Patrick and Eleanor stopped the train at the new mid point.

Many of the merchants in their town ordered a lot of supplies.

They watched as the workers loaded the supplies.

Eleanor saw the black settlers waling to the train with vegetables.

Many of the patrons stepped off the train and purchased the settlers’ vegetables.

The black female settler Eleanor had befriended looked at the train and cut her eyes quick and reached Eleanor the basket of peas.

Eleanor said, “No.”

The woman looked at Eleanor and said, “Hows your boys?’’

The black female settler looked at the train.

The train whistle blew.

Eleanor looked back at the train and saw the brave Michael and Thomas standing in front of Brenda who was holding them.

She turned around to the black female settler she once befriended and said, “They are better.”

Other black settlers were walking to Eleanor, they realized she was important to the train.

The patrons started running back to the train.

Patrick watched the black female settler and her basket.

He knew she had something for Eleanor in the basket.

Patrick walked over to the woman and pulled out five dollars and said, “Thank you.”

The black female settler was afraid.

Patrick said, “This is my daughter we share everything.”

He winked at the black female settler.

The black female settler looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at Patrick.

They walked back to the train.

Eleanor said, “Daddy why did you buy those peas?”

Patrick said, “I did not buy the peas but information she had in the peas. Let’s get on the train and find out what she got for us.”

The other black settlers rushed over to see Loulou’s five dollars.

They walked home from the train station.

Loulou said, “This is not bad. Next week I will do this again.”

Patrick and Eleanor greeted the patrons.

George signaled for James to go.

Brenda and Michael and Thomas stood on the balcony and watched the people.

Michael begin t cry and Thomas ran into the suite.

Percy and Bruce and Shirley ran to Thomas and hugged him.

Brenda held onto Michael for life.

Patrick and Eleanor walked in the suite.

They saw Thomas being held by Percy, Bruce and Shirley.

Patrick said, “I didn’t know how they would react.”

Eleanor walked to Thomas and held him.

Patrick looked at Eleanor and thought, “Her loved one.”

He smirked and walked out on the balcony with Brenda and Michael (their loved one).

When Bruce took Michael away for nearly two years Patrick and Brenda became very bitter towards Bruce.

When Eleanor decided to move to Europe Patrick and Brenda did not want to not see Michael and Thomas again and decided to go with them to Europe.

Patrick walked to Brenda and Michael and held them both.

The train whistle blew as it exited the town.

Patrick spoke to the patrons on the next balcony.

He, Brenda and Michael walked into the suite and locked the door.

Patrick double checked the drawer with the gun.

Shirley was watching Patrick and said, “Grandpa, I need to shoot and drive a buggy and ride a horse.”

Patrick looked at Shirley and then back at Eleanor who was holding Thomas and Michael.

The children did not want to eat in the suite.

Eleanor looked at them.

Shirley said, “We want to go to the dining car.”

Eleanor was about to scream and yell ‘no’.

Patrick said, “Let them go Eleanor.”

Brenda was hugging Patrick and nodded her head for yes.

Eleanor looked at her and Michael and Thomas.

Michael said, “I won’t cry if I have two lamb chops.”

Brenda and Patrick laughed.

Eleanor did not laugh.

She nodded her head for yes.

The children flew out the suite and Shirley followed them.

They sat at a table away from the door and in the middle of the dining room.

Michael and Thomas were jumping.

Percy and Bruce saw their classmates from the military academy and invited them over.

Eleanor waited thirty minutes and tipped out the suite.

Patrick and Brenda followed her.

Eleanor saw her parents’ reflection in the glass door and stood and waited for them.

They sat in the back of the dining car by the door.

George walked in the dining car and saw Patrick and Brenda and Eleanor.

He knew they were not going to let the children out of their sights for a long time.

George said, “They have calf liver and onions. It is very good.”

Brenda looked at George and said, “Are you saying that because it is your favorite?”

George grinned and walked away.

Shirley was busy looking around at the patrons.

Patrick said, “Look at Miss Shirley she is acting as if she is their security.”

Shirley looked back and saw Eleanor, Patrick and Brenda sitting and watching them.

The waiter walked to their tables.

Patrick looked at Brenda and Eleanor and said, “Want liver. Let’s try liver.”

Patrick looked at the waiter and said, “Three liver dinners.”

George walked to the waiter and pointed and said, “These are the owners of the railroad.”

The young waiter was frozen in fear.

He finally was able to move and walked stiff to the kitchen.

The cooks were trying to peep and see who the waiter was talking about.

George laughed and said, “He will be good. He is a good person. That’s Ty’s grandson.”

Brenda stopped smiling.

Eleanor looked at Brenda and was about to say something and noticed her daddy watching Brenda.

Eleanor thought, “I sure don’t want him to be the black baby momma gave up for daddy. I ain’t sharing not one penny.”

Eleanor said out loud, “Not one penny. No siree.”

Patrick and Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “What?”

Brenda said, “Eleanor you spoke out and said, ‘not one penne no siree’.”

Brenda said, “Ty was my love from college. He worked with us for a time freeing the slaves. He did not want to help anymore. He left me and the slaves. I was riding the train coming to meetings and getting closer to the south when I met your father. I never seen Ty since that time. Eleanor you do not worry that I had a black child and left him with the black side to have Patrick.”

Patrick said, “I wanted Brenda not to tell you so you could worry about something else besides your children.”

Eleanor said, “Daddy that was mean to think that.”

Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Michael looked back and saw his momma and grandparents.

He stood from the table and he and Thomas walked to the table with his momma and grandparents.

Shirley, Percy and Bruce watched Michael and Thomas go to their momma and grandparents.

Michael and Thomas wanted to sit between Patrick and Brenda.

Patrick stood so they can sit between them.

Brenda and Patrick were sitting at the edge of their seats.

Eleanor looked and said, “One of you could sit with me.”

Patrick and Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at Thomas and Michael and said, “I love you both. I know you are scared but you are brave and tough boys. I want you to continue riding running and playing with other children. I don’t want you two be imprisoned. I want you free.”

Michael said, “Can I have a gun?”

Thomas said, “I want a gun.”

Eleanor was straightening out her napkin in her lap and said, “No.”

The waiter brought their plates to the table.

He saw Michael and Thomas and said, “I saw you two young men over at the teenage table. Did they run you off with their talk about girls?”

Michael said, “Yes.”

The waiter said, “So you ran to your grandma and grandpa?”

Thomas stared at the waiter.

Brenda looked at the young waiter and teared a little bit.

Patrick was looking at his plate and said, “I did not want this much liver.”

The young waiter said, “I’m trying to leave a good impression on the boss.”

Eleanor looked at Brenda and said, “No siree.”

Brenda looked at Eleanor who bowed her head for grace.

The young waiter looked at Thomas and Michael and said, “You want desert?”

Eleanor said, “Sir you are young to be a waiter on a train. Do you have any goals.”

Patrick and Brenda looked at Eleanor.

They felt she was threatened and wanted to lash out at the young man.

The young waiter said, “Miss boss. I go to a black college and have a double major in English and biology. I will attend medical college and become a black surgeon and help my people. This job on your train for the summer helps me to pay for my college expenses so that money the school has can help more students. What is your amount?”

Eleanor said, “Your amount?”

The waiter had his pen and paper to write and he said, “Your donation to my college to help more blacks and especially the former slaves.”

Patrick said, “A thousand dollars. Let’s establish a Stith scholarship at your college.”

The waiter started jumping around and he was excited.

Thomas and Michael started laughing.

Michael laughed and said, “Lamb chop.”

The young waiter said, “No. Peach cobbler and whipped cream.”

He looked at Thomas and Thomas said, “Me too.”

The young waiter looked at Eleanor and said, “I am going to put your name on my prayer list.”

Eleanor rolled her eyes at him.

The young waiter turned his head.

Patrick was cutting his liver and said, “Well Eleanor you have met your match.”

Brenda was sitting and looking off into space.

She said, “To have pieces of your life come together is interesting.”

She cut a piece of her liver and said, “Patrick this is good.”

Patrick said, “Huh. Huh.”

Michael turned up his nose.

Thomas was looking at Patrick.

Patrick cut a piece of liver and held up his fork to Thomas and said, “Try it Thomas.”

Thomas was hesitant but bit it.

Thomas chewed the liver.

The waiter walked back with their peach pie and whipped cream.

He smiled and said, “It’s good. My grand mommy recipe.”

Eleanor looked at Brenda.

Brenda was dying from curiosity.

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Thomas reached for his peach pie but he looked back at Patrick and Patrick cut him another piece of liver.

Thomas enjoyed his liver.

He told Michael you need to try some.

Michael said, “Nothing is better than lamb chops.”

Brenda looked at the young waiter’s name tag which showed Ty.

Brenda said, “Tell me. What was your grandmother’s name?”

Patrick was watching Brenda and the young waiter.

He walked to Brenda and stooped down and said, “Why did not you ask about my grandfather?”

Patrick was shocked.

Eleanor sat with her mouth opened. She could not see how her mother was going to get out of that.

Brenda was calm and took a swallow of water and said, “First I like the water is cooler than room temperature. I know your grandfather Tyson. We dated in college and went on missions to free the slaves.”

The young waiter bowed his head and said, “Thank you.”

He held up his head with tears in his eyes.

Michael and Thomas watched the young waiter they like.

Patrick watched and ate his potatoes and gravy.

The young waiter said, “My grandmother was a run away slave whom my grandfather who escaped the south on his last mission. She was fifteen and pregnant from the master and her name was Bethany.”

Brenda joined with the young waiter and said her name.

The young waiter looked at Brenda and said, “How you know? Were you one of them?”

Brenda said, “I was over your grandfather. That was his last mission. A pregnant slave was difficult to hide especially massa.”

A white female patron looked over at Ty and said, “Boy I want some water and tea.”

Patrick looked at the middle aged white female.

Eleanor looked at Brenda.

Thomas said, “Whose a boy? She’s calling Ty a ‘boy’.”

The young waiter stood and said, “One day.”

Patrick looked at the patron.

Ty walked to the white female patron, who was staring at Patrick and the black woman at the table and the pretty boys that must belonged to the light skinned woman.

Ty did not make any apologies.

He poured and the entire table water.

He poured her tea.

Eleanor looked at Brenda and realized her mother has endured that all of her life.

That’s why it’s always she and her daddy and she made her house comfortable and pleasant.

She wanted to keep the evil out of her house.

Patrick finished most of his liver.

Brenda finished about half and Eleanor finished about a fourth.

Michael was asleep in Brenda’s lap.

Thomas was leaning on Patrick’s arm fast asleep.

Nadine and Lorraine walked in the dining car late and the food was being put up.

Patrick said, “Where have you two been?”

They did not respond.

Nadine pointed to Brenda’s plate.

Brenda pushed her plate to Nadine.

Nadine turned to the young waiter and said, “Can you heat this food up for me?”

Ty said, “Yes.”

He looked at Lorraine who picked up Eleanor’s plate and was biting a piece of liver.

Ty looked at Lorraine and reached for her plate.

The cooks heated the food up and put it on clean plates and Ty picked up flatware and carried the plates to Nadine and Lorraine.

He sat with Nadine and Lorraine and talked, so he could clean up that section.

Patrick looked at Percy and shook his head.

Percy and Bruce looked at Patrick and told their friends they would see them the next day.

The boys and the girls stood and walked out the dining car.

Eleanor woke Michael.

Brenda stood so Eleanor could get him and Thomas.

Eleanor walked Michael back to the suite.

Brenda walked Thomas to the suite.

Patrick looked at Shirley, Percy and Bruce and told them to walk behind their momma and grandma and he walked behind them.

Percy and Bruce begin to talk to Patrick about what their classmates were talking about.

The racist white female patron sat and watched Eleanor.

Two of the children who sat at the table with Percy, Bruce and Shirley.

One was a boy and a girl.

The girl laughed and talked with Shirley.

Shirley learned to be a good conversationalist.

Dr. Woodson admired that trait about Shirley and the fact she was good at business.

Shirley helped him set up his retirement savings.

Dr. Woodson loved sailing to Europe and decided he would go to Europe every three years and then to far away Egypt.

Shirley showed Dr. Woodson how to save for the trips.

She tried to convince Dr. Woodson to buy a house.

Dr. Woodson would not commit to that.

When Percy, Bruce and Shirley and the other two boys left the table the boy and girl ran to the table with racist white woman.

Ty watched her and told Lorraine and Nadine about the woman.

They listened to Ty.

Nadine and Lorraine were drunk.

They finished eating the leftovers and waited for the woman and her table to leave.

Lorraine and Nadine gave the woman a few minutes and they left the dining car.

They waved at Ty.

Lorraine and Nadine stood and watched the car the racist white woman went in.

Nadine went to their private rooms.

Lorraine fell across her bed and slept until late morning.

She only woke when Ty knocked on the door for her hot bath.

Nadine feel asleep on the floor.

When the other clerk knocked on Nadine’s door that she woke.

They all went to bed, but Eleanor and Patrick went through the peas.

The black female settler drew a picture of the two white men who came looking around to see what happened. One was Christopher and the other was Patrick Jr.

The black female settler wrote the date they came to the town.

Brenda was looking over Eleanor’s shoulders and said, “Interesting peas.”

Patrick said, “Shirley wants to learn to ride, pulled a buggy and shoot.”

Eleanor said, “She needs to.”

Brenda said, “I agree.”

Eleanor said, “I’m not too concerned about the boys, they can fight. They would go after Shirley because she is weaker.”

Shirley yelled, “I’m not!!!”

Patrick yelled, “Go to bed!”

Shirley yelled, “I’m in bed!”

Patrick yelled, “Go to sleep.”

Brenda said, “We need security.”

Eleanor said, “We have to live in this world and to hide is not living. You believe in your God, let Him protect us.”

Brenda said, “Eleanor HE did. HE showed us where to find Michael and Thomas. HE stopped the military so they could find Michael. HE had Bryson on the train to see about Michael. HE gave us the means to get this train back to Philadelphia and HE had us make friends with doctors who love us. Hutch and Ryan meet us at the train and stayed with Thomas and Michael all the way. HE brought your sons back to life and delivered them to you. HE did not want you to live without them and HE did not want you to die everyday from guilt and remorse. HE wanted you to live. You, Eleanor are bitter and mad that HE let Joseph became sick and died. I don’t know why GOD allowed that. I hate that because you wanted a new life from Bruce. You tasted something better and wanted better. I am sorry I did not stop you from being with Bruce from the start. I should have sent you away to boarding school in europe.”

Patrick said, “It would have killed us to send you away.”

Shirley yelled, “I want to go.”

Patrick started walking to Shirley’s room and opened her door and said, “I told you to go to sleep.”

Shirley grinned at Patrick.

Patrick looked at her.

Thomas opened his room door and looked at Eleanor.

Brenda coughed and Eleanor looked at Brenda.

Brenda cut her eyes.

Thomas was standing looking at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at Thomas, he and Michael ran to her and she held them and cried.

Eleanor cried and said, “I am sorry. Momma is sorry.”

Michael looked at Eleanor.

He said, “Why?”

Eleanor said, “I did not protect you from the bad men. I could not stop them.”

Brenda said, “Eleanor, Ryan and Dr. Woodson told you to let that go and not to allow it to destroy your life.”

Thomas kissed Eleanor on her cheek and said, “Good night momma.”

Michael hugged her tight and ran behind Thomas.

Patrick was looking and was walking from Shirley’s door and looked at the boys ran to their room.

He looked in the door and saw Percy was sitting on his bed playing a ball game Patrick and Brenda bought for them.

Bruce was lying on his stomach reading book.

They looked at Patrick.

Patrick looked at Percy and Michael and closed the door.

Percy said, “Thomas why you opened the door?”

Bruce said, “Being nosey.”

Michael said, “I could not hear for that ric rac.”  
Percy said, “It’s not a ric rac.”

Michael said, “That name is a fancy name for the same thing.”

Thomas said, “I love momma and did not want her to be sad and feel bad.”

Eleanor smiled.

Brenda held her chest.

Patrick heard them.

Patrick walked to Brenda and Eleanor and said, “Nathan is good. I’ll get him to teach the children.”

Brenda said, “What about the pictures?”

Patrick said, “We have to pray about the direction GOD wants us to move. I’m glad John and his family is out of our life.”

Brenda said, “I’m proud of Ty.”

Patrick said, “We need to build a hospital in our town.”

Shirley said, “The Stith’s Hospital.”

Michael said, “I agree.”

Percy said, “Yeap. I would use my money to help build it. If we couldn’t have gotten to the hospital he would have died. He is worth all of my money.”

Bruce yelled, “Yep.”

Michael said, “Yep what Bruce? You did not commit your money.”

Bruce turned and looked at Michael, “Yep I commit my money to build a hospital under our family’s name.”

Thomas said, “Use all of my money.”

Shirley said, “So we work on this. We find land. The biggest problem is to get doctors.”

Brenda said, “See the difference in these children and the other ones children.”

Brenda looked at Eleanor and said, “You send that money and establish a scholarship in our name to your brother’s school.”

Eleanor’s mouth dropped opened.

Brenda took Patrick arm and they walked to their bedroom.

The next morning.

Ty and his crew were up early they played cards all night.

They had checked the schedule and saw they would half a train going back to Philadelphia and they could sleep off and on all day.

Lorraine and Nadine were packing all the bags and double checking everything.

George saw Lorraine open her door with the bags.

George beckoned for a crew member.

The young man came and picked up Lorraine’s bags.

Nadine was walking out her room with her bags.

George went to help Nadine.

The racist white woman passed Lorraine and smiled.

She said to George, “You boys pick up my bags at my room.”

Patrick heard George and Lorraine and he stepped out his suite to talk to George.

He heard the racist white woman and he was trying to remember where he heard her voice.

Patrick knew he had encountered the woman before and it had to be a bad experience for him to remember her voice.

Lorraine looked at Nadine and they walked behind the woman to the dining car.

George watched Lorraine and Nadine.

He looked up and saw Patrick looking.

George walked to Patrick and watched the woman and her company.

Patrick said, “Find out her name. I don’t want her on my train again. I can’t do anything about her heart but I can do something about her butt.”

George was looking at the woman and said, “Yes sir.”

Patrick said, “I need to go to that dining car because I know those two.”

Patrick looked back and Brenda and Eleanor were dressed.

Patrick said, “Brenda I am going to the dining car.”

Brenda said, “I want to go.”

Patrick held the door as Brenda walked out the door.

Patrick loved when Brenda have her hair down.

He bowed down and kissed her.

He said, “How do you know I wanted you to come alone.”

Brenda looked up and down the hall and said, “Trouble?”

Patrick said, “The woman from last night and those two are following her.”

Brenda said, “I guess we better go to the dining car.”

She and Patrick were walking to the dining car.

They greeted the patrons.

Patrick said, “You want to see Ty and be nosey.”

Brenda said, “Damn right. I want to know what happened to one of the slaves we brought out of slavery.”

Patrick said, “Did you see Eleanor’s face last night?”

Brenda said, “Which time?”

They laughed and continued to walk.

They heard little feet running behind them.

They stopped and looked back it was Thomas and Michael.

Thomas and Michael ran and hugged them.

Thomas said, “Good morning grandma and grandpa.”

Brenda and Patrick hugged the boys and they walked to the dining car.

The racist white woman and the people with her were sitting at the table.

The children saw Thomas and Michael and wanted to speak but the woman said no.

Thomas and Michael ran to the table and spoke to the children.

Patrick walked to the table and spoke to the two women and the man.

He touched the boys and said, “Come and let’s order our breakfast.”

Brenda was standing and watching the adults.

The racist white woman watched Brenda.

Brenda thought, “You are hiding something.”

Ty watched the racist white woman.

Thomas and Michael saw Nadine and Lorraine.

Michael and Thomas ran to Lorraine and Nadine and hugged them.

Patrick said, “I thought you wanted to eat with us.”

Nadine ordered a stack of pancakes with whip cream and fresh strawberry.

Michael took his finger and swapped Nadine’s whipped cream.

Patrick said, “Michael.”

Nadine said, “You did not ask me.”

Michael said, “May I have.”

Nadine said, “It is too much for me” and pushed the plate to Michael.

Michael, said “I can have these?”

Nadine said, “Yes.”

She looked at Thomas and said, “Thomas you want some?”

Thomas said, “Blue berries?”

Michael said, “Tell Ty.”

Thomas was looking for Ty.

Bruce and Percy ran into the dining car.

They looked around and saw their friends and ran to their table and spoke.

Patrick stood up and waved to Percy and Bruce.

Percy and Bruce ran to Patrick.

Patrick sat down.

Patrick said, “She tried to grin with them. Only because Percy and Bruce look all white and Shirley.”

Michael said, “This is almost as good as my lamb chops.”

Percy and Brenda heard Michael.

Nadine said, “If you give up the lamb chops you can have pancakes every day instead.”

Percy and Bruce looked at Michael’s pancakes.

Ty walked over and greeted everyone.

Thomas said, “Do you have blueberries?”

Ty said, “I believe so”

Percy said, “Do you have blueberries?’

Ty said, “We do, because I had to wash them. Is that your answer?’

Percy said, “Yes.”

Ty said, “You want pancakes with blueberries?”

Percy said, “No. I want strawberries like Michael.”

Ty pointed and said, “Actually those were Miss Nadine’s.”

Percy looked at Nadine.

Nadine waved.

Ty said, “How many blueberry and how many strawberry pancakes?”

Patrick said, “I want some strawberry pancakes but only one.”

Michael stood up and took his plate to Patrick.

Ty gave Patrick a plate and flatware.

Michael got on his knees and shared his strawberry pancakes with Patrick.

The other waiter brough out Nadine and Lorraine’s breakfast.

The waiter put the plates down in front of them.

Lorraine and Nadine gasped.

Lorraine looked at Ty and said, “We did not order all of this.”

Ty looked embarrassed and turned his head.

Nadine said, “Now who is drunk?”

Brenda and Patrick looked at the table full of plates.

Patrick said, “What do you have?”

Lorraine said, “Bacon, two eggs, grits and biscuit. Two salmon croquets, grits, eggs and biscuit.”

Patrick said, “Give that one to me.”

Ty passed Patrick the plate.

Lorraine said, “Michael.”

Michael did not looked back but said, “Lamb chop?”

Ty laughed.

Lorraine handed the plate with only a lamb chop to Ty.

The head cook walked out and spoke to everyone.

He said, “Did we make a mistake.

Eleanor and Shirley walked over to their family.

Eleanor was more strict and said, “What’s wrong?”

Everybody said, “Nothing.”

Lorraine looked back at Eleanor and said, “Good morning.”

Patrick said, “That’s right.”

Shirley grinned and said, “Good morning.”

Lorraine said, “You are in a good mood. That means you are getting something you want.”

The head cook looked at Lorraine and grinned big and said, “Good morning to you.”

Nadine elbowed Lorraine.

Ty said to the head cook, “I have an order for two blueberry and one strawberry pancakes. With plenty of whipped cream and berries.”

The head cook was looking at Lorraine.

Patrick and Brenda were watching Lorraine.

The head cook looked at the plates and took Ty order form and walked away.

Lorraine and Nadine leaned from their seats and watched the head cook’s derriere as he walked away.

Brenda was shock and dropped her mouth opened.

Meredith finally walked in.

She was having bad morning sickness.

She walked in and sat next to Thomas and put her head on the table.

Thomas looked at Meredith.

He scooted underneath the table and sat next to Brenda.

Lorraine and Nadine sat and stared at Meredith.

Brenda said, “Give me the bacon and eggs, quickly. I don’t want her hair to get in the food.”

Lorraine took the plate and handed it to Ty.

Lorraine said, “Mrs. Stith you could have left this one with Felipe. Let him deal with his mess.”

Nadine was staring at Meredith.

Brenda laughed.

Eleanor stared at Meredith.

Lorraine said, “Me and Nadine ordered ham, red gravy and grits and eggs. There is another plate of two sunny side up eggs and bacon and toast. Here Eleanor.”

Eleanor looked at Lorraine.

Ty said, “Take the plate Eleanor.”

Eleanor was about to pass out.

Patrick looked at Eleanor and said, “Take the plate and sit with Percy and Bruce over there.”

Ty took the plate and sit it on the table and gave her flatware.

Ty said, “Miss lady what do you want for breakfast?”

Shirley grinned and said, “I want some pancakes.”

Everybody said, “no.”

Lorraine said, One scrambled egg, a cup of grits and toast. By Dr. Woodson. Give everybody orange juice, coffee and this one behind me tea.”

Shirley was grinning and said, “I can have grits.”

Percy and Bruce looked at Shirley and said, “Pancakes.”

Shirley held her head down.

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “Damn. They’re closer than what I thought.”

Brenda looked at Patrick and then at a dejected Shirley.

She bowed her head and said grace for everybody.

Eleanor was rolling her eyes at Lorraine.

Ty turned and winked at Lorraine.

He pointed at Meredith and said, “And her?”

Lorraine said, “A cup of hot tea and a toast.”

Lorraine looked back at Brenda and said, “Really let Felipe take care of this.”

Brenda starred at Meredith.

Lorraine and Nadine looked at Patrick.

Patrick and Brenda did not say anything.

The head cook walked out with the pancakes.

Percy and Bruce and Thomas were excited.

Meredith belched.

The head cook looked at Meredith.

Patrick and Brenda watched Meredith.

Everyone had a good breakfast.

Ty came back with Shirley’s plate and he put a few strawberries and blueberries to dress it up.

Shirley smiled at the pretty plate.

Percy said, “ Shirley let me have the strawberries?’

Shirley reached him her berries.

Bruce looked at the sad Shirley and said, “I’m sorry Shirley.”

Shirley nodded her head.

The head cook stopped and smiled at Lorraine and said, “Ma am how is your food?”

Nadine said, “Very good.”

Lorraine looked at Nadine.

The head cook looked at Nadine and smiled.

Nadine looked at the head cook and grinned and said, “I know you are talking to her. Her name is Lorraine.”

The head cook said, “My Lorraine how is your food?”

Lorraine smiled and said, “Very good.”

Bruce kept watching Shirley. He put his arm around her shoulder.

Eleanor looked and saw Bruce was closer to Shirley than Michael.

Patrick watched Bruce how he treated Shirley.

Percy looked at Shirley and turned his head.

Brenda whispered to Patrick, “A power struggle between Percy and Shirley.”

Eleanor said, “Percy apologize to Shirley.”

Percy said, “For what?”

Eleanor said, “You know Shirley is disabled and can’t eat what we eat and you targeted that disability and used it to hurt her. I am so disappointed with you Percy. Percy you and Bruce every since you were born have been a great help to Shirley and kept her going when she did not want to. Not only did you hurt Shirley but you hurt me. You hurt me bad.”

Eleanor held her head down.

Percy was sitting next to Eleanor.

He stared at Eleanor for a long time.

Percy looked across the table at Shirley who was eating slow.

Percy looked at Bruce.

Bruce said, “I apologized.”

Percy looked back at Shirley and said, “Shirley.”

Shirley held her head down.

Percy said, “Shirley look.”

Ty stood back and watched the children.

Lorraine and Nadine were eating quietly so they could hear.

Shirley held her head down.

Percy said, “Please Shirley. If you don’t want to look at me. I knew that would hurt you like momma said, I want to be the ruler of the rest of them.”

Thomas turned and looked at Percy.

Patrick saw Thomas and watched him.

Percy said, “Shirley forgive me for being spiteful and hurting your feelings. I will never do that again.”

Percy looked at Eleanor and said, “Momma.”

He held his head down and looked in her face and said, “I will never hurt you again. I will never disappoint you with Shirley. I will stand by you and Shirley all of my live. Forgive me momma.”

Eleanor after a few minutes and looked at Percy and grabbed him by his chin and said, “I love you Percy and I forgive you. That is a part of love. To forgive. It has taken me all of my life to learn that.”

She held Percy to Her and held his head to her chest.

Bruce said, “I apologize. “

Brenda looked at Bruce.

Bruce said, “Where’s my hug.”

Eleanor said, “I’ll make the exception of reaching across the table. Come here Bruce.”

Shirley slowly lifted up her head.

Ty smiled.

He started collecting their plates.

Meredith belched.

Lorraine was about to jump on the table until she saw the head cook.

He brought the orange juice.

He winked at Lorraine.

Lorraine and Nadine watched the cook walk away again.

When they looked back Patrick and Brenda were looking at them.

Meredith sit up at the table with her hair all over her head.

Nadine pushed her dry toast and cup of tea to her.

Lorraine looked at Meredith and saw some grits in her hair.

Lorraine said, “Meredith have you packed.”

Meredith was dazed.

Meredith said, “I heard you two whores saying I need to go back to Felipe. Where are my friends in my time of need?”

Nadine said, “I am not your friend that got you pregnant. That’s who you go to.”

Meredith was biting her dry toast and looked at Brenda and said, “Mrs. Stith.”

She looked at Lorraine and Nadine and said, “You thought I was going to call her Brenda.”

Lorraine and Nadine did answer.

Meredith said, “Can I have a small wedding at your house in the parlor on July 4th?

Brenda said, “That’s a big time Meredith.”

Meredith was delirious and flung her dry toast and said, “It would be Felipe, me the minster and these two whores. I think Dr. Woodson or Dr. Ralph.”

Michael said, “What’s a whore.”

Patrick looked at Michael and said, “Meredith we will talk about it once we get off the train.

Meredith belched again, Thomas said, “Felipe.”

Brenda said, “My God if they are coming July 4th I want them to stay with us Patrick. I know Gen is gonna try to get them.”

Patrick laughed.

Ty continued to clean the kitchen.

Brenda said, “Ty come here.”

Ty walked over to their table.

Lorraine grabbed ty hand as he was walking by and he leaned down and she whispered in his ear.

Meredith said, “Whore.”

Lorraine said to her, “If that was not the truth I would be fighting you now.”

Nadine laughed.

Patrick looked at Meredith and Lorraine.

Brenda looked at Lorraine and thought, “Whore.”

Then she thought, “I rather the cook and not Dr. Ralph. He has to take care of my Shirley.”

Brenda sit and the thought of her selfishness hit her in her face.

She was so selfish about those doctors. She did not have the right to say they should not love and marry.

Brenda was so ashamed and said to herself, GOD help me.”

Ty walked to Brenda and looked at her table and said, “Ma am.”

George walked in the dining room. He saw Patrick and said, “Excuse me” and reached Patrick a piece of paper.

Patrick looked at the piece of paper and then at George and said, “Ok.”

George looked around the dining car and said to Ty, “Two hours.”

Brenda said, “Tell me of Ty and Behany.”

Ty grinned big,

Thomas and Michael looked at Ty.

Ty looked at Thomas and Michael and grinned big and said, “Like you two be hugging on your grandma and grandpa.?

Thomas and Michael said, “Yeah.”

Ty said, “That’s the way I did my grandpa and grandma.”

Patrick heard Ty said ‘did’. He cut his eyes at Brenda to see if she caught on.

Ty said, “Grandma Bethany nearly died delivering my father. Therefore, grandpa Ty said ‘never again’. So they only had my daddy who they name after Ty. My Father they sent to college and he became a teacher and later a professor at a local college and married a prominent black woman named Doris. Her family was preachers. The Clemons.”

Brenda threw her napkin down and said, “They are farmers in Ohio.”

Ty said, “Yes ma am and they have expanded to Pennsylvania. They hired a lot of former slaves but they can’t get their vegetables to market.”

Brenda said, “I remember Hattie. She made a blueberry syrup. She also made vinegars she swore could cure anything.”

Brenda looked at Patrick and said, “I remember them a good family.”

Patrick looked at Ty.

Brenda tuned and looked at the sad Ty.

Brenda said, “Where’s Hattie?”  
Ty said, “Her husband blew her head off a few years ago.”

He walked away from the table.

Everyone was sad.

Not Eleanor she was thinking about Bruce.

She opened her bag and pulled out the check she wrote to Ty’s school.

She stood and said, “Let’s go to our room and get everything out.”

Eleanor begin to hum.

Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Patrick said, “Something made you happy Eleanor?”

Eleanor turned sideways to help Shirley out of the booth and said, “NO I was just thinking about Bruce.”

Lorraine turned and looked back at Eleanor.

Patrick looked at Lorraine.

The children jumped from the tables.

Eleanor looked around the dining car and saw Ty coming from the cooking area.

She waved at him.

He walked over and she reached him the envelope and said, “That is to establish a Stith scholarship at your college.”

Shirley said, “When you finish medical school you can work at our hospital.”

Ty was quiet and said, “Thank You.”

He looked at Eleanor and said, “Thank you sister.”

Eleanor stomped out the dining car.

Patrick said, Ty needs to be around more.”

Brenda said, “Ty.”

He was bending down to Lorraine.

He told him the head cook was a former career military man. He retired from the military and went to school to learn how to cook and was hired and working on the train. For the past two years. His family was from Pennsylvania and he has no children.

The head cook was peeping because he told Ty what to say to Lorraine.

Lorraine and Nadine looked at each other.

Lorraine wrote her address for the head cook.

He walked out and sat at the table next to Meredith.

He looked at Meredith and said, “You feel better.”

Meredith waved her hand.

He said, “When you got to go you let me know.”

Meredith nodded her head and continue to sip on her tea.

The head cook said his name was Ernest.

The women introduced themselves to him.

Ty was talking to Brenda and Patrick.

Brenda said, “I am sorry for upsetting you.”

Ty said, “I am sorry for saying that about Aunt Hattie in front of your children That was not good to say. I held that in for three years. She was my favorite aunt she would tell us the stories of them going and stealing the slaves and crossing swamps and all kinds of enemies. She would go to Louisiana.”

Brenda reached for Patrick’s hand.

Patrick eased his hand to Brenda.

Brenda said, “Ty you did not mention. Where is ty and Bethany?”

Ty said, “They died when I was ten years old. Grandpa Ty was a school teacher. Grandma Bethany went and got her schooling and became a teacher too like grandpa Ty. He had a heart attack during the summer and passed. He had a farm in upstate Pennsylvania that he and grandma Bethany worked during the summer. I had just returned home with my parents when we had to turn around and go back. Grandma Bethany grieved herself to death. She passed right before the holidays. But my momma and daddy are still alive.”

Brenda said, “What about Junior.”

Ty laughed and said, “He jokes everyday.”

Brenda was satisfied,

She knew what happened to some of her friends and the lives they lived. She knew not all of their lives and their end were not good.

Ty waved the check and said, “I will tell everyone I met you Mrs. Stith and Mr. Stith and you established a scholarship at our college. You know most of my family went to the same college.”

Brenda said, “I finished from there.”

Ty said, “We produce prominent people. Be sure to tell your grand children I am sorry. And tell sister I’ll see her on the next go around.”

Brenda stood and hugged Ty and walked out the dining car.

Patrick stood and shook Ty hand and said, “We are almost family.”

Ty grinned and saw a piece of paper Patrick left on the table.

Ty reached for the paper and said, “Mr. Stith.”

He showed the paper to Patrick.

Patrick said, “Don’t look at it but put it in the trash.”

Ty balled the paper up and put it in his pocket.

The head cook looked at Ty and said, “Ty the oven is still on. Put it in there.”

Ty walked to the kitchen and they heard him open the door and yelling.

The head cook said, “I know he did not open that stove with his hand. He can’t be a surgeon if he injures his hand, You can’t tell young people anything.”

Lorraine and Nadine talked to the head cook.

Meredith was leaning all over Ernest strong arm.

Lorraine said, “Meredith sit up.”

Meredith looked at Lorraine and said, “No.”

Ernest looked at Meredith and giggled.

He said, “She’s fine.”

They heard the train’s whistled they all jumped up but Meredith who fell on the seat.

Ernest said, “Sorry Meredith,” ran to the kitchen.

An hour later the train pulled into Cedartown.

Jose had several carriages waiting for them,

Bryson, Gail, Gen, Ben and Mag were waiting to greet them.

The racist white woman saw Mag with the clipboard and pencil walked over to Mag and said, “Gal get someone to get my bags.”

Mag walked away and went to Patrick and greeted he and Brenda.

Patrick and Brenda saw the racist white woman.

Brenda said, Patrick who is she?”

Patrick said, “I’ll you later.”

They greeted each of their friends and got in the carriages and went home.

Jose had set up an absolutely lovely early dinner in the garden.

Mabel was getting on the train.

Brenda saw Mabel and knew she was at their house doing some kind of floral arrangement for their return. Brenda smiled and anticipated seeing what beauty Mabel had created.

She knew Mabel had done an excellent job.

Mag left the train station and closed the office downtown and rode out to the house.

They passed the Stith Rest stop for the Freed men.

Brenda turned all the way round to see the rest stop and the repair work.

Nathan was driving their buggy.

Patrick said, “Nathan, I know you know what has happened to my grandchildren.”

Nathan said, “Yes sir.”

Patrick said, “I want you to teach them safety and include Shirley. If are you willing to do it we can talk another day.”

Nathan said, “I will be happy to teach them security Mr. Stith.”

Some soldiers were riding passed.

Shirley nearly fell out the carriage looking for Skip.

Eleanor looked at Shirley.

Thomas saw Jake and yelled at him.

Jake turned around and rode back to the boys.

Jake looked at them.

Michael and Thomas continued to wave at him.

Jake rode away.

Eleanor and Shirley turned and looked back at Jake and remembered him.

Eleanor said, “We have to do something for them. I know it was part of their job but they saved my boys.”

They arrived home.

Jose moved the barriers he put up in house.

The security men were standing around the house.

Patrick and Brenda said, “Thank you to each one of them. They greeted their staff. They entered their home.

Michael and Thomas ran throughout the house yelling and happy to be home.

The staff watched the boys.

Thomas nurse returned to get him through the summer.

Everyone washed and walked out to the beautiful and magnificent garden Mabel had set up and to the soiree with their friends who was quiet and hiding in the garden as a surprise.

They all came out, along with the mayor and his wife, the new governor and his wife and many friends. Including Gen’s son and his wife and the professor Gen rented her garden house to and his family.

It was a very festive occasion.

The Gibsons, Mc Clendons and many people stayed until late that night.

It was a wonderful celebration for Patrick and Brenda.

Ginger, Alice and both Marys’ were here.

Jose was so proud of himself.

He was happy he got Mabel to come and do the floral arrangement.

Gen used to be the number one person everyone ran to for their floral arrangements.

Jose was standing in the kitchen washing a glass when fear struck him and his eyes got big and when he turned around he saw Patrick and Brenda standing behind.

They jumped.

Jose said, “I forgot to pay Mabel.”

Patrick and Brenda said, “Jose thank you for a beautiful and magical evening with our friends.”

Patrick said, “Send Debra a telegram at the hospital and wire Mabel’s pay. And Jose double it. I know you are stingy. What she did was extraordinary.”

Jose said, “Yes sir. And I sent her first class.”

Patrick and Brenda said, “That’s fine.”

They went through the formal dining room that Brenda loved.

She worked three years on the dining room. Now she was ready to redecorate the room.

Brenda looked at the room and told Patrick, “I see why Eleanor came home and redecorated.”

Patrick looked around and they walked to their suite.

Patrick saw the crates outside the library.

Brenda knew it had to be the books Patrick bought in europe.

Patrick said, “I’ll be in in a few.”

Brenda sigh and said, “A few minutes or a few hours?”

Patrick ran to his books and begin to pry the crates opened.

He looked at all the history books they bought from each country about it’s history.

Patrick had been thinking during the sail back how he was going to organize the books.

He was walking backwards with a geography book in his hand and stumbled on the rug and nearly fall he turned to see the rug and his feel on the last book Joseph was reading there.

Patrick walked over and picked up the book.

He flipped it open and read the book until daybreak.

His eyes watered and tears fell, as he read the book.

Patrick came to the page with a bookmark.

He sniffed and said, “Joseph I wanted you as my son.”

Patrick said, “Joseph what does this bookmark mean on this page?”

He said, “Does this mean you and I read together until this page and I am to finish this alone. Without my son.”

Joseph smiled at Patrick.

Patrick was slightly leaning forward and said, “I miss you my son.”

He started thinking about why Joseph came into their lives at the end of his life.

He loved the photography books of Africa