda said, “Chasity’s garden wedding in March.”

Patrick said, “It will still be cold and no flowers.”

Meredith said, “I’ll go back.”

Eleanor said, “Shirley how are you running the hospital?”

Shirley said, “Dr. Greene’s new wife took over. I wrote the payroll checks and still control the money through a trust I set up at the bank.”

Eleanor laughed.

Eleanor said, “Dr. Greene is married?”

Brenda said, “Shirley’s first nurse from there.”

Eleanor laughed.

Lorraine said, “Shirley you go to the toilet by your self and you can bathe yourself and brush your teeth and comb your hair. You are a gift for others to see and know there is hope for them.”

Eleanor looked at the time and said, “Lorraine and Meredith we will be gone a good bit of the day. You know what to do. Bruce, Percy, Thomas and Michael I do not want to have one problem with you. Get around here and read until I get back.”

Percy said, “Momma can we go riding?”

Eleanor looked and thought only to the field and back. Take your bathes and sit down until I get back. Shirley we have to go shopping. You have outgrown your clothes.”

Shirley aid, “I’ll do my therapy if I can have another pair of earrings.”

Patrick said, “That’s blackmail.”

Shirley said, “I learned it from Percy.”

Everyone looked at Percy.

Eleanor said, “I have not forgotten that comment you made about Shirley being in Austria.”

Lorraine said, “I would not mind going there.”

Eleanor stood up and kissed her five children and hugged Shirley.

Shirley held onto Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “I trust Lorraine.” Brenda said, “Eleanor the shops will be closed tomorrow, can we get Shirley a dress for Sunday’s brunch?”

Eleanor said, “Shirley what color would you like?”

Shirley said, “I would like a pink one and a yellow one.”

Eleanor said, “Why?”

Shirley said, “As a reward for having this therapy.”

Percy said, “Can we go riding while Shirley is having her therapy?”

Eleanor said, “Yes.”

Michael said, “I’ll be with Shirley. I know what to do.”

Eleanor said, “Those are pretty colors for the spring and summer. What other color would you like?”

Shirley said, “Green.”

Eleanor said, “We will look.”

The count walked in and was well dressed.

He said, “Good morning.”

Everyone spoke.

Eleanor said. “Is Gary available to ride with Percy, Bruce and Thomas, to the field and back?”

The count said, “Yes.”

He looked at Earle and said, “Tell Gary to go riding with the boys.”

Eleanor put on her hat, shawl and gloves.

She picked up her bag with all her papers.

She and the count left and went to the hotel and spent their private time in the motel because Patrick and Brenda would pass them.

Brenda left with Patrick.

They went to Patrick’s office.

It had been broken in.

The safe was tampered with.

Patrick kept no business papers at the office.

He went over the paper he brought.

He told Brenda, “There is about two thousand dollars we can put in an account to help the workers out in bad times. I don’t want it to be a loan.”

Brenda said, “Will have the workers put money in it like they do the collection plate at church. Speaking of church we need to go.”

Patrick said, “Brunch.”

Brenda said, “Service is eight am.”

Patrick said, “Fine.”

Eleanor and the count had just finished their private time when they heard voices.

Mr. Wilson arrived a few minutes early.

Eleanor and the count stood back and looked out the window.

She said, “Mr. Wilson.”

She and the count were walking upstairs when Mr. Wilson and two of his workers called out to her. She answered and they all worked through the building.

Mr. Wilson said, “We could start before the winter set in but the supplies are the problem they will be coming from the city and because no rail is there it will take nearly two months to get the supplies.”

Eleanor and Mr. Wilson wrote down the supplies he needed.

They closed the door back.

Eleanor was thinking.

They rode to the supply store.

Eleanor ordered all the supplies and said, “Have the supplies sent to our half way point and then put on our train.”

The supply store manager said, “You that is an idea. That can cut down nearly a month waiting.”

She and the count went to the pub and saw Brenda and Patrick.

They had a nice lunch.

Eleanor said, “I need to go to the office and speak to him about the contract for the hotel.

She told Brenda she would meet her at the bank in an hour.

She meet with the man about the hotel.

The lawyer was there with the papers and Eleanor signed the papers and they were notarized. The lawyer left to file the papers.

Eleanor said, “Mr. Long when will you have my divorce papers drawn up?”

Mr. Long said, “I can draw them up and be ready Wednesday. After you read over the papers I can file the them on Friday and send Bruce his copy.”

The count was sitting in the waiting room.

Eleanor walked out the office and left the lawyer in the office.

She did not introduce the count to the lawyer.

Eleanor and the count left and she drove the buggy to the bank.

She made a withdrawal from her interest.

Brenda was moving money around.

Eleanor and the count waited.

The three left the bank and went shopping for Shirley some clothes.

Patrick was at the railroad talking to Roger.

Brenda and Eleanor bought Shirley several pairs of shoes, under wear. They found a perfect green dress and a brown dress. Eleanor continued looking and found a pink and yellow dress.

Eleanor found socks and bows for Shirley.

Brenda said, “Shirley just had a birthday. She wants expensive jewels.”

Eleanor said, “I know.”

The count said, “I will buy Shirley some earrings.”

Eleanor and Brenda said, “No.”

They stopped at the jewelers and found Shirley a pair of diamond earrings.

Brenda and Eleanor shared the expense.

Eleanor said, “You and daddy can give them to her.”

Eleanor drove to the railroad and waited for Patrick.

Brenda was getting out the buggy to ride back with Patrick, because he still had to talk with the sheriff about the break in.

The count and Eleanor drove back to the house.

Dan was back helping Peter light the torches.

Eleanor and the count drove to the house.

Eleanor and the count checked on the children and got good reports.

Eleanor told William to have hot water brought to her room.

Lorraine had the tub in her room.

Eleanor showed Shirley the dresses.

Shirley was mad with Lorraine.

Loraine and Meredith left and went back to Lorraine’s house.

They ate at the house.

Eleanor bathed and changed clothes.

She went back downstairs and opened her pouch and went through her business transactions for the day.

Vivienne was bringing the food to the family dining room.

Percy and Bruce went and got Shirley.

Thomas and Michael waited and was looking out for their grandma and grandpa.

Brenda showed Shirley’s earrings to Patrick.

Patrick said, “Expensive.”

Brenda laughed and said, “This is Shirley’s birthday gift. Eleanor chipped in. Joseph wanted to buy the earrings.”

Patrick said, “No.”

Brenda laughed and said, “That’s what I and Eleanor told him.”

Brenda thought for a minute and said, “Patrick.”

Patrick said, “I know.”

Brenda said, “I love this time of year.”

Patrick said, “What if John is a part of the mob?”

Brenda said, “Is that who you think broke into your office?”

Patrick said, “Or one of his workers. Ben told me that John’s wife was telling him to look at your necklace and the earrings the deformed girl had on. I know Shirley loved people looking at her earrings. But can’t buy her these heirloom earrings all the time.”

Brenda laughed and said, “She did look cute.”

Patrick said, “Did Eleanor order that barbed wire fence. I need that fence.”

Brenda said, “I believe so. What about Roger?”

Patrick said, “ I told him to have Mag come out next Tuesday and look in the storage area and see if she sees anything she wants to have, before the servants take it all.”

Brenda laughed and said, “Eleanor said, some of them have their name on some of the furniture.”

They arrived at the house and saw the torches were lit.

When they drove up to the house they saw little figures looking out.

William came to the door and walked outside.

Patrick and Brenda looked at William they know William does not come outside.

William said, “The backdoor lock has been damage. I did not see it before you left this morning.”

Patrick looked at Thomas and Michael and said, “I’ll see it after dinner.”

William opened the front door and stepped aside to let Patrick and Brenda enter.

William said, “We are a little short handed. I’ll drive the buggy around the back to the stables. Please lock the door.”

Patrick locked the door.

Michael and Thomas hugged Brenda.

They gave Patrick a big hug.

Patrick and Brenda stocked at the guest room and washed their face and hands.

Eleanor was locking her office door.

Patrick walked to the hall and said, “Eleanor did you order the barbed wire fence and when will it come?”

Eleanor said, “I ordered everything today. What I did was to have them deliver everything to our half way point and load it on our train.”

Patrick said, “What?”

Brenda said, “So it will not take two months to get here. It may take three weeks.”

Patrick said, “Now we have to get workers to put up the fence. I requested that a hundred workers be sent because it will be closed to Christmas. I want the people to be home for Christmas and the holidays.”

Patrick said, “William said, the backdoor lock was damaged.”

Eleanor was thinking.

They all walked to the dining room.

Vivienne served by plates.

She said, “Who likes the dark meat?”

Everyone hand went up.

She gave Thomas and Michael the first two plates.

She took Michael’s plate back and gave it to Bruce.

William brought four plates and gave Michael his one lamb chop.

He gave Percy a plate and Brenda and Patrick.

Vivienne brought Shirley’s plate where she chicken was cut very fine and her potato salad was mashed and her carrots and her beans.

The count looked at Shirley.

Shirley was excited about her food.

Shirley said to the count, “Yummy.”

The count laughed.

William brought the count and Eleanor white meat.

Patrick said grace.

They had a nice dinner and went to the parlor.

Brenda and Patrick went into the kitchen and saw the damaged lock.

They stopped in the billiards room and played a game and them went to their suite.

Eleanor put the children to bed.

William loved this plate serving.

They did not have that many dishes.

Alice drank a glass of her brandy and went to bed.

Wyonna poured her and William a glass of sherry.

William locked the backdoor.

Earle went to bed thinking he would see Margaret the next morning.

The count got a glass of brandy and went to the library and read nearly two hours.

He went to bed.