Patrick put Joseph’s book on the table.

He sat and wondered about how Joseph was a good person and his parents were wicked.

Patrick chuckled and thought about his own three sons who started the mob in their hometown and tried to force he and Brenda to be imprisoned and submitted to them.

He thought, “What did they do with all of their money? How could they use all of that money up?”

He thought about Eleanor and how her brothers plotted to murder her children for revenge.

Patrick thought, “I am glad the federal government is involved.”

Patrick was concerned about the racist white woman on the train.

He remembered the woman’s voice from a prior encounter.

He saw the information George gave of the woman’s name and address.

They started putting the patron’s names on their tickets in case of loss bags or need contact with family.

Patrick stood to walk out of his beloved library.

He walked to the doorway and turned around and delighted himself in his now nearly full library.

He thought, ”I’ll get Thomas and Michael to help organize this. They love to help. Brenda has her dining room and I have my library.”

Patrick heard the servants begin to walk through the house.

He took his eyes from his library and peeped down the hall.

He saw Jose.

Patrick chuckle because he knew Joes did not want to be the chief butler but the chief cook.

Patrick told Jose he had to be the chief butler until William and Wyonna returned.

Jose listened to Patrick and did not say anything because William and Wyonna sent him a telegram they may move to Paris and sell their house.

Jose thought, “I can buy their house.”

Patrick knew Jose was not in a mood to tolerate anything.

He heard Jose go to the liquor table last night. He did not know what he got but it was a lot.

Patrick continued to sit and read his son’s book.

He walked up the hall to go to his bedroom’

Patrick heard the telegram machine in his office. He continued to his office.

He unlocked his office’s door and sat in his chair.

He looked at all the mail they accumulated over the year and a half.

Patrick begin to read the mail.

Brenda stood in his office door with her nightgown on and a wrap and her hair all over her head.

She stood and looked at Patrick.

Patrick had a letter in his hand and was looking at Brenda.

He could not tell if she was angry, worried or concerned.

Brenda looked around the room at all of the mail.

She stepped inside Patrick’s office and said, “I wonder if I have any mail?”

Patrick looked at all of his mail and he put the letter down and walked to Brenda and took her hand and led her back to the bedroom and closed the door.

He got their prayer pillows and put them on the floor.

They joined hands and prayed for a long time.

Brenda prayed that her sons be caught and hanged for their evil ways and for trying to kill Thomas, Michael and Shirley.

Brenda cried at how could she and Patrick produce such evil children.

Brenda said, “LORD GOD Almighty, YOU sent YOUR son to die for us on the cross. But how could we produce such evil off springs? Where did we go wrong? Please forgive us and somehow let us fix it if it is something that we are to do. How could they murder their flesh and blood? Whatever YOUR divine will is for them let it come to them and cause all of their plots to fail and never be successful.”

Patrick was crying and said, “In JESUS’ name. Amen.”

Patrick said, “Forgive us O’ LORD GOD Almighty. Forgive us please.”

Patrick laid on his bed and went to sleep.

Brenda knew one of two things, leave Patrick alone so he could sleep or lay next to hom and sleep or rest until he got up.

But she thought about a year of mail.

Jose was knocking on their door.

Brenda stood and walked to the door and unlocked.

Jose was drunk.

Brenda said, “Jose you are drunk.”

Jose said, “How you know?”

Brenda said, “Your eyes are red.”

Jose said, “So are yours.”

Brenda said, “I know you were up late last night. No expected the party to last that long.”

They heard Patrick snoring.

Brenda peeped back to the bedroom.

Jose was shifting his weight from one foot to the other he peeped towards the bedroom.

Brenda said, “Have hot water sent for me. Send Mabel a hundred dollars by Debra.”

Jose said, “Hundred?”

Brenda said, “Look you stingy and jealous man. I mean what I said. I know that girl was here struggling by herself and you did not offer to help.”

Jose was shaking his head for yes that is right.

Brenda said, “Debra will see Mabel at the hospital and give her the money. Send a big thank you from Patrick and myself. Then take the rest of the day off.”

Jose looked at Brenda with amazement and he ran down the hall to have Louis and Gary bring Brenda hot water.

Jose ran back to Patrick’s office to send Debra the telegram and he frowned up at the mess Patrick had made in a short time.

He thought about being off that day and he sat down and got Debra’s information and sent the telegram.

Jose jumped from Patrick’s desk and ran out the door and locked it.

Jose nearly ran into Louis and Gary carrying Brenda’s water.

Louis said, “Jose what about Mr. Stith?”

Jose continued to run to the servants’ quarter and unlocked his door.

He pulled off his boots and jumped in the bed with his clothes on.

There was a knock on his door the moment his face was hitting his pillow.

Jose was angry.

He slowly got off the bed and slowly walked to the door and unlocked his door.

Nadine was at his door.

He stared at her.

Nadine turned her head to chuckle.

Jose did not greet her or laugh.

Nadine said, “You want me to take over today Jose?”

Jose said, “Please.”

He closed his door and locked it.

Jose went and laid back down and his face was hitting his pillow and his eyes were closed.

Then when his face hit his pillow he opened his eyes and said, “That bi\*\*h is up to something. I am too sleepy to deal with her sh\*t now. It has to wait until tomorrow.”

When Jose closed the door.

Nadine jumped up in excitement and clapped her hands and ran into the kitchen to the work schedule.

She, Lorraine and Peter had planned to go to the horse races in a few weeks. It was a new and exciting sport and Lorraine was to meet the head cook there.

Thomas ‘

Thomas looked at Nadine.

Thomas said, “Switch my off day to this week end. Or I am going to tell.”

Nadine kept writing and said, “Why you think I am sitting her bolding in front of you doing the schedule?”

Thomas looked at Nadine and said, “Why?”

Nadine looked at Thomas and said, “I am acting for Jose which means I have the right to make the schedule and you Thomas can never black mail me. Remember December 17th?”

Thomas unfolded his arms and dropped his mouth opened.

Nadine looked at Thomas.

She finished writing the schedule and stood.

She walked to Thomas and said, “I put your off days for this Friday, Saturday and Sunday. I will keep your secret until I really need it.”

She patted Thomas on his arm and walked out through the formal dining room.

She frowned and said, Punk.”

Louis and Gary were walking through the hall and Gary was talking but Louis was listening.

When they reached the kitchen Louis slowly looked at Thomas.

Thomas looked up to see Louis looking at him.

Thomas thought, “Did he hear anything.”

Everyone slept late.

Eleanor left the cooks a light breakfast menu.

Lorraine and Meredith did not arrive to the house until eight am.

Michael was running down the back stairs to the kitchen.

Lorraine looked at Michael.

She said, “Michael. Good morning.”

Meredith looked at Michael and said, “Michael what do you want?”

The servants looked at Michael.

Michael knew they would not hurt him.

He said, “I want to eat breakfast and go and see God.”

Lorraine stood for a minute.

The servants were quiet, because they did not know whether he was saying he wanted to die or what.

Since the servants do not go to church that thought was far away from them.

Eleanor was walking down the backstairs to see about breakfast when she heard Michael.

Eleanor walked into the kitchen and touched Michael on his shoulders and said, “You want to go to church?”

Michael looked up at Eleanor and said, “Yes ma am.”

The servants breathed.

Eleanor patted Michael on his shoulder and said, “Ok.”

Eleanor looked around at the servants and said, “His usual and one egg and toast and orange juice. And for me a soft boiled egg, dry toast and orange juice. Have hot water for my bath and Michael’s bath brought upstairs. Thomas only cook scrambled eggs, bacon and biscuits and steam grapefruit for Mr. and Mrs. Stiths.”

Brenda walked in the kitchen.

Peter said, “Damn.”

He thought, “Now everybody is sneaking up on us with those backstairs.”

Michael ran to Brenda.

Brenda said, “Good morning you are up early.”

Eleanor said, “He wants to go to church.”

Brenda thought, “I do too.”

Brenda looked at the servants and said, “Breakfast for me not Mr. Stith.”

Brenda saw Meredith and said, “Meredith I know you can find Michael something to wear, until his clothes are unpacked.”

Meredith said, “Yes ma am. Nearly all of his clothes are unpacked, washed and ready to wear.”

Gary was walking in the backdoor with Louis.

They saw Brenda had bath and dressed for the day.

Gary looked and saw Michael he ran to Michael and kneeled down and hugged him.

Michael hugged Gary.

Michael looked at Gary said, “I am sorry about Joseph.”

Eleanor flipped to walk out the kitchen.

The servants looked at Eleanor.

Benda looked at Eleanor.

Gary teared up and said, “Michael, you have nothing to be sorry. Joseph was mine boss and my friend. He knew something and he brought me to America so I can see another way of life. He was showing me a better way of life. A gooder way of life. Excuse my language. I wanted to stay and have a better life. That was my friend’s fare well gift to me. I miss him but he loved me to the end and helped me to do better.”

Gary shook Michael’s shoulders and hugged him again.

Louis was standing on the back porch looking in.

Nadine was in the formal dining room and listened to Gary and cried for Joseph. The servants were told that Joseph was poor and his mother and father wanted the Stiths to pay for his burial expenses and all the wedding expenses which Eleanor was already paying.

Michael walked to Eleanor and she reached her hands to him and they ran up the stairs.

Brenda looked at Thomas and said, “Thomas I feel like something special for Sunday’s dinner. What do you have?”

Thomas said, “I was going to do a southern ham and potato salad and green peas and beets.

Brenda hear Gary and Louis and said, “Gary.”

Gary stopped and looked at Brenda.

Brenda said, “Bring me a carriage around front.”

Gary said, “Yes ma am.”

Gary stood and went to the porch and helped Louis bring in the hot water for Michael and Eleanor’s bath.

Meredith walked up the stairs behind Gary and Louis and made Michael his bath.

While Michael bathing Meredith found him a nice outfit to wear to church,

Eleanor went into her room and bathed and dressed and came downstairs for breakfast.

She made sure she put her gun in her purse.

Brenda went into her office and saw a shotgun and bullets and had Gary to bring a carriage to the front.

Brenda walked out the front door and put the shot gun down between the seats.

She put another gun in her purse.

Gary was standing by the carriage and watched Brenda.

He said, “Ma am, you are going to God’s house. He can protect you.”

Brenda said, “Yeah. I’m going to help him out a bit.”

Gary said, “I can drive you.”

Brenda said, “No. I am going to live.”

Brenda went back into the house and walked to her bedroom.

Louis and Gary were running through the hall to get her bathtub of water.

Eleanor was working on a drainage system for the water while they were in Europe.

The engineers were able to finish it while the Stiths were in Philadelphia.

Shirley woke and heard the movement in the house.

Lorraine walked in Shirley’s room.

Shirley said, “Lorraine what is going on?”

Lorraine said, “Michael wants to go to church. So Eleanor and Brenda are taking him to church.”

Shirley threw the cover off of her and yelled, “I want to go!”

Lorraine looked at Shirley and said, “Maybe next Sunday.”

Shirley was looking across the room to armoire and said, “I want to wear the green dress.”

Lorraine turned and looked back at Shirley’s armoire and stared she turned back to Shirley who was pulling off her nightgown.

Lorraine said, “You are not going to church to worship GOD but to show off your Paris clothes.”

Shirley said, “Right.”

Lorraine turned to walk out Shirley’s and yelled, “Eleanor.”

Shirley said, “You can call her all you want She will not deny me going to church. And bring me some hot water to wash up and a scramble egg and toast.”

Eleanor was standing walking down the stairs when Lorraine called her.

Eleanor stopped.

She watched Lorraine looked at Shirley.

And then closed Shirley’s bedroom door.

Lorraine was about to walk to Eleanor’s room when Eleanor said, “Lorraine.”

Lorraine turned and saw Eleanor and said, “You look nice.”

Eleanor said, “Lorraine.”

Lorraine pointed and said, “Shirley asked me what was going on and I told her that Michael wanted to go to church and you and Brenda are going so she wants to go.”

Eleanor looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine said, “Shirley does not want to go to church GOD but to show off her clothes.”

Shirley said, “Yes.”

Eleanor stared at Shirley’s door and turned to Lorraine and said, “Take her hot water and help to wash quickly and put on her clothes and comb her hand. I’ll have to think about what to do.”

Lorraine looked at Eleanor and ran down to the area and got a pan of hot water and told Thomas a scrambled egg and toast for Shirley.

Thomas turned and scrambled an egg and made a toast.

He carried it in the dining room along with Michael’s one lamb, one egg and a biscuit with strawberry preserves.

Michael was looking at the plate and said to Thomas, “Whose plate?”

Thomas said, “Shirley’s.”

He saw Eleanor walking downstairs and he ran back to the kitchen and took her egg out of the water and brought it back with a toast and three glasses of orange juice.

As Thomas ran through the formal dining room.

Eleanor entered the family dining room and sat with Michael.

Brenda was walking out the door with the shotgun.

Meredith and was walking to the staircase and looking whether she wanted to walk down the staircase or have her wedding in the parlor.

Lorraine opened Shirley’s door with her dirty water and take it to the room to disposed of the dirty water

The servants were so glad it worked.

They wanted to see if the pulley system Eleanor was looking at would work.

Lorraine had the pail of water in her hand and Meredith was practicing walking down the grand staircase when they looked and saw Brenda with the shotgun walking out the front door.

They did not say a word, but Meredith turned and ran back upstairs to Michael’s room.

Lorraine ran to the room to dispose of the waste water.

She left the pail and ran back to Shirley’s room and helped her put on her undies, stockings and her dress and shoes.

Lorraine combed and brushed Shirley’s beautiful thick hair.

Lorraine said, “Shirley you have such beautiful thick hair.”

Shirley grinned.

Shirley looked for her everyday pearls.

Lorraine went to Shirley’s hair accessories and found some hair bows that matched her dress.

Shirley said, “I don’t have earrings to match. Lorraine do…?”

Lorraine said, “Don’t ask me Shirley. You know they are not going to let you wear those earrings ever. Get those everyday earrings or don’t wear any earrings.”

Shirley huffed and turned and put on the everyday pearl earrings, which were very nice.

Shirley looked at herself in the mirror.

Lorraine said, “Come and put on these shoes.”

Shirley pointed and opened her mouth to tell Lorraine to get another pair of shoes.”

Lorraine did not look at Shirley but said, “Don’t”

Shirley walked over to Lorraine who was kneeling on the floor.

Lorraine helped Shirley put on the shoes.

Shirley looked at herself in the mirror.

She said, “I never thought I could ever do this or look this good. I would fantasize about having a different face and a different body. I think I am half normal and I am happy. I am happy that I don’t hurt so bad. And I can walk most times now. So Lorraine…”

Shirley looked at Lorraine and said, “I do have something to worship GOD for.”

Lorraine hugged Shirley.

Eleanor walked back upstairs to tell Shirley to hurry.

She heard Shirley and saw Lorraine hugging Shirley.

Eleanor turned and eased down the stairs and went back to eat breakfast with Michael.

Brenda walked to her room and changed clothes and was walking back down the hall and Thomas beat her in the family dining room and place her plate at her seat.

Brenda said, “Thank you. Thomas, I don’t want southern ham today. Do we have any hens?”

Thomas said, “Yes ma am.”

Brenda said, “We had a beautiful soiree yesterday.”

Eleanor said, “Yes it was.”

Michael was chewing his lamb chop with his mouth and his elbows on the table and said, “Soray?”

Eleanor said, “Soiree. You learned that in France.”

Michael said, “We’re home now.”

Nadine was standing in the family dining room.

She turned her back and looked out the window to keep from bursting out in laughter at Michael.

Thomas looked at Michael.

Brenda looked at Thomas and said, “Bake two hens, dressing and gravy…”

Michael said, “Biscuits.”

Brenda said, “The rest is up to you.”

Thomas said, “Yes ma am.”

He looked at Michael as he walked out the family dining room.

Shirley was walking to the family dining room.

She walked in and Brenda, Eleanor and Michael looked at her.

Eleanor said, “Shirley you look nice.”

Shirley grinned.

Michael had a mouth full of toast and said, “Hey.”

Brenda said, “Shirley I am to assume you are going to church with us.”

Shirley grinned.

Lorraine walked in the family dining room and stood next to a giggling Nadine.

Eleanor looked Shirley and saw she had on the pearl earrings.

Eleanor said, “I forgot.”

Brenda said, “What?”

Eleanor said, “The jewelry for the shop. I still have it upstairs.”

Shirley said, “You got some green?”

 Lorraine mumbled and turned and looked out the window with Nadine.

Brenda watched Lorraine and Nadine.

Eleanor said, “I do and you have to buy it Shirley.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and continued to eat her breakfast.

Thomas ran downstairs and looked at everyone dressed up and he ran upstairs and threw on some clothes.

Brenda said, “Lorraine I know Thomas…”

Lorraine said, “I’m going.”

She ran to the water area and got hot water and ran upstairs and caught Thomas who looked a mess.

Lorraine made him pulled off the clothes.

She washed his face and washed him off.

She gave him clean underwear and socks.

She pulled him a pair of shorts and shirt, tie and coat.

She had Thomas to brush his teeth and she combed and brushed his hair.

She rushed him downstairs.

Eleanor was standing at the door waiting for him.

Thomas was walking into the family dining room with a platter of bacon, eggs and biscuits.

Thomas looked.

Eleanor looked back.

Lorraine went into the family dining room and made Thomas a plate of eggs, bacon and biscuits and strawberry preserves. She reached Thomas a fork and napkin.

Eleanor was holding him.

He was hugging her.

Thomas took his plate and walked out with Eleanor.

Nadine, Lorraine and Thomas stood on the porch and watched them pull off.

Brenda was steering the carriage and Shirley sat in front with Brenda.

Eleanor sat in the middle between Michael and Thomas.

Lorraine and Nadine said, “They looked nice. Thomas did not know where they were going.”

Lorraine said, “I bought three dresses from expensive Paris fashion houses. I bought them on sale. I bought several dresses from England. I feel good about them.”

Nadine said, “Where are you going to wear them?’

Lorraine, Nadine and Thomas turned and walked in the house.

Thomas locked the front door.

Thomas looked up stairs and he picked up the platter to take it back in the kitchen.

He said, “I have to throw out these eggs.”

Nadine touched Thomas’ hand and he put the platter down.

He, Nadine and Lorraine sat down to the table and ate breakfast.

Meredith finally wondered downstairs and looked out the window.

She did not see them.

She turned and saw Lorraine, Nadine and Thomas sitting in the family’s dining room eating breakfast.

She walked in and made her a plate of a biscuit and a lot of eggs.

They looked at Meredith.

Meredith ate and drank the orange juice Brenda left.

Thomas stood up and pushed his chair under the table and pointed at the platter.

Lorraine and Nadine nodded their head for yes.

Meredith as sitting looking out the window.

Thomas said, “Now I have to go and kill these damn hens. I did not feel like killing today that’s why I bought that ham.”

Nadine said, “Will you make a cranberry jam to go along with the dressing?”

Thomas said, “Where in hell am I going to get cranberries from. I have to make a large pot of gravy with bell peppers.”

Nadine said, “Thomas you did not have to cuss me. You have been awful this morning. You need to go to church.”

Thomas picked up the platter.

He walked out the family dining room with the platter and he was mumbling and said, …kill…

Nadine leaned back and looked at Thomas and said, “He better not have been saying anything about me.”
Meredith sat and looked out the window for a long time.

She got up and walked through the house.

She walked and stood in the parlor.

She decided on the parlor for an intimate wedding with a man who was a widower.

Meredith thought about Hutch.

She was thinking about the second hand wedding dress she bought in Paris.

The house was elaborate and she wanted to wear pearl hair barrettes and plain white gloves and plain white boots.

Meredith did not know who was buying the wedding dress for.

She was thinking about Hutch all the time for nearly a year and a half.

Felipe is much older than she wanted her husband to be.

She has to decide about their citizenship.

Then she thought she had three weeks to pull together a wedding and reception.

She panicked and turned and ran into the kitchen.

Dan was off and he walked in the kitchen to check the work schedule for the next two weeks.

Meredith was panicking.

Nadine said, “What is wrong with you?”

Thomas and Peter said she needs to go to that man.

Dan liked Felipe.

Felipe taught Dan to play chess and French on the sail back.

Dan said, “What Meredith?”

Meredith said, “Three weeks.”

Nadine said, “What?”

Dan looked at Nadine.

Dan said, “Meredith if you are having the wedding on the Fourth. You don’t need a reception eat the food Brenda is going to be serving.”

Peter said, “You will only need a cake and champagne.”

Nadine said, “Peter she can’t drink champagne.”

Peter said, “Why not?”

Nadine said, “Because she is pregnant.”

Peter said, “I’ve women who drank and they were pregnant.”

Nadine started naming the deformed children.

Meredith said, “Peter can you bake me a wedding cake, please.”

Peter said, “For how many people?”

Meredith said, “Only for us.”

Thomas was still mad he had to go and kill two hens to make dressing.

Nadine said, “Have you sent out your invitations to your family?”

Meredith began to scream and ran out the back door.

Percy jumped he walked down the backsteps looking for Eleanor.

Dan threw the work schedule in the air and jerked around.

Percy was in the back hall he started hollering.

Thomas ran to see which child it was screaming.

Nadine, Monica and Ruth jumped and stared at a hysterical Meredith.

Lorraine was upstairs in Shirley’s bed sleep.

She ran downstairs in her stocking feet.

She saw Percy jumping and hollering she grabbed him and held him.

Lorraine said, “What is this?”

Nadine said, “Meredith.”

Lorraine heard Meredith she turned Percy a loose and ran outdoor in her stockings and ran and caught Meredith before she ran into the fields.

Lorraine had to clip Meredith and catch her before she fell.

Gary ran out the re-modelled supply shed.

He was finished for the day and he went back to take a nap.

He had on the side jobs scheduled for the week.

Gary was putting every penny in the bank.

He loved working at the Stith’s mansion. The work was not hard, they provided a place for him to sleep, which was nicer than back home. He could eat food from the kitchen.

He finally started dating Denise.

They had a lot of relationship problems.

Denise wanted to run away several times.

Nathan and Robert did not say anything to Gary because they knew he did not the depth of destruction of slavery.

They knew he was an honest man.

Mabel was dating one of the Freed men that Eleanor helped to get on the train.

Nadine felt he was using Mabel. Nadine saw Mabel’s dress and shoes the last time she was there.

Nadine asked Mabel what she was doing with her money because she looked bad.

Mabel looked around and whispered to Nadine, Miss Debra put nearly all her money in the bank. She gives a lot of money to the shelter and she buys second hand shoes so the man want ask her for money.

Mabel has helped to raise the children and put them in school to learn.

She told Nadine she knew the man was dating another woman and using her to get her money to give to this other woman.

Mabel told Nadine she wanted to start working to do flowers and buy her a house to grow her own flowers and plants.

Mabel told Nadine when the last little boy get to be ten she will leave, She told Nadine the teen boy Eleanor helped is going to college to teach.

Nadine cried.

But she felt Mabel deserved a good man. One that will help her, because she was slow.

A thought came to Nadine, “Who Better than GOD.”

Nadine and Peter get on their knees every night and include Mabel and Denise and the freed men children in their prayers. They heard about the evil treatment the children were going through and their hearts broke for them.

Lorraine caught Meredith.

Gary ran to help.

They walked Meredith back to the house.

Lorraine held Meredith and they sat on the back porch.

Meredith cried for a long time.

Gary sat next to Meredith.

Percy ran to the door and looked at Meredith, he liked Meredith.

Dan walked and stood by Percy.

Thomas started Percy four strips of bacon.

Peter looked at Nadine.

Nadine said, “I didn’t do anything.”

She walked out the kitchen and went on the back porch and sat down.

Percy walked on the back porch and sat by Lorraine.

Lorraine looked at Percy and kissed his forehead.

Lorraine rocked Meredith.

Thomas walked to the backdoor and said, “Percy your breakfast is ready.”

Percy said, “Pancakes and blueberries with whipped cream.”

Thomas looked at Dan.

Thomas said, “Percy is that what you want to eat?”

Percy said, “Yes and can you give me the bacon I smelled?”

Thomas walked back in the kitchen and brought Percy the plate of bacon.

Percy took the plate of bacon and said his grace and begin to chew the bacon.

He looked out at the stables and wondered about their horses.

Meredith begin to talk and Percy turned and looked at Meredith.

Meredith said, “I hate my family. They tried to destroy me. I would hide from them.

I would stay at school at night and hide in the dark places. My family would come looking for me but I would crawl under the floor boards and rats and snakes would be crawling over me. I got use to them. I rather dealt with rats and snakes than my family.”

Dan and Thomas stood and listen.

Patrick heard the screaming and woke and ran through the house looking and stood and looked at Meredith.

Meredith said, “My mother sold me to men and women. They hurted me so bad. I was crippled for two years. And they would not leave me alone.”

Patrick wanted to tell Percy to come in the house, but he did not want to disrupt Meredith.

He knew Percy liked Meredith and all of that screaming he wanted to know what was wrong with her.

Lorraine kissed Percy on the forehead and nodded for him to leave.

Lorraine smiled at Percy and said, “Meredith is okay Percy.”

Patrick was relieved that someone told Percy to leave.

He thought the children had gone through a lot.

Percy looked at Lorraine and he looked at Meredith.

He would not leave.

Dan and Thomas looked at Patrick.

Patrick squinted his eyes and held his mouth tight.

Thomas went back in the kitchen and was making Percy’s pancakes.

Ruth and Monica went and started cleaning the house.

Meredith said, “My teacher, who I thought was my friend was trying to take my from my family. After two years I thought I could have peace.”

Percy was eating his last strip of bacon.

Thomas quickly walked to the door with Percy a plate of pancakes with blueberries and whipped cream.

Patrick saw the food and thought, “Maybe he’ll come in now.”

Thomas opened the door and showed Percy the plate of pancakes and motioned for him to come inside and eat.

Percy was taking his last bite of the bacon and shook his head for no and reached Thomas his empty plate.

Thomas looked at Patrick who was standing back because he did not want Percy to see him.

Thomas reached Percy the plate of pancakes and took his plate and walked back and gave Percy another napkin and fork and knife.

Thomas stepped back in the house.

Patrick pointed to Percy’s plate and said, “Another for Thomas and Strawberry for me and Bruce.”

Thomas said, “Thomas has eaten and is gone.”

Patrick looked out the back door because he did not want to miss anything.

He said, “Strawberry for me.”

Thomas looked at Dan and rolled his eyes.

Thomas was making up his cornbread and chopping up all those vegetables to make up the dressing. He did not like to be disturbed.

Peter snickered and continued to cook his ginger spice cake with white wine sauce for dinner.

Peter made a large lemonade because Brenda and Eleanor loved his lemonade.

Percy would cut his pancakes and chew and listen to Meredith empty her soul out.

Thomas walked to Patrick with a plate of pancakes and a napkin and fork and knife.

Patrick sat in the servants area at a table so he could hear.

The Meredith was kicking her feet and said, “The torture continued for another two years until the state came and took me out of the home with that teacher and her family. The neighbors told the state and some lady that went through the same thing I did made them take me out of that home.”

Patrick thought, “Could that have been Gail.”

Meredith said, “I stayed in that awful place for three years. I finally left and went to nursing school and finished. Eleanor hired me and I have been here every since. I had to go through years of thinking everyone wanted to hurt me. Everyone wanted to beat me and kicked me. For years I could not hear out of my right ear because they got sexual pleasure from beating me. I never want to have anything to do with my family. I just read and continued to read today so my mind could hold onto something that was more real than what my life was about.”

Percy was turned on the porch staring at Meredith.

Meredith said, “I have nightmares every night. I did not know not to use my body. Hutch and Felipe were the only men who cared about me. The doctors said I was so destroyed I could never have a baby. So I prayed this baby will be fine.”

Percy finished his plate of pancakes and handed his plate, fork, knife and napkin to Nadine.

Nadine looked at Percy and took his plate and turned her attention back to Meredith.

Percy stood and stretched and looked at Meredith.

He walked to the stables and Gary looked at Percy and stood and walked behind him to the stables.

Percy called his horse.

The horse remembered Percy and he walked to Percy.

Percy petted his horse.

Patrick stood and walked into the kitchen and handed his plate to Thomas.

Peter held his head down and snickered.

Patrick looked at Peter.

Thomas took the plate and walked it over to the dish washers.

Patrick looked at the two men who Jose hired.

Patrick thought, “I rather have women.”

Patrick thought and said, “Where is everybody?”

Peter said, “Michael was the first to get up and he came in here and said he wanted to eat breakfast and go and see God.”

Patrick looked at Peter.

Peter said, “Mrs. Simons…”

Patrick said, “Miss Stith.”

Peter was annoyed at Patrick and said, “Miss Stith, Mrs. Stith, Michael, Thomas and Shirley went to church.”

Patrick looked around the kitchen and saw the ham.

He said, “Thomas we are going to have ham for dinner? Your hams are always juicy and tender.”

Thomas looked at Patrick.

Peter walked out to the formal dining room and hollered.

Thomas said, “No sir Mrs. Stith said she wanted these two hens I killed this morning and dressing I am working on now.”

Patrick saw the lemonade and said, “Is that lemonade ready?”

Thomas turned around and did not see Peter.

Thomas thought about Peter and said, “You bitch.”

Thomas walked over and poured some lemonade in a glass and asked Patrick to taste it.

Patrick liked the lemonade.

He walked out and was going back to bed.

He looked at the year and a half of mail and telegrams, but he was sleepy.

He went back to bed and slept for another hour.

He got up and poured a full glass of whiskey and went to his office.

He pulled all the telegrams.

He had a pile for business and a pile for personal.

Jose put a copy of newspaper where John was given twenty years in prison and his wife was given seven because they had the sons.

They gave his sons five years in prison and they had to leave the state and never return.

The other men were given twenty years in prison.

Patrick did not blink.

He felt GOD was answering their prayers. He put the newspaper aside for Brenda.

There was much mail.

He looked up and Brenda was standing in the door looking at the glass of alcohol.

Patrick followed Brenda’s eyes to the glass of whiskey.

Patrick picked up the glass of whiskey and took a big swallow and said, “You don’t know.”

Brenda looked at Patrick and walked in and closed the door.

Patrick told her of Meredith and how was hollering and screaming and woke him up and how she was running and screaming and running to the field, until Lorraine out ran her and clipped her and she and Gary brought Meredith back to the house.

Patrick said, “Meredith told one of the most God awful story I every heard. She said that a lady made the state get her out the home. Do you think it was Gail?”

Brenda said, “I don’t know. You mean our Gail?”

Patrick took a big swallow of whiskey.

Brenda said, “Patrick I can’t stand for you to drink on Sunday.”

Patrick held up his finger on the glass and turned in his chair and picked up the newspaper and handed it to Brenda.

Brenda rolled her eyes at Patrick and begin to read the newspaper article he folded down.

Brenda read the article and handed the newspaper back to Patrick and took the glass of whisky and looked around at all the mail.

Brenda took another swallow of Patrick’s whiskey and said, “The minister had a good sermon. It’s going to take until Christmas to go through all this mail.”

Patrick said, “What was the title of the sermon? What was it about?’’

Brenda turned slightly around to Patrick and swivel his glass of whiskey and said, “To be good and don’t hurt anybody else.”

Patrick stood and said, “You are a lie. You were sleep. You hypocrite. Give me my glass back.”

Patrick sat on his desk and pulled Brenda to him as they looked out over the mail.

He took another swallow of his whiskey and Brenda held her head back and Patrick kissed her.

Brenda said, “We need to pray.”

Patrick said, “Not while we are drunk.”

Brenda said, “I saw Gen in church and sat by her. I told her Meredith asked to hold her wedding here. You know Gen huffed.”

Patrick laughed and said, “Hutch?”

Brenda said, “I never knew anything about Meredith. I know Eleanor hired her a week out of nursing school. It seemed like GOD all of us hurt people together.”

Patrick took another big swallow of whiskey.

Brenda looked at the glass.

Patrick held it to her mouth and gave her a drink.

Patrick said, “How did Shirley act in Church, she has only been in church for Joseph’s funeral.”

Brenda took the glass of whiskey.

Patrick still had his hand in the air, like he was holding the glass.

Brenda took a swallow. Then another swallow.

Patrick thought, “JESUS don’t tell me Shirley cut up in church.”

Brenda said, “I miss Joseph.”

Patrick leaned his chin in the top of Brenda’s head.

Brenda said, “Miss Shirley was in bed and heard the talk and asked Lorraine what was going on. Michael walked in the kitchen and told them he wanted breakfast and then he wanted to go to God. The servants thought he was talking about dying.”

Patrick laughed.

Brenda said, Patrick.”

Patrick said, “The way Michael said it.”

Brenda said, “Miss Shirley up and demanded Lorraine to help her dress and go to church, because she wanted to show her clothes from Paris.”

Patrick laughed.

Brenda said, “Patrick stop. I don’t know what to do?”

Patrick said, “You do nothing and you say nothing. Let her work out her own soul salvation with GOD and JESUS, we are just to instruct them and take them to the cross. JESUS does all the work on each of us.”

Brenda said, “It is hard. We messed up with Patrick Jr, Christopher and John.”

Patrick held his chin in Brenda’s head and thought about their sons.

Patrick said, “Brenda we led them to the JESUS. We led them to the cross. Whether they will ever accept JESUS the Christ as the Son of GOD and Savior GOD only knows. But I don’t feel guilty any more.”

Brenda laughed and said, “That’s the whiskey.”

Brenda stood and took Patrick by his hand and was tickling his palm.

Patrick swallowed the rest of his whiskey and looked at Brenda and said, “I know what that means.”

Eleanor was walking down to the Patrick’s office.

She heard Patrick and turned her head and stood in the door.

Patrick looked at Eleanor and Brenda was leading the way out of Patrick’s office.

Brenda said, “What are you looking at us for? Like we don’t have feelings.”

Patrick said, “Start going through all of that mail.”

Eleanor looked in Patrick’s office and saw all the mail and her mouth dropped.

Patrick and Brenda skipped down the hall to their suite.

Bruce finally woke up and ate bacon and eggs and took a bath.

Nadine found an outfit for Bruce to wear.

Bruce looked at Nadine and said, “I can get my own clothes.”

Nadine said, “I’ve seen you a few times Brue.”

Thomas and Michael saw other children in church and sat with them.

Eleanor was sleeping in church.

Shirley walked down further in the aisle and saw Mary and sat with her.

Shirley was quiet.

Eleanor watched Shirley because Shirley told Lorraine she had something to worship God about.

The minister welcomed the Stiths and the Olsens back from Europe.

Gen stood up and smiled and nodded at the people.

Ben whispered to Brenda, “Show off.”

Ben nodded and smiled at the people.

Brenda smiled.

The minister said, “I want to welcome some new residents to our small church, the soldiers.”

Michael and Thomas jumped up and looked around.

They saw several soldiers sitting in the back.

Shirley was scared to turn and look.

Brenda looked at Shirley.

Eleanor turned around to see the soldiers.

Michael and Thomas saluted the soldiers.

Eleanor smiled at her sons.

The other children smiled at the soldiers.

The minister’s wife was playing the piano.

The minister said his wife wanted to make an announcement.

His wife walked up and stood by her husband.

She was crying and smiled at the people and said, “I am sick. I will have to give up playing the piano.”

The people said, “Awe!”

The pastor kissed his wife’s cheek.

Brenda thought about Eleanor and Gen. She knew she just could not live without Patrick. She thought about Mag.

She leaned to Gen and Gen leaned over Brenda said, “I got to invite Mag to fourth of July. Is she going to be in town or with Josiah?”

The man in the pew in front of Brenda said, “Shush.”

Ben looked at the man and then at Gen and Brenda.

Brenda looked at the man.

The minister’s wife continued and said, “We need someone to play on Sundays, weddings and funerals. I will teach as many of you until we have a number of pianists.”

Thomas raised his hand.

The minister said, “Yes sir.”

Everyone turned their heads to see who was volunteering.

Eleanor slightly looked back and then thought and turned fully around and saw Thomas.

Gen laughed and said, “Look at Eleanor.”

Brenda said, “Who is that Michael?”

Eleanor was looking at Thomas.

The minister said, “Yes young man.”

Thomas said, “I volunteer Percy.”

Eleanor frowned and said. “Thomas you can’ volunteer Percy.”

When Shirley heard Thomas voice she turned to look back.

Mary said, “That’s your brother.”

Shirley looked back Thomas.

The minster looked at Eleanor and back to Thomas and said, “That’s rights the person has to volunteer. Whatever you do for GOD must be done from your heart and not from somebody’s else.”

Gen smiled.

Thomas was looking at Eleanor.

Michael said, “You know Percy can’t play.”

Thomas said, “He can learn.”

Shirley held her head down in embarrassment.

Mary laughed. She was fourteen now.

Brenda looked peeped around a giggling Gen and watched Michael and Thomas fuss in church.

Eleanor was trying to be polite and catch Thomas eye.

Michael said, “He can’t learn. Joseph just let him play.”

Eleanor was so embarrassed and covered her face with her gloved hand.

Brenda looked back at Eleanor for her to make Thomas sit down.

Eleanor was beyond embarrassed.

Mary was laughing.

Shirley tried to bend over and cover her face.

The minister looked at Shirley and the laughing Mary.

Mary’s father looked back and tried to Mary to stop laughing.

Her father looked at Shirley and realized they were back.

He liked Joseph and thought he would have another friend in Cedartown.

He looked back and saw Eleanor had covered her face out of embarrassment he laughed.

He thought mom and dad would be happy to see the Stiths but they attend a church across town.

Eleanor felt Brenda looking at her.

She held her head up and walked back to Thomas and sat with him.

The church members snickered.

All the other children wanted Eleanor to move.

Some of the boys were on their knees shooting marbles on the pew. Some of the kids were playing jacks. They stopped when Eleanor came and sit with them. One of the boys was Mary’s twelve year old brother. Her father looked back and saw his son and he jumped up quickly and sat down quickly to make sure if that was his son.

Some of the church members saw him and giggle.

Several of the women raised their hands and volunteered.

The minister asked them to stay after church to talk with his wife.

Brenda wondered what was wrong with his wife.

Brenda did not care for her but she felt sorry for her.

Thomas looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor smiled at Thomas.

Brenda thought, “She won’t say nothing to Thomas and Michael.”

Brenda told Patrick when they were alone.

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Brenda looked at Patrick and said, “Nothing.”

Patrick said, “We did not do good with our children. We got murderers, kidnappers, thieves, prostitutes, gamblers, extortionists and all kind of evil workers. I can take Thomas and Michael antics in church.”

Brenda said, “You are a lie. You spoiled them that’s why you would not say anything to them and you would never hit them with a boot.”

Brenda walked out their bedroom and closed the door.

Patrick had finished his bath and shaved.

Patrick mumbled, “Yeap. Those are my boys.”

He dressed for a summer Sunday dinner.

Brenda had changed and had a beautiful dress she bought in England for a floral dinner.

Brenda passed Patrick’s office and saw Eleanor sitting at Patrick’s desk and she had all five of her children sitting and opening the mail.

After service Michael and Thomas ran outside with the other children.

Eleanor nearly died.

Ben walked outside and watched the children.

Shirley was modeling her beautiful dress and the young women rushed over to her after church and were asking about her dress.

Shirley said, “She brought many from Europe and the dresses would be at the dress shop by Tuesday and Wednesday.”

The boys were outside and running about the year and playing.

The soldiers were standing outside the church and talking to Ben.

Gen said, “Bren what’s for dinner?’

Brenda said, “Hen and dressing. You’ll can come by.”

Gen said, “No sister not today. My husband helped me to cook supper yesterday. Crowder peas, carrots, beets, cornbread and ham and tea.”

Brenda said, “That’s sound delicious.”

Gen saw the man outside talking to the soldiers and mumbled to Brenda, “That’s that bald head…”

The man’s wife was trying to get around Gen and Brenda who were holding each other arm walking out the church.

Gen smiled at the man’s wife.

Brenda grinned at Gen because she was a pure diplomat.

Eleanor looked at the soldiers and Jake was not one.

Shirley walked out the church with Mary.

Mary’s father was walking behind them and looking for his son.

He knew if there was any mischief his son was in it.

The soldiers saw the father looking for his son.

He walked to the soldiers and greeted them and shook their hands.

Brenda and Gen greeted the soldiers.

Gen said, “How many are you?”

Shirley looked out and did not see Skip.

She stood on the church’s porch for a few minutes to show off her dress.

Eleanor whispered. “I want to snatch her a\*\* off that porch.”

Michael yelled, “Catch Skip.”

Shirley’s heart dropped.

Eleanor saw her face changed.

Brenda was looking at the soldiers.

The lead soldier said, “Five.”

Gen said, “I baked a whole ham. Come to my house for dinner.”

Brenda laughed and said, “You sneak.”

Gen said, “You want to host my doctors for the fourth.”

Ben was grinning and said, “Come on you’ll.”

Skip was walking around the church.

Thomas ran and hugged Skip.

Brenda looked back to see what Thomas was doing.

He looked at Shirley.

Brenda saw Shirley’s heart swelling for this tall and muscular soldier.

Eleanor was watching the soldier.

The lead soldier said, “Skip we have a supper invitation.”

Skip tossed the baseball to Michael.

He looked up at church’s porch and saw Shirley.

He bowed to Shirley.

Skip walked to the church’s porch and helped Shirley walked down the steps.

Michael said, “She can walk. Throw me the ball.”

Gen laughed and said, “Bren I’ll talk to you later.”

Gen and Ben walked to their buggy.

The soldiers mounted their houses and waited for Skip.

Skip tossed Michael a baseball as he was leaving.

Mary’s father laughed and spoke to Skip.

Skip mounted his horse and rode with his troop members to have dinner with Ben and Gen.

The soldiers had a beautiful dinner and Sunday outing with the Olsens.

Skip helped Gen put the food away and wash the dishes.

Gen was puzzled at Skip and stood against the wall and wondered about him.

Ben was walking in the kitchen with the remaining peach cobbler, which he made.

Ben looked at Gen and thought, “What is she up to?”

Gen said, “My best friend is my sister, her daughter Shirley is quite smitten with you Skip.”

Skip was sweeping and listening to Gen.

Skip looked at Gen.

Gen said, “You are a mystery.”

Ben gave Gen the peach cobbler and walked tout the kitchen and went to the other soldiers.

Skip gave Gen no information and thanked her for being gracious and inviting.

Gen said, “Mr. Skip. I will remember you.”

Skip walked out the kitchen and he went to the other soldiers and they mounted their horses and rode back to the military headquarters.

They enjoyed the food.

Gen was standing thinking.

Ben looked at her and took her hands and they begin to dance in the kitchen and sat outside and drink lemonade until dark.

Shirley looked at Skip as he passed her.

Brenda watched Shirley and Skip.

Brenda saw when Michael and Thomas saluted the soldiers as the soldiers rode away.

Eleanor drove the carriage home.

Shirley sat in the front with her.

Brenda sat in the middle of Thomas and Michael.

Brenda held one of Michael’s hand and one of Thomas’s hand and said, “Thomas, Michael did you enjoy service?”

Michael said, “Yes, until you snored.”

Brenda said, “What?”

Shirley said, “Yes grandma.”

Brenda was embarrassed and sat back in the carriage.

Shirley said, “Grandma can we invite the soldiers to home for next Sunday’s dinner.”

Brenda said, “Shirley you want to invite Skip.”

Shirley grinned and said, “Yes ma am.”

Eleanor looked at Shirley.

Brenda said, “No.”

Eleanor was listening.

Shirley said, “Why. They are Christians.”

Brenda said, “Shirley just because someone is in a Christian church does not mean they have accepted JESUS as their Savior. I am not ready to be that close.”

Michael leaned over and was looking at Brenda.

Shirley said, “What about your Fourth of July celebration.”

Brenda said, “Maybe. Eleanor have you heard them talk about what was ordered for the Fourth?”

Eleanor said, “No ma am.”

Brenda said I sent them everywhere to go and put in orders for everything.

Brenda said, “Shirley that is something you can work with me on. I need to add a few thousands of balloons. Send Mag an invitation and make sure the Freed Men Stith rest stop have a big dinner and fireworks. I did not have the celebration last year after this year I won’t have it anymore.”

Michael looked at Brenda and said, “Too much work?’

Brenda said, “It takes month to do and I was not here and I don’t know if the servants followed my instructions. But the biggest thing Michael, the slavery has been abolished in this great country and because it was able to fight against itself and use the law to judge and heal itself makes it even greater.”

Michael said and, “And soldiers grandma.”

Thomas said, “Grandma we can help you. We are getting big.”

Michael said, “Right grandma? We want the world to know how great you and grandpa are to us and the world.”

Eleanor smiled at her sons’ thoughtfulness.

Shirley said, “I bought a lot of summer dresses. I have to take to the shop tomorrow and help Mary put up.”

Eleanor said, “I have to take the jewelry to the shop in the morning.”

Shirley turned around and said, “Michael and Thomas want to help me tomorrow in the dress shop?”

Thomas and Michael said in unity, “No.”

Eleanor said, “Boys help me in the jewelry shop tomorrow and you can have ice cream.”

Thomas and Michael yelled, “Yes.”

Eleanor said, “Momma you can have an ice cream stand this year.”

Shirley said, “Add punch with the lemonade and tea.”

Brenda was thinking.

Michael said, “Watermelon and cantaloupe.”

Eleanor pulled up in front of the house.

Gary was watching from the back of the house and walked to the front.

The family wa0s out of the carriage and entering the front door when Gary ran to the carriage he looked in the carriage and saw Brenda’s shotgun.

He looked back at Brenda.

Brenda waited for Thomas and Michael to run upstairs.

She walked back out the door and reached in the carriage and got the shotgun.

Thomas said, “Michael why did grandma have that shoot gun?”

Michael said, “To keep bad people from stealing us again.”

Eleanor heard them and she and Shirley continued upstairs to their rooms to change clothes.

Meredith was gone home to her rented room.

Percy ran and told Eleanor, Shirley, Bruce, Thomas and Michael what Meredith said.

Eleanor could not believe the gross abuse Meredith overcame as a child.

Eleanor went to her room.

Shirley went to her room.

Eleanor went the back way to her office.

She walked in the office and saw all the mail and the telegrams and were overwhelmed.

She walked and closed the door and walked to Patrick’s office and saw her mother and father being intimate and it bothered her.

Brenda told her to answer the mail.

Eleanor went upstairs and changed clothes and told her five children to come and help her with the mail.

Eleanor read a lot of the telegrams and replied back, even a year later with the explanation they were in Europe and has recently returned home.

The family received hundreds of Christmas notes and cards.

Eleanor had the five children to write the name and addresses down.

Michael was sucking a lollipop and said, “Dad.”

Eleanor heard him but did not stop her work.

Bruce said, “Dad.”

Thomas said, “Daddy.”

Shirley laughed and said, “How many Christmas cards he sent. I don’t have any.”

She looked at her pile and opened them and said, “Dad. Dad and dad.”

Eleanor said, “What all the Christmas cards in the trash and just write down the names and addresses or this year.

The children zoomed through the Christmas cards.

Eleanor saw the newspaper article about her brother and read it. She tossed the newspaper to the side and begin to open the business letters.

Brenda passed Patrick’s office and looked at her busy grandchildren.

She continued to her office and was thankful she did not have that much mail.

She looked through the envelopes and found the information about her Fourth of July celebration. He had completed everything. He hired a number of vendors to set up booths and he was going to have the field hands to provide security from the fields all the way to the house. Jose ordered extra restroom stalls.

Brenda was pleased.

She put that folder down and went to the next folder.

She had Jose to put all her mail in folders.

She opened a folder and saw a letter from Joseph’s mother.

Brenda blood pressure went up.

She took her pearl handle letter opener and ripped the envelope opened and read it.

She pulled out her expensive stationary and wrote a two sentence letter to her.

Brenda sealed the letter and ripped up Joseph’s mother letter.

Brenda addressed the letter to go out in the next day mail.

Brenda sent thank you notes out to friends about Thomas and Michael.

Patrick through to the liquor table and saw the one letter to Joseph’s mother.

He walked to Brenda and said, “Brenda I see the letter to Joseph’s mother what did she want?”

Brenda was angry and did not respond to Patrick.

Patrick said, “Where is her letter?”

Brenda picked up the garbage can and reached it to Patrick.

Patrick took the garbage can and looked in it at all the pieces.

Patrick said, “Brenda what did she say and what was your reply.”

Brenda looked at Patrick and said, “She and her husband want to visit America for a year and wanted us to give them first class sailing and the use of our railroad.”

Patrick looked at a very angry Brenda and said, “Your reply.”

Brenda stood and walked to the mail table and pulled the letter out and gave it to Patrick.

Patrick looked at Brenda as she sat he begin to read her letter.

Brenda wrote, “Countess Joseph was a very loving and caring person we welcomed him into our family not you and your husband. No free rides and never write us again.

Patrick stood and picked up Brenda’s pen and signed his name and put the letter back in the envelope and toss it on the table in the mail bowl.

Nadine walked through the house to make sure everything was ready for the night.

Gary and Louis ran and lit the torch lights around the house before dark and started heating the water for he next day.

Nadine set the family dining room table.

She wondered why they were so quite and walked and told Brenda, “Mrs. Stith dinner is ready.”

Brenda was hot and stood up from her desk and walked to the family’s dining room.

Nadine rarely saw that side of Brenda and knew it had to do with the European trip.

Nadine looked over at the mail table.

She tipped in Brenda’s office and looked in the trash and saw the pieces of a letter and walked out Brenda’s office and walked to Patrick’s office and told all of them dinner was ready.

The children jumped up and ran out of Patrick’s office.

Nadine looked at the paper on the floor.

Nadine said, “What is trash?”

Shirley said, “There.”

Eleanor looked at Shirley and said, “Shirley only a little.”

Nadine walked out to check the rest of the house.

She was satisfied the house was cleaned but the library.

Nadine was standing outside the library looking at the mess and crates.

Patrick and Eleanor were walking out his office and he looked at Nadine ad said, “Nadine don’t mess with none of that.”

Nadine said, “Yes sir.”

Patrick said to Eleanor, “Joseph’s mother wrote your mother to let her and her husband have free first class sailing on our ship.”

Eleanor’s mouth dropped opened.

Nadine was slowly walking behind them but was listening.

Patrick said, “And they want to have first class rooms and ride for free on our rails.”

Nadine wanted to run to Lorraine but Lorraine was gone for the day.

Nadine said, “Excuse me,” she walked fast to the family dining room.

She cut her eyes at the mail bowl.

She went into the room and stood next to Ruth.

Thomas was mad that he had to kill two hens. He killed two more for the house workers and made a lot of dressing and gravy.

Lorraine made a plate and ate her food there.

Everyone was watching her whether she was going to take a plate.

Lorraine knew better because Brenda was not playing with her about her dishes.

Nadine said she and Peter would drop Meredith a plate because her rooming house was close to them.

Gary, Louis, Thomas, Monica, Ruth and several workers ate dinner at the house.

The field hands did not like the house workers to come out and try to include them in any activities.

They were trying to get over the civil war and all types of mental, emotional and physical wounds from the war.

Patrick and Eleanor walked in the dining room.

Nadine was looking at the table and said to Ruth, “Butter.”

Eleanor said, “No butter Ruth.”

Michael said, “I love butter.”

He primped his mouth.

Eleanor looked at the food and said, “Very nice.”

Ruth thought, “Only if you knew how Thomas bitched all day.”

Patrick said the grace.

Nadine was watching Brenda who was angry.

Eleanor looked at Brenda.

Ruth served them their food.

Ruth said, “Shirley Thomas made you a corner of the dressing without all the vegetables.”

Shirley grinned.

Ruth gave Shirley two tablespoons of creamed potatoes and dressing and gravy.

Shirley mashed her peas and beets and carrots.

Eleanor looked at Shirley’s plate.

She thought Ruth gave Shirley a little too much.

Shirley sat and enjoyed the dressing and potatoes and gravy.

Brenda slowly ate the hen and dressing and gravy.

Eleanor looked at her mother and said, “Momma.”

Brenda did not look up.

Eleanor said, “Momma.”

Brenda did not say anything.

All the grandchildren looked up at their grandmother.

Eleanor looked at Brenda and said, “Nadine and Ruth you can leave and close the door.

Ruth and Nadine were stunned but walked out and closed the door.

Ruth went through the formal dining room.

Nadine flew down the hall and searched the outgoing mail and saw the letter to the countess.

She opened and read it and put it back and ran through the billiards room.

She grabbed all of her stuff and walked into the kitchen.

Ruth said, “I wondered where you went. Are you off?”

Peter looked at Ruth and then Nadine.

Peter cleaned his area and made different type of rolls and cinnamon rolls for the next two days, because he and Nadine were off and were going fishing.

Thomas reached a plate in the air.

Peter got the plate and he and Nadine walked out the door.

Thomas looked at the dough and bread he had to make for the family for the next two days. He did not get too upset because he had three days off, before the big Furth of July celebration.

Louis invite his family for the past several years.

Gen’s sister wrote and aske if she and her husband and Sharon could come as her and Ben guests.

Gen sent her a one word letter in big letters, ‘no’.

Ben did not say anything.

He thought about Gen nearly dying in Paris, but that new procedure saved her life. He was glad that Patrick and Brenda let the French doctors sail back and are taking care of their expenses, because Gen is everything to Ben and he would have died with her. Because he wants more time with her.

He let Gen make up her mind what to do about her enemies.

Gen said, “What a beautiful day Ben.”

Ben said, “It sure was.”

They climbed the stars and went to their bedroom and dressed for bed.

They reached for each other hands and got on their knees and prayed.

They got in bed and read their individual bibles and went to sleep.

Eleanor said, “Momma. Daddy told me that Joseph’s mother wanted a free ride on our ship and our railroad. I am glad you told her no. If she ever write again, we will trash her letters. I don’t want her to take your joy away. I don’t know how Joseph ended up with such an awful mother.”

Brenda lifted her eyes up and looked at her daughter.

Michael stood and walked to Brenda and hugged and patted her.

Thomas walked to Brenda and hugged and patted her.

Thomas and Michael came back to their seats and sat down.

Eleanor said, “Percy told us what happened to Meredith. What are we going to do?”

Patrick was cutting and eating his hen and said, “What do you mean Eleanor.”

Shirley looked around the table at everybody’s plates and begin to cry.

Patrick looked at Shirley.

He said, “Shirley you want some meat?”

Shirley nodded her head.

Patrick said, “Percy can you cut Shirley a piece of hen and take it to her.”

Percy said, “Yes sir.”

Brenda watched Percy.

He stood and picked up the knife and fork and cut Shirley a piece of money and took the platter to Shirley.

Shirley was sniffing and put the piece on her plate and looked at Percy and said, “Thank you.”

Eleanor did not know what to say.

She reached to cut Shirley’s meat.

Shirley pulled her plate from Eleanor and said, “I can cut my meat.”

Eleanor was embarrassed and sat up in her chair.

Patrick said, Percy was right. I stood in the door and heard it for myself. She did her job. She has not really failed in anything.”

Eleanor said, “Daddy I am not going to fire her. She wants to have her wedding ceremony here on the Fourth. What have you and momma decided?”

Patrick said, “She can have her wedding here and your momma want the doctors to stay here with us.”

Eleanor said, “After dinner I will send a telegram to Dr. Woodson they can ride the train, but they have to leave in three days to get here by the second to take care of all the arrangements. We need to see what Meredith wants us to help with. If is only going to be them and their witnesses, we don’t need but about four to six bottles of champagne.”

Shirley diced up her hen and was chewing and loved it.

Patrick and Brenda looked at Shirley.

Shirley said, “Can I attend Meredith’s wedding?”

Eleanor looked at Shirley and said, “Why?”

Shirley said, “I want to wear the dress that I did not get a chance to wear.”

Eleanor said, “Shirley it is a morning wedding. It better be.”

Eleanor said, “Daddy we need some help in town tomorrow. I’ll leave Jose a note for six workers to come and help us at the shops.”

Patrick thought and was holding his fork in the air and said, ”Eleanor they are domestic workers for the house not your individual workers.”

Eleanor sat and looked at Patrick.

Brenda and Patrick looked at a confused Eleanor.

Patrick said, “You can ask the servants that are off if they want to make extra money by helping at the shops. You have to keep separate accounting books.”

Eleanor was confused.

Patrick said, “You did not own shops before. Now those are new businesses that have to be separate.”

Patrick continued to eat.

Eleanor said, “They still work for us.”

Brenda said, “They work for me. I pay them from my budget. You are stingy and do not want to use your money to pay people to do a job for you. You want me t pay them to work for you. You have employees at the shop. You have them to pay you.”

Shirley, “What about me?”

Eleanor was frowned up and looked at Shirley.

Patrick said, “What about you Shirley?”

Shirley said, “First can I have some gravy and potatoes.”

They looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “No.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and said, “No because you are angry that you have to use your money or ‘no’ because my body may not be used to this amount of food. Percy.”

Percy sat up in his seat and said, “I said sorry.”

Eleanor rolled her eyes at Shirley.

Shirley held up her plate and said, “Potatoes and gravy.”

Brenda stood and walked to Shirley and gave her a tablespoon of potatoes and gravy an reached Shirley her plate.

Shirley was so happy.

Eleanor said, “I am not cleaning up no s\*\*t.”

Shirley said, “I can do that myself.”

Thomas knocked on the door later and brought in the cake.

They loved the cake.

Brenda looked at Thomas and said, “The dinner was very good. Thank you for thinking of Shirley.”

Shirley said, “Yes thank you.”

Thomas was very prideful and said, “Thank you.”

He started clearing the table and returned to the kitchen and sent Ruth in to finish.

Ruth thought, “You punk.”

Patrick, Eleanor, Shirley, Percy, Bruce, Thomas and Michael went into Patrick’s office and continue working on the mail until they all fell asleep on the floor.

Bruce jumped up and ran to his bedroom and wet to bed.

He did not like sleeping anywhere but in his bed.

Brenda worked on her mail until daybreak.

She was replying to a lot of mail and sending notes to her personal friends.