Percy left the first week of November and traveled by train to the closest town near the farm.

He sat on the train and switched trains and slept on trains.

He was picked up by Jerry and Aunt Ruth.

They laughed and talked for the next two days.

Percy sent his wedding gift to Uncle Ben to Philadelphia.

They helped decorate the barn for the ceremony and held the reception in the fields.

It was truly unique and fall beautiful.

The lieutenant governor and Deborah arrived with the Bride and groom.

Betsy and Herbert finally reached the farm.

Everyone was nervous because they had not arrived.

They told of the train slipping off track.

Herbert was looking at the covered wagons and said, “Whose wagons are those?”

Betsy stared at Herbert and said, “It will take us forever to get back.”

Herbert said, “I don’t care. I am not riding that train back.”

The lieutenant governor started looking at the covered wagons.

Betsy said, “Look what you have done.”

Herbert turned and looked at the lieutenant governor and said, “You’re saying that I caused him to be afraid of riding the train back.”

Deborah said, “Yes daddy.”

Herbert sped around to look at Deborah.

Deborah loved her daddy and started laughing.

She grabbed him around his neck, and they took a long walk.

Betsy walked by Percy’s side at the reception.

She said, “Percy what are you eating?”

Percy said, “What I am not eating.”

Betsy said, “The food is delicious.”

Percy was nodding his head as he was stuffing his mouth with food over the table.

Aunt Rurth saw him.

Aunt Betsy looked up and saw Ruth.

She looked at Percy and hit him.

Jerry walked up and said, “The food is good.”

Jerry said, “Percy are you coming home for Christmas or staying with Eleanor?”

Uncle Ben was walking up to get some food.

Betsy leaned back and kissed him on his cheek.

Betsy said, “You are for sure?”

Ben leaned and whispered something in Betsy’s ear.

Betsy hit him.

They laughed.

Percy said, “What?”

Jerry figured out what Ben whispered.

Jerry looked at Percy and said, “Percy.”

Percy said, “Christmas is busy. I have not seen Eleanor since I had her put in jail.”

Percy walked away.

Everyone stopped.

Ruth had trained ears she knew she heard something about jail.

She excused herself from the guests and ran to Percy, followed by nosey Jerry, Ben and Betsy.

Deborah saw them in a line following Percy and her daddy was watching them.

He shook his head and said, “Noisy.”

Deborah was rushing pass him to go to see what was going on.

The lieutenant governor walked to his father-in-law and watched his younger wife.

He said to Herbert, “A very nice fall wedding.”

Herbert said, “Yes it is.”

The lieutenant governor whispered, “How would it take us to get back if we used the covered wagons?”

Betsy was watching them.

Deborah looked back and said, “I know that is about the train.”

Betsy said, “You get ready for this wagon train.”

Deborah laughed.

Herbert looked around and saw Betsy and Deborah watching them.

He said, “About ten days.”

The lieutenant drank some whiskey and said, “I’m willing to risk it.”

Herbert said, “If we leave in the morning we can make it back by then.”

They agreed and went to get covered wagons and took much of the reception food.

Ruth ran behind Percy, who was sitting on a bale of hay.

She sat next to him and said, “Jail?”

Percy looked at his family and said, “The day you and Aunt Betsy left…”

Betsy turned around to hear the story.

Percy was eating and stuffing his mouth.

Ben said, Percy you have lost weight.”

Percy said, “I am in the office all day into the evening. It is a lot of work, but I am catching on.”

Ben said, “Who is managing the coal mine?”

Percy said, “Mary and Shirley.”

Ben shook his head and turned his head.

Percy said, “Uncle Ben, Thomas was to watch the coal mine. But Mary and Shirley said they needed to be away from the house. Thomas said he would stay with his daddy.”

Ruth said, “Ok. Jail. But the bed and breakfast is doing ok?”

Percy said, “Yes, the two guests are from the governor’s office of taxes. They said, the governor is trying to bring in a lot of business into the state.”

Ruth looked at Ben.

Ben smiled and looked at Ruth.

Ruth said, “The bed and breakfast is taking care of itself and we won’t see a profit in another year. Go ahead Percy.”

Percy looked at Ruth and said, “The day I took you two to the train station. I did not go back to work. Timothy put Eleanor out and told her not to come back. The next day she stormed into my office.”

Percy grinned.

Ruth hit his thigh and said, “You like the sound of that.”

Percy said, “I told her she would never get a dime from me and get out. She would not leave.”

Jerry said, “Why?”

Betsy looked at Jerry and said, “Evil.”

Deborah looked at Betsy because she never heard her mother call anyone evil.

Percy said, “Eleanor said I owe her. I had enough of her. Timothy left and went to the sheriff and went and ate lunch. They said, the sheriff let her out because he did not to miss dinner.”

Ruth patted Percy’s thigh and said, “I’m glad you ate lunch.”

Ruth stood and walked away.

Jerry looked at Ruth and he turned and looked back at everyone else with a half smile.

Ben extended his arm for Betsy and they walked back to the reception.

Deborah sat next to Percy and said, “Percy I have been busy this past year with my husband. I missed a lot. Why do you hate your mother?”

Percy said, “Because she made me a twelve year old boy believe I was to work myself to death to provide her a living. You saw what I had on when they picked me up from the train station. I did not have underwear. I slept in the same small bed. I did not have a coat, gloves or scarf. She took all of my money and felt and had me feeling I was to take care of her. And my body hurt everyday and fingers and hands swelled up and my feet swelled everyday.”

Deborah said, “Do you have children in your mine?”

Percy said, “No. Mr. Thomas ran them away before I bought the coal mine.”

Deborah saw her husband hoarding food.

She was embarrassed and yelled, “Bryson put that food back.”

He looked up at her.

Deborah was so embarrassed and held her head down and stormed to her husband.

He stood and looked at her.

She grabbed him by the arm and pulled him to Percy.

Percy looked up at Bryson and said, “Hello. Did you leave some bread pudding?”

Bryson shook his head for no and looked at Deborah who was rolling her eyes at him.

Percy said, “Bryson can your state and my state work together to improve transportation especially the trains?”

Ben walked over to listened.

Bryson sat on the bale of hay next to Percy he looked up at Ben.

Ben was standing with a plate.

Deborah looked at Ben and then Bryson.

Ben said, “Rice pudding?’

Bryson shook his head for no.

Deborah looked at Bryson.

Ben said, “Bread pudding?”

Percy shook his head for no.

Bryson shook his head for no.

Deborah looked at Bryson.

Ben said, “Rum pudding?’

Deborah looked at Bryson.

Percy looked at Bryson.

Ben heard some talk at the reception and turned to listen.

Deborah was peeping.

She sit up straight.

Ben turned slowly and said, “Bryson do you have the get cake.

Bryson said, “What cake.”

Deborah leaned forward and said, “The wedding cake.”

Bryson said is that the one with the white frosting?’

Deborah put her hand to her head and covered her eyes.

Bryson looked at Deborah.

Percy looked at Deborah.

Ben looked at Deborah and said, “Bryson that is the wedding cake I had baked at a specialty shop in Philadelphia and carried on my lap for ten days. You better go and get it.”

Bryson stood and went to the covered wagon and took the cake back to the reception table.

The bride looked at the lieutenant governor.

Ruth turned her head in embarrassment.

Herbert turned his head.

Betsy just stood.

She thought, “He took my brother’s whole wedding cake.”

Everyone was up late cleaning up the fields and the barn.

Everyone stayed up and cooked breakfast.

Herbert and Bryson were asleep.

They drank heavily at the wedding.

Percy told them to drop him at the train station.

Betsy and Deborah rode the rain back.

Ruth and Jerry rode the train back.

The bride, Ben, her parents and the whole party rode the train back.

Herbert, Bryson, Al and his family and Matthew and his family used the covered wagons.

Most of the supplies they brought were gone, so Herbert and Bryson were comfortable.

They drove the horses for nine days.

The wagon train was next to the train their family was on Ben pointed at Al and told Ruth and Betsy.

They were all waving.

They stopped at the train station and picked up Betsy, Ruth, Deborah and Jerry.

All the food they stockpiled was eaten on the way back.

They had no food for a full day.

They ran to the local eateries.

Ruth was complaining about the uncomfortable trains.

She said, “I see what Percy is saying about the trains. I hate travelling on them now.”

Percy made it home on that Saturday.

He brought Mr. and Mrs. Tinsley a gift from the farm.

He remembered the governor’s tax people and brought them a souvenir.

Mr. and Mrs. Tinsley stood and looked at Percy.

The governor’s tax workers looked at the excited Percy.

Percy ran outside and petted the horses and checked them and the wagon.

He saw Mr. Tinsley had bought the bale of hay he left him money to buy.

Percy said Mr. Tinsley I know it is late, but can you get me a hot of water.

Percy noticed they all were looking at him.

He walked to his room and check his clothes.

Everything was in place.

Percy walked out and said, “What?”

Mrs. Tinsley elbowed Mr. Tinsley.

Percy said, “Tell me now.”

One of the governor’s tax worker said, “Your coal mine was burned up.”

Percy ran and jumped on one of the horses and sped to the coal mine.

The office was completely burned down.

The coal that was out in the yard was burned up, but the mine was not damage.

Percy looked around and was about to break.

He felt someone was watching him.

He remembered the words of his daddy, “When bad things happen give them to JESUS.”

Percy kneeled down in the middle of the coal mine yard and threw his hands up to GOD and said, “I yield all to you GOD. In JESUS’ name.”

Percy stayed in that position for hours.

Timothy and Thomas rode to check on it and they saw Percy on his knees.

Timothy was getting off his horse and said, “That’s a good position to be in.”

Thomas got off his horse and they walked and kneeled next to Percy until Percy opened his eyes about thirty minutes later.

He was unconscious they were by him.

He looked at them.

Timothy stood and reached his hand to Percy.

Percy stood.

Thomas stood.

Timothy said, “I have no evidence I believe Bruce did it.”

Thomas said, “It sets us. You back a few months Percy.”

Percy shook his head for yes.

Percy said, “How is Mr. Collins and your mother?”

Timothy looked at Thomas.

Thomas said, “Dad is holding on by a thread. That thread is that he will see Shirley marry. Momma really can’t take anymore. She has been strong. But for her to see the man in her life waste away is hard.”

Thomas turned his head.

Timothy said, “Percy did not ask about Shirley. Has your feelings changedtowards Shirley?”

Percy said, “I don’t know. I have no feelings anymore. For nearly two years all I could do was to eat, drink, sleep and walking to and from work. She made me dig deeper. Thoughts about her made me not see how bad life was. Now I think about this coal mine all the time. I don’t know what that means.”

Thomas looked at Percy and he said, “Is that someone over in the bushes.

Percy said, “When I first got here I felt someone was watching.”

Timothy said, “Percy you need a gun.”

Percy patted his shirt.

He said, “My uncles took me out to teach me how to shoot. They gave me two pistols and a rifle when I moved here. Can I come and pick up Shirley for church tomorrow. I want to say hello to your mother and father.”

Timothy said, “No one was hurt.”

Percy said, “That was on my mind. I just did not ask.”

They all left.

Percy rode back in town and saw the building next to the sheriff was vacant.

He stopped and went in and looked around.

The sheriff walked out his office and looked in the building and saw Percy.

Percy looked and saw the sheriff.

He said, “Hello sheriff.”

Sheriff said, “Hello. Sorry about your coal mine. I heard it was badly damage.”

Percy said, “I am happy no one was hurt. Who owns this building?”

The sheriff said, “I do.”

Percy said, “Are you renting or selling?”

The sheriff said, “Which one do you want?”

Percy said, “How much?”

The sheriff said, “A hundred dollars.”

Percy said, “Rent?”

Sheriff said, “Five dollars a month?”

Percy was thinking.

He said, “I have to check on things.”

Percy went to the telegram office and sent Aunt Ruth a telegram of what happened.

He sent Matthew a telegram also.

Matthew was a little calmer.

Matthew told everyone at Thanksgiving dinner at his home.

They did not say anything.

Betsy said, “I would not put it passed Eleanor.”

Ruth was quiet.

Ben aid, “Ruth?”

Ruth said, “They could have killed him.”

Al said, “They waited until no one was there.”

Ben said, “If anyone would have died, they would have been hunted.”

Matthew said, “He’s at the Collins for Thanksgiving. He saw a building the sheriff owns and wants to sell for a hundred dollars. It seems that the sheriff’s wife is tired of living in that town.”

Betsy said, “I remembered that building. Ruth didn’t we look at the building next to the jail?”

Ruth was trying to remember.

Ruth was the oldest and showing signs of dementia.

They all sat there and watched her struggle.

Jerry reached over and held her by the shoulders.

Jerry said, “Ruth fights everyday and I am proud of her.”

Ben sat and looked around at everybody and said, “All of you knew?” Where was I?”

Ben jumped from the table and stormed out the house.

Ben’s wife sat and turned to see Ben.

She stood up and walked to the door and peeped out.

She walked back to the table and sat,

Al said, “Brianna is Ben outside?”

She was embarrassed and said, “He’s gone.”

Al said, “Me and Lucy will take you home.”

Brianna said, “I could hear Ben cursing all the way here.”

Jerry still looking at Ruth said, When I meet Ruth in college she told me of the dementia your grandparents and even your beloved Uncle Albert had.”

Betsy said, “What do you mean Uncle Albert?”

Al said, “Betsy you did not hear he was saying all kind of stuff for your vows.”

Betsy jumped up from the table and said, “You mean I am not legally married before God? The stuff I have done.”

Herbert turned all the way around in his chair.

Betsy was mild manner because she was very smart.

She got in the school with all the rich kids.

She got the man she wanted. The one child. The career she wanted. The high society friends she wanted.

She had a beautiful house that was paid.

Her child was healthy, smart and beautiful.

Betsy was always calm but she exploded that her perfect life may not be perfect.

She looked at Herbert who turned his back and thought about trying to run to the door.

He thought, “She’s faster than me.”

Betsy was standing up and said, “Herbert did you know this?”

Herbert said, “Know what Betsy?”

Betsy said, “My family is crazy and we may not be married?”

Jerry said, “Betsy calm down.”

Matthew got up and went and put scotch in one hand and whiskey in the other.

Brianna was the first one with her glass out.

Matthew poured her a little.

She kept her glass out and he gave her a big pour.

Matthew looked at Brianna.

He went around the table Ruth held out her glass.

Ruth said, “All my life I prayed for this to bypass us. When we were on the farm I knew grandma needed special help then grandpa. This disease dragged their life for the years we were there. I pray no more.”

Betsy passed out.

Herbert sat for a moment.

Al three sons and Matthew two daughters stared at Herbert and then they ran to Betsy.

Lucy, Thomasine and Al ran to Betsy.

Matthew stood and drank out the bottle of scotch.

They got Betsy off the floor.

Herbert looked down at her and drank some more scotch.

Herbert pushed his chair back and put the dazed Betsy in his lap.

He said, “Betsy in sickness and in health til death do part.”

He kissed Betsy on the cheek.

Jerry said, “I feel the same love for Ruth I felt the first time I saw her. I believe teaching and helping others has helped her. She was going to retire just before Percy came…”

Jerry looked at the sedate and sophisticated Ruth and said, “She seemed to bounce back.”

Matthew said, “Can this shit get worst.”

He leaned on the mantle and was rubbing his head.

His youngest adopted daughter jumped up and everyone looked at her.

She looked around the table.

Al’s boys looked at her nervously.

Al and Lucy looked at their sons.

Samantha said, “Daddy it’s worst.”

Thomasine looked at Samantha.

Matthew turned and looked at Samantha.

She said, “Run!!!”

Al’s three sons ran out the door.

Al stood up.

Matthew looked at his door.

Samantha ran to the door and said, “Robert and I are in love and want to marry.”

She ran out the door and stood and yelled and said, “Stop! I did not tell you cowards to flee!!”

Jerry and Ruth were sitting across from Al and Lucy.

Al sit down.

Lucy turned to her side and threw her napkin on the table.

Thomasine was standing and tried to catch the table.

Her oldest daughter, Ollie said, “Momma?”

Matthew looked at Thomasine and said, “Sit down!”

Ollie looked at her daddy and stood and help her mother to sit.

Samantha was still outside calling Al’s sons cowards.

Al said, “It’s better for her to call them coward than me.”

Lucy could not stand it. She had her elbow on the next chair.

She said, “Those bas\*\*\*ds ran out the house and left her standing outside in the cold.”

Matthew walked to the door and went outside and kissed Samantha’s head and said, “it’s ok. You love who you love. Come in the house. I will never leave you out in the cold.”

Thomasine and Ollie were peeping outside.

Herbert and Betsy were peeping outside.

Brianna was looking outside.

Al was sitting and looking outside.

Lucy was still cursing.

Matthew walked Samantha back in the house.

Al looked at Lucy and said, “Didn’t she say Robert? Why did the other two run?”

Lucy said, “Because they are bas\*\*\*ds.”

Al just sat and looked at Lucy.

Ruth said, “I knew that. That’s why they all wanted to stay in the town with Percy.”

Ruth sipped her wine.

Al looked at Ruth and said, “Damn you’re right.”

Jerry said, “Legally it is fine. They are not blood kin.”

Lucy turned her head and stared at Jerry.

Jerry looked at Lucy, “Be careful Lucy I’ll let Ruth loose.”

Betsy sit up in Herbert’s lap and said, “I don’t see anything funny.”

Jerry said, “Have good times now because the bad times will come.”

Betsy put her hands to her face and covered her mouth.

Herbert looked at Betsy and continued to hold her in his lap.

Brianna looked around the table.

Matthew walked Samantha to her mother.

Ollie and her mother held her.

Brianna said, “Are all of you crazy?”

They all said, “Yes.”

Brianna sat back and said, “I just married Ben two weeks ago and I am having a baby. So are you saying this baby will be crazy?’

They all said, “Yes.”

Brianna sat back in the chair.

Lucy was looking at Brianna and thought, “You dumba\*\* twit. We don’t know if that’s Ben’s baby are not.”

Lucy was still looking at Brianna and said, “Samantha you said you wanted to marry Robert?”

Samantha sat up as she usually does when people are to address and looked at Lucy and said, “Yes ma am I did say that, but now I am not sure now.”

Brianna drank some more scotch and said, “At least you won’t have a crazy baby.”

Al sat and looked across the table at Brianna.

Matthew walked over and took the glass out of Brianna’s hand while she was trying to take the last gulp.

She wiped her lips on her sleeve,

Lucy looked at.

Al looked at her.

Lucy said, “Samantha do you know why those other two, Jared and Stanley fled?”

Samantha sat up and said, “Yes ma am I do.”

Lucy said, “Why?”

Samantha said, “Because they are cowards.”

Robert opened the door and walked back in the house.

He stood at the door.

Lucy just stared at him.

He looked at Samantha and mouthed “I love you.”

Samantha turned her ear and yelled, “What you said Robert?”

Matthew was standing at the end of the table.

Robert said, “Samantha I love you.”

Lucy was still leaning on the other chair.

She said, “Robert is that all you have to say?”

Robert looked at her and said, “Who else do I love?”

Samantha laughed at Robert’s sense of humor.

Matthew looked at her.

Samantha shrugged her shoulders.

Al said, “Robert why did you run?”

Robert said, “Samantha told me to.”

Samantha was shaking her head like you better.

Al said, “Do you always do what Samantha tell you to do?”

Samantha looked down the table at Al.

Robert looked like he did not understand the question and said, “Yeah.”

Brianna held up a glass and it was Ben’s with whisky.

Brianna swallowed the whiskey and held up the glass and said, “Whiskey.”

Matthew said, “No.”

Brianna rolled her eyes at Matthew and said, “Bad host,”

And snatched her head off.

Ruth said, “Gal you don’t carry your own in your bag. Tell her Betsy.”

Betsy grinned because that sounded like Ruth.

Brianna winked her eyes at Ruth.

Al looked at Brianna and said, “That’s does it she’s drunk. Ben is going to have a drunk baby. Damn dementia.”

Jerry looked at Al.

Betsy said, “Wait. Ruth did you bake a pie for today’s dinner?”

Samantha jumped up and raised her hand.

Betsy looked at her.

Samantha said, “What about me and Robert?”

Ruth said, “What about you and Robert?”

Samantha said, “Aunt Ruth we did dnot get the family’s blessings on our spring wedding.”

Ollie said, “Sit down Samantha.”

Betsy said, “You better sit. I am trying to see if we are going to go crazy.”

Samantha shook her head and was about to say something.

Betsy balled up her fist.

Matthew looked at Betsy and laughed.

Matthew said, “Al see Betsy.”

Al said, “I see that small fist. It take four of them to make a fist.”

Betsy said, “I can fight. Right Herbert.”

Herbert laughed.

Betsy looked at him.

He cleared his throat and said, “Baby what are you saying?”

Samantha said, “Wait.”

Thomasine snatched her down to her seat.

Betsy said, “Momma and daddy did not have dementia. Don’t tell me they did and I did not see it.”

Al looked at Betsy then at Matthew.

Matthew said, “Betsy …”

Betsy started screaming.

Brianna said, “Give me some liquor.”

She held out her glass.

Matthew got the whiskey bottle.

Ben walked in the door.

He pushed the door up.

Matthew was walking to Brianna with the whiskey bottle.

Ben said waved his hand for no.

He walked to Ruth and kissed her on her forehead.

Jerry said, “You need to sit.”

Ben looked at Jerry and Al who was staring at him.

Al said, “Why you ran away.”

Lucy said, “Coward.”

Ben looked at Lucy and said, “I’m going to let that go because you’re drunk.”

Lucy said, “I’m not. Brianna is and your baby.”

Ben looked at Al.

Ben looked at Jerry.

The door opened.

Jared and Stanley walked in the door.

Lucy said, “Some more cowards.”

Ben looked at Lucy and back and saw Jared and Stanley.

Ben looked around and saw the air was different.

He sat down.

They told him what all happened.

They decided as long as Ruth was functioning she could stay at home.

Then they would take turns spending a week at a time at Ruth and Jerry’s.

They did not know what to do about Percy.

Thomasine said, “Samantha could marry Robert in the spring.

Robert could be the principle at the school where Percy was and Samantha could be a teacher there.

They would go at Christmas and spend a week looking for a house.

Ruth said, “Jerry and I have plenty of furnishings for your new home.

Stanley said, “He wanted to quit school.

Al said, “Not until May.”

Ruth laughed.

Al looked at Ruth.

Jerry said, “I’m going to let Ruth retire the last day of the year.

Ruth turned tom Jerry and looked in his eyes and shook her head for no.

She touched his face.

Jerry said, “Ruth. Trust me. You told me when the time came that you would trust me.”

Betsy touched her heart and fanned her chest.

Ollie stood and walked to the piano she played some music and they all cheered and they all danced.

Ruth wanted to dance with Jerry.

Ruth and Jerry held each other tight and danced for an hour.

Ben looked at a drunk Brianna he said, “You could not wait until the second Thanksgiving?”

Brianna said, “Nope.”

She fell over in Ben’s lap sleep.

They all helped wash the dishes and put them away.

Ben said, “Matthew you did a good job on the house.”

Thomasine cleared her throat.

Ben looked at her.

Thomasine said, “I did all the decorations.”

Ben said, “You done well.”

Samantha said, “I wanted my reception in Ruth and Jerry’s backyard. I don’t know what to do.”

Ben was thinking and said, “Let’s spend Christmas with Percy.”

Al said, “We can’t. There is no place to stay.”

Ben said, “There are no houses to rent in the Collin’s neighborhood?”

Betsy said, “I’ll telegram Percy to find out.”

Betsy said, “I’ll give him the hundred dollars to buy the office building. He has to work. I’ll send it to him tomorrow.”

They all left Matthew and Thomasine and went home.

Percy left the Collins early and went home.

Percy locked up and went to bed.

He rose early and prayed.

He noticed when he prayed first thing in the morning he could start his tasks and finished them through out the day.

Percy received the telegrams as he was leaving the bed and breakfast.

He went to the sheriff and told him he would buy the building.

The sheriff had the contract ready and rode out to the coal mine and had Percy to sign.

Timothy did not like the sheriff and reviewed the contract and said, “Alright Percy.”

The sheriff looked at Timothy.

Timothy could not put his finger on it, but he knew the sheriff was not right, he was glad he was moving on to the largest city in the state.

Timothy thought, “To get lost.”

The sheriff and his wife moved the first week of December.

Percy liked the office it was close to the coal mine and he could walk to it. He could walk home.

Percy said, “My family wants to spend Christmas here. They asked if any houses are for rent in your neighborhood?”

Timothy said, “I don’t live in the neighborhood with mom and dad.”

Timothy looked at Percy and said, “You lived in this town and never been over the city?”

Percy looked at Timothy.

Ricky walked up.

Percy said, “We have a new office. It is the building next to the jail. You can go there.”

Percy talked to the bosses over the different sections of the boss and told them where he was moving the office.

They said that was good.

Percy put Frank over the operation of the plant.

Percy said, “No children.”

Percy ordered furniture for the new office.

Timothy said, “I’ll show you around my neighborhood.”

Percy and Timothy rode an hour away and Percy really liked the houses.

The schoolhouse was nice.

They saw a one story house for sale.

Timothy said, “I never seen that house before.”

They walked around the house and looked the gardens around the house.

The door was unlocked and they went in.

The house had a very large fireplace in the main room.

There was a fireplace in the large bedroom that had a wash closet and large clothes closet.

They walked to the other side and there were three rooms with another wash closet.

As Percy and Timothy were walking back through the house.

Ray walked in and said, “Hello.”

Timothy knew Ray because he owned the bank on that side of town.

Timothy said, “Hey. Ray it was opened and we came in.”

Percy walked up and shook Ray’s hand.

Percy said, “His cousins will get married and have jobs as teachers in the town and are looking for a house. And his family wanted to spend Christmas there with him.”

Ray said, “I just came back from the capitol. They said they were sending more teachers here. I got a furnished house over on Tillman they can stay for Christmas.”

Percy said, “Thank you sir. I’ll telegram them today.”

Percy rode through the rest of the neighborhood and went and looked at the pretty house on Tillman.

They like both houses.

They all arrived the twenty third of December.

Jerry and Betsy talked to Percy about Ruth and the possibility of the rest of them having.

Percy said, “Aunt Ruth told me. I understand.”

They sat at the train station and waited for Samantha and Robert.

Ray met them at the train station and carried them to the house for rent and the two for sale.

Samantha said, “This neighborhood reminded me of our house at home.”

Robert and Samantha could not decide.

They all left the train station and rode to the community.

Ray showed the family the rental house.

Jerry and Ruth had a bedroom.

Betsy and Herbert had a bedroom.

Al and Lucy had a bedroom.

Ben and Brianna had the loft.

Matthew and Thomasine and the girls and Al’s boys would stay in the living room.

Percy said, “No one is at the bed and breakfast but me. There are two rooms there.”

Matthew and Thomasine jumped to go and Samantha and Ollie moved to the bed and breakfast.

They had a wonderful Christmas holiday.

They invited the Collins over for brunch.

Samantha and Robert decided on the flat house.

They signed the contract and told Ray they would not move in it until after school.

Percy had enough money saved up to buy Shirley an engagement ring.

It was a very nice ring Ben picked out for her.

Uncle Ben said, “Percy you are still a boy. If you are not sure about Shirley wait.”

Percy said, “I feel different about her. I want to be with her and enjoy her presence. And on top of that I am in love with her.”

They set a June wedding.

Mr. Collins grinned.

He said, “I’ll hold on for another six months. I held on until now.”

Thomas invited everyone over to his home which was really nice.

Samantha and Robert really liked the house they chose.

He wanted to the Philadelphians another part of the town that he and his brothers lived in.

Ben, Al and Matthew were satisfied that Percy would be alright.

They realized the next year would be a busy year.

Ben and Matthew decided to open a clothing store.

Ben would have his first child in his old age.

Samantha and Robert wedding.

Stanley graduation.

Samantha and Robert moving to Percy’s town.

Percy and Shirley’s wedding.