Skip returned the boys back from riding.

Benda and Patrick were still out riding.

Eleanor and Shirley sat in the parlor and waited for skip.

Shirley looked very nervously at Eleanor.

They heard the boys returning to the house.

Skip had a long talk with the boys and told them they could no longer be free and ran around with killers and robbers, because sooner or later they would track them down to initiate them into that life of killing and robbing, like their uncles. Skip told them if they choose that life he would never have anything else to do with them. Because he was honorable and believe in GOD.

Michael said he would not be bad.

Thomas said, “I want be bad anymore. I remembered that man trying to kill me and drowning me. I felt so bad. I knew he was evil. Whatever happened to them?”

Skip said, “They were hanged.”

Percy jumped.

Bruce stared at Skip.

Skip said, “That is what happens to all bad people. Some bad people think they have gotten away with evil then eventually when GOD says die they die and they go to the bad place forever.”

Percy and Bruce stared at Skip.

They believe Skip.

The boys felt Skip was telling them the truth.

Skip told the boys, “GOD has trusted your family with money to help build this country. People don’t like it and have tried to stop your family from doing what GOD said. You cannot go with the bad people. You have to continue the work GOD made your family to do. Like at all the good that comes to the country when your family obey God. Transportation improves, you hire people and they can feed their families and others’ businesses grow. GOD has allowed your family to enjoy the money. You have been to Europe. You go to a privilege military academy, around boys that you can make friends or enemies in your lives. You are required to be leaders and thinkers of the future. Not bosses over people Bruce. You are required not to offend anyone but be ready to defend yourself. Your family has received favor from the president of this country. Nobody gets that. The president sent us, the military, down here to help your family. Your mother is right. If you don’t want to be a part of that type of family you need to leave, because GOD will count you as an enemy and you will die. You don’t want to stand in judgement by GOD.

Michael said, “Skip, I hate Shirley.”

Skip said, “Michael you told me what Shirley did to you. Your grandparents told me what Shirley did to you in front of Shirley today.”

Thomas said, “What did Shirley say?”

Skip looked at Thomas and said, “She did not say anything.”

Thomas said, “Shirley still don’t think she was wrong and should try to make up to Michael.”

Skip was so shocked at Thomas analyzing Shirley.

Michael said, “I don’t want her to make up with me.”

Skip said, “Thomas I am impressed with how smart you are. I know all of you boys are smart. But Thomas you sat and listened and knew what was in Shirley’s heart that kept her from genuinely asking forgiveness of Michael.”

Michael said, “I still hate her.”

Skip looked at Michael and said. “I’m sorry Michael. Your grandparents told me the doctors would have locked you away in a mental facility because you were just a little boy that Shirley did that to. God kept you from losing your mind. I am glad because I would have never meant you. All of you are a joy. But Percy I mean you stop going with killers and robbers. Bruce you can’t swindle people.”

Bruce said, “None of us like Shirley any more for what she did to Michael.”

Michael said, “I hate her.”

Skip said, “Michael, I do understand when someone you love treat you so bad that you hate them and want them to die. I went through the same thing for years. It was my mother, and when I became older I ran away from home and I have never gone back.”

Bruce said, “Will you ever go back?”

Skip said, “I don’t think so.”

Michael said, “But you are talking to me about Shirley.”

Skip said, “Michael I am talking to you about you.”

Skip looked at each boy and said, “I am talking to you about you. Shirley has to get right with GOD then she can get right with you.”

Percy said, “Skip we like you because you are brave.”

Bruce said, “And wise.”

Skip said, “I work on being brave everyday, because people depend on me and GOD has put me in a position to help people. I ask GOD to let me walk with HIM daily and HE gives what to say or do everyday for HIS glory.”

Thomas said, “Let’s pray.”

Skip looked at Thomas and thought, “I bet this little boy is Eleanor’s favorite.”

Skip said, “Yes Thomas I believe that is a great idea. Who wants to pray?”

Thomas got on his knees and said, “I will. Let’s hold hands.”

Thomas said, “LORD GOD Almighty I listen to my grandpa and grandma when they pray to You. When they think we are in our beds sleep we are outside their doors listening to them. I see You help them. I ask You to help us. Let Michael not hate Shirley.”

Michael said, “Huh.”

Skip looked at Michael.

Thomas said, “Help us to get to school and make friends and not enemies because I don’t want enemies now that can attack my family when we get gown. I ask You to correct all the bad things we did and let the boys stay at school and we become good friends. Let momma not hate us. We are not like her brothers. Let us grow up and give us ideas and show us how to grow our businesses and help others along the way. And I end this prayer like my grandpa and grandma ends their prayer, n JESUS’ name.”

Skip reached over and hugged Thomas.

Skip said, “A wonderful prayer.”

Skip tried to hug <Michael.

Michael turned his head.

Skip got off the ground on his knees and picked up Michael and slung him over his shoulder and said, “Let’s go home.”

The boys jumped up and was running to their horses.

Skip put Michael on his horse.

Skip mounted his horse and turned and looked at the four boys and said, “You pray together and when you are apart.”

Skip turned and before he could say let’s go Michael and Thomas sneaked a head start.

Skip saw them and thought, “That’s why they are always in trouble. They want a head start.”

Skip rode fast to catch them.

Percy and Bruce were speeding behind Skip.

Gen stopped by the house and Jose said, “Brenda and Patrick were not in.

Eleanor heard Gen and yelled out the parlor and said, “Gen. In the parlor.”

Gen walked to the parlor and looked at the liquor table.

Jose saw her and said, “Anything to drink?”

Gen licked her lip and said, “No.”

Eleanor looked at her and then Jose.

Gen said, “I was stopping by to invite me and Ben to Thanksgiving dinner.”

She looked at Shirley and said, “Hey pretty girl.”

Shirley grinned.

Eleanor looked at Shirley.

Shirley stop grinning.

Gen said, “Problem?”

Gen cleared her throat.

Eleanor said, “I don’t know where momma and daddy are they went riding.”

Gen sat next to Shirley and said, “Stanley said, there is a problem on the road.”

Eleanor said, “That’s why momma and daddy came to see about me. Three men were riding on the carriage.”

Gen pulled out her gun and said, “ever since they tried to kill Michael and Thomas I carry this.”

Shirley looked and when I am in the carriage by myself I put it in my lap.”

Eleanor said, “I do also. I carry a shotgun on the floor of the carriage.”

Gen was thinking and said, “I’m going to start carrying one of the rifles.”

Gen was thinking and said, “Tell your momma and daddy I uninvite me and Ben to Thanksgiving dinner. I thought a turkey was too much for the two of us…”

She looked at Shirley and said, “I went by your dress shop Shirley, there’s nothing there. Very good. But what are you going to do for three months of the holidays. I saw the skirts that lady brought into your shop. I love them. I picked out the red one…”

Gen looked at Eleanor and smirked and said, “That Alice, Stanley’s wife grabbed the green skirt and ran to Stanley and turned her back to me. Saying Stanley is going to keep me from getting her skirt. I was running behind her in the shop for the skirt.”

Eleanor was hollering.

Gen was laughing.

Shirley was still scared of Eleanor but was laughing.

Gen said, “She broke and ran to Stanley and like a child put the skirt on Stanley to protect it.”

Eleanor nearly fell off the sofa laughing.

Shirley was laughing.

Eleanor could hardly talk and said, “Stanley. What was he doing?”

Gen made a buckeye facial expression.

Eleanor was laughing so hard.

Jose walked Skip through the billiards room to the parlor.

Gen said, “You know Stanley he’s not going to say much. He said in his husky voice you’ll acting like kids.”

Skip was standing in the parlor door with Jose.

They were enjoying the scene of good heart felt laughter.

Patrick and Brenda were entering the yard and saw the boys ride to the back.

They saw Gen’s buggy and stopped at the front of the house and not wanting to miss Gen they went to the front door and knocked.

Eleanor leaned over and could not see.

Jose walked to the front and saw Brenda and Patrick.

He opened the door.

They walked in the house and saw Skip at the parlor door.

They heard, Eleanor and Gen laughing.

They hurried and walked to the parlor door.

They spoke to everyone.

The boys were running through the house and saw Brenda and Patrick.

They yelled, “Grandma and Grandpa!”

Patrick felt their love.

Thomas ran and grabbed Patrick.

Michael ran and grabbed Brenda.

Percy and Bruce grabbed Patrick.

Skip moved back to see the scene.

Gen said, “I’m getting ready to go. I first came bay to invite me and Ben to your Thanksgiving dinner because I did not want to cook a turkey. But I was just telling them I went by Shirley’s dress shop and it is bare.”

Brenda and Patrick were hugging their grand boys and listening.

Gen said, “That Alice that is married to Stanley grabbed a skirt that lady brought into the shop today and was running through the shop with it in her hand.”
Brenda said, “Gen you were running behind!.”

Gen said, “You know I was.”

Brenda hollered.

Gen said, “She thought I was serious.”

Brenda said, “Was Stanley there?”

Gen puffed out her chest.

Patrick laughed.

Gen said, “He was shocked and he finally said, ‘Yall acting like kids’. She turns her back to me with the skirt.”

Patrick said, “For Stanley to protect her skirt rom you.”

Gen stood and put her hands on her hips and said, “Yes.”

They all laughed.

Gen said, “I am uninviting me and Ben, because I am going to sell my house…”

Skip was watching Shirley.

Shirley’s mouth dropped opened.

Patrick was looking at Skip watching Shirley’s expression.

Gen said, “…I am keeping the cottage. I want to spend the holidays in that house. So I am going home and tell Ben we will be entertaining in my house. I want you all over during the holiays. I know you will have a house full but I want you all over sometime during the holiday. That includes you Mr. Mysterious Skip.”

Skip shifted his eyes from Shirley to Gen and smiled.

He said, “Mrs. Gen I am leaving tomorrow and may not be back until after the holidays.”

Gen looked at him.

Thomas looked up at Patrick and said, “Grandpa can we go and see him off?”

Bruce and Percy said, “Yeah.”

Patrick said, “We have to see.”

Jose was standing back.

Brenda said, “Jose can take them.”

Jose face turned sour.

The boys looked at Jose.

Jose walked away and stop at the liquor table and picked up a bottle of liquor, he did not know what it was.

Patrick said, “Put it back.”

Gen grinned and said, “He’s getting an early start.”

They giggle.

Gen said, “That lady that brought the skirts id a good job. Eleanor, she said you told her to do a better skirt for Shirley’s shop. I’m glad you told her that because the skirts are nice. Selma asked me what I would pay for a skirt, I told her five dollars and with a little more embellishment six dollars. They are waiting for you Eleanor to tell them what to sell the skirts for.”

Shirley grinned.

Shirley said, “How many skirts did she have?”

Gen said, “Only six, two of them are gone. No wait that greedy mayor’s wife bought the other four.”

Brenda laughed.

Eleanor said, “Six?”

Gen said, “She said she was in school.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and said, “Momma she is in school with Gary.”

Brenda said, “Who?”

Patrick said, “Joe and Peggy’s niece that stay with them.”

Brenda said, “That’s right. We did not invite them or anybody for Thanksgiving.”

Gen said, “I invited Selma and her husband, Stanley and that Alice and that young lady and her family. What?”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “What are we going to do?”

Eleanor said, “You invited Steven, Alicia and Emilou.”

Brenda and Gen were thinking.

Shirley disrupted their thinking and said, “Miss Gen what is John Jr. and his wife are going?”

Gen said, “I thought you were going to add your opinion to this thanksgiving dinner. I don’t care where they are going. As long as they are gone by the spring.”

Patrick looked at Shirley.

Eleanor looked at Shirley.

Gen turned back to Brenda and said, “My dining room sit twenty people. Your dining room sit fifty, but it will be about twenty at my house if all of you and your guess come.”

Gen looked at Skip who was looking at Shirley.

Gen said, “Mr. Mysterious Skip are any of your friends will be here?”

Skip said, “No ma am.”

Shirley said, “Sarah will with her uncle and aunt.”

Skip said, “You have to know there will be a lot of times we are gone for a long period of time. It is good to have something to do. Sarah sews skirts and go to school. You go to school and have businesses Alicia goes to school and see about Emilou.”

Patrick looked at Skip and said, “You remembered that. Huh.”

Skip looked at Patrick.

Brenda and Gen and Eleanor were still looking at each other trying to figure out Thanksgiving.

Patrick and Skip looked at them.

Patrick said, “We will go by whatever you two decide.”

Shirley said, “Miss Gen what are you going to do with your dining room furniture?”

Eleanor looked at Shirley.

Michael said, “Rude Shirley.”

Brenda squeezed Michael.

Skip looked at Shirley.

Gen said, “I will sell it. I love it.”

Gen turned back to Brenda and winked.

Shirley said, “I love it to. I’ll buy it and leave there until you sell the house.”

Skip looked at Shirley.

Michael was still hugging Brenda and Brenda was hugging him.

Michael leaned off Brenda and looked at Shirley and said, “If we go to Miss Gen for Thanksgiving dinner you are going to try to boss us over the dining room furniture. With your evil self.”

Shirley was still thinking and looked at Michael and turned her head thinking.

Skip watched Shirley.

Thomas said, “Yeah. You stay home. Because I like to mess with Miss Gen’s knobs.”

Skip was watching Shirley whose mind was far away on the house and dining room furniture.

Brenda said, “You have enough seats. We will have Thanksgiving with you. What d you want us to bring?”

Gen laughed and said, “Everything.”

Jose rolled his eyes.

Gen said, “Nothing.”

Jose exhaled.

Brenda said, “You seat half of mines. You seat twenty five.”

Gen said, “I know but I always want more space.”

Shirley said, “I knew it was more than twenty.”

Michael said, “You don’t have twenty friends.”

Skip looked at Michael as Brenda threw him in the hall.

Thomas said, “Grandpa your friends won’t know where to go.”

Bruce said, “That’s right grandpa.”

Patrick looked puzzled and said, “Who?”

Percy said, “The two brothers.”

Patrick stomped and twisted his mouth and said, “I forgot about them.”

Gen said, “That’s twenty two. We only have three more seats.”

Brenda said, “Gail and Bryson will be with Lillian and Nathaniel for the holidays.”

Gen said, “That is so wonderful.”

She cried.

Brenda cried.

Michael waked back to Brenda and hugged her and patted her.

Skip said, “Me and the boys had a wonderful ride. Thomas prayed. It was a wonderful prayer. He said, he learned how to pray to GOD from his grandpa and his grandma. When your bedroom door was closed they sneaked down and listen. You taught them how to pray. That is a blessing.”

Eleanor was looking at Thomas.

Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Patrick looked at Thomas.

Skip said, “Shirley can we talk?”

Shirley slightly looked at Skip she was thinking.

Michael said, “Look at her she is thinking about Miss Gen’s house and furniture.”

Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at Shirley and said, “Come and sit with me Michael.”

Michael looked at Eleanor and said, “Why don’t you tell me to shut up instead of come and sit by me?”

Gen nearly died.

Patrick thought, “He really hates Shirley.”

Skip reached out his hand to Shirley and said, “The house and furniture will be there.”

Patrick looked at Shirley.

She stood and walked to Skip.

He said, “It’s beginning to get cool. You need a wrap.”

Michael ran to the sitting room and picked up Brenda’s throw and ran back and handed it to Skip and said, “Go.”

Shirley was trying to say, “Thank You Michael.”

Skip took the throw from Michael and put it around Shirley’s neck and shoulder.

They waked out the house and sat by the front porch on the bench Eleanor placed outside.

Gen ran to the front of the house.

Eleanor ran behind Gen.

Patrick turned and looked.

Brenda stood and peeped.

Michael ran upstairs to his room.

Patrick walked to the dining room window and eased it opened.

Gen and Eleanor ran over and they all got on their knees to listen.

Skip said, “Shirley I like you. You have beautiful qualities that make you a beautiful person. I don’t see a disability when I look at you. I don’t see a half of a person. I see a wonderful young woman that GOD created and sent into a good and kind family. The devil tried to spoil that but GOD always win. You see yourself through the eyes of others. You need to see yourself through the eyes of GOD. You may not be perfect physically but you are no where like you were, even when I met you. Think Shirley if you were what you believe is normal you would not look at me. You would be an astonishing beauty that would have princes and kings running to woo you.”

Gen started laughing.

Eleanor hit Gen to be quiet.

Patrick looked at the two.

Skip said, “You are spoiled rotten and I love it. It helps to show what you want you get. I know you want that house and that dining room furniture. I know whatever it is I don’t have the money to buy it for you or if you change us.”

Shirley looked at Skip.

Kip said, “Make things right with Michael and the rest of your family. Family is important. You are in a good family that has good friends.”

Shirley said, “I don’t know how to make things right.”

Skip said, “Shirley! Shirley! you are spoiled. You know how to get what you want.”

Gen covered her mouth.

Eleanor got on her knees to see Shirley’s facial expression.

Skip said, “You have to GOD and ask HIM to fix your heart and why you are nasty to people and let you fix the broken pieces of people in your life. That is one of your calling to help fix broken people.”

Eleanor covered her mouth and cried as she fell and leaned on Gen.

Patrick looked at Eleanor and shook her leg.

Skip said, “Shirley what is there not to love about you. I want to love you but have stuff in your heart that GOD can get out.”

Shirley sat still and listened.

She said, “I can’t put this off on my brothers or my momma?”

Skip said, “You better not.”

Eleanor sat up so she could see.

Skip said, “And you better not try to put your bad attitude on your wonderful grandparents.”

Skip and Shirley broke out laughing.

Patrick was sitting and nodding his head.

Shirley said, “My grandparents are wonderful.”

She leaned her head on Skips shoulder.

They sat and talked about the weather and how the trees were slowing changing their colors like they were letting people enjoy the last bit of color before the bad winter.

Shirley said, “Skip I want to give you stuff to take.”

Skip said, “I can’t.”

Gen shook her head.

Patrick was sitting and looking at Gen.

They all looked up and Brenda was standing and looking at all three of them.

Jose was standing over in the family dining room listening.

He did not move.

Brenda shook her head in disgust and walked out.

Gen hit at Brenda and the three continued to listen.

Shirley said, “Stephanie will be with her parents until Roger comes back?”

Skip said, “I didn’t ask. We just got back yesterday and we got this assignment last night.”

Shirley said, “What assignment is it?”

Gen shook her head for no.

Skip said, “I can’t tell you Miss Shirley.”

Patrick was sitting with his back to the other window and he could see and hear perfectly.

Gen and Eleanor were sitting on the floor and sometimes got on their knees.

Brenda walked back with Gen’s bag.

Gen said to Patrick and Eleanor, “She wants me to leave. She can’t tell you that.”

Gen crawled to Brenda to aggravate her even more.

Brenda turned her head.

Eleanor rolled over on the floor.

Gen stood up and took her bag and said, “Patrick that’s the way to really aggravate her.”

Gen kissed Brenda on the cheek and walked to the door.

She looked at Jose and said, “Jose she saw you the first time. Come and get this door.”

 Brenda looked at Jose.

Patrick and Eleanor crawled out the formal dining room.

Thomas and Michael crawled out the formal dining room behind Patrick and Eleanor.

Patrick and Eleanor were shocked and looked at the boys.

Brenda cut her eyes at Patrick and Eleanor.

She walked out the door with Gen.

She said, “Are you coming to church tomorrow?”

Gen thought and said, “That would be a good way to start the holidays. Especially if it is bad later and we can’t go.”

Shirley looked back and said, Put a blanket in your carriage Miss Gen.”

Gen said to Brenda, “She wants my house and dining room.”

Eleanor was standing ion the door and said, “Yes.”

Gen said, “Thank You Shirley.”

Brenda said, “That’s not a bad idea. I need to put extra blankets in all the carriages this week. It’s bad this week.”

Gen said, “I know they will have Thanksgiving Day service and right after you all follow me home.”

Shirley said, “Two dresses.”

Skip looked at Shirley.

Gen said, “Brenda me and Ben are thinking about joining the choir. They need help.”

Brenda was stunned and said, “Gen you are the closest person to me. I did not know you can sing.”

Gen said, “I can’t. Neither Ben we wanted something to do.”

Patrick laughed and walked out the door and grabbed Brenda by the waist and they laughed with Gen as they walked her to her carriage.

Gen said, “Good evening. Mr. Mysterious Skip be careful.”

Patrick helped Gen in her carriage and she rode home. Happy that she will have a house full for Thanksgiving. She was thinking about the menu and especially her wine.

Patrick and Brenda walked around their house and enjoyed the scenery.

They walked all around the house and went on the other side to get to her flower garden.

They saw where Mabel had planted a lot of flowers.

Brenda said, “I’ll come out Monday and get the lasat of the flowers until the spring. I wish Mabel was here.”

Patrick was hugging Brenda and kissed her and said, “She is not your personal floral arranger.”

Brenda leaned her head back and looked at Patrick and said, “Yes she is. Another kiss.”

Patrick kissed Brena again.

Leanor had closed the door and was walking back from the kitchen and saw her mother and father kissing.

She was about to walk through the hall and saw her boys standing and looking at her parents kiss.

She was perplexed,

Jose was walking behind Eleanor he was happy they did not have to do Thanksgiving dinner.

He saw Brenda and Patrick kissing and did not think about it until he was about to walk in the family dining room.

He looked at the boys. Then he looked at Eleanor.

Jose walked out the dining room and went back into the kitchen.

Eleanor walked to her office.

She stayed until dinner.

Skip walked Shirley back in the house.

Patrick and Brenda were hugging and walking out the garden when they saw Skip and Shirley walking in the front door.

They saw the boys watching them from the family dining room.

Patrick said, “They watch us all the time. Especially when we kiss.”

Brenda said, ”Thomas and Michael said they like to see us have fun.”

Patrick said, “As long as they don’t do. Especially Percy.”

Brenda said, “No Bruce.”

Patrick said, “Really?”

Brenda said, “Bruce is quiet with his. You should have seen how he was looking at Alicia at our ball.”

Patrick said, “I was looking at you.”

Benda said, “My eyes were on you but for a few times.”

They walked to the door.

Skip and Shirley were standing at the door.

Skip opened the door.

Patrick had his hand on the door and Brenda and walked in first.

Her eyes fell on her four grandsons watching them entering the house.

Patrick looked over at the boys.

Skip noticed the four boys.

Patrick said, “Come with us and give Shirley and Skip privacy.”

Michael and Thomas walked to Patrick and looked up at him and said, “Did you and grandma have fun?”

Percy and Bruce were walking behind them.

Patrick said, “Yes, Michael and Thomas we had fun.”

Thomas said, “I like when you and grandma have fun. I want a wife that I can have fun.”

Patrick said, “What of fun Thomas?”

Thomas said, “Running, riding horses and swimming.”

Percy said, “Someone who plays the piano and like the opera and plays billiards.”

Patrick said, “What about you Bruce and Michael?”

Bruce said, “What?”

Michael aid, “What type of wife do you want?”

Thomas said, “And how you would have fun with your wife?”

Skip and Shirley were listening to the boys.

They giggled.

Michael said, “I want a wife who loves my family first and I can go riding with and someone who likes to laugh like Miss Gen.”

Thomas said, “Ok Bruce.”

Bruce said, “I want a pretty wife with long hair. One that don’t drink liquor and goes to church and sing in the church choir.”

Thomas said, “Her fun?”

Bruce said, “Praying for me.”

Skip peeped down the hall.

Patrick and Brenda looked at Bruce.

Patrick went and checked his telegram and had several for Eleanor.

Patrick stopped by the sitting room and waved one of the telegrams.

He was excited and looked at the boys and said, “Your momma have found us some more coal.”

Brenda grinned.

The boys were jumping around.

Patrick said, “Now getting it is a different story.”

Percy said, “I’ll go and get it.”

Patrick was looking at Brenda and said, “Percy you go back to school. Brenda the coal would come from Canada.”

Brenda said, “That far?”

Patrick said, “Percy go nd tell your momma to come here.”

Percy jumped off the floor and said, “Where is she.”

Patrick turned and looked at Percy and said, “If I knew I could have gone to get her.”

Brenda said, “Try her office first.”

Percy said, “Then?”

Brenda said, “Her bedroom.”

Percy ran out the sitting room and ran to Eleanor’s office.

He knocked on the door.

Eleanor was looking over a possible train track to state capitol and said, “Come in.”

She knew from the knock it was one of her children.

She looked at the door and saw the five quilts in the chair that Harriet was to bring for her to see.

She looked up and Percy jumped in her office and said, “Grandpa and grandma need you now.”

Percy said it sternly.

Eleanor looked at Percy and got up and thought, “This boy better not be speaking to me like this.”

Eleanor tested him and said, “Percy get those quilts and bring them.”

Percy looked and saw the quilts and said, “These momma?”

Eleanor was walking down the hall.

She said, “Yes.”

Percy was trying to carry the quilts that were up to his eyes.

He tried to run but could not see but walked fast.

Eleanor walked and watched Percy.

Percy reached the sitting room with the quilts and tossed them on the sofa next to Brenda.

Brenda looked at the quilts.

Skip and Shirley were standing in the doorway.

Eleanor walked up and stood.

Skip said, “I’m glad you are here. I was glad I spent the day with you. All of you take care of each other. L will be back when are assignment is complete.”

Patrick reached Skip a telegram.

Skip read the telegram.

He gave it to telegram.

Skip looked around and said, “May I have a pen?”

Brenda stood and walked to her office and walked back with a pen.

Eleanor reached the telegram back to Skip.

He signed his name and dated it.

He gave Brenda her pen and held the telegram up.

He said, “Your school said they will give you a last try based on my word. You better behave and not let me down Percy and Bruce. They will let the other boys back also.”

The boys were jumping and happy.

Eleanor said, “Thank you Skip.”

She looked at her happy boys and said, “Stop.”

The boys stopped and looked at Eleanor.

She said, “What are you going to say to Skip?”

The boys ran to Skip and hugged him and said, “Thank you.”

He reached the telegram to Eleanor.

Skip shook Patrick’s hand and Brenda and Eleanor.

He turned with Shirley and were walking to the door.

Eleanor was fussing, “You so and so got me taking you back to school because you were acting like heathens.”

Skip laughed.

He kissed Shirley.

Patrick and Brenda were peeping and saw when he kissed Shirley on the lips.

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Brenda looked at Patrick and said, “Daybreak.”

Patrick shook his head for no.

The boys were looking at Patrick.

They looked disappointed and Eleanor was fussing but said, “What is that face about?”

Michael said, “We want to see Skip off tomorrow won’t take us.”

Eleanor said, “What time?”
Shirley had walked back to the sitting room and heard Eleanor and said, “Day break.”

Eleanor turned to walked back to her office.

Brenda said, “Eleanor come back!”

Eleanor walked back with the telegram in her hand.

Percy said, “Momma that telegram is important please put it up.”

Patrick was looking at Percy and he felt the heat from Eleanor to rise.

Patrick said, “Eleanor let that one go. At least they are back in.”

Brenda said, “What are these quilts for?”
Percy walked to Eleanor and reached for the telegram.

Eleanor thought, “He is in range I can Knock him out and he fall on the sofa.”

Patrick took the telegram and gave it to Percy and everyone watched him put it in Brenda’s bible.

Percy said, “Safest place.”

Patrick looked at Percy and then Brenda.

Eleanor said, Harriet was making them and Nathan and Denise want to get marry during the holidays so I thought the quilts would be a good wedding present.”

Shirley started looking at the quilts and picked up one and folded it across her arms.

Eleanor looked at Shirley and said, “Put it down.”

Shirley said, “I want it for Skip.”

Eleanor said, “Are you crazy?”

Michael was sitting on the sofa and said, “Yeap.”

Brenda aid, “Say something else Michael.”

She looked at Shirley and said, “Shirley you may want to give Skip things. First, he is in the military he can only have the these they issue to him. He may be able to get a quilt when he gets back but not right now. You cannot give it to him tomorrow. Second, Eleanor just said, Harriet made them and she got them for a wedding present for Denise and Nathan. You can ask Harriet to make you one for Skip and can give it to him when he gets back.”

Shirley was rubbing the quilt and said, “But I like this one. Have Harriet make another one for Nathan and Denise.”

Eleanor started looking around.

Patrick said, “Shirley put it down and go upstairs and take a nap.”

Jose came through and said, “Dinner is ready.”

Patrick thought, “Damn. I wanted her to sleep until tomorrow.”

Brenda said, “Jose who’s yellow quilt?”

Eleanor looked at and said, “It’s pretty.”

Jose said, “Harriet quilted that for Sally. We have to send it to her.”

Brenda said, “That’s wonderful. Come on boys.”

Patrick said, “Eleanor how are we going to get the coal. Look at this telegram.”

Jose stood to listen.

Eleanor read the telegram and was thinking.

Jose wanted to know because, Nathan, Dan, Allen and Harriet and Lorraine needed coal.

Patrick said, “They can get it to New York and we can take delivery of it from there. They do not believe their cargo cars can make it here.”

Brenda said, “Buy their cargo cars and we take the responsibility for the coal spills and have teams ready in each state to make it to the tracks and put the spilled coal on our cargo cars.”

Jose shook his head in agreement. they

Patrick said, “Or have our cargo trains ready to pick it up.”

Eleanor looked at Brenda and said, “I like momma’s decision. The coal can be moving to get here and the closer it gets to us if there are any problems we can get there sooner.”

Patrick said, “I sure wish Stanley and Nathan were still working here I could send them.”

Percy and Bruce were standing and listening.

Percy said, “Grandpa I can go. It will be my company later.”

Patrick said, “Go and eat Percy and Bruce.”

Jose was standing and thinking.

Patrick said, “You too Jose.”

Jose said, “I’ve already eaten dinner. He said, what does the person have to do?”

Brenda said, “Why?”

Jose and Brenda started walking to the dining room.

Jose said, “Lorraine, Nathan, Dan, Allen, Harriet and others I know in the town did not order the col for the winter. If I can help get it here I can feel better.”

Brenda said, “The person has to check the cargo cars and make sure no coal is being spilled and the cargo cars can make it, if not stay with the cargo cars until our supply cars get there and have enough men to get the coal unloaded onto our supply cars.”

Patrick and Eleanor were walking behind Brenda and Jose and were listening.

Jose said, “I’ll go.”

Patrick said, “No you won’t.”

Jose turned and looked at Patrick.

Brenda saw how angry Jose became.

Brenda saw Shirley still had the quilt.

Eleanor saw her mother’s face and knew what she was looking.

Eleanor said, “Jose get all of those quilts and the one that Shirley has and locked them in my office.”

Eleanor gave Jose the key to her office.

Patrick said, “Jose you have to help Brenda get everything ready for the holidays. Eleanor is over the businesses. She used to help Brenda and can’t anymore.”

Jose face lighten up.

Patrick said, “Thank you for offering to help. We have to think for a minute.”

Jose saw Shirley with the quilt getting ready to go up the stairs.

Jose yelled and Brenda and Eleanor jumped.

Jose said, “Shirley put that damn quilt down.”

Patrick, Brenda and Eleanor walked into the family dining room.

Michael and Thomas ran to the door and looked down the hall at Shirley.

Nadine and Harriet were shocked.

Brenda said, “Patrick Jose is mad because he thought you were just telling him no until you explained that you need him to help me because Eleanor is busy running the businesses. He is just getting his frustration out by yelling at Shirley.”

Eleanor was standing looking at her mother.

Eleanor said, “I told her to put down the quilts.”

Brenda looked at Harriet and said, “Harriet.”

Percy and Bruce looked at Harriet.

Harriet walked to the table and was looking over the dining table to see what was missing or out of order.

Eleanor was standing and looking at Harriet.

Brenda said, “The quilts you made are beautiful and thick and heavy. Eleanor decided those we will give to Denise and Nathan as a wedding gift. Do you have anymore?”

Harriet smiled.

Patrick was seated and looked at Harriet smile. He felt good that Brenda knew how to make people feel good.

Brenda said, “How are you selling the quilts for?”

Harriet said, “Ma am you can have them.”

Jose walked to the sitting room and got the quilts and took the one from Shirley.

He rolled his eyes at Shirley and said, “Go and eat and go to bed.”

Shirley looked at Jose and primped her mouth to cry.

Thomas and Michael were looking.

Thomas stepped back out the door to let Shirley come in.

He looked up at Shirley when she walked into the dining room.

Michael stepped to the side and let her pass.

He said, “Heifer.”

Eleanor stared at Shirley as she walked in and sat at the table.

Percy and Bruce looked at Shirley because they could not understand why she was still trying to take the quilt that belonged to someone else.

Patrick sat and looked at Shirley.

Brenda looked at Shirley and kept talking to Harriet.

Harriet moved from Shirley’s place and walked to Brenda.

Brenda said, “Harriet we don’t take things. Everything costs.”

Eleanor said, “She said a dollar.”

Patrick and Brenda were shocked.

Brenda’s mouth dropped open and said, “No Harriet. The quilts are worth much more than a dollar. I am going to pay you five dollars for each quilt. What about the yellow quilt, who paid for that?”

Harriet said, “It is a gift to Sally from me.”

Brenda said, “We saw her and Vivienne before we left Philadelphia.”

Eleanor said, “Harriet, box up the yellow quilt and I will put it on the train Monday and Sally would have it by Thanksgiving.”

Harriet was so happy she grabbed her hands and her eyes filled with tears.

Brenda said, “How long does it take you to make a quilt?”

Harriet said, “I don’t know now since I am back at work. Before it was a week if I worked on that quilt by itself.”

Brenda said, “I want you to make me two. But let them be a little bigger than those you brought.”

Patrick said, “Two quilts.”

Brenda said, “One for Mag and one for Gen and Ben.”

Patrick thought and said, “That’s a great idea Brenda.”

Brenda said, “You have someone you want to give the quilts to?”

Patrick said, “Well the Mc Clendons and Bryce and Stephen. But that is too much on Harriet. I’ll stick to my original plan of giving them a bottle of whiskey.”

Jose walked back in the family dining room.

He ran all the way through the house to Eleanor’s office and locked the office back and ran all the way to the family dining room, because he did not want to miss anything.

Nadine looked at how fast Jose took the quilts to Eleanor’s office and returned.

Percy said, “That’s a good gift.”

Eleanor stared at Percy.

Patrick looked at Percy.

Brenda slowly turned her head to Percy.

Bruce just sat and watched everybody.

Shirley was sniffling.

Thomas was holding onto Eleanor and Michael was leaning on her.

Eleanor looked back at Shirley.

Jose was standing looking at Shirley.

He was fed up with Shirley acting like she was not understanding when someone said no to her.

Patrick looked at Jose.

Shirley sniffed and said, “Harriet can you make a quilt for me.”

Harriet said, “Sure. You want pink or lavender. What color?”

Percy and Bruce started laughing.

Harriet looked at them.

Shirley said, “It’s for a man.”

Harriet looked at the laughing Bruce and Percy and said, “A special person. What color?”

Shirley sat form a minute.

Eleanor turned her head and was sitting down.

Michael said, “Blue. It’s for a soldier.”

Harriet said, “Tell me a color Shirley.”

Harriet was perplexed at Shirley’s behavior.

Shirley said, “Blue.”

She looked at Michael and said, “Thank you Michael.”

Michael said, “I did it for Skip.”

Patrick said, “Sit your little self down.”

Michael looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, “Sit.”

Thomas sat and looked at a sniffing Shirley.

Nadine brought Michael his plate of turnips, rutabagas, beets, cornbread and lamb chop.

Michael said, “I don’t ever want beets again. But the lamb chop makes everything taste better.”

Bruce looked at Michael and laughed.

Eleanor always request beets.

Nadine made Shirley’s plate of turnip greens, beets, rutabagas and cornbread.

Shirley looked at her plate.

Nadine said, “Lorraine said, Mr. Woodson told her to increase your cornbread.”

Lorraine held her head and sniffed.

Michael cut his eyes at Shirley.

Eleanor pinched Michael’s chin.

Michael looked at Eleanor.

She shook her head for no because she knew Michael wanted to say something about Lorraine.

Nadine and Harriet finished making the plates and serving them.

Everyone had fried chicken.

Patrick said grace.

Eleanor told the cooks to use the stored food for meals until Thanksgiving.

Harriet was putting Brenda’s plate in front of her and said, “Any colors you want the quilts to be?”

Brenda laughed, “Not pink or lavender for Gen or Ben maybe for Mag.”

Harriet said, “Yes ma am.”

The family was eating and enjoying their dinner.

Brenda said, “Eleanor had you decided on the hospital’s design?”

Thomas was still watching Shirley who was quiet.

Eleanor said, “Right. I am going to show the designs to the boys after dinner for them to decide. Everyone has decided on the same design. I want the boys’ decision.”

Jose was looking out the window.

Patrick watched Jose.

Jose was watching the two dish washers ride and light the lanterns.

Eleanor changed from torches to lanterns.

The lanterns made the house look more modern.

Patrick and Brenda loved the way the lanterns looked surrounding the house.

After dinner the family went to the sitting room and stayed for several hours.

Eleanor went to her office and got the three designs for the hospital.

She came back and showed them to the boys and asked them to select the one they like.

The boys looked at the three designs and they selected two.

Eleanor said, “I need you to select one of those two. If not, I will. We have to move on this. I think we can move fast and at least have the ground breaking before Christmas. And start building at first of spring.”

Brenda and Patrick grinned.

The boys jumped up and clapped their hands.

Shirley grinned.

Eleanor completed all the legal papers while she was in Philadelphia.

She said, “I have another surprised, we are changing the name of the bone hospital to the Shirley Simons Orthopaedics Hospital.”

Patrick was laughing.

Brenda was clapping and grinning.

The boys were happy.

Michael said, “It was my idea.”

Eleanor said, “Yes Michael. It was your idea.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and was in shock.

Eleanor said, “Shirley God put you here on this earth to be a light for others that are hurt and sick.”

Michael said, “Momma how is the hospital funded?”

Eleanor said, “Shirley moved enough of her money to fund the hospital for the next twenty years. Now after those twenty years I think the family should move money from our general fund to the hospital to keep it going. Since no one has to pay unless they have money. There is a separate fund for when people pay. That is used to pay the doctors and staff Christmas bonuses.”

Thomas said, “Can we move the money now?”

Eleanor said, “No Thomas it is too much money and we have to monitor the money and make sure that no one steal it.”

Michael said, “Like the mob Thomas.”

Thomas said, “How are funding the hospital here?”

Eleanor said, “I took equal amounts from your trust funds and that would build the hospital, furnish the hospital, buy medical supplies and hire the first group of doctors and nurses.”

Nadine and Jose were standing outside the sitting room listening.

They were smiling.

Bruce said, “How will that hospital be funded?”

Eleanor thought and said, “It can be funded with your trust funds. It will be a paying hospital that will keep it going. Extra money would come from people who can pay.”

Michael said, “Let’s have grandpa and grandma grand ball.”

Eleanor stood and she screamed.

Everyone jumped.

Jose and Nadine jumped.

Eleanor said, “Michael, I have been trying to figure out where the money would come to fund the hospital. Thank God. Thank God.”

Jose and Nadine hugged each other. They could not stand each other but this was a major decision.

Shirley said, “We can have the grand ball here every year and I can plan it. The tickets will be very high so the extremely rich can come and fund the hospital every year.”

Eleanor said, “That is a big job Shirley. We all can chip in and as the boys get married their wives can help you, but to keep down who runs thing I will appoint you over the charity ball.”

Eleanor looked at her sons and said, “Do you all understand what I just said?”

Percy said, “Yes ma am.”

Bruce said, “Yes ma am.”

Thomas said, “Yes ma am.”

Michael said, “Yes ma am.”

Eleanor said, “I will have peace and I don’t want that mess like with my brothers.”

Thomas said, “Momma I will be over the money so I won’t like nobody steal it and we all will make it grow.”

Eleanor looked at Thomas.

Thomas smiled as he looked in his mommas’ eyes of endless love.

Brenda was crying with excitement.

Eleanor said, “The bone hospital we have the name changed before Christmas so it will go into the year new.”

Shirley said, “Can we have a party?”

Eleanor said, “No Shirley. It is close to Christmas in anticipated bad weather. We will have a reception at the hospital like we did with the governor. Mabel is already work on the hospital’s decorations for Christmas. I will probably take Dan with me to do the reception. Then we will leave that day and come home. I do not want not to be home when the bad weather hit. We have hired six hundred men to move snow and ice from the tracks.”

Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Patrick said, “Eleanor that is a lot of workers.”

Eleanor said, “Daddy I rather have more than enough at our major sites and keep running through the bad weather as to stop and make no money and try to get started again in the spring and resolve more damage from tracks.”

Patrick, “We are going to use your trust fund.”

Eleanor said, “That means I will own one hundred percent of the railroad.”

Brenda said, “Hell no.”

Eleanor grinned.

Brenda said, “You are sounding like that other one.”

Shirley was thinking about what she was going to wear to the naming ceremony.

Shirley looked at Brenda and said, “You talking about me grandma?”

Brenda said, “Yes. With your spoiled self. What were you over there thinking about?”

Shirley grinned.

Patrick smiled at Shirley.

Shirley stood and walked over to Brenda and laid oh her shoulder.

Brenda hugged Shirley.

Michael said, “Lets give the children at the orphanage toys for Christmas? I’ll send a telegram to ask how many children and boys and girls and how old. Then momma you can order the toys.”

Eleanor looked at Michael and said, “Michael I have too much to do and run these businesses so we can have money. You order the toys, instead of you gambling.”

Michael said, “Who told you?”

Eleanor looked him directly in his eyes and said, “God.”

Michael stared at Eleanor.

He then turned and looked at Patrick who was looking at Eleanor.

Michael looked at Brenda who was holding Shirley.

He turned back around and stared at Eleanor.

He said, “Fine. I will send the telegram Monday.”

Thomas said, “Grandpa can we have breakfast in the morning before we go to see Skip off?”

Patrick said, “Thomas I am not getting up that early.”

Shirley raised her head from Brenda and peeped over at Patrick and said, “Please grandpa.”

Jose and Nadine turned bumping into each other and ran through the house into the kitchen.

Thomas sat and watched them.

Dan looked at them.

Patrick said, “Percy go and tell Jose to come here.”

Percy said, “Where is he?”

Eleanor looked at Percy.

Patrick said, “Kitchen.”

Percy ran into the kitchen and stood by Jose.

Jose turned and looked at Percy.

Percy said, “Grandpa wants you.”

Jose put his pencil down and walked out the kitchen.

He was frowned up and mimicking Percy.

Percy ran back to the sitting room.

Nadine ran over to the schedule Jose was working on and looked.

All the workers looked at her.

Peter looked at Nadine.

She grinned and clapped her hands.

Peter said, “What?”

Nadine said, “They are having Thanksgiving dinner somewhere else and most of us are off.

The workers were grinning.

Jose walked in the sitting room and said, “Yes sir.”

Patrick said, “I want you to take the children to the new military headquarter to see Skip off. Have a small breakfast for them in the morning. You are dismissed from duty so you can be up and ready to leave around five am.”

Jose had a twisted mouth and said, “Yes sir.”

Nadine was looking over the schedule and telling everyone whether Jose had marked them as being off or not.

Jose walked upon Nadine.

Peter said, “Nadine.”

Nadine’s head was still in the schedule.

Jose said, “Move.”

Nadine did look around or was surprised she simple moved and went back to her duty.

Dan snickered.

Thomas smirked.

He was waiting for Jose to make his announcement, because Thomas wanted to go and hunt for the last time before winter.

Monica had walked back in the house.

Jose looked and saw Lorraine’s buggy and said, “Monica what are you doing?”

Monica said, “I am here to pick up Harriet.”

Jose said, “You know what I mean. Why are driving Lorraine’s buggy?”

Everyone stopped and looked at Monica.

She looked at the workers and turned to Jose and said, “I have been trying to find me a room. I can’t because everyone is booked for the winter. I gave up my room when I went with Patrick and Brenda.”

Jose said, “What are you going to do. The two injured security men are in the re-modeled barn. The four stable men are in the stables. Gary and Denise are in the re-modeled supply shed and one of those rooms is Mabel because she comes back and forth. I don’t know about Meredith, if her room is reserved for her. You know the rule that only workers on duty stay in the house.”

Thomas said, “Jose what is wrong with you? Why did you expose Monica’s business to all of us?”

Jose said, “Because I thought that some of you with houses would offer to stay with you until she finds a place.”

Thomas shut up.

Dan said, “Jose why were angry earlier?”

Jose said, “They found coal from Canada.”

Dan thought, “I need coal.”

Jose said, “They need someone to ride on the trains and supervise the coal being transported to their trains and brought here. I know a lot of people did order coal and I wanted to go and make sure the coal gets here.”

Harriet walked in and said, “I need coal. I did not order any because I did not have any mor. Monica, you can stay with me, until Vivienne and Sally come back. Hopefully we will not freeze.”

Monica said, “Harriet I can’t do that.”

Jose said, “You better because you see no one else offered you a place to stay. Maybe that will give you time to get together and you are working Thanksgiving through Sunday. Harriet you are off and you can start quilting.”

Thomas looked and saw Jose was helping the women.

Dan said, “I want to go and get the coal.”

Jose said, “You have to ask Patrick.“

Jose looked at snobby Thomas and said, “They need a small breakfast before five because I have to take them to the military.”

Thomas looked at Jose.

Jose said, “Thomas why are you looking at me? Bake a quiche tonight, apple juice and cut up some fruit and put it up for tomorrow. Nadine serve them in the morning.”

Thomas grinned and said, “I can make that in less than an hour.”

Jose said, “That Thomas always want to have breakfast.”

Nadine said, “Yes he does.”

Jose went outside and to the stables and told the stable men to get him a carriage and horses ready for five am.

Jose walked back in the house.

Harriet said, “Jose, Eleanor told for me to box up that yellow quilt and she will put it on the train for Sally.”

Jose said, “I heard her. You are leaving now.”

Jose walked through the house to the sitting room and he knocked on the door.

Eleanor was looking at the hospital designs.

Jose knocked on the door and everyone looked at him.

He said, “Thomas will prepare a small breakfast. I have requested a carriage and horses for five am. Hot bath water at four am. Harriet is leaving and want to wrap the quilt. Eleanor.”

Eleanor looked up from the drawings and reached Jose the key.

Jose took the key and turned and looked at the liquor table and walked away.

He thought, “That means I have to walk all the way back there and give her the key.”

Jose walked to Harriet and said, “Come on Harriet. Monica you can sit in the workers area.”

Jose looked around and saw Thomas preparing the fruit and juice.

Peter was grinning and preparing cinnamon rolls.

Dan was working on the dinner menu.

Jose told Mike and John to have hot bath water in the house at four am.

Mike said, “Alright.”

They stared at Jose.

They planned to be gambling with the recovering security men all night. They would be up because they reported to work from noon to six pm.

Jose looked at them and walked away.

Harriet and Jose walked to Eleanor’s office and got the quilt.

Harriet said, “I don’t have a box to put this in.”

Jose said, “Harriet how were you going to send this to Sally?”

Harriet looked at Jose.

Jose walked to the writing paper room and got one of the bags Eleanor put in there and gave it to Harriet.

Harriet put the quilt in the bag and gave it to Jose.

Jose looked at Harriet and walked back to Eleanor’s office and put the bag on her desk and walked out and closed and locked the door.

Harriet was standing in the hall waiting for Jose.

Jose mumbled, “She’s watching me to make sure I put the bag in there. But she didn’t have enough sense to know how to ship it.”

Jose said, “What do you want Harriet?”

Harriet said, “To say thank you Jose for helping me.”

Jose said, “You are welcome.”

He walked through the billiard room and said, “God I need help. I was calling an idiot and she just wanted to say thank you.”

He walked to the sitting room and reached Eleanor her office key.

Eleanor said, “Thank you Jose. Which one of these drawings do you like for the hospital?”

Jose was tired and wanted to go to bed.

He looked at the designs and stared and said, “I can’t6 decide.”

Michael said, “I can’t either. Maybe in the morning.”

Jose smiled and walked out and went to his room.

He dressed for bed and sat on the bed dazed.

He was thinking he has to buy him a house and furnish it because William and Wyonna may come back in the spring. He does not want to be like Monica, old and have no place to live.

Jose feel asleep thinking about the ride in the morning and the neighborhood not far from the hospital.

Nadine made sure the kitchen was spotless.

Dan left and rode home.

He smiled because he at least had six blankets.

He thought he should have bought a few quilts from Harriet he was not thinking.

He thought, “I would not mind riding to get the coal. Maybe Monica can stay at my house until I get back. She can ride my horse. I better go and buy a wagon so she can ride in the wagon. I’ll ask Thanksgiving.”

Peter and Nadine went to their room.

Thomas finished the quiche and he went to his room.

The dish washers knew they were the last in the house and looked everything up.

They ran across the yard to the security men.

They ordered the whiskey that Patrick drink and they drank and played cards all night.

Gary waved at them as they ran across the yard.

Gary was sitting on the porch and felt the coldness in the evening air.

He made some decisions.

He would complete the remedial courses at the college in town and move to the capitol in January to start his college study.

He was holding the letter in his hand from his mother.

Patrick gave Gary the letter months again.

Gary opened the letter and read it.

He knew they were begging for money and for him to come back and work at the count and countess to provide for them.

Gary was trying to decide whether no to answer or write and tell them they will never get a dime and go and work.

He sat and thought.

Gary balled up the letter and said, “They would not get my letter until spring. He walked in the re-modeled supply shed and checked it for the windows to be down and the back door locked.

He locked the front door.

Gary went to bed thinking he had enough money to pay for college and he needed a place to stay, a horse and a carriage.

Monica went to Lorraine and knocked on the door.

Lorraine came out and locked her door.

She took Harriet and Monica back to Harriet.

Lorraine said, “Harriet you and Monica are off until Thanksgiving?”

Harriet said, “Monica is. I work until Thanksgiving.”

Lorraine looked around and it was getting dark and said, “I don’t see a horse and carriage and how are you getting to work until Thanksgiving?”

Harriet said, “I have to walk.”

Monica slowly turned and looked at Lorraine. She knew Lorraine thought they were stupid.

Lorraine turned the horse and buggy around and rode back to her house.

She got out of the buggy and said, “Bring my buggy back early Thanksgiving after Monica is dropped off for the holiday work week.”

Lorraine went in the house and locked her door.

She planned on drinking and making her bath items all week and selling them the week after Thanksgiving.

She thought, “Maybe in Shirley’s dress shop. I know I need to go to church and sell them there.

Monica and Harriet rode back in quietness.

Harriet said, “I know Lorraine we are idiots. Like Jose.”

Monica looked straight ahead and thought, “You.”

They made it back to Vivienne’s house and put the horse around the back and tied it to the porch and gave the horse and Harriet said, “God this horse is hungry.”

Monica thought, “Maybe me too because I did not give this horse water nor feed.”

Harriet walked on the side of the house and grabbed two apples and walked back and feed the horse.

Monica sat on the back porch and watched.

Harriet finished and she and Monica walked to the front of the house and stumbled on the front porch and Harriet fumbled for the to put the key in the lock.

Finally, Harriet unlocked the front door.

She and Monica stumbled into the house.

Harriet located a torch and lit it.

Monica said, “I know this is not your house, but Eleanor just exchange the torches for lanterns get a few of the torches and put them in the back and on the front. This neighborhood has always been too dark.”

Harriet said, “I don’t know.”

Monica said, “Know what?”

Harriet said, “If I can get them.”

Monica said, “They are in the trash. Everybody is getting some. Dan had six in his wagon. Thomas had three. Some of the other workers got some.”

Harriet said, “Maybe I can get one and take it across to our old rooming house owners.”

Monica thought, “IDIOT!!!!”

Monica said, “Harriet I will sleep on the floor by the kitchen. Do you have an extra blanket.”

Harriet was standing in Vivienne’s bedroom doorway and looking puzzled.

Monica walked into Sally’s room and took one of the blankets and put it on the floor an went to sleep.

All she could think, “Lorraine is right. IDIOTS. I got to find me a place to move this week. I saved my pay for those two months which is bare minimum. I need a horse and some blankets. I can afford that. I want some of Lorraine’s bath items. Then I will be broke.”

Harriet said, “Good night Monica.”

Monica said, “Good night Harriet.”

Monica went to sleep.

Harriet was up stitching a quilt together.

She had an order for three.

He had enough pieces of blue for Shirley’s request.

She thought, “Once I stitch together the blue. I will take all the remaining pink and lavender I have left and stitch together one quit and then the dark blue, gray and red will be for Gen and her husband. That will be all the pieces of patches I have. With the five dollars Brenda is going to pay for each quilt, I can buy coal for the winter and some more fabrics and me a horse and buggy to carry all of this in. I am not dumb and stupid as everybody think I am.”

Harriet read her bible and went to bed and slept until the next day.