Peter began making Meredith’s wedding cake on Sunday.

He began making her wedding punch.

He was having a good time because the bread and rolls were coming along fine and on schedule.

The workers that were off from work was coming to Meredith’s wedding and immediately run home.

Ruth took her time and found and wash all the dishes and the linens. She pressed everything and had everything in the formal dining.

Lorraine made Meredith and Felipe a huge basket of bath items.

The hundred workers chipped in and bought them kitchen items of dishes, glasses, flatware and pots and pans.

They and decorated one of the wagons and put the kitchen items in it.

Denise and Mabel contributed the baby a lot of blankets and clothes.

Gary would stay up all night with Denise while she was knitting.

Gary did not say anything to anybody.

Mabel had Gary to carry the loaded box to the house in the formal dining room.

Brenda was looking around in the formal dining room and saw Gary struggling with the large box.

Max just left the house with Meredith and Felipe to drive them into town to get their marriage license.

Gen and Ben rode to Sunday’s dinner with the doctors.

They had a sixteen place setting.

Gen told Jose she wanted scotch.

She looked up into the eyes of Dr. Woodson.

Ben drink white wine.

Gen told Brenda, “Bren I was walking about town this week and several people are getting married on the Fourth.”

Felipe was drinking white wine.

Dr. Greene was standing in the hall by the parlor when Leon rushed Meredith down the hall.

Percy ran into the parlor and told Eleanor.

Eleanor became nervous.

She whispered, “Thank you Percy,”

She kissed his cheek.

Percy ran out of the parlor

Eleanor looked at Dr. Greene.

Dr. Charles looked at Eleanor.

Dr. Greene stepped back to the door and said, “Felipe Meredith is here.”

Felipe looked at Dr. Greene.

Felipe stood and walked to Dr. Greene.

Eleanor walked to the door after Felipe.

Patrick looked at Eleanor and Dr. Greene.

Patrick said, “Eleanor, a problem?”

Eleanor walked and sat down.

Debra looked at Eleanor then she looked up and Dr. Greene was gone.

Gen continued and said, “Meredith and Felipe need to get to the clerk early Monday morning and be the first in line with all their documents.. Is she here? I saw Felipe leave.”

Ben took a sip of white wine.

He said that was one of the most anxious times in my life. They were not issuing any more licenses that dat.”

Gen threw her hands up in the air she looked at Ben and said, “Ben that was the worst time of my life. Besides the time I was in the slave’s owner torture room.”

Dr. Woodson sat up in his chair and looked at Gen.

Dr. Charles looked at

Gen took a big gulp of scotch.

Gen said, “I never want to talk about that day. I thought I was not going to have my Ben.”

She took another big gulp of scotch.

Dr. Charles knew that whatever the experience Gen said she had was a terrible place for Dr. Woodson to react.

She said, “Can I have another?”

Dr. Woodson said, “No.”

Dr. Charles looked at Dr. Woodson.

Gen looked at Brenda who was sitting next to her and said, “What you got?”

Brenda said, “Gin.”

Gen turned her nose up and shook her head for no.

Brenda looked at Gen.

Dr. Woodson looked at Gen and walked out the parlor.

He down to Felipe’s room.

He looked at the house as he walked down the hall and was ducking the running and screaming boys.

He liked the house even more with the decorations Patrick said Eleanor put up.

Debra was talking to Eleanor and Shirley she heard Barry screaming.

She said, “Excuse me. Barry is going to think he can scream like this when we get home and Tony is not going to allow it.”

Brenda and Patrick laughed.

Gen grabbed Brenda’s glass and drink her gin.

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “I knew you were lying.”

He continued to talk to Dr. Charles and Ben.

Dr. Charles was shocked and said, “How many times have my patients lied to me?”

Ben sat and did not say anything.

He continued to drink his white wine.

He said, “Patrick this wine is good.”

Ben looked at the bottle.

Dr. Charles said, “I brought that from my family vineyard for our hosts.”

Dr. Charles touched her husband.

Dr. Charles looked at his wife.

Patrick, Ben, Brenda and Eleanor looked at her.

Dr. Charles said, “If you like it I will have them shipped some to you.”

Eleanor said, “If they get a market in America we can ship their wine.”

Brenda was watching Dr. Charles’ blind wife.

Monica did not like her.

She went to Jose and said, “There is something about that blind woman.”

Vivienne said, “I got a feeling. They are hiding something.”

Jose said, “Your job is to take care of their visiting needs. Keep your eyes open with all this mess is going on.”

Dr. Woodson told Felipe that Gen said others would be getting their marriage licenses on Monday and be there early.

Dr. Greene said, “I’ll take you. I don’t remember where the office is.”

Dr. Woodson said, “No they have drivers for us. There driver is Max.”

Dr. Greene smiled and said, “That is like them.”

Dr. Woodson looked and said, “That note pad and pen is for you to put a note on your door. Your maid will get it done.”

Dr. Greene said, “That is right. I forgot.”

Felipe looked at the pad and back at a sick Meredith.

He walked and picked up the note pad and pen and wrote. Marriage license first in the morning.

Dr. Greene and Dr. Woodson walked out the door and stuck Felipe’s note on his door.

Vivienne was doing her last walk of the evening.

She saw the note and walked and to Felipe’s door and picked it up and read.

She turned and walked down the hall dodging the screaming boys.

Dr. Greene looked and saw Debra finally emerging and talking to Barry.

Dr. Greene looked and said, “Oh they put a settee here.”

Dr. Woodson said, “Tony are you alright?”

Dr. Greene looked at Dr. Woodson and said, “No I am tired. I am getting old. The job keeps my active in the day. Barry keeps me active in the evening and Debra keeps me active at night. I love it.”

Dr. Woodson laughed.

Felipe heard their conversation and grinned about being old.

He touched Meredith’s stomach and said, “Not again. God not again.”

Dr. Greene said, “Bradley I wish you would consider getting married. There are fights but you grow to your best person. Marriage is becoming one with God through HIS Son JESUS.”

Bradley said, “There was one who accepted me with all of my lies and faults she has made pace with herself and with me through GOD she does missionary work in other countries. Good night Tony.”

Dr. Greene said, “Good night.”

He exhaled.

Bradley grinned and walked in his room.

He liked his room and saw the beautiful bouquets through out the suite and smiled.

He walked back out.

Dr. Greene was standing up and looked at Bradley.

Bradley said, “I need to go and say goodnight to our host.”

They walked back to the parlor and stopped and looked in the library.

Dr. Greene said, “This is almost as big as the university library.”

They walked to the parlor and said, “Good evening to Gen and Ben.

Dr. Greene and Dr. Woodson walked them out so they could enjoy the beautiful sunset.

Debra walked out and held Tony.

He kissed her.

They walked around the house. Debra was pointing out to him how she used to walk all the way from the back to the front as exercise.

Tony said, “We don’t need that exercise tonight.”

Debra laughed.

Brenda and Patrick walked out to Gen and Ben buggy and bid their friends good night.

Patrick and Brenda saw Tony and Debra walking and enjoying the landscape.

Tony and Debra sat on one of benches Eleanor put on the side of house.

Dr. Woodson saw Brenda and Patrick watching Tony and Debra as he was watching Gen and Ben leaving.

Gary and Louis were lighting the torches around the house.

Brenda stopped and looked around and said to Patrick and said, “Thank you my heavenly sent love.”

Patrick knew Brenda was talking about a life prosperity and elegance.

He bent down and they kissed.

Dr. Woodson looked at them and he looked at Tony and Debra.

He was thinking.

Then he heard the screaming and he turned and walked back in the house and picked up his drink and walked to the library and selected a book and sat and read the book and looked around at the overflowing library and laughed.

He remembered the days he tagged alone with Patrick and Brenda in different countries and saw Patrick having all the boxes shipped to France.

Dr. Woodson said, “They deserve all of this and more.”

Tony passed by with Barry.

Dr. Woodson grinned.

Dr. Woodson wondered about the widow woman.

He read a few hours and went to bed.

Patrick saw Dr. Woodson reading in the library and he and Brenda went to their suite.

Dr. Woodson was tired and he fell across his bed and went to sleep.

Louis and Gary took them a tub to Felipe and Meredith and knocked on the door.

Felipe and Meredith were up at six am.

Felipe saw the tub and said, “Thank you.”

Louis and Gary brought hot water.

Felipe said, “Sir I request breakfast.”

Louis said, “They are not ready, but I’ll tell you want something to eat.”

Louis knew, “Thomas would start cursing.”

Gary walked fast out the house.

Dr. Greene was on his knees praying.

Debra was sleeping. She heard the familiar sound of her husband’s voice and she flipped from the top of the bed to the bottom of the bed and reached her hand to Tony and continued to sleep.

He looked at her and took her hand and continued to pray.

He finished praying and looked at a sleeping Debra and said, “FATHER she deserves more. You gave her me.”

He grinned and said, “Thank YOU. She likes to have a good time with good people. Let me able to take her places.”

The thought of Europe came into Dr. Greene’s mind.

Tony thought, “ I never thought of Europe. I was thinking of the shore.”

He stood and looked at Barry in his separate bed.

Dr. Greene woke Debra and got in bed.

He heard Felipe and Meredith leaving.

Vivienne was walking with two plates and saw Felipe and Meredith walking slowly up to the hall.

Vivienne thinking, “She’s sick.”

She waited for them because she knew he did not know where to go.

Felipe looked at Vivienne holding their breakfast plates.

He said, “Thank you. Are you the lady who helped Meredith yesterday?’

Vivienne looked at Meredith and said, “It looks like she needs help today.”

Felipe was offended.

Meredith giggle and said, “Vivi.”

Vivienne said, “This way.”

She walked ahead of them and placed their plates on the table.

He sat Meredith.

He held Meredith hand and said grace.

Vivienne started hand pressing Meredith’s hair and took a rubber out of her apron pocket and pulled Meredith’s hair and put it in the rubber.

Felipe looked at Vivienne.

Vivienne looked at Felipe and stood back and waited for them to eat.

Thomas was made but he made them omelets and fruit.

Felipe looked at Vivienne.

He wondered about who she was and what her relationship was to Meredith.

He thought, “She did not say you are welcome.”

Vivienne placed water and orange juice on the table.

Felipe saw the coffee and stood to get the coffee.

Vivienne looked at him and said, “What do you want?”

Felipe said, “Coffee.”

Vivienne said, “Just ask. That is why we are here to serve you.”

Meredith smiled.

Felipe did not smile.

He looked at Meredith who seem to becoming around.

They ate breakfast and Felipe helped Meredith to stand.

He and Meredith walked out the family dining room.

Vivienne looked at Felipe and said, “Sir, may I help you?”

Felipe sighed and looked at Vivienne, “Ride to town.”

Vivienne walked to the front door and opened it.

He walked Meredith to the door.

Vivienne said, “Meredith is a guest in this house not a servant.”

Felipe looked at Vivienne as she was scolding him.

Vivienne said, “Where are your documents. I don’t see documents.”

Felipe handed Meredith to Vivienne and ran down the hall back to their bedroom.

He got his documents and ran back to Meredith.

Vivienne and Ruth were standing at the door with Meredith.

Felipe was about to panic and said, “Meredith where are your papers?”

Vivienne looked at Ruth and said, “I put her birth certificate and her papers in that yellow bag.”

Vivienne held Meredith and was looking at a panicking Felipe.

Ruth walked back and handed the yellow bag to Meredith who was feeling better.

Meredith said, “Felipe.”

He looked at Meredith and said, “Yes.”

Meredith said, “Please check for my birth certificate and other papers.”

Ruth handed the yellow bag to Felipe.

Felipe looked in the yellow bag and saw the papers and looked at Meredith and said, “Yes the papers are here.”

Meredith said, “We can go.”

Felipe looked at Vivienne and said, “Thank you. Thank you both.”

The two most sour workers said, “You are welcome.”

Ruth opened the door and Felipe and Meredith walked out and Max was sitting in the carriage.

Felipe walked to the carriage with Meredith.

He sat her in the back and he climbed next to her.

Meredith put her head in Felipe’s lap and slept.

Max took them the hour to the town.

Felipe was looking at a sleeping Meredith.

He was thinking very hard.

Max was watching Felipe.

Max did not have any conversation with anyone.

He had enough with his wife and children.

He knew the extra money he was making that week would keep them a float for that week.

He saw when Gary and the children put trout in the pond.

Gary told Ben he could no longer fish.

Ben was made and told Max.

Ben said, “They think I stole that fish. I didn’t know fish was in the pond. They say somebody been stealing out the hen house. I am not a thief and I don’t like being called a thief.”

Max looked at Ben and did not say anything.

Ben said, “I think they are going to arrest the person and put them in jail.”

Max did not say anything.

Ben said, “The family was gone for a year and a half. They did not close this house up they continued to pay us. Somebody had the evil nerves to steal from them. They are back now and they want their stuff.”

Max did not say anything but turned and went into the house to the washroom.

Ben turned and looked at Gary and Louis who were standing back listening to him.

Ben said, “I told him.”

Louis told Thomas what Ben said to Max.

Thomas said, “Max’s wife should have finished school to be a teacher. They should have some income now.”

Louis said, “A thief will continue to steal until he is caught.”

Thomas said, “Like you have been stealing Eleanor’s sherry. She has no mercy. I am telling you now to stop and start looking for you another job.”

Louis and Thomas were sitting on their porch drinking Eleanor’s sherry.

Thomas was not going to lose his job.

He saved enough money up and bought a very nice with a beautiful backyard and front flower gardens.

A though hit Thomas that the flowers in his front garden were from Brenda’s flower garden.

He became sick as he just scolded Louis about stealing.

Jose did not order any livestock while they were away. He only ordered enough household goods and the chickens.

He had to order the oil for the torches, animal feed. He kept the horses up.

Gary would take the boys horses out everyday to ride them.

Meredith and Felipe were entering the town.

Max looked and said, “Meredith there are people already here lined up.”

Felipe looked at Meredith and nearly fainted he grabbed her yellow bag.

He looked and saw several other people walking towards the building.

Felipe said, “Sir I am going to get in that line. Meredith is not well. Let her stay in the carriage until I beckon for her and you bring her to me.”

Felipe jumped out the carriage and looked around and saw several people walking fast to the building.

Felipe speed walked to the building.

He spoke to everyone and said, “Is this the place to get the marriage?”

The man said, “I don’t see a woman. Are you marrying yourself?”

Felipe looked at the man.

The woman hit the man and looked at Felipe and said, “Yes sir.”

Felipe nodded and said, “Thank you.”

The clerk walked to the building and people cheered.

Felipe grinned.

The people were happy.

A group of Freed men were walking through the town.

The sheriff was walking to his office.

He stood and watched them.

Felipe looked at the group of blacks and he started thinking.

He saw the Stith Freed men rest stop.

He knew that Brenda and Patrick started it for the freed slaves.

Felipe walked to the end of the porch and looked at the people.

The small children were weary and and weak.

The freed men were reading the sign.

Meredith woke and sat up in the carriage she saw the group of Freedmen and watched the people at the clerk’s office started yelling at the former slaves.

Felipe looked at the people.

Meredith looked to see who was driving the carriage.

Meredith said, “Max pulled up to the freed slaves and put the children in the wagon and take them to the rest stop and let the older people walk.”

Max said, “Ok.”

The sheriff was walking over to the feed men.

Felipe watched the sheriff. He knew he was the law because he had a badge on his shirt.

Max pulled up and said, “You can go to the Stith’s rest stop. I can carry your little ones and you can walk by the wagon.”

Meredith looked around the carriage and stepped out.

Felipe walked to her and helped put the little half naked and bare feet children with blisters and all types of objects stuck in their feet.

Meredith looked at Felipe and he took her hand and walked back in line.

The couple behind them stood to take their place.

Felipe looked at the couple and they stepped back.

Felipe put Meredith in line and kissed her hand.

The other women noticed.

The sheriff looked at the people on the porch of the building.

He looked at Meredith and Felipe.

He knew the carriage had Stith on it.

The sheriff walked back to his office and ate his breakfast.

His two deputies came to work at eight am.

The couple in front of Meredith and Felipe kept looking back at them.

Meredith and Felipe held onto each other.

They did not talk but smiled.

Felipe held Meredith’s hand.

The couple two back from them, the woman said to the man “Hold my hand.”

The man said, “I don’t want to.”

The woman walked away.

Felipe turned and looked at the woman and then the man.

The man had a surprised look on his face.

The man said, “Come back her Betsy. You gonna lose out.”

Meredith looked at Felipe.

Felipe turned and looked in Meredith’s eyes and grinned.

Meredith was wondering if he would still love her in a year or ten. Whether her past would cut his love for her.

Felipe walked closer to Meredith and pulled her hand to his lips and looked in her eyes and said, “Meredith my love let my love for you remove all the debts you have in your heart. I will never leave you nor forsake you. God has already told me you are the one HE has prepared for me and I for you. I know my wife and baby are happy after all this time that God has sent me a true love into my lie.”

The racist couples in front of Meredith were trying to listen. All they could hear was the word ’God’.

The clerk was moving fast because most people left their documents.

Felipe looked and saw people fussing as they left the office.

Meredith and Felipe looked around and they were moving fast.

They finished and Max was returning.

Meredith was walking to the carriage.

Felipe pulled her hand.

She looked at Felipe and walked her to the store.

He got several pails, alcohol, ointment, soap and towels.

Meredith went to the clothing store and bought six pairs of shoes for the little kids.

Felipe bought the big boys and girls a pair of shoes.

Meredith looked at Felipe and he said, “I counted the children, there were seven big ones and six small ones.”

Meredith smiled at him.

They went to the carriage and saw some of the people returning to the clerk’s office.

They got in the carriage.

Meredith said, “Max take us to the rest stop.”

Meredith walked to the rest stop and Felipe opened the door and Meredith spoke to Denise and told her Felipe was her fiancé and they saw the group that morning and they needed their feet to be taken care of.

Nathan was happy.

He said, “We see all type of cuts and everything.”

Denise went and brought the children first to Felipe and Meredith.

Meredith and Felipe worked until evening.

They fitted the shoes on the children.

Several parents were trying to take the children’s shoes.

Felipe had to walk away.

Nathan put the former slaves out of the rest stop.

Nathan walked to Meredith and Felipe and said, “Some of them still have the mind set that they have to grabbed and take away from one another. We don’t tolerate that mindset here. We are not here for the deliverance of the impact of slavery on their souls. Only the physical impact on their bodies. We appreciate your time and efforts.”

Meredith was rubbing Felipe’s back.

They could hear the children crying because their feet were hurting walking on the bad roads.

Nathan said, “Meredith you need to go and get some rest. You have two days before it is official.”

Max was returning just before sunset.

Nathan looked at Max and said, “Where he has been?”

Felipe looked out at Max.

He went and got his coat and Meredith yellow bag with their documents and walked back to Meredith who was talking to Denise.

Denise had just gave the former slaves food.

Denise said, “Meredith I don’t think I can come. But Mabel and I sent a wedding gift to you…”

She looked at Felipe and quickly said, “and Felipe.”

Everyone laughed.

Felipe and Meredith stepped in the carriage and rode back to the house in forty five minutes.

Max dropped them off in front of the house and he flew around the back and gave the horse and carriage to Gary.

Max jumped on his horse and rode fast home.

Jose was mad because Jessie said he brought a wagon full of melons and corn and tomatoes and peas to the house.

Jose was cussing because he was not going into the fields and picked nothing.

Vivienne opened the front door.

Meredith and Felipe could hear Jose cussing all the way to the front of the house.

Meredith said, “Vivi?”

The family and guests were walking to dinner.

Felipe looked at Vivienne.

Vivienne said, “I don’t know. It has something to do with the field products. Patrick and the man over the are trying to talk to Jose.”

Ruth was pushing the dinner cart to the family dining room.

Ruth said, “You know that damn Jose ain’t going into no field to work.”

Vivienne pointed and said, “You can go to the guest washroom and wash and come to dinner.”

Meredith looked like a little child.

Ruth looked back at Meredith and said, “Meredith you are a guest.”

Felipe grabbed Meredith by her hand and they walked down the hall to wash their faces and hands.

Meredith washed her face and hands and was walking to the back hallway to stand and listen to Jose.

She looked up the backstairs and saw Monica and Harriet standing and listening.

Leon was standing and listening.

Patrick said, “Jose you are going to give yourself a heart attack.”

Jose said, “At least I won’t have to go and pick nothing.”

Felipe walked to Meredith and kissed her on her cheek and did not say anything but took her hand and tried to guide her from the door.

Patrick said, “Joe go to your room! Because you are not going to give me a heart attack.”

Jessie said, “I don’t understand where all of that food went to just that quick.”

Brenda was coming out her office and heard Jose’s voice and Patrick’s voice.

Eleanor was in her office and was walking in the back hall.

Eleanor stop by the guests’ washroom and Felipe spoke and said, “Good evening.”

Eleanor said, “Good evening.”

She looked at Meredith and said, “You are feeling better?”

Meredith said, “Much.”

Jose was stomping through the back hall and blowing.

Felipe pulled Meredith out of Jose’s way.

Debra was trying to peep back.

Dr. Greene had her hand and she had Barry’s hand.

Dr. Woodson was walking with Shirley and they were talking.

Vivienne and Ruth would get all the details later, they continued to set up the family dining room for dinner.

Eleanor looked at Jose.

She walked in the guests room and washed her hands.

Meredith looked at Monica and asked, “Is Lorraine here?”

Monica said, “She’s gone home.”

Harriet and Monica walked through the upstairs to go down the front stairs and set up the guests’ rooms for the night.

They were putting the water pitchers and glasses out when they heard the cursing.

Harriet and Monica heard Dr. Woodson, Dr. Greene, Patrick, Brenda, Shirley, Eleanor and Michael for hours going through their ordeal.

Brenda sent Percy, Bruce and Thomas riding with Gary for hours.

Dr. Charles, his wife, Debra and Barry went to Ben and Gen for lunch.

Patrick and Brenda said at breakfast to Dr. Woodson and Dr. Greene that Michael had a problem a few days ago.

Patrick said, “We want to ask you two about it.”

Dr. Woodson and Dr. Greene looked and understood it was something about the hospital.

After the house was cleared the seven went into the parlor.

Patrick peeped around the outside and closed the door.

Patrick turned to the doctors and said, “Doctors you are honorable men. Michael had an episode yesterday…”

Dr. Woodson and Dr. Greene looked at Michael, who was sitting on Eleanor who was playing in his hair.

Patrick continued, “… screaming and hollering and it took hours to bring him out of that. Jose said, Shirley abused Michael terribly at the hospital. Is that true?”

Dr. Greene said, “Yes.”

Shirley started crying.

Eleanor felt Michael leaning into her stomach with his elbow on her thigh.

Dr. Greene looked at Eleanor and said, “I could never understand who you left Michael.”

Eleanor sniffed and said, “Michael love his sister and we were moving to Europe. I was taking the boys with me and Bruce was taking Shirley. But Michael did not want her to be by herself and he decided to move with her. He did not want to leave her alone and by herself.”

Dr. Greene saw so much pain in Eleanor.

Dr. Woodson saw her hurt.

Dr. Greene looked at Patrick and Brenda and said, “You are absolutely delightful and blessed people, why you never came to see about Shirley?”

Patrick said, “Because Bruce forbid us. He wanted a new life with her and without us.”

Shirley said, “I thought you and grandma did not love me anymore that’s why I beat Michael. Because I thought if I hurt him you would come and get me!”

Michael said, “You could have wrote them.”

Shirley was hollering and screaming out in pain.

Michael turned his back to Shirley and continued to be patted by Eleanor.

Dr. Woodson said, “That’s why you Patrick and Brenda hate Bruce.”

Brenda said, “There’s not a word to fit my feeling about Bruce.”

Dr, Greene was staring at Eleanor and said, “Eleanor I see much pain in you. What is causing that pain?”

Patrick and Brenda turned and looked at Eleanor.

Michael looked up in Eleanor’s face.

Shirley was still screaming and hollering.

Dr. Woodson looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor breathe and said, “I hate myself.”

She bit her lips and shook her head and repeated it, “I hate myself. I fought with my hands for my children. But I did not know how to fight Bruce. I would go along with whatever he said,”

Patrick yelled at Eleanor.

Dr. Greene jumped.

Dr. Woodson jumped.

Patrick said, “Why didn’t you come to me?”

Eleanor said, “Daddy you told me “don’t come to me. You married that bastard you resolve your problems.”

Patrick said, “Not those problems!”

Patrick jumped up and said, “I need a god damn drink.”

Michael sat up and looked at his grandpa and said, “Me too.”

Eleanor was so weak she reached for Michael.

Dr. Greene thought Eleanor was pitiful.

Dr. Woodson caught Michael and put him in his lap.

Michael walked back to Eleanor and leaned on her and looked at Dr. Woodson.

They heard Patrick tinkle the glass twice.

No one said anything but waited for him to return.

Michael sat and looked at his grandpa.

Patrick reached Michael a grape sucker.

Dr. Woodson was peeping to see what Patrick was giving to Michael.

He saw it was a sucker he was ok.

Dr. Greene said, “Eleanor why were you hurt?”

Eleanor said, “I could not make Bruce stop and especially when made decisions about the children. When he took Shirley he told me he would kill me if I come.”

Patrick turned his head and sighed.

Brenda just looked at Eleanor.

Shirley was crying but not screaming.

Dr. Greene said, “Why would Bruce tell you that?”

Eleanor said, “Because he told me that it was my fault that Shirley was not normal for me to take my money and fix her. I had Shirley’s legs broken twice and re set. The last time she nearly died.”

Eleanor’s pain was great.

She was having a deep wailing.

Shirley was still crying but she turned and looked at Eleanor because of Eleanor’s pain.

Michael looked at Eleanor and put his head on her and patted her back.

Brenda calmly said, “We took Bruce into our home. We sent him to school. We fed him. We showed him how to run our businesses. He used our daughter and her children to make us suffer for not caving in to his thieving family. He used you to torment you own child.”

Dr. Woodson said, “Let me say something here. We all the truth out for healing to take place.”

Michael said, “Dr. Ralph said all the infection has to be out for healing.”

Dr. Woodson said, “That’s true Michael.”

Michael continued to suck on his sucker.

Dr. Woodson looked at Shirley and he looked at Eleanor and said, “If Shirley did not have the surgeries she could have walked. We sent a letter to the medical board here in your state and outline our concern about the doctors. They wrote us back and said they would investigate and contact us. We never heard from them again.”

Shirley was listening to Dr. Woodson.

He said, “Shirley I hate you went through all of that pain. We did not know a human could go through what you went through and live. You are a special person. What those doctors did to you should have never happened. When GOD raised you up to walk. That was a pure miracle. We came to see Shirley run. Lorraine said, you ran, we had to see. Because of the scare tissue and some bones were missing we knew nobody could put you together again Shirley, but GOD. I think you Shirley needs apologize to Patrick, Breda and Eleanor.”

Michael struggled to sit up and looked at Shirley and yelled and pointed at himself, And me.”

Dr. Woodson said, “Then Patrick you need to apologize.”

Patrick had his arms folded and leaned forward and looked at Dr. Woodson and said, “To who.”

Dr. Woodson said, “To everyone in this room.”

Michael looked up at Eleanor and said, “Can I go riding with Percy, Bruce and Thomas?”

Dr. Woodson said, “Michael you don’t want to hear me. But you need to apologize to.”

Michael said, “I’m like grandpa to who. I ‘m not ever going to apologize to Shirley.”

Shirley was still crying.

Dr. Woodson said, “Brenda you want to start?”

Brenda said, “No.”

Dr. Woodson said, “Why not?”

Brenda said, “All I can think is how to peel Bruce’s head off slowly so he can have excruciating pain until he dies.”

Michael was staring at his grandma and started laughing.

Dr. Greene and Dr. Woodson stared at Brenda.

Dr. Greene thought Brenda would be more rational than Patrick and Eleanor.

He was thinking, “She’s talking about killing Bruce and Michael is laughing.”

Dr. Woodson said, “We will be in here all day.”

Michael jumped up and turned to Eleanor and said, “I apologize momma for not going to Europe with you. I will never, never, never do that again.”

Michael walked to Shirley and said, “I apologize Shirley I will never ever go away with you again. You will never hurt me anymore.”

Dr. Greene’s mouth dropped open.

Dr. Woodson looked at Michael as he walked to Brenda and Michael held Brenda’s hand and said, “I apologize that I did not write you for you to come and get me. I know not to go anywhere with daddy and Shirley.”

Michael walked over to Patrick and said, “Grandpa I apologize that I believed Bruce. I should never believed you and grandma would turn me away.”

Michael walked out the door.

He ran through the back of the house.

He ran to the stables and got his horse and rode until he found, Percy, Thomas, Bruce and Gary.

Gary was scared at first and said, “Michael how did you find us?”

Michael said, “I know the horses like the water area.

Gary said, “Smart Michael but leave like that anymore.”

Patrick stood to leave.

Dr. Woodson said, “Sit down Patrick.”

Brenda looked at Dr. Woodson.

Patrick looked at Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Greene said, “Sit down Patrick.”

Eleanor was in la la land.

Shirley was in la la land.

Brenda looked up at Patrick and said, “You better sit down. The doctors mean it.”

Patrick sat.

They continued for another two hours.

The boys were coming back from riding.

Lorraine had hot bathe water brought up form Louis and Thomas until Gary put up the horses.

Jose was looking at the food Jessie brought and said, “This is not enough food for the Fourth.”

Louis and Gary were passing by Jose.

Jose said, “Louis can you go and ask Jessie when he will bring the rest of the food so we can begin to prep it?”

Thomas was standing and looking at the food and said, “That’s about enough for twenty- five or thirty people.”

Nadine said, “Even though Brenda did not send out invitations at least fifty people will show up and us.”

Jose said was still looking at the food and sighed.

He sat on the porch waited for Louis come back.

Thomas told Nadine, “Louis was the wrong person to send he doesn’t like the fields either.”

Nadine started grinning.

Peter was walking around the back yard and smoking.

He was on schedule with what he was to cook. He was very proud of himself.

Leon was walking the grounds and he stopped and listen.

Jessie emerged out the field with Louis.

They rode to the house.

The boys were upstairs bathing.

Lorraine had the boys’ clothes ready for the week.

She put their clothes for the evening on their beds.

Lorraine was sad, her friend would be leaving her soon.

She brought Meredith and Felipe’s wedding gift of bath items to work.

She walked in and had Jose to bring the basket in and place it in the formal dining room.

Lorraine walked through the back and out the back door.

She walked off the back porch and got into her buggy.

Nadine looked at Lorraine and knew she was sad that Meredith would not be around anymore.

Nadine saw Leon look at Lorraine.

Lorraine got in her buggy and was leaving when Meredith were pulling up.

Patrick walked in the kitchen and said, “Thomas what’s for dinner?”

Jose walked in the kitchen to get some water.

Dr. Charles, his wife, Debra and Barry had a great afternoon with Ben and Gen.

Dr. Charles enjoyed their flowers.

They returned home as Dr. Greene was opening the door to the parlor.

Eleanor ran to her office to check on a telegram.

Brenda went to her office.

Dr. Woodson and Shirley walked to the family dining room, when they heard Jose yelled.

Meredith and Felipe walked in the door.

Vivienne told Meredith and Felipe to use the guests’ washroom to wash their faces and hands.

Dr, Greene walked to their room with Debra to embrace her.

She grinned at him.

They walked up the hall and heard Jose yelled.

Dr. Greene’s nerves were rattled from the day with Patrick and Brenda.

Monica and Harriett were putting water in the pitchers for the guests’ rooms when they heard Jose get loud.

Jessie looked in the wagon and he looked at the wagon and said, “Is this the wagon I brought yesterday?”

Leon looked.

Jessie walked in the house.

He said, “Evening Patrick.”

Jose said, “Patrick the cart is already in the family dining room.”

Patrick was about to leave when Jessie said, “I brought a wagon full of food yesterday.”

Leon walked in the house.

Jose said, “That’s hardly no food.”

Jessie said, “I see but I brought a full wagon.”

Patrick stepped back and looked out the backdoor.

Jose said, “Where’s the rest of the food?”

Jessie said, “I brought enough for at least a hundred people.”

Jose leaned his ear to Jessie and said, “You don’t understand me. Where is the rest of the food?”

Jessie was perplexed and said, “You hollering is not going to make it come back. I guess somebody got it.”

Jose said, “I am not going out in the field to pick no damn cotton.”

Jessie said, “You won’t be picking cotton but corn.”

Patrick laughed.

Jose said, “I’m not going to no field to pick nothing.”

Patrick told Jose to go to his room before he had a heart.

Eleanor, Meredith and Felipe moved out the way to allow Jose to walk through the door of the guests’ washroom.

Jose walked through and went to the liquor table and the bottle with a little sherry left and walked back through the washroom and went to his room.

Jessie said, “Me and my boys will pick some more corm and watermelons and bring them tomorrow evening.”

Patrick said, “Thanks.”

Jessie said, “Tell prissy boy.”

Thomas said, “He will quit first as to go and work in a field.”

Leon remembered Ben ran into the field and Jose would not go behind him.

Jessie walked out the kitchen.

Leon walked out.

Patrick went to the guests’ washroom and washed his hands.

Brenda was standing in the hallway.

The boys ran down the stairs and hugged Brenda and Patrick they all waked into the family’s dining room.

Eleanor, Meredith and Felipe walked in and everyone was seated.

They had a good dinner of calf liver, potatoes and gravy.

Meredith and Felipe of the former slaves and how she and Felipe went to wash their feet and had shoes for the children.

Patrick told that a large amount of the produce was gone.

They had a good evening.

Dr. Wood went back to the library to read his book.

Lorraine was thinking about her friend that helped her scout out men.

Lorraine thought she spent all Saturday and Sunday to get the basket ready for the wedding.