Shirley went to the second class department looking for the soldier.

Michael and Thomas were running behind her.

She looked around the second class car and did not see him.

Michael wanted the soldier to order him a lamb chop.

Shirley, Thomas and Michael looked through the car and did not see the soldier.

They turned and were leaving the second class car when the soldier met them in the hall.

Shirley was excited to see him.

She grinned big.

Michael said, “Have you had breakfast?”

The soldier grinned and said, “Good morning Michael. Shirley and Thomas.”

Shirley could not speak.

Thomas was surprised and said, “You remembered our names?”

Skip said, “You three, Percy and Bruce talked to me for half the day yesterday.”

Thomas said, “Did we bother you?”

Skip said, “No. I enjoyed your company. I liked to hear about your adventures in Europe. I don’t know anyone who has been to Europe not once but twice. That is fascinating. You know what that make you?”

Shirley was mesmerized by this great soldier.

Thomas was inquisitive and said, “What?”

Skip, “Interesting.”

Shirley grinned.

Michael was peeping at the breakfast carts and said, “Hungry?”

Skip said, “You are not hungry Michael.”

Michael still looking at the breakfast carts said, “I’m not?”

Skip said, “Hungry is when your stomach is empty for days not hours.”

Michael held his head in a mode of unbelief.

Skip said, “Yes Michael there are some people who may not have food for days pushing towards a week.”

Skip heard the breakfast cart behind them and he reached and opened the door for them to walk in the second class car.

He held the door for the food service waiters.

A waiter was walking to the table with Shirley, Thomas and Michael.

Michael looked back at Skip.

Skip nodded his head.

Michael order lamb chops, eggs, grits and a biscuit.

The waiter said, “One lamb chop.”

Skip winked at Michael.

Michael did not know what the wink meant.

Michael looked at Shirley and said, “I am still going to tell Eleanor.”

Thomas was looking at Skip and then Shirley.

Skip saw Shirley pushed Michael from the seat.

Skip sat next to Shirley.

Thomas looked at Shirley and wondered why she pushed Michael out the seat.

The waiter saw her too.

Thomas said, “Eggs benedict and orange juice.”

The waiter said, “You don’t think I know what that is? You are trying to impressed this soldier, but guess what your cook was on this train earlier and taught us how to make it because he said you love it.”

Skip looked at Thomas and then the waiter.

The waiter looked at Michael and said, “I know you are restricted to one lamb chop for each meal. And your friend the soldier which plates with you yesterday.”

The waiter looked and said, “Miss Shirley, a cup of oatmeal, apple sauce and a half of biscuit.”

Shirley slowly closed her menu and looked at the waiter and said, “And a scrambled egg.”

The waiter jerked back and looked at Shirley and wrote her breakfast down.

He said, “Miss Shirley you are trying to throw me a curve ball.”

Thomas and Michael laughed at the waiter.

Brenda followed Thomas and Michael.

She was standing outside the dining car watching them with the soldier but she could not hear what they were saying.

She saw Michael and Thomas laughing at the waiter.

George walked up and said, “Mrs. Stith is there a problem?”

Brenda said, “No. That soldier George have you every seen him before.”

George said, “No ma am. For the service they performed for this country they should not be in second class.”

Brenda said, “We are opening the mid point rail station.”

George was excited and said, “I can’t wait. Did Mr. Stith tell I will be retiring soon.”

Brenda was shocked but happy.

She hugged George.

Brenda said, “Where are you going to reside?”

He said, “I like the big city. Philadelphia.”

The solder order the same thing as Michael, but wanted his eggs sunny side up.

Michael said, “Yuck.”

Skip laughed.

Brenda looked in the dining cart.

George said, “Miss Shirley is smitten with the soldier.”

Brenda looked puzzled.

George looked at Brenda and said, “That soldier is honorable.”

Brenda said, “Why is he sitting next to Shirley?”

George said, “Because that little went to sit next to Shirley she pushed him out the seat so the soldier had to sit next to her.”

Brenda giggled and said, “What?”

George said, “Miss Shirley is something else.”

A waiter walked up and was talking to George.

Brenda patted George on his arm and walked back to the owner’s suite.

She was remembering all the times George hid her and the slaves.

How many times he was shot at.

How many times he covered them running with the slaves. How he was first scared and then he grew to be cunning and remembered the slave owners and their hunters.

How Patrick had to go into a white lynching and shoot up some folks to get George.

Brenda said, “GOD I ask YOU to bless George, my friend. He did not seemed concern about that Shirley. Is that Shirley’s husband?”

Brenda was about to open the door to her suite when Percy and Bruce ran out the suite.

Percy kissed Brenda on her cheek.

Bruce said, “Hey grandma.”

Brenda looked at her running grandsons and said, “They are in the dining car.”

Bruce said, “Thanks.”

Bruce and Percy ran into the dining cart and sat at the next table and ordered breakfast of pancakes.

Skip start asking them of their adventures in Europe.

Percy and Bruce were excited to them him.

They heard the train blow it’s whistle and Bruce looked around and said, “We are going to stop at our new stop and leave late tonight.”

Percy said, “How do you know that?”

Bruce said, “That’s what grandpa told momma. You need to listen.”

Skip listened and he realized they owned the railroad, that’s why they could afford to go to Europe.

Percy said, “I will not eavesdrop.”

Brenda and Eleanor were talking about Shirley and how George saw her push Michael out of the seat so the soldier can sit next to her.

Eleanor looked at Brenda and said, “I’m glad. I talk with Dr. Woodson, Dr, Greene, Dr. Ralph and Dr. Parker, while they were visiting Star.”

Brenda looked worried.

Eleanor shrugged her shoulders and teared up.

Brenda caught Eleanor’s hand.

Eleanor said, “They believe she can live another ten years like she is living now.”

Brenda shook Eleanor’s hand and said, “Let her live Eleanor.”

Eleanor was drying her eyes.

She went into her bedroom and changed into a beautiful dress for the occasion.

Brenda spruced up for Patrick and his suit ready.

Skip looked outside the window and Shirley tried to lean on Skip.

Michael and Thomas shook their feet and pointed their fingers at Shirley.

Percy and Bruce saw Shirley.

Skip said, “Miss Shirley are you flirting with me?”

Michael and Thomas said, “Yes.”

Shirley looked at her brothers and then she flashed a big grin at Skip and said, “Is it working?”

Thomas was mad with her for pushing Michael out the seat and said, “No. I am still going to tell momma.”

Shirley said, “I am grown.”

Michael said, “You are still rude.”

Skip laughed and said, “I get off at the next stop. I join my troop there. I would taken me a week to get here.”

Michael said, “Where are you going?”

Skip said, “To a town they just built a command post.”

Shirley said, “Cedartown?”

Skip was looking around and said, “Yes. Is that where you from?”

Percy and Bruce said, “Yes.”

Bruce said, “I did not know there was a command post there?”

Percy said, “We weren’t here.”

Michael said, “Can we visit you?”

Skip grinned and said, “I don’t know because, we are being sent throughout the country.”

Thomas sat quiet.

Skip looked at Thomas.

He said, “I need to go and get my saddle and stuff.”

He stood and shook all their hands.

Skip saw the waiter walking with the bill and he reached for it.

Bruce reached for the bill and the waiter gave the bill to Bruce.

Bruce said, “It is our thank you for serving our great country.”

 Skip was amazed and said, “Thank you. Yall take care of yourselves and Shirley.”

The boys stood and saluted Skip as he stood to leave.

They learned that in the military academy.

They watched as Skip walked out the dining car.

George was in the dining car.

Percy said, “The soldiers don’t need to be in second class.”

Bruce said, “Maybe it is to show they are regular people.”

Thomas said, “You are wrong. It is to save money.”

Percy and Bruce looked at Thomas.

They heard the train whistle blow a second time.

They jumped up and ran to the suite and dressed up.

They arrived at the mid point stop.

Brenda and Eleanor were standing on the balcony with the children.

There was a large crowd there and Thomas and Dan and louis were there preparing small treats for the people.

Louis was watching at all the strong soldiers that were there waiting for another soldier.

The soldier over the troop had wagons of supplies the had to carry to the headquarters they just built.

Louis heard the soldiers talking.

Thomas was watching Louis.

Dan said to himself, “This type of s\*\*t I don’t want to see.”

Louis walked the leader to Patrick and introduced him to Patrick.

Patrick said, “A military headquarters. I was not told.”

The lead soldier said, “The President of the United States ordered it to built as a presence in the area and especially because of the Freed men rest stop.”

Thomas watched Louis.

Dan watched Thomas.

Dan said, “Thomas make that lemonade and punch.”

Thomas was the chief cook and Dan was behind him he looked at Dan.

Dan stared at Thomas.

Dan continued to set up a grill.

Patrick talked with the lead soldier and told him to put the supplies in the supply car and used his office and send a telegram to their headquarters to send them to get in two days.

Patrick walked the area with the chief engineers.

Patrick was overcome with pride.

The train rolled into the new stop.

Patrick was standing with the mayor and other dignitaries and a lot of people from the surrounding area.

Brenda, Eleanor, Shirley, Percy, Bruce, Thomas and Michael stood on the balcony.

They saw Patrick and waved at him and the people.

Eleanor had photographers to ride from Philadelphia to take pictures.

She sent out the article to the different newspapers.

The train stopped.

The only passenger who got off was skip.

The boys were excited when they saw the soldiers in perfect uniform.

Patrick saw how excited the boys were to see the military.

They saw Skip walked off the train.

Brenda and Eleanor watched this tall stature of a man.

The children saw Skip and begin to wave and call him.

Skip saluted he lead soldier.

A soldier brought his horse.

Skip mounted the horse and rode at the back of the troop and he looked at the children and saluted them.

He rode his horse to catch up with the troop.

Shirley looked after the way the troop rode.

Patrick walked and got on at the owner’s suite.

They gathered around Patrick.

Patrick said, “Let’s step inside for a minute.”

Michael said, “I smell lamb chop.”

Patrick said, “Michael come from that balcony and step inside.”

Michael was looking at Dan and wonder what was that he was cooking.

Thomas walked in the suite and Michael followed him.

Patrick was overcomed.

Brenda said, “Patrick what is it?”

Patrick had to take a moment.

He said, “The lead soldier told me they built a military headquarters in our town.”

Brenda said, “We heard that on the train.”

Shirley said, “Yes granddaddy.”

Patrick sat for a minute and shook his head.

No one said anything.

Patrick said, “This when you know you have pleased GOD. The President of the United States had them to build a military headquarters to be a presence for the Stith Freed Men Center.”

Percy said, “Does that mean we are important?”

Brenda sat next to Patrick and she was rubbing his back.

Thomas said, “Momma.”

Eleanor smiled at Thomas.

Thomas said, “Shirley knocked Michael out of his seat so Skip, the soldier could sit next to her.”

Michael jumped by Michael, “That’s right momma.”

Shirley looked at them and said, “So you know not to take his seat.”

Eleanor looked at Shirley, “Shirley did he see you?”

Michael said, “Yes.”

Percy said, “And she tried to lean on his chest.”

Eleanor said, “Shirley.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor.

Patrick stood and went in the bedroom and changed into his suit.

He exited the train with his family.

They took pictures.

Michael ran to Dan.

Dan said, “Michael there is only one lamb chop.”

Michael held out his hand.

Eleanor called Thomas and Michael.

She took a red and blue balloon and tied it to their wrists.

They looked at Eleanor. She laughed.

She said, “Remember what I told you about bad people want to harm you?”

Thomas and Michael still stood and look puzzled.

Eleanor said, “I mean it. Do not get off this street. I know everything on this street. We leave in an hour. Please don’t try me.”

She kissed them on their cheeks and they ran away.

Her heart was heavy.

She said, “I don’t know God please watch over my children and protect them.”

Brenda was watching Eleanor.

Patrick and Shirley walked out into the crowd.

Patrick looked at Shirley and said, “You see those pearls are fine and you look good.”

Percy and Bruce went with the engineers as they gave tours to the people.

The atmosphere was fair like.

Dan started packing up the grill and his supplies.

He was watching for Thomas and Michael.

He saw Patrick and said, “I don’t see Michael and Thomas’ balloons.”

Patrick looked up and down the street.

Patrick said, “Get my horse.

Dan had cleaned up his area.

He went to Patrick’s horse and untied.

Dan untied somebody’s horse and rode with Patrick.

They looked for Thomas and Michael’s balloons and did not see them.

George was enjoying himself at the last celebration of the railroad before he retired.

He watched Patrick leave.

Eleanor was walking and greeting people.

She saw Patrick and Dan leave.

Then she thought and ran to the beginning of the street and did not see the balloons.

Eleanor looked around and around.

She grabbed one of the workers and said, “Whose horses?”

The worker was looking around.

Eleanor and George were enjoying their flavored ice.

Percy saw Eleanor jumping on a horse.

Percy yelled, “Eleanor!!”

Eleanor kept riding.

Brenda and George looked up and saw Percy and Bruce running through the crowd.

Brenda said, “George carry on here.”

She walked to the horses and saw Eleanor riding hard.

She looked around and did not see Patrick, nor Thomas nor Michael.

Percy and Michael ran to Brenda and they jumped on horses and Brenda led them going behind Eleanor.

Shirley knew something was wrong.

She went back to the owner’s suite and locked the doors.

She walked out on the balcony like a lot of other people and looked out.

She never rode a horse and she did not know how to shot a gun.

She then remembered Eleanor put guns in the owners’ suite.

Shirley searched the suite and found it under the sofa cushion.

She looked at it and figured out how to put a bullet in it and she started crying.

She said, “God what is wrong? Why did they all run. My grandma was riding that horse. Where is Michael and Thomas. Let them be safe.”

The mayor and his wife were looking around.

George knew to be watching the crowd and to see if any of them were involved.

He learned that from the days of escaping with the slaves.

He looked towards the train and saw Shirley standing on the balcony.

He thought she had enough sense to get to her safety hold.

Louis and Thomas were looking in shock.

They knew something was wrong.

George said, “Brenda told me to take over. Finish what you are doing and get on the train.”

Thomas and Louis were nervous and started cleaning up.

A little boy walked up to Thomas for something to drink and he had on Michael’s jacket.

Thomas looked at the boy and said, “You want lemonade or punch?”

Thomas whispered to Louis, “He has on Michael’s coat. Follow him.”

Louis finished putting up the supplies and cleaning up.

The train engineers and the train conductor were talking.

They did not see Patrick or Eleanor.

They were suspicious but continued to watch the crowd.

One of the engineers saw a strange man give the mayor an eye.

George saw the man.

Eleanor was screaming up and down the streets.

The towns people were looking at this well dressed woman crying out for her children.

Brenda caught up with Eleanor.

Eleanor had be friended some of the black settlers.

One of the women was coming to the end of the crops and looking at this screaming woman.

Eleanor looked at the black woman and said, “My sons are missing. Have you seen them?”

The black man walked out and grabbed the woman by her shoulders and pulled her back into the corn crop.

The woman pointed and Eleanor had to think.

Brenda rode up to Eleanor and saw the woman point.

Eleanor turned and flee towards the creek.

That was the only thing over there.

Brenda flew behind here.

Percy and Bruce saw the end of the horse’s tail and they followed the tail.

Brenda and Eleanor jumped off their horses and stood and looked around.

They were still and listened.

Percy and Bruce rode up.

Eleanor held her hand out for them to be still.

A jumped and was running from the creek.

Brenda’s horse had a rifle and she ran and grabbed it and aimed and shot the man.

Eleanor shook at the precise shot.

Percy and Bruce were shocked at their grandma.

Patrick and Dan heard the shot.

They stopped and then turned a round.

It was about to get dark.

They had to hurry.

The military troop was about a mile ahead of Patrick.

A wheel on their supply wagon was broke and they had to change it.

The lead soldier stopped and looked around.

He said, “I need two soldiers to go back and make sure our backs are secured.”

They heard partial screamed.

The soldiers knew it was a child.

Skip thought, the railroad magnate and his family. A child.”

Skip said, “I’ll go.”

Skip went in the direction he heard the screamed.

He and the other soldier rode fast to that part of the woods.

They got off their horses and walked that area inch by inch.

They heard a small noise.

The soldiers knew it was not an animal.

They tipped with their guns out in the wooded area.

They saw a man beating a small child.

Skip thought, “Michael.”

The man was about to hit Michael again, the other soldier fired and hit the man.

Skip and the other soldier ran through the wood and got an unconscious Michael.

The lead soldier sat up in his saddle and squinted his eyes and sighed.

He could not see and said, “Give me two men to follow Skip and Jake.”

Two men rode up and sped through the woods.

Skip picked up Michael and looked at him.

Michael was naked and the man had dug a swallow grave to put him in.

Skip said, “Michael.”

Jake had grabbed the man and made him stand.

Jake looked at Skip and said, “Is the child dead?”

Jake put his gun to the head of the man.

Skip said, “I don’t know.”

Patrick and Dan heard the shot.

Brenda heard the shot.

Eleanor was walking slowing to the creek.

She took out of her skirt the gun she begin to carry with her.

Percy and Bruce looked at Eleanor and their grandma who had the shotgun.

Bruce said, “We better stay in the military academy.”

Percy whispered, “Quiet.”

Patrick and Dan to Percy and Bruce.

Percy and Bruce heard the horses and jumped in fear.

Patrick saw Brenda and Eleanor and dismounted his horse and pulled out his gun.

Dan dismounted his horse and pulled out his gun.

Percy and Bruce looked at the guns.

Percy said, “We are going back to the military academy.”

Dan saw the man get up and tried to run.

Patrick said, “Get him.”

Dan ran after the man.

The man was holding his arm with the other hand.

Eleanor and Brenda heard a bubbling sound.

Eleanor and Brenda ran to the creek and saw the top of Thomas head.

Eleanor yelled, “Percy!!!”

Percy and Bruce jumped off their horses and ran to Eleanor who had jumped in the creek and lifted up Thomas’ head out the creek.

Percy jumped in the creek because he was a great swimmer.

Skip had an unconscious Michael and he and Jake were passing the horses and they looked and saw the children.

They pulled over.

Patrick turned and saw Michael, who looked dead to him.

Patrick said, “Michael.”

Brenda was scared to look back.

Jake jumped off his horse and ran into the creek and helped untie Thomas.

Jake put Thomas on the ground and worked on him until he begin to breathe.

The lead soldier and the troop was riding back into the town when they saw Jake and Skip ride off.

They followed them.

The man Dan grabbed tried to run.

Dan looked and saw a dead Michael, as Patrick got him from Skip.

Bruce turned and saw Michael, begin to scream.

Eleanor did not look back.

Percy stood up and looked over at Michael.

Dan said to the man, “I want you to run.”

The man looked back at the dead Michael and laughed.

Dan started beating the man with his gun.

The lead soldier said, “Go and get the prisoner.”

Louis followed the little boy with Michael’s coat on.

Thomas was sick.

He could not believe this was happening.

George started getting the people on the train.

He kept his eyes on Shirley.

Shirley went back into the suite.

She was pacing back and forth.

She said, “My whole family is gone. Meredith is in Philadelphia. Momma Lorraine is at the house. I have no body. Not even Michael who is my best buddy.”

There was a knock on her door.

Shirley thought.

She ran to the balcony and saw George outside talking to the train conductor.

She ran back in the suite and locked the balcony door.

She looked at the suite door and knew it was somebody that was not to be there.

Thomas looked around for that strange man that gave a look to the mayor and his wife.

Thomas looked at George and nodded his head to the train.

George eased on the train and Thomas followed him.

They were running and peeping at the same time.

They saw the strange man at the owners’ suite with his hand in his chest pocket.

George and Thomas were leaning back on the wall.

George said, “Shirley don’t open that door.”

Bryson and Gail were standing outside the train, they new something was terribly wrong for all of them to have left their celebration.

They saw Patrick riding hard with a naked boy on his horse.

Gail started screaming.

Bryson ran to Patrick.

He pulled off his coat and grabbed Michael and ran into the train with Michael.

George and Thomas looked back and saw Michael.

They knew he was dead.

George opened the train door.

The strange man turned and started running down the hall.

Three of the service men, knocked him down and took his gun.

Bryson was kicking on the door.

Patrick yelled, “Shirley open the door.”

Gail was stumbling behind them.

Shirley yelled, “No.”

George ran and unlocked the door.

Patrick saw Shirley hiding beside the chair with the gun.

Shirley had the gun in her hand.

Patrick took the gun from her.

Bryson started working on Michael.

Gail was screaming Bryson said, “Shut up Gail! Go and get my medical bag.”

George looked at Gail and ran to their room and unlocked their room and grabbed the medical bag.

He ran back to Patrick’s suite.

The three crew members jumped on the strange man and started beating him, because they were mad they wasted the whole day in that town when they wanted to gamble in Cedar town the next day.

One of the service men was just hired and he was timid and scary. He was holding towels in his hand and held his eye glasses as he took his first soft kick at the man and he started kicking the mand and holding his eye glasses at the same time.

The troop leader was on his horse watching everything.

The two soldiers brought the man to the lead soldier and tied him with the other man.

The lead soldier said, “What type of wounds?”

The soldier said, “Arm. They can live until we get to headquarters.”

Jake got Thomas to begin breathing and vomiting.

Percy and Bruce were standing and watching Jake.

Eleanor was kneeling and rocking.

Brenda was holding the rifle over her neck.

Skip was standing with Percy and Bruce.

The lead soldier said, “This is the mob. They just opened this railroad to help with supplies and they kidnap and tried to kill the children so they can control the railroad.”

The lead soldier said, “Ask them two, who are going to be executed, how were they going to contact the family and how were they going to get paid?”

The lead soldier heard noise and yelled, “I did not say beat it out of them.”

The soldier said, “They said the mayor.”

The lead soldier said, “Twenty five take them to headquarters. The seventy five stay with me and out of that number, fifty of you ride towards headquarters but keep you eyes open and line the road.”

Jake got Thomas back breathing.

Brenda got on her horse and the troop looked at this black woman who knew how to handle a rifle.

Jake what Thomas on his horse and Eleanor got on her horse and Skip rode back to town.

The lead soldier said, “The two men we got said, the mayor.”

Louis followed the little boy with Michael’s coat.

He saw Patrick riding a lifeless Michael.

The little boy and his friend laughed.

Louis realized they boys were evil.

Louis ran and tripped the bigger boy and snatched Michael’ s jacket off the other little boy and kicked him down.

The little boy got up and started running behind Louis.

Louis did not see Thomas and ran on the train.

Jake was speeding with Thomas.

Percy and Bruce saw the boys running to their train and they rode close to the boys and Percy jumped off his horse and took the big boy down and Bruce rode next to the smaller boy and jumped on his back and rode him down to the ground.

The mayor and his wife were trying to leave.

The mayor’s wife said, “Get off my grand boys.”

The military was very quiet and when the mayor grabbed his wife for them to run.

The lead, Skip and the other soldiers were behind them with guns drawn.

The mayor was shocked he did not hear the horses.

Jake, Eleanor and Brenda passed the mayor and his wife.

They ran into the train.

Jake ran with Thomas.

Patrick said, “James turn this train around and refund the patrons money.”

James and the crew was letting the patrons know the train was going back to Philadelphia to get the children to a hospital. There were no hospitals in any of the towns.

The patrons said, “That was find and they were in no hurry.”

The soldiers arrested the mayor and his wife and the strange man the crew brought to them.

Skip said, “May I go and see the boys’ condition.”

The lead said, “You and Jake catch up tonight.”

The mayor’s wife was yelling and looking as the soldiers were tying her up.

She was yelling, “Turn my boys loose.”

The military turned and rode out of town.

Skip jumped off his horse and ran to the train.

He saw Percy and Bruce beating the mayor’s grandchildren.

Louis was standing and watching Percy and Bruce and beat the boys.

He stood and held Michael’s jacket.

Jake meet Skip and shook his head.

Skip ran into the train and ran to the suite.

He saw Bryson working on Michael.

Gail was working on Thomas.

Patrick said to George, “Send an emergency telegram to Ryan and Hutch. Tell them what happened and we are turning the train around and maybe there tomorrow evening.”

Skip went to a shaking and crying Shirley and said, “I’m sorry.”

He turned and quickly walked off the train.

Jake was standing and watching Percy and Bruce fight.

Thomas was looking around and the area was cleaned.

Jake was telling Bruce how to hit hard.

Skip looked at Jake.

Jake looked at Skip.

Skip picked up Bruce and took him to the train.

Bruce wanted to run off the train.

Skip pointed his hand.

Skip grabbed Percy and put him on the train and stood there until the train rotated.

Bruce and Percy ran into the train into the suite and sat on the floor and watched everybody.

The train conductor sped through the hills and valleys and he did not stop until they reached Philadelphia early afternoon.

Ryan and Hutch rushed on the trained and examined Michael and Thomas.

They took them to the hospital and worked on Thomas and Michael for a couple of days.

Finally Hutch and Ryan got Michael and Thomas where they wanted to be.

Ryan and Hutch relayed a full report to the bone hospital.

Dr. Woodson was busy with Felipe and Charles and his wife.

Meredith stayed at the hospital because she was Michael’s nurse.

Patrick told James to pull the trains back on track.

Alice and Beverly were constantly at the hospital.

Dr. Charles and Dr. Parker went to the hospital to check on Michael and Thomas.

They were concerned about Thomas lungs.

They did several procedures on him that caused the water damage to be decreased so he would not have damage later in life.

Patrick was well satisfied with Thomas.

Bruce heard about the attempted murder of his children.

He rushed to the hospital three days later.

He walked to the door of the waiting area.

Ryan was talking to them about Michael.

Everyone looked at Bruce.

Shirley was stretched out lying in Eleanor’s.

Percy and Bruce were standing by the window,

Brenda was in the room with Thomas.

The President heard about the attempted murder of the grandchildren.

He sent a special agent to find out the condition and who they think was responsible for the attack.

A staff member asked the president was he taking the case personally.

The president said, ”D\*\*N right. I have grandchildren that I don’t want my enemies to come after. Give me a full report.”

The agent arrived and spoke with the doctors and sent a telegram to the troop for a report.

The agent asked Eleanor and Patrick who they thought it was.

Patrick said, “No doubt the mob.”

Brenda was standing with a faraway look in her eyes and said, “Patrick Stith Jr. No doubt.”

Patrick turned and looked at Brenda.

The agent said, “Your son?”

Brenda said, “Yes.”

The agent said, “Why?”

Brenda said, “Greed. Money and Power. He disappeared while we were in Europe. We took our money and divided it between our four children hoping they started businesses. Each of our sons spent all of their money. I could never understand how anyone could spend that amount in a short period.”

The agent said, “Your daughter.”

Brenda said, “She used her money and bought back into our businesses.

The agent left and he took the train to the town.

The headquarters had Skip and Jake to meet the agent and give him the report and show him what happened.

Jake and Skip met the agent and showed him the creek and the swallow grave in the woods.

The agent looked around the wooded area and asked Jake and Skip, “What do you think about this?”

Jake said, “Revenge.”

The agent looked at Jake.

Skip was looking around and said, “I agree. They wanted to bury the children at the place where their was to be a new beginning. To stunt any growth. To stop any growth.”

The agent said, “There the death of a child.”

Jake and Skip left the agent out in the woods and returned to headquarters.

The agent returned back to the capital.

He gave the president a full report and said the grandmother said it was their oldest son.

The president said, from the evidence it is a person with revenge in their hearts and mind.

The family did not allow Bruce to be in the same room with them.

Shirley would speak to Bruce.

Percy and Bruce did not acknowledge Bruce they said, Joseph was their father.

Ellen and the Captain came a few days each week.

Beverly and her husband Alfred went to the hospital every other day and baked cookies for Bruce and Percy.

Alice would bring their nearly two year old and he would a cookie for each hand and run and sit on the floor with Percy and Bruce.

Ryan would tell Alice, “Alice don’t let him eat cookies.”

Alice would say, “The oatmeal raisin is his favorite.”

Ryan would walk away.

Alice would mumble, “Talking to me like I am stupid.”

Meredith would snicker.

Alice whispered and said, “What are you going to do?’

Meredith whispered, “We are going to get married July 4th.

Alice said, “And.”

Meredith said, “And?”

Eleanor said, “Are you going to live in America or move to France?”

Shirley was laying in Eleanor’s lap looked at Meredith.

Alice looked at Meredith.

Meredith was dazed and said, “This Hutch’s fault.”

Hutch was about to walk in and speak and he heard his name and kept walking.

Eleanor said, “Hutch.”

Alice turned her head.

Meredith made a big question mark face.

Shirley giggled.

Gail, Bryson, Dan, Thomas and Louis left after a few days and went to the mansion.

Ryan walked to Patrick who was in the room with Michael.

Ryan said, “Patrick, Bruce wants to see his sons. I can’t legally stop him.”

Patrick said, “I can. Send him in.”

Ryan looked around and said, “Patrick where is your gun?”

Patrick did not answer.

Ryan said, “You go and I will stay in here. We will do that each day until Michael is ready to go home.”

Patrick stood and walked out and passed Bruce.

Bruce looked at Patrick.

Ryan said, “Bruce.”

Bruce turned and walked in the room with Michael.

He looked at Michael and teared up.

Bruce leaned to Michael and said, “I love you.”

Michael whispered, “Two.”

Ryan was standing against the wall with his arms folded.

He looked at Michael and walked to his bed.

Bruce started laughing.

After a week Ryan moved Thomas in the room with Michael.

Ryan had a cot placed in the room for whomever wanted to sleep overnight.

Bruce volunteered to spend the night.

Thomas would sit up in the bed and stared at Bruce all night.

Bruce said, “Thomas are you sick?”

Thomas screamed, “Eleanor.”

Ryan was getting ready to go home and he ran to the room and followed by Eleanor.

Bruce was sitting on the cot with his boots pulled off.

Ryan said, “Thomas what’s wrong.”

Thomas pointed at Bruce.

Ryan looked at Bruce.

Eleanor looked at Bruce.

Bruce said, “Eleanor I am not going home.”

Percy and Bruce ran behind Eleanor and had their fists balled.

Ryan looked at Percy and Bruce whispering.

Ryan swore he heard them say ‘beat’.

Ryan said, “Bruce get your stuff and stayed over in the waiting room.”

Ryan’s father was going home.

He looked back at Bruce.

He saw one of his grandson’s toys and he walked back and picked it.

Ryan walked Bruce to the waiting room.

Ryan reached for his son’s toy.

His father held the toy and left.

Ryan thought, “My wife, my mother, my son and now my father.”

Ryan’s father looked back at him and continued to walk to leave the hospital.

Eleanor walked to Thomas and held him and kissed him.

She said, “I am tired. I want to take a bath and sleep.”

Percy said, “Me and Bruce can stay.”

Eleanor looked at the two. She looked at a sleeping Michael.

Thomas said, “Yeah. Bruce and Percy.”

Eleanor was about to faint.

Ryan said, “Eleanor go and get some sleep. Bruce is down the hall if they need anything.”

Thomas said, “Like what?”

Ryan was about to holler he turned his head.

Eleanor said, “Percy and Bruce momma is very tired.”

Percy said, “Momma go and get some sleep. We are fine.”

Ryan and Eleanor walked out the hospital.

Eleanor was so tired she could not drive the carriage to the hotel.

Ryan had to pass the hotel to get home.

He tied his horse to the carriage and moved over a sleepy Eleanor.

Percy and Bruce pushed the cot against the door.

They locked the door.

Thomas grinned and said, “Yeah.”

He started to cough.

He laughed and talked to Percy and Bruce until late.

They all fell asleep.

Bruce was in the waiting area sleep in a chair.

Patrick had the family to stay on the train when it was in Philadelphia.

Patrick did not want to pay a penny to Bruce.

Brenda and Patrick and Shirley would always stay at the hotel.

Star heard about what happened.

She sent Shirley a note.

Percy saw Bruce when he handed the note to Shirley.

Percy said, “Shirley who is that from?”

Shirley said, “Star.”

Percy said, “She did not send me a note.”

Alice and Beverly smiled.

Brenda’s sister said, “Puppy love.”

Eleanor smiled.

Bruce said, “Percy you like her?”

Percy slowly looked at Bruce,

Bruce Jr turned to Percy and whispered.

Eleanor watched Percy.

Brenda watched Hutch and was pleased he chose medicine.

She told Gen.

Gen said, “Oh no what is Miss Prissy going to do?”

Brenda said, “Marry Dr. Felipe on July 4th.”

Gen said, “Damn.”

Beverly would take her grandson and walked him to the nurses.

Alice peeped and said, “I’m glad she is gone.”

Shirley laughed.

Shirley told Alice she bought a number of dresses from Europe and hoped the ladies would like them.

Alice went to the train and George opened the owners’ suite.

Alice nearly fainted.

George laughed. He showed Alice the dresses.

Alice was sitting and thinking.

The train whistle blew.

George said, “You have to go.”

Alice said, “I want all of them, but Ryan will have a fit because I just bought some dresses.”

George said, “You have to go.”

Alice picked three dresses.

She took the dresses to the hospital and showed them to Shirley.

Ryan was in the waiting room talking to them about Michael.

He looked at Alice and then at the dresses.

His mother was in the waiting with his son.

Ryan said, “Does anyone have a question or comment or anything to say.”

Bruce said, “I want to apologize to each of you. I am sorry for everything I did that hurt each of you. Forgive me.”

No one said anything.

Bruce reached a letter to Shirley.

Shirley reached for the letter.

She looked at the name and smiled.

Bruce said, “Who is it from?”

Percy said, “Skip?’

Shirley grinned.

Eleanor’s four sons slept in that hospital room.

Eleanor went to the hotel and fell over her bed and slept until late morning.

Shirley, Patrick and Brenda went to the hospital and took the boy’s breakfast.

The boys had blockade the door and the nurses could not get in.

Ryan went and got the master key and unlocked the door and pushed the door open.

He laughed because Percy and Bruce were scrunched half way on the cot reminded him of him and his drunk classmates.

Ryan finished examining Michael and Thomas he eased by a sleeping Percy and Bruce and finished his rounds.

Lorraine and Nadine arrived in Philadelphia.

Brenda said, “Meredith are you are payroll?”

Meredith sat and just looked.

Eleanor looked at Meredith.

Brenda said, “Meredith don’t act like that with me.”

Lorraine said, “No act.”

Shirley heard the familiar voice and jumped up and ran to Lorraine.

Lorraine hugged Shirley.

Brenda said, “Meredith where have you been sleeping since we came back from Europe a month ago?”

Meredith said, “With Felipe.”

Brenda said, “Are you employed?”

Meredith said, “Yes.”

Brenda pointed to Michael’s room.

Meredith went to Michael’s room and took over.

She would bathe he and Thomas and put them on clean night clothes.

Meredith went to the hotel every other day and sorted out Michael and Thomas clothes and had their clothes washed and took food to them from the hotel.

Ryan, Hutch, Dr. Felipe and Dr. Parker told Thomas he could leave the hospital.

Thomas looked over at Michael who was listening.

Eleanor was standing back watching everything.

She was holding Michael’s hand.

Thomas looked over at Eleanor.

The doctors turned their head and looked at Eleanor.

Thomas said, “Eleanor I will not leave Michael.”

Eleanor looked at Thomas, she tried not to have a favorite between her children but Thomas stole her heart when he was two.

She put Thomas in bed to take an afternoon nap and ran downstairs crying to Brenda and Patrick.

Brenda was not in her office but in Patrick’s office talking about the ship that was being built.

They heard Eleanor running through the hall in panic mode screaming after them.

William and the maids were looking at Eleanor.

They pointed to Patrick’s office.

Patrick heard Eleanor and Brenda’s heart dropped.

Patrick opened his office door and Eleanor ran to him.

Eleanor ran out the office and looked around.

The servants looked at Brenda. Brenda saw the servants were not running nor in trouble mode.

Brenda walked in Patrick’s office and looked at a sobbing Eleanor.

Brenda stood and looked at Patrick holding her daughter.

Brenda looked at Patrick and said, “Eleanor what is this about?”

Eleanor mumbled something.

Brenda said, “What?”

Eleanor finally composed herself and Patrick was holding her by her waist.

Eleanor said, “Thomas.”

A pain hit Brenda’s heart.

Eleanor said, “I. I. He has stole my heart. I love him more than the others. That’s not right.”

Brenda stood and looked at a weeping Eleanor.

Patrick took his hand off Eleanor and went and sat at his desk and continued to look over his papers.

Brenda did not know what to say.

She heard Patrick the papers.

That was her signal to sit down and continue their business.

Brenda saw the pain Eleanor was in that she was guilty of loving Thomas more than the other three. But she was a good mother to all the children. She showed no favoritism.

Brenda could give her aching daughter no answer of comfort.

Brenda hated her three sons.

Thomas and Michael had dark and thick and curly hair with blue eyes.

The women went after the babies of their thick hair.

Brenda smiled because she had a heritage in her children, because those two has a speck of her blackness.

Michael looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor smiled at Thomas.

Bruce was standing by the door and said, “Thomas they need the bed.”

Ryan rushed in front of Bruce.

Eleanor said, “They moved Thomas from that room over to this room where there was only one bed. Stay out of this Bruce.”

Thomas sat up in the bed and stared at Bruce.

Dr. Felipe looked at Thomas.

Meredith was standing so she could see Thomas.

Dr. Felipe looked at Meredith.

Thomas stayed in the room with Michael and would not leave him.

Two weeks later the boys were released from the hospital.

Bruce thought they would come to the hotel.

Lorraine and Nadine cleared all the rooms and sent everything to the train.

Bruce rushed to the hotel and tried to find rooms for the boys, the front desk clerks gave him the rooms that Lorraine and Nadine and Meredith released.

Bruce was ordering a big dinner.

The hotel workers told him the Stiths and all their workers were gone.

He did not believe his workers and he sat alone in the lounge with a glass of white wine as Everyone was on the train pulling out of Philadelphia.

Bruce swore he heard the train’s whistle as it was pulling out of Philadelphia.

Alice, Ryan and the baby stood, and looked at a seated Bruce, along with Dr. Felipe, Dr. Woodson, Dr. Charles, his wife, Debra. Dr. Greene, their son, Dr. Ralph and Hutch.

Dr. Felipe went to the tables and filled him a plate and sat down.

Ryan’s parents waked in and saw what was going on. His father Dennis followed Dr. Felipe and filled him a plate and sat and ate.

Ryan and Alice son ran to the table looking for cookies.

The hotel workers peeped in the lounge at a disturbed Bruce.

Several workers sneaked in the lounge while Dr. Woodson was sat and talked to Bruce and filled several plates and sneaked them to the workers.

Dr. Woodson asked Bruce, “Where is your fiancé?”

Bruce said, “I left her last year.”

Dr. Greene looked at Dr. Woodson and he continued to the food.

Meredith told Felipe she had to go back to work and she was Michael’s nurse.

Felipe said, “His nurse. Not maid or nanny?”

Meredith said, “Are you calling me dumb?”

Felipe looked at his pregnant girlfriend and he saw Hutch.

Felipe said, “No I am not calling you dumb. I thought you were on a lower class.”

Meredith said, “I don’t know what that mean. I went to nursing school. I am a certified nurse and Eleanor hired me out of nursing school to be Michael’s nurse, not maid nor nanny. As you can see they have private teachers. Eleanor hired private nurses for all five of her children. When they went to Europe three years ago, Thomas, Bruce and Percy’s nurses did not want to leave America. That’s why they don’t have any nurses.”

Felipe walked to Meredith with his hand to hold her hand.

Meredith said, “I make more money than you and you are not getting any of it.”

Felipe was trying to say something and turned and saw Meredith walked away from him.

Ryan and the nurses knew they Meredith and Felipe were arguing but they could not hear what they were saying. The staff kept their heads down including arrogant Ryan.

They looked in Michael and Thomas’ room and saw Percy and Bruce still a sleep.

Nadine woke Percy and Bruce and gave them brunch.

She took Percy and Bruce back to the hotel and had them to bathe and sleep.

Eleanor finally woke and took a hot bath and dressed and went to the hospital.

Alice went to the bone hospital and showed the nurses the dresses she bought from Shirley.

The nurses loved the dresses.

Dr. Woodson looked at the nurses.

The doctors were enjoying learning from each other.

Debra and Dr. Charles’ wife were becoming good friends.