

Steven went to the land that the Stiths purchased to build a hospital.

He was there everyday through the rain and storms.

He measured the land and he stood and made drawings of the different angle of the hospital.

The commanders would watch him everyday.

The commanders did not know who bought the land nor what was being built there.

They did not like the fact that it was close to the military headquarters.

The head commander left the military headquarters and rode over to Steven.

Steven was out of his buggy and stretching.

The commanders were standing behind him on their horses.

Steven had on a shirt, pants and rain boots.

He walked and stooped down and picked up some dirt and he was looking at it and feeling it.

He stood and was looking over the land.

He walked backwards looking over the land.

The commanders watched him.

Steven was unaware they were present.

Commander Tyler said, "What are you doing?"

Steven's mind was on his work and he had dirt in his hand and was letting the dirt run through his finger.

His father, a black man, taught him to know the dirt it will tell you whether it is good and sturdy or just pretty and not sturdy.

Steven was glad his father taught him that.

He knew the people set their house on fire to run them out the neighborhood.

The neighbors did not know that his father and his mother, Nadine's niece, would die in the fire.

His mother's last breath she said, "I love you three. Love one another. Don't let their hatred make you hate them you will lose."

Commander Tyler rode his horse up to Steven.

Steven was looking over the horizon and waved his hand over the horizon of the land.

Commander Tyler said, "What are you doing?"

Steven saw the horse next to him and he looked at the horse and then up at Commander Tyler and yelled.

He ran.

Commander Tyler was about to laugh.

He yelled at Steven, "Come here!"

Steven was so scared.

He was peeping out the grass at the fierce looking commanders.

He fell and had to crawl out the grass.

Commander Tyler said, "What are you doing?"

Steven was stuttering and could not talk fast enough.

Commander Tyler sat and looked at him.

Steven got out, "Stiths and hospital."

Commander Tyler looked around and said, "Hospital?"

Commander Tyler and the other commanders turned and rode back to the hospital.

Steven passed out in the grass.

The short commander looked back at Steven.

Commander Tyler said, "He'll be alright."

They laughed and rode back to the headquarters.

The commander was having a meeting with his commanders and at the end of the meeting he thought he better check on Steven.

He took his binoculars and went to the window and saw Steven turning over and getting on his knees.

Steven got up and leaned against his wagon.

Commander Tyler laughed.

Steven shook his head.

Commander Tyler put down his binoculars and were about to walk from the window, he stopped and stopped. He turned quickly and put his binoculars up and saw a woman watching him.

She turned and ran.

He yelled out the window for the sentries to catch the woman in all black and bring her to him.

The sentries jumped over the bushes and ran across the street and saw the woman.

The sentries chased her.

The commander yelled for his office clerks to get on horses and pursue.

They barely caught the woman as she rounded a corner.

The soldiers on horses blocked her and chained her and dragged her back to the military headquarters.

The commanders saw them walking back with her.

They walked to the back of the headquarters with the conference room.

Steven was packing up for the day because he was shaking.

He heard the soldiers running behind someone he peeped around his buggy.

He thought, "God those soldiers are really fast. So is that woman. I hope they catch her."

Steven got his instruments and put them in the buggy.

He was pulling out when the soldiers walked the woman back to the headquarters.

The woman in all black stared at Steven.

Steven stared at her.

He thought he saw her before he could not remember where.

He will always remember her evil piercing eyes.

He looked at her clothes she had on and down to her shoes.

His mother told him he could tell a lot by someone boots.

Steven notice she had on a symbol.

He squinted his eyes to see the symbol, it looked like an inverted horseshoe.

He could not be sure.

He thought, "She is about Alicia age what is she in that the military ran after her. I know her from somewhere."

The evil young woman rolled her eyes at Steven.

Steven did not like it, because he was one of few freed blacks in the town, he did not want the white people to think they could treat him any kind of way.

He was never a slave nor his father.

Steven watched the evil woman out of sight until the soldiers on horseback passed him.

Steven went home.

He passed the street their house was.

He turned the horses to go down the street where their burned up house was but he decided not to.

He felt it was not time.

Emilou was waiting for Steven on the porch.

She saw him and jumped off the porch and ran to the horses and then to Steven.

Steven went in the house with Emilou.

He washed and sat to the table to eat.

He told Alicia and Emilou about the evil young woman and the symbol she had on her dress and boots.

Alicia said, "I have seen that symbol at the school. Some students wear that symbol and they are secretive."

Steven said, "Alicia don't have anything to do with them. Nor you Emilou."

Alicia said, "Steven we haven't gotten the money from that train station. We are out of money."

Steven said, "Strange. I'll go tomorrow to the office. I think they are all gone. If no one is in the office I will ride to the house."

Emilou said, "I want to go."

Alicia said, "No."

Steven said, "You both can go."

Alicia made their plates and set the plates before Steven and Emilou.

Steven and Emilou looked down at their plates and up at Alicia.

Alicia said, "That's all the food we have."

Emilou looked at Steven and said, "And to lunch."

Steven laughed and they held hands and said the grace and ate what they had.

They went outside and Steven and Emilou played baseball.

Alicia learned to knit and was making socks for the three of them.

Alicia liked Ben and was making him some socks.

She heard some of the older women saying the winter will be so bad and people will freeze to death.

Alicia took all the change she could find and bought the yarn for the socks.

She prayed for more change to buy the yarn for gloves and scarves.

She knew Emilou would give the other children her gloves and socks.

Alicia wanted to make extra pairs for Emilou to give to the children and keep hers.

The commanders looked at the evil young woman in all black.

They questioned her all night until dawn.

They took her symbol from her dress and boots.

They knew she was a part of the mob.

They sent her to a federal prison.

She had a trial for treason and was given twenty years in prison.

She smirked during the trial and stuck out her tongue at the judge.

Her trial was sealed and no one could go in.

The military had men all around to see if they could get anyone involved with her.

They followed a few men and kept a profile on them at the military headquarters.

Steven, Alicia and Emilou rode into town and went to the train office and it was closed.

They rode to the house and knocked on the front door.

Jose was in the kitchen looking out the window.

He heard a faint knock.

He walked through the formal dining room and saw a carriage he peeped and saw the three standing on the porch.

Emilou smiled and waved at Jose.

Jose said, "Cute kids."

He walked to the door and took off the bar and unlocked.

He opened the door.

Emilou said, "Good morning."

Jose said, "Good morning."

Steven did not say anything.

Alicia and Emilou looked at Steven.

Jose looked at Steven.

Alicia elbowed Steven.

Jose thought, "He is a man now. He has to stand for himself."

Jose said, "What do you want Steven?"

Steven was scared and stuttering.

Emilou said, "Mr. Jose my brother has not been paid."

Jose said, "Is that so Steven?"

Steven was fumbling.

Alicia said, "Yes."

Emilou said, "And we need to eat."

Alicia said, "Emilou."

Jose opened the door and said, "Come in."

Jose said locked the front door back and the bar on the bar.

Steven said, "Why did you do that?"

Emilou jumped and said, "Steven saw one of the people yesterday that the soldiers caught and she was a woman."

Alicia said, "Emilou."

Jose thought, "Damn."

Jose said, "Come and sit in the parlor and let me send a telegram to Eleanor. Everyone is gone until the holidays."

Jose went to Patrick's office and sent a telegram to Eleanor.

Eleanor was checking on the ships with Brenda and Patrick.

Patrick and Brenda were enjoying their time with Ellen and Captain.

Captain Moss purchased his boat.

He took Patrick and Brenda out everyday and explored different coastlines.

Beverly and Al were busy getting the twenty- three big kids college ready.

They made the deadline.

Eleanor had a train to express them to the college.

Brenda, Patrick, Beverly and Al rode the train with them with Eleanor and Mabel.

Ty and Skip's son were waiting at the train station for them.

Mabel spent all her time with Skip's son.

Brenda whispered, "Patrick?"

Patrick said, "Brenda we don't know if Skip's son and Mabel can make it. I'm just glad she has not killed herself. That death spirit takes a long time to get away from a person."

It was a big celebration at the train station.

Brenda and Patrick had a reception from the president of the school.

Eleanor made it in time to be in the official photograph and see the unveiling of the college scholarship fund.

It was totally unexpected.

Brenda and Patrick paid for the twenty three students four years at college.

Danny was grinning and took a photograph with Eleanor.

Eleanor told the photographer to send her the photograph with Danny.

They left that night for Philadelphia.

They left the train and went to the docks so they could begin their inspecting of the ships early that morning.

Shirley and Lorraine rode out that morning when the new ship came in.

It was a big celebration when they took the delivery of the new ship.

The ship took three years to build.

The builders and the engineers were there.

It was a big celebration.

Shirley and Lorraine were a part of the celebration.

They saw Bruce hiding in the rocks watching.

Eleanor saw him and Patrick said to her, "You better not say anything to him."

Eleanor thought, "This was the last thing he did for the family. Wait a minute he did not. I got all the plans together and the contracts. To hell with Bruce."

She turned her butt to Bruce and enjoyed the big celebration.

Captain Moss screamed when he saw the new ship.

He was so excited.

He went on board and inspected the ship with Patrick, Brenda, Eleanor, Shirley and Lorraine and Ellen.

When Eleanor got to the base ship. She saw the telegram coming in.

Jose said, "Steven said he was not paid."

Eleanor thought.

She closed her eyes.

She sent a telegram immediately back to Jose and said, "We forgot. I forgot. Give him a hundred dollars until I come through in two weeks. I have to see what Brenda said to pay him."

Jose sent Eleanor the telegram.

He looked at the calendar and knew it was to be a big celebration for the new ship that day.

The boys were angry they were told to stay in school and not come for the celebration.

Percy figured out how they could get their.

They left school overnight along with Caleb and Stewart and travel to Philadelphia and then had a carriage waiting for them.

Eleanor read the telegram for the school and heart sank.

She jumped and ran off the ship to Patrick and Brenda who were still photographs and drinking champagne.

Bruce saw Eleanor running.

He looked from her to Shirley and he knew it was about the boys.

He stood up and watched.

Patrick saw Eleanor running frantically.

She was running and looking around.

Brenda had the champagne glass to her mouth and knew something was bad.

Eleanor had the telegram in her hand and was standing and shaking.

Lorraine and Shirley ran to Eleanor.

Patrick did not want to move.

Beverly and Al looked at Eleanor who was in pieces.

Lorraine the telegram and ran and gave it to Patrick.

Patrick read the telegram.

Lorraine was looking at around.

Brenda looked at Lorraine then she looked at Patrick.

Patrick took a deep deep breathe.

Then a carriage arrived and the six boys jumped out the carriage and ran to Eleanor.

They boys were so excited and yelling. They all ran to the ship.

They started taking photographs with the crew and the ship.

Bruce said, "This is my ship."

Beverly said, "Whip their asses. Whip them good."

Al said, "Oh God I am glad we did not have any children. We would be wrecks."

Brenda said, "Patrick this has to stop."

Patrick said, "It's going to stop. Eleanor is going to kill them. And I am going to kill Bruce. Here he comes."



Brenda started to run to Bruce.

Patrick grabbed Brenda's hand. He held her by the waist.

Shirley saw Bruce and Eleanor saw him but turned and walked to the boys.

Shirley stood and did not know what to do.

Bruce walked to Shirley who stared at him.

Lorraine was walking to Shirley she looked back at Patrick.

Patrick nodded his head to Lorraine.

Lorraine turned and kept walking to Shirley and said, "I don't get paid enough for this shit."

Lorraine walked up and looked at Bruce and looked at Shirley and said, "Morning. They invited you?"

Bruce said, "This is my ship. I was going to be here."

Lorraine said, "You were hiding in the rocks."

She caught Shirley by her hand and walked to Eleanor and the boys.

Eleanor let the boys take the photographs with her and Shirley.

Patrick and Brenda walked to the boys and took some photographs with the family.

Ellen and Captain Moss were drinking champagne and standing with Beverly and Al.

Al was sipping his champagne and said, "Here he comes."

Beverly said, "Al hold this champagne."

Al said, "For what?"

Beverly said, "I got something for him."

Al looked at Beverly and said, "For who."

Bruce walked up and reached and shook Captain Moss' hand.

Beverly said, "You bastard you don't see anyone else standing here. But is it because we are black.?"

Bruce stood and looked at Al who was white.

Al looked at Bruce and said, "Bruce you need to leave. You are not invited and you are not welcomed. Especially after this stunt."

Ellen stood with her mouth opened and watched Bruce.

Beverly was angry and said, "How can you be a racist married to a black woman and got colored children. I don't care how they look. They got black blood."

Bruce walked away and he was thinking.

He turned his head and saw his family and his boys screaming and having a good time about the new ship.

Eleanor went to the ship and sent a telegram to the school and to Caleb and Stewart's family the boys arrived at the Christening of the new ship. They are putting them on the next train with a worker and they should be at school the next day.

Bruce walked a good distance and watched everybody.

Eleanor as walking back to the ship.

Ryan and Dr. Greene and their families were going to see the ship and spend the week-end at the docks.

Dr. Greene told Ryan they need a Bed and breakfast out at the docks.

Ryan looked at Dr. Greene and said, "That is a good business idea. Know we would not make any money until the summer."

Dr. Greene said, "I don't have any money for that."

Ryan said, "Think about it."

Eleanor was walking off the ship and saw Bruce.

She stared at him.

He waved at Eleanor.

Patrick saw Bruce and thought, "I wish I had my gun. He's waving at her. I want him at bay until the children get older. He will never get one dime of this money."

Brenda said, "Patrick what happen over there?"

Patrick said, "You know they are going to tell us everything."

Eleanor walked to Lorraine.

Lorraine rolled her eyes at Eleanor.

Patrick cut his eyes at Brenda.

Brenda just watched the two women.

Eleanor said, "Please."

Lorraine said, "You are going to pay me this time Eleanor."

Shirley said, "I want to go."

Eleanor said, "I sent a telegram to the rail for them to have one car that will be expressed to take you there and I have a carriage waiting for you to take them directly to the school and wait for you and take you back to the train and come back here."

Lorraine said, "To Philadelphia. I can't stand that damn Bruce. I hope you don't go back to that bastard. What with Dr. Woodson?"

Eleanor looked at Lorraine and said, "You knew about Dr. Woodson?"

Lorraine said, "Everybody did."

Shirley said, "You could have made him not give me therapy."

Lorraine looked at Shirley and said, "You need it even now."

Shirley walked away to take photographs.

Lorraine said, "Eleanor go over there with your bad ass children and stop looking at that bastard. I don't know how you got entangled with that."

Shirley tried to tip Brenda's champagne glass.

Brenda allowed her sip.

Shirley was happy.

Ellen had arranged a beautiful reception.

Percy and Bruce, Thomas and Michael, Caleb and Stewart were running all around the ship Patrick and Brenda took them on the ship.

The boys were screaming.

Ryan and Dr. Greene arrived at the docks.

They passed Bruce watching.

They saw the ship in front of them.

Ryan and Dr. Greene said, "Oh God."

Debra and Alice were sitting in the back with Ryan Jr and Barry.

They were awe struck.

They heard the boys running and screaming on the ship.

Barry heard the boys and yelled.

Dr. Greene jumped out the carriage and helped, Debra and Barry out.

Barry ran away.

Dr. Greene had to run and catch Barry.

Debra was afraid of the size of the ship and was standing by the carriage.

Ryan grabbed Ryan and held him he was not going to run behind him.

He helped Alice out with his other hand.

He drove a five hour trip in four hours.

He looked at Debra and said, "Debra are you alright?"

Alice looked at Debra and said, "I want to see what Eleanor is wearing. Come on Debra."

Ryan looked at Alice and said, "You came just to see what Eleanor is wearing?"

Alice did not say anything but looked at Ryan.

Bruce looked at them.

Ryan said, "Debra come on. Tony and Barry are gone. I am not leaving you here."

Debra would not move.

Tony grabbed Barry and got a glass of champagne and was standing looking at the enormous ship.

Barry yelled, "Hey."

Tony ear drums nearly burst he told Barry, "Son they can't hear you."

Percy yelled back, "Hey Barry."

Barry started pulling Dr. Greene to run to the ship.

Dr. Greene rolled his eyes.

Ryan said, "Tony, Debra won't leave the carriage. She says she is scared."

Barry was trying to pry Dr. Greene's hand loose.

Alice was looking at the celebration.

She was getting excited and saw Eleanor running and said, "I should have worn that color."

She reached for the Dr. Greene's glass of champagne.

He moved his glass.

Ryan was holding Ryan Jr and was embarrassed and looked at Alice and back at Dr. Greene and said, "Sorry."

He walked to Alice.

Alice stopped and said, "That is a big ass ship."

Ryan said, "Yes it is. The rooms are larger which would make it comfortable for those long sails."

Dr. Greene turned to Debra and held up the glass of champagne.

Debra walked fast from the carriage to Tony and grabbed the glass of champagne and looked at the ship and turned her head.

She heard the boys calling Barry.

She looked back at Tony.

He walked with Barry to the ship.

Ryan went and got a glass of champagne and spoke to everybody.

He said, "Bruce is standing over there."

Beverly said, "He better stay over there, bastard."

Al said, "Where is Felipe and Charles?"

Ryan said, "They said they will see the ship when they leave in the spring."

Al said, "Ryan let me walk with you to the ship."

Ryan looked at Al and said, "What is it?"

Al said, "Why you have not paid Felipe and Charles?"

Ryan was walking with Ryan Jr in his arm.

Ryan Jr. wanted to get down and run.

Alice tried to be brave and walk to the ship but stopped.

Ryan said, "Al they did not say they were not getting paid. I have to be quiet and check. The other year the mob just sent two of their doctors in our hospital to take over. That's why I and Hutch are there a lot. They are probably back."

Al stopped and said, "I hope they are not and it is just an oversight."

Ryan became worried.

Al walked pass Alice to the food.

He told Ellen, "This food is fantastic."

Ellen grinned.

Ryan put Ryan Jr. down and ran with him to the ship.

Waiters were on the ship with punch and champagne.

Dr. Greene and Ryan spoke to Patrick and Brenda

Ryan said, "You got the boys out of school for the week end?"

Patrick said, "No they left school."

Dr. Greene's mouth dropped open.

Patrick said, "I forgot this is the week-end."

Ryan said, "Patrick what are you going to do about their security. Especially now?"

Ryan was looking around at the ship.

Patrick said, "I want to whip them."

Brenda was shaking her head.

Patrick pointed at Brenda and said, "She does not think that is a good idea."

Dr. Greene ran behind Barry.

Ryan Jr. was pulling on Ryan.

Caleb and Stewarts' mother and father were in Philadelphia when they got the telegrams.

Their grandparents arrived in Philadelphia that morning to sign all the contracts.

They figured the boys were headed to the docks, because it was the big news in Philadelphia.

They were staying at Bruce's hotel and finishing a week long business trip.

They rode out to the docks.

They saw the enormous ship.

They jumped out the carriages.

They heard the boys screaming and yelling.

Caleb and Stewarts mother ran to the ship and looked up and saw them running and screaming

She passed out.

Her husband was standing and looking at the ship and walked away from his wife.

Her mother and father ran to pick her up.

Dr. Greene saw the woman faint and the man walked away and was looking at the ship.

Patrick tried to pretend he did not see anything.

Brenda was mumbling and said, "Patrick."

Patrick did not say anything.

Al ran to the lady and helped.

Alice and Debra were drunk.

They were sitting on the ground drinking champagne.

Debra and Alice had a champagne glass in each hand.

Ryan was looking over the rail and saw them he told Tony, "Look at that mess."

Tony looked at them and ran behind Barry.

Stewart looked over the rail and said, "Hey dad."

Caleb was on another deck and yelled, "Hello."

Their father waved and said, "Hello."

Their grandfather was on his knees helping his daughter up he looked back and said, "Hello hell."

Brenda said, "Oh GOD he sounds like you Patrick. Let's greet them they are our friends."

Dr. Greene said, "Barry let's go!"

Ryan said, "Tony. Calm down. This is exciting this is big news."

Tony said, "I need Debra."

Ryan said, "What?"

Ryan thought and then he started laughing and said, "You can kiss that good bye, because she is good and drunk."

Ryan was walking in front of Dr. Greene and said, "I am glad mine is drunk. I am going to the seafood feast like the last time and to the new casino they opened just for this celebration. I am putting both of them to bed and leave."

Tony said, "The food at the reception is very good."

Ryan said, "I have not tasted it yet. I am too excited about tonight. I wondered who those boys are with Percy."

Dr. Greene said, "It is bad you can't live your dreams because someone is around trying to steal from you. I don't want to be rich."

Ryan said, "Even comfortable somebody is trying to steal from you. If you are homeless somebody is trying to steal from you."

Ryan and Tony were passing Brenda and heard her say to the people, "What are we going to do?"

Beverly yelled, "Beat their ass."

Everyone turned and looked at Beverly meant it.

Ryan slowed up so he could hear.

Brenda said, "I am glad there are doctors around."

She touched Alfred on his shoulder and said, "This our brother-in-law and these two young doctors are Ryan and Tony."

They turned and spoke to Tony and Ryan,

Dr. Greene walked to Debra and took both glasses of champagne out of her hands and poured them into one glass and gave the glasses to the server.

He looked at Debra and said, "Mind Barry until I get back."

Debra looked at Tony and knew he was annoyed at her. He rarely gets angry.

She sat and watch him walk away.

Barry ran behind Tony and grabbed his leg.

Tony nearly fell.

Debra laughed.

Tony went to the food and made a plate for him and Barry. He and Barry sat and enjoyed the food.

Eleanor was walking around with all the dignitaries and talking and taking photographs.

Stewart said, "Come and take photographs."

Their mother rolled her eyes at them.

Caleb said, "Come on mommie."

Their father ran and took photographs with his sons.

Their mother eventually walked and took photographs with them and the governor.

Brenda and Patrick watched.

Brenda said, "How did you allow Tom back into your lives?"

Lillian said, "A lot of prayer."

She looked at Brenda and then Patrick.

The father said, "I still want to kick his ass. Gonna kidnap my grandchildren and have them working in fields like they were slaves. Sorry Brenda."

Brenda said, "I know. But we did not know they were out there."

Lillian touched Brenda's arm and said, "Oh no. We asked GOD to watch over them wherever they were. We are glad HE sent them to you. Because HE knew you would have made Tom bring them back. GOD had HIS timing in there for a reason."

The father said, "I don't give him red cent. I don't invite him to nothing. Even in the house I don't allow him to roam anymore. He just looks."

Patrick was listening.

Lillian said, "Is Eleanor letting her husband to come back?"

Brenda voiced cracked.

Lillian patted Brenda's hand.

Bruce was watching.

Lillian said, "Is that him over by the entrance?"

Patrick said, "Yes."

The father said, "I thought so. I wanted to run him over and Lil caught my hand."



Patrick said, "You would have done that for us?"

The father said, "I understand."

Lillian said, "It is their final decision. The bastards know we want our children and grandchildren."

Caleb and Stewart ran over and grabbed their grandparents' hands and pulled them to take photographs."

Brenda walked to Patrick and with quivering lips said, "I hate Bruce. I don't want that bastard in my house nor in any business. Putting his feet under my table eating one morsel of a crumb. I don't understand GOD in this."

Patrick said, "I have taken care of him being in the businesses forever. I showed it to Eleanor. She agreed. She looked at me like why. This is why. She did not see this coming. I will ban him from our side of the house. Especially from my library and our son's room."

Brenda said, "No celebrations."

Patrick said, "Alright."

Brenda said, "Never his family in my house."

Patrick kissed Brenda on her forehead and said, "Never."

Bruce told his family he was going back to Eleanor.

Bruce's mother saw Gen in town after all the celebrations and said, "Bruce and Eleanor are getting back together."

Gen did not say anything but sent Brenda and Patrick a telegram.

Brenda laid her head on Patrick's shoulder and watched Lillian and her family.

Ryan Jr. ran in the photograph.

Ryan and his family took photographs.

Dr. Greene, Debra and Barry took a few photographs.

Eleanor walked to Stewart and Caleb's mother and father and said how sorry she was.

Their mother said, "I don't know what to do. They decided they wanted to go to this momentous occasion. I am worried about the school. They are responsible for these children."

Eleanor said, "I want to beat mine's."

I arranged for them to take an express train back to school and have a carriage to take them to the school. I have a worker and my daughter will go back to make sure they get back to school."

The mother said, "I have never met Shirley. Where is she?"

Eleanor looked around and saw Shirley trying to tip Beverly's champagne glass.

Gen, Ben, Bryson and Gail surprised Brenda and Patrick and caught the train and rode straight to the docks.

They saw Bruce standing back.

They spoke and kept walking.

They ran and took photographs with the governor and mayor.

The politicians were talking.

The Philadelphia mayor said, "He wanted to talk to Bryson about all the slaves they could not house and feed after three years."

Bryson said, "I am here for a week. We can meet."

Gen said, "Look at that seafood."

They all turned and walked to Brenda and Patrick.

They hugged each other.

Gen said, "I see that bastard over there."

Brenda said, "He has been here all day like he owes the ship."

Gen and Ben turned around and said, "It is beautiful."

Gen said, "We sleep on it tonight?"

Patrick said, "We sleep on the ship we sailed to Europe on."

Gen turned and looked at the boys.

She and Ben looked at Brenda with questions on their faces.

Patrick said, "They snook from school."

Gen said, "Gee they are young boys what will they be doing when they get a year older."

Brenda bent over and started laughing.

Gen kind of chuckle and said, "Seriously."

They walked to the food that was constantly being replenished.

They ate seafood.

Gen was sitting at the table next to Dr. Greene she looked up and did a double take at him looking at her plate.

Gen turned her back and ate her plate of king crab legs.

She the mayor was in competition with the king crab legs.

Ben said, "No more Gen."

Michael looked and did not see his lamb chop.

He walked to Eleanor with an empty plate and said, "Excuse me mamma no lamb chops."

Eleanor tried to smile to the governor and his wife and caught Michael by his hand and walked away and turned her back and bent down and said, "I want to beat you. All of you. You know you were in danger and you brought Stewart and Caleb and put them in danger."

Michael said, "So no lamb chops."

Michael walked away.

Eleanor jumped up and stared at Michael with her mouth opened.

Gen was laughing and said, "That little one just sent Eleanor into shock."

Every one looked at Eleanor who was so shock at whatever Michael said to her.

Dr. Greene was drinking punch and Barry reached for the punch. Dr. Greene grabbed the punch and gave Barry water.

Gen hollered.

Gen said, "You want to get some sleep tonight."

Ryan turned his head and laughed and thought, "He doesn't want sleep."

Ryan was quiet.

Gen looked at Ryan.

Ryan looked at Gen and said, "What are you looking at me for?"

Gen sipped her champagne and said, "You are up to something. I am going to follow you."

Alice came back with a plate and looked at Gen and then Ryan.

She said, "What is he up to?"

Ryan looked at Gen.

Gen did not say anything.

Ryan looked at Gen and then her plate and said, "You don't need to eat anything else tonight nor drink anything."

Ben her plate and champagne glass.

Gen turned her back to Ben, who kept eating.

Alice looked at Ryan, because she he was being mean to Gen because she said he was up to something.

Barry wanted punch and Tony would not give him punch.

Barry turned his back like Gen did.

Everybody looked at Barry and snickered.

Dr. Greene was not playing about giving Barry any of the punch.

Brenda was sitting next to Gail and they were looking at Eleanor and Debra laughed, "Whatever Michael said to Eleanor she was not expecting that and then he walked away from her. Destroyed her authority over him."

Shirley was making her a plate and said, "Michael try some of this since there is no lamb chops. No one knew you were going to sneak from school."

Michael hit Shirley on her head and sent her stumbling.

Debra mouth dropped open.

Dr. Greene said, "Well."

Ryan looked at Michael.

Gen saw Debra's and Dr. Greene's face and said, "What? What happened?"

Brenda said, "Shirley are you alright?"

Eleanor ran and grabbed Shirley and stabled her.

Eleanor sat Shirley down.

Brenda said, "Shirley are you alright?"

Shirley said, "Yeah."

Lorraine was coming back from a rendezvous.

She saw Michael hit Shirley on the head with the plate.

The boys had filled their plates and were sitting at a table by themselves laughing and talking about the ship.

Eleanor made Shirley a plate and took it back to her.

Michael went and sat with a n empty plate and put his elbows on te table.

Patrick, Lilian and her husband were walking from down the docks.

Bryson had filed a plate and was about to sit when he heard Lilian laughed.

Everyone looked at Bryson who was still.

Eleanor was about to choke Michael.

She was fussing and bent down in Michael's face and said, "Michael why did you hit Shirley?"

Michael said, "I don't like her."

Eleanor said, "Michael she was trying to be nice to you. You have to forgive her."

Michael said, "If not?"

Everyone was listening.

Gail and Brenda were watching Michael.

Bryson was still standing.

Dr. Greene and Debra were looking at Bryson.

Gen said, "I need to turn around so I can see."

Eleanor said, "I will your little ass."

Michael looked unmoved and said, "I need something to eat."

Michael scooted to the end of the table and walked away with his empty plate.

Eleanor stood in complete amazement.

Beverly said, "Michael."

Michael walked over to Beverly with his back to the table and looking at her.

Beverly wiped her hands and said, "Michael what is the problem?"

Michael said, "No lamb chop."

Brenda and Gail stared at this child.

Beverly said, "Michael no one knew you would be here and this is seafood. Let's go to the table and find you something to eat."

Beverly stood and took Michael by the hand and walked him to the food.

Michael was walking with Aunt Beverly holding his hand and an empty plate in the other hand.

Michael and looked back at Eleanor with a blank face.

Eleanor balled her fists up and said, "I'm going to kill him."

Brenda said, "Wow. Michael, and took a sip of champagne."

Gen said, "That's that little one and laughed."

Gen reached for her champagne and forgot she did not have any.

Ben reached her some punch.

Gen said, "I don't want any punch."

Barry reached and said, "Give me punch."

Everyone laughed.

Gen said, "I better not your daddy is ready to explode. You know what I mean."

Ryan looked at Dr. Greene.

Dr. Greene was eating his food and did not realize what Gen was talking about.

Debra grinned and held her head down.

Ben peeped behind Gen at Dr. Greene who was looking at the ships.

Gail leaned in front of Brenda and smiled at Dr. Greene.

Ryan looked at Tony and grinned.

Brenda said, "Eleanor go and get something to eat maybe you will feel better."

Percy leaned around Thomas and said, "Momma get some of these things they are good."

Thomas said, "Yeah."

Eleanor looked over at the boys.

Brenda sit back and said, "They better shut up."

The mayor and his wife laughed.

Gail said, "Bryson. What is wrong with you. Sit down."

Ryan and Alice and Dr. Greene looked at Bryson.

Eleanor picked up a plate and was holding it with both hands.

She started walking to the food.

Beverly and Michael were walking back from one side.

Eleanor was not going to be embarrassed again. She ordered an additional twenty five percent of seafood, desserts and beverages and liquor.

Beverly found Michael some food.

He held his plate with both hands.

He got to Eleanor.

Brenda's heart was jumping and said, "Don't say nothing. Don't say nothing."

Gen and Ben, Debra and Dr. Greene heard Brenda.

Ryan turned to see why Bryson was not sitting.

Alice was leaning around Bryson to see what was happening.

Shirley did not look up because she was embarrassed.

Ryan stood to walk to Bryson.

Michael got close to Eleanor.

They heard Patrick and the Mc Intyres laughing coming back to the food.

Michael looked at Eleanor and Eleanor looked down at Michael and raised her plate up and Ryan caught her hand.

Gen said, "That was close."

Eleanor said, "I need a drink."

Ryan said, "You need food."

He pushed her towards the food, so he could see what was wrong with Bryson.

Alice was looking at Bryson and Ryan.

Brenda was rubbing her head. Her mind was on how embarrassing it would have been for Eleanor to lose control and hit that baby with a plate.

Percy said, "Michael you like it?"

Michael nodded his head for yes.

Shirley looked over at Michael.

Bruce looked at Shirley.

Percy whispered to Bruce.

Brenda watched them.

Lorraine and Eleanor were walking back to the table and sat with Shirley.

Lillian laughed.

Ryan said, "Bryson are you alright?"

Gail stood up.

Bryson turned in the direction of the laugh.

Brenda was trying to find a place to go.

She was being blocked by Gail on one side and Ben on the other.

Everyone was looking at Bryson.

Lorraine sat next to Michael at the other table.

Eleanor sat next to Shirley and by Stewart and Caleb at the next table.

Eleanor was talking to Stewart and Caleb.

She tried the shrimp cakes Percy told her to try.

Eleanor was so mad with all her sons, even Thomas.

She ate and did not talk to them.

Lorraine talked to Michael.

Michael did not look at Eleanor nor Shirley.

Bryson whispered, "Lillie."

Gail said, "What Bryson?"

Brenda was leaning down in the chair.

She looked up at Gail then Bryson and sat up in the chair.

Caleb said, "That's my grandmother Lillian."

Ryan looked over at Caleb.

Ryan said, "Gail?"

Gail held up her finger.

Alice was peeping and feeding Ryan Jr.

Ryan Jr. liked the king crab legs and was eating what Ryan add on his plate.

Barry was trying to go under the table and snatch Gen's punch.

Debra caught Barry because he was going to sleep that night.

Lillian laughed again they were standing at the king crab legs.

Bryson turned and said, "Lillie!"

Lillian froze and stared ahead of her.

Patrick and her husband looked at Bryson.

Brenda stood so she could see Lillian's face.

Gen stood and was peeping at Lillian.

Bryson slowly turned and looked at the woman who was standing still.

Patrick did not know who was 'Lillie'.

Bryson was shaking.

He turned and walked to the woman.

Gail followed Bryson.

Brenda followed Gail.

Eleanor was peeping.

Caleb and Stewart stood and peeped.



Eleanor looked at the boys.

They followed Brenda.

Lorraine turned her chair around to see.

Shaking Bryson walked to a Shaking Lillian.

Lillian's husband said nothing but was holding a plate in his hand.

Patrick stood and said, "Bryson".

Bryson grabbed Lillian.

Margaret and Tom were shocked.

Her husband Nathaniel did not move.

Nathaniel did not know if Bryson was a friend or foe. Lillian never mentioned anyone.

Dr. Greene and Debra were peeping.

Debra said, "I can't see and put her napkin down.

Tony looked at Debra in shock and was about to tell her to sit.

When Gen started scooting out her chair and looked at Dr. Greene and said, "Me neither."

Alice looked at Debra and Gen and continued to feed Ryan Jr.

Debra and Gen walked to Bryson and Lillian.

Ryan and Brenda looked at each other.

Bryson and Lillian cried and held onto each other.

Gail touched Bryson's shoulder and said, "Her?"

Bryson nodded his head for yes.

Gail did a gig.

Everyone looked at Gail.

Eleanor stood so she could see.

Lorraine stood so she could see.

Eleanor rolled her eyes at Lorraine and said, "Lorraine you only stood up when you saw me stand up."

Dr. Greene, Alice and Ben looked at Eleanor.

Lorraine saw she was being watched.

Picked up her drink and sipped it and tossed her napkin off the table and looked at Eleanor and snatched her head in the air and walked off.

Patrick was looking back at Eleanor and said, "Brenda we have to stop them."

Brenda looked at Patrick and peeped around Ryan and looked back at Patrick and then back at Bryson.

Patrick thought, "LORD GOD Almighty. YOU know I have never been with another woman after I married Brenda. Please help me find out what is going on. How can two different people be so much alike. Eleanor is not a twin. I was there when she was born. And If Lorraine thought I was her daddy she would want a trust fund or a lot of money then Eleanor would kill her. I am about to beat Brenda. But I can't too much blame her. Help please. In JESUS' name."

Shirley was laughing.

Michael was eating and had a mouth full of food and yelled at Shirley, "You shut up!"

Eleanor started looking around on the ground.

Percy whisper to Bruce. They looked at Eleanor.

Thomas knew he was her favorite, Eleanor never spoke anything around anyone.

Thomas stepped in and said, "Momma you look real pretty."

Dr. Greene, Ben and the mayor looked at the curly head blue boy and smirked.

They looked at Eleanor.

Thomas stood and walked to Eleanor and hugged her.

The mayor nearly died laughing.

The mayor's wife was full but still drinking her champagne.

She hollered.

She told her husband, "He already knows how to butter a woman up."

Alice laughed.

Eleanor hugged Thomas.

Michael had his elbows on the table eating his food.

He looked at Eleanor and crunch down on his corn.

De. Greene looked at Michael and said, "GOD that boy is not playing with Eleanor about a lamb chop."

Alice leaned across the table and said, "Tony what did Michael say?"

Tony said, "It's not what he said. He gave Eleanor a I dare you look."

Ben and Al said, "Yes."

Alice was feeding Ryan Jr.

The mayor's wife leaned to Beverly and said, "Who is that the governor is holding?"

Beverly was getting out of her chair said, "I don't know but I am going to find out."

Michael saw Beverly moved and said and leaned on the table and said, "Aunt Beverly more please."

Beverly stood and looked at Michael.

She said, "Michael you are so full you can't move. No."

Michael said, "More."

Beverly said, "No."

She walked away.

The mayor's wife said, "He is just as cute as he can be with that head full of hair."

Al sat and watched Beverly walk away.

The mayor was giggling.

The mayor's wife hit him for him to stop.

Ben smirked and held his head down and finished cracking the crab legs that were in Gen's plate.

Dr. Greene saw Al and smile.

He looked at Ben and said, "Ben you too."

Ben turned his back and his plate to Dr. Greene.

Alice laughed and laughed.

Ben sneakily pushed Gen's punch glass close enough for Barry to grab it.

Al saw Ben push the punch glass and giggle.

Al giggled when Barry grabbed the punch glass and nearly had it in his mouth and Dr. Greene grabbed it.

Dr. Greene looked at Ben and said, "I know you pushed this punch so Barry can get it."

Ben did not turn around to look at Dr. Greene.

Dr. Greene drank the punch and Barry hollered.

Debra did not turn around.

Dr. Greene said to Ben, "I am going to sleep tonight."

Al leaned backwards and grinned at Dr. Greene.

Alice laughed.

Dr. Greene looked up and Michael laid out on the table.

The mayor's wife said, "It would not look good for me to do that."

Alice laughed.

Ryan thought, "She's laughing too much back there."

He did not want to turn his head from Bryson and Lillian.

The mayor's wife looked at Michael and said, "You are so hurt."

Michael was still laid out on the table said, "Yes I know."

Ben nearly choked.

Dr. Greene laughed.

Alice was feeding Ryan Jr.

Ryan Jr said. "No."

Ryan thought, "What is she doing?"

Gail turned to everyone and said, "This is Bryson's sister we have been looking for."

Ben looked up and said, "What?"

Alice clapped.

Ryan Jr. ran away.

Barry snatched from Dr. Greene and ran behind Ryan Jr.

Ryan Jr. stopped at Ryan, but Barry kept running.

Debra looked and did not see Tony she turned and ran behind Barry.

Brenda was clapping her hands with joy.

Patrick grinned and shook Nathaniel hand.

Margaret and Tom were in shock.

Lorraine smiled and went and got another crab leg.

She passed by Brenda.

Brenda hit Lorraine's butt.

Patrick quickly turned his head.

He thought, "Is she really losing her mind, hitting people?"

Lorraine sidestepped Brenda.

Eleanor and everyone at the tables were stunned.

The mayor's wife looked at Michael and said, "You were upset earlier why?"

Michael said, "I did not have my lamb chop."

The mayor looked at Michael.

The mayor's wife said, "That's your favorite piece of meat?"

Michael said, "Yeap."

The mayor's wife said, "I can cook that for you."

Shirley was listening and her mouth dropped open.

Eleanor turned her attention from Bryson to the mayor's wife.

Al looked at the mayor.

Dr. Greene saw Debra running after Barry and he turned and looked at the mayor's wife.

He said, "Is she flirting with that child?"

Ben was eating the last piece of king crab meat and said, "Yeap."

Everybody looked at Eleanor.

Thomas said, "We are use to it."

The mayor looked at his wife and said, "Shut up. Don't get anything else to drink."

His wife said, "What am I suppose to drink?"

The mayor pointed to the ocean and said, "You are taking us home. I am not making that five hour trip today and we are not spending the night."

The mayor's wife jumped up from the table.

The mayor looked at her and said, "Where are you going?"

She pointed to the ocean.

The mayor sat and looked at Eleanor and said, "I do apologize. She is drunk."

Eleanor was still hugging Thomas.

Michael was laid out on the table.

Bruce and Percy laid their heads down on the table.

Lorraine walked back to the table with a king crab leg.

Michael raised his head a little and looked at what Lorraine had.

The mayor pass Lorraine and gave her the eye.

Lorraine smiled.

Dr. Greene frowned and looked at the mayor.

Al and Ben saw the mayor flirt with Lorraine.

Eleanor looked at the mayor and Lorraine and the table of her sleeping boys.

She wanted to strangle Michael.

The mayor looked at the men and nodded.

Dr. Greene just looked at the mayor.

Dr. Greene was tired of Lorraine not having her a husband and drinking to take up the loneliness.

He knew Dr. Ralph would not marry. He thought it was wrong for Dr. Ralph to date Lorraine for a year and then decide he would not marry.

Dr. Greene, "Thought maybe Dr. Woodson. No he is dedicated to the patients."

Eleanor looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine cracked the crab leg.

Bruce said, "You did that good."

Lorraine laughed.

Michael was laid out on the table and turned sideways to look at Lorraine.

Lorraine expertly took out the meat. The boys were laughing.

Bruce sat up and was talking to Lorraine.

Bruce stopped talking and stared.

Lorraine looked at Bruce.

Bruce said, "Momma."

Eleanor looked at Bruce and turned his head.

Eleanor turned her head and saw Bruce walking to them.

Thomas looked and saw Bruce.

Bruce woke Percy.

Percy looked at their daddy.

Dr. Greene was still standing and he stared at Bruce.

Alice turned and saw Bruce.

Eleanor looked at Bruce.

He walked to Eleanor and did not speak to anyone.

He said, "Eleanor I told my momma I'm taking you back."

Shirley looked at Bruce.

She turned and looked up at Eleanor.

Percy and Bruce whispered.

They got up from the table and walked to Brenda and whispered Bruce was at the table and walked to their momma and told her he said he told his momma he would take their momma back.

Brenda turned and Percy and Bruce were walking behind her.

Then they got on each side of Brenda.

Patrick was grinning until he saw Brenda and Percy and Bruce.

He knew it was Bruce trouble.

Patrick turned and rushed to Eleanor.

He saw Bruce in Eleanor's face.

Thomas was standing looking at Bruce.

Bruce pushed Thomas aside.

Patrick saw Bruce then he saw Michael.

Michael grabbed his plate and jumped up and ran on top of the table and hit Bruce in his temple with the plate.

Michael jumped on Bruce's back and was choking him.

Percy, Bruce and Thomas grabbed Bruce and beat him to the ground.

Michael jumped off Bruce.

Lorraine mouth dropped open.

Beverly turned and saw the fight she ran back to the table.

Gen looked back and saw the boys.

She wondered what was going on.

She ran behind Beverly and saw the boys beating Bruce.

Patrick and Brenda stood and watched.

Beverly saw the boys beating Bruce.

She grabbed her purse.

Al said, "Beverly what are you doing?"

Beverly pulled out her brass knuckles.

Al ran and caught Beverly.

Beverly said, "Turn me loose Al!"

Alice stood so she could see.

Eleanor was dazed and stood and watched her sons.

Shirley sat and watched the boys used their military academy training.

Al fell back in his chair, but he would not turn loose Beverly.

Brenda looked back and said, "Give them to me."

Beverly threw the brass knuckles to Brenda.

Brenda put them on and was about to run when she could not move.

She looked around and at Patrick.

Ryan grabbed her and pulled her back.

Beverly said, "Michael!"

Michael stood up and said, "Huh"

Beverly said, "Kick him for me."

Michael nodded his head and he and Thomas were kicking Bruce.

Bruce and Percy were beating Bruce.

Lorraine was eating her crab meat and crying.

Patrick said, "Lorraine why are you crying?"

Eleanor was stunned how her boys were fighting.

Shirley looked at Lorraine.

Ryan was holding Brenda and said, "Lorraine are you alright?"

Lorraine looked up and waved at the boys fighting Bruce and said, "It's beautiful"

Lorraine continued to eat and watch the boys.

Michael was tired.

He sat on Bruce while the rest fought Bruce.

Bruce was yelling, "Get off me. I am your daddy."

Percy took his fist and popped him in his mouth.

Thomas was kicking Bruce and said, "We are not good enough to stay in your house nor to even see it."

Michael turned and looked at Thomas and said, "That's right."

Michael turned and started biting Bruce.

Ryan stepped forth and looked at Dr. Greene.



Dr. Greene looked at Ryan.

Ryan said, "That's enough."

Ryan pushed Percy and Bruce away and said, "Thomas stop."

Ryan said, "Any help?"

No body moved.

Michael kept biting Bruce.

Ryan stopped and was bent over to help Bruce up.

He looked at Michael and said, "Michael, stop. Get over your lamb chop."

Michael stop and walked on and stomped him in his stomach.

Beverly said, "My boy! Shake my hand."

Michael walked to Beverly and shook her hand.

He walked to Lorraine for some of her meat and sat next to Lorraine and ate her crab leg.

Eleanor looked at Michael.

Gen looked around and at Ben and sad, "Well damn."

Ben laughed.

Brenda laughed.

Gen said, "Michael whipped Bruce's ass and sat and ate like it was nothing. And he is ready for more."

Brenda was laughing.

Al was laughing.

Beverly looked back at Al and said, "You nasty dog turn me a loose."

Ben hollered.

Brenda looked back at Beverly and held her head down.

Patrick was not laughing.

Ryan said, "You all need to talk."

Michael was eating out of Lorraine plate.

Gen pointed to Michael.

Michael was eating and said, "For what?"

Ryan was about to say to get along and he heard Ryan Jr vomiting.

He looked at Alice who grabbed him and ran to the rest area.

Captain Moss and Ellen saw the fight from the beginning.

They watched and did not move but kept the food flowing.

Ryan picked up Bruce and saw knots on his forehead and head.

Ryan lifted Bruce up and was about to sit him in Michael's seat.

Michael stopped eating and raised his head up.

Ryan shook his head.

Gen slapped her knees in laughter.

Beverly said, "I want that pie I saw."

Michael said, "Wait Aunt Bev. I am finished with this conversation."

Gen threw her hands up in the air and hollered.

Ben and Al looked at Bruce like he was crazy.

Patrick turned and walked behind Beverly and Michael back to the happy reunion with Bryson and his sister Lillian.

Ryan walked Bruce to the beginning of the dock and Bruce was shaking his head.

Ryan said, "Bruce I examined you. You will be alright. I saw you when you walked passed everybody and pushed Thomas to get to Eleanor. Eleanor maybe confused right now. But you have to change. For your sons to jump on you in and fight you and Thomas and Percy said, they hate you. Bruce. Your children hate you. You need to go and get yourself clean before God."

Bruce was shaking his head.

Ryan said, "Where are you staying?"

Bruce pointed at the ship.

Ryan said, "Bruce what is wrong with you. Patrick and Brenda hate you and you are acting like you rule them and everything they have. You need to go. You need to leave here. Where is your horse?"

Ryan grabbed Bruce and walked him to his buggy and he saw a bag in his carriage.

Ryan put Bruce in the buggy and said, "You have five hours to think Bruce."

Bruce looked at Ryan and pulled off.

Ryan walked back and saw Alice running after Ryan Jr.

Ryan thought and he ran back to the carriage and got all of the bags.

Dr. Greene saw Ryan with the bags and walked to him and got the bags.

Eleanor was surrounded by everyone looking at her.

Michael and Beverly came back with key lime pie and strawberry cream pie for everyone.

Captain Moss and Ellen were the carters and they kept working.

Eleanor looked at everybody.

Brenda said, "Eleanor where did you get that necklace.

Shirley quickly turned and was looking at the necklace.

Gen and Beverly elbowed each other.

Beverly put the pie on the boy's table.

Ben had his fork ready for his piece of pie.

He was watching Beverly's hands when she walked over to their table her hands were empty.

The waiters walked over with slices of pie and served everybody.

Beverly looked at Ben.

Ben looked at Beverly and grinned.

Beverly shook her head and said, "AU."

Ben sat and ate his strawberry pie.

She looked at Al and sat in her chair.

Al was patting his thigh.

Beverly rolled her eyes at Al and said, "Nasty thang."

Eleanor said, "Bradley gave it to me when we were in Greece."

Ryan and Dr. Greene looked at Eleanor.

Brenda looked at Eleanor.

She pulled off the brass knuckles and walked to Beverly and gave them to her.

Brenda walked and talked to Margaret and Tom.

They were finally their food and moving to tables.

Caleb and Stewart missed the fight.

They ran back to the table with the boys and were eating heir pie.

Percy was demonstrating the fight.

Caleb and Stewart mouths dropped open and they were excited.

Eleanor looked at her sons who fought their daddy not once but twice.

She shook her head.

Shirley stood and was looking at the necklace.

She said, "Momma why are you wearing that necklace today?"

Lorraine said, "Because she wants to remember Dr. Woodson."

Shirley said, "Will you be wearing that for today?"

Eleanor said, "Shirley get out of my face. I will always keep this necklace."

Shirley said, "What are you going to do about daddy? Will that determine what you will do with the necklace? That's a nice necklace."

Eleanor looked at Shirley and said, "How did you get to that Shirley?"

Shirley said, "I listened to the nurses when I was at the hospital."

Ryan and Dr. Greene looked at Alice.

Alice turned her head.

Ryan whispered to Dr. Greene.

Alice did not know what Ryan said.

Dr. Greene whispered back.

Alice knew it was serious.

Alice said, "What happen to Sharon and her parents?"

Gen turned around and said, "Hopefully in hell."

Ben raised from his pie and exhaled and looked at Gen in agreement.

Eleanor said, "All of you will go back to school. The academy is expecting you."

The boys started fussing.

Michael did not care what Eleanor said he was still angry about his lamb chop.

He was enjoying his pie.

Eleanor walked to Michael and said, "Michael come and walk with me."

Gen was watching Michael for his response.

Michael said, "No."

He looked up at Eleanor and said, "I am eating. Mother."

Eleanor was embarrassed.

Debra said, "Eleanor's outfit is really nice."

Alice was peeping around Ryan to see Eleanor's dress.

Beverly said, "it is chic."

They all laughed.

Dr. Greene turned and said, "Debra that's why you came?"

Ryan pointed back at Alice and said, "This one too."

Alice was embarrassed and turned red.

Yan Jr said, "Mommie. Tummy."

Ryan turned back and looked at Alice.

He said, "I wondered what you were doing. You were being noisy and stuffing him with food to keep him quiet."

Alice grabbed Ryan Jr and ran to the rest area.

Eleanor saw Ryan's bags she said, "I'm sorry Ryan, but we will be staying on the new ship tonight."

She looked and said, "We have carriages to take you to the ship. Your rooms are already assigned to you. We have a mid- night buffet planned and a breakfast buffet in the morning."

Eleanor started looking around and saw a man and waved at a him.

Ryan was so impressed and said, "Eleanor I love you."

Everybody smiled.

Ryan said, "You are an extraordinary person and woman. I want nothing but the best for you."

Eleanor walked to Ryan with her arms out.

Ryan held Eleanor and she put her head on his shoulder and cried.

Dr. Greene smiled.

He looked back at Debra and Barry who was eating a piece of strawberry pie.

Dr. Greene wanted to scream.

Al and Ben began to holler.

Debra looked at Dr. Greene and said, "Tony Barry will run off this sugar."

Dr. Greene looked at Debra and turned his head.

Alice was walking back to the table with Ryan Jr.

She looked at Ryan holding Eleanor she knew something had happen.

She walked up and said nothing.

Gen said, "That is a woman who has confidence in her husband. Go girl."

Beverly looked back and Lorraine they clapped and finished eating their pie.

Alice grinned.

Alice said, "One thing I want is a hot bath."

Gen laughed and said, "We will be staying on the new ship tonight."

Alice mouth dropped opened and she looked around.

Beverly said, "Why are you looking around Alice?"

Alice said, "Where is Ellen. I rather stay with them."

Beverly pointed to the food and said, "They are in charge of all of this food and services. They don't have time to be catering to a party of one."

Debra wanted to say the same thing but did not want to be fussed at.

Michael said, "Hey Dr. Ryan can if we have to have a daddy. Cn you be it? I do not want a daddy ever."

Alice looked at Michael and touched her heart.

Eleanor lifted her head from Ryan's shoulder and took her handkerchief and dried her tears and nose.

She looked at Alice and whispered, "Sorry. Michael says what he wants."

Ryan said, "I can't have two wives."

Michael said, "I did not say for you to have two wives, but to be our daddy?"

Ryan whispered, "Damn."

Alice laughed.

Dr. Greene and Debra

Percy, Bruce and Thomas looked at Ryan.

Ryan said, "Michael you have a daddy. If anything happens me and Alice will love for you all to be our sons."

Alice laughed and then caught herself.

Gen said, "I told you that boy is thinking."

The man walked to Eleanor.

Who dried her face and smiled abut commanding and said, "Make the carriages available to take our guests to their cabins. We have a few extra guests."

She turned and looked at the table of boys.

They cheered and clapped.

Ryan laughed.

Ryan was thinking, "If I would have known Eleanor before Alice, it would not have been an Alice but one Ryan Jr."

Dr. Greene and Debra leaned forward and looked at the rowdy boys and laughed.

Barry was rowdy and ready to go with Percy and Bruce.

Debra told Barry to finish his strawberry pie.

She said, "Barry see I am eating your pie."

Barry looked at Debra and twisted from her and ran to Percy.

Debra took a bit of the strawberry pie.

She screamed.

Dr. Greene rushed to her and said, "What?"

Eleanor and the man looked at Debra.

Ryan looked at Debra.

Al, Ben and Gen kept eating their pie.

Beverly was looking at Debra and said, "What's wrong?"

Debra said, "Sugar. This pie is nothing but sugar."

Debra reached Dr. Greene a bit.

He closed his eyes.

Ryan said, "That's why we could not hear anything from Al, Ben and Gen. Don't get any more pie."

Al, Ben and Gen pretended they did not hear Ryan.

Beverly was enjoying her pie.

Dr. Greene got off his knees and said, "I have to drink this ocean to get that sugar out of my body."

Ryan chuckled.

He said, "Who is going to be babysitting sugar boys over there?"

Eleanor looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine turned her head.

Shirley was looking at Eleanor's necklace.

They heard Bryson and Nathaniel laughing.

Gen said, "Out of all of this hell there was some good."

Debra said, "Oh God I don't Barry will sleep at all tonight."

Dr. Greene stood and walked away.

Ryan, Ben, Gen and Al laughed.

Eleanor walked to Margaret and Tom and asked what they were going to do about Caleb and Stewart.

Margaret said, "It's the week-end. We were going home tomorrow. They can stay tonight and we will take them to school by Monday."

Eleanor said, "I am going to send the school master a telegram and let him know the boys will be back by Monday. I need to cancel the express train for tonight and the carriage for in the morning."

Margaret looked at her mother and said, "She prayed so hard for this moment that she could be reunited with her brother. "

Tom said, "We should have known him when he was the governor. Could have gotten a lot of business."

Margaret looked at Tom.

Eleanor turned and walked away to go to the old ship's office to send a telegram.

Ryan caught himself watching Eleanor.

She looked lovely to him.

Lorraine looked at Ryan.

Alice looked at Ryan and punched his arm.

Ryan said, "Ow".

Alice said, "Straighten up sir."

Ryan saw everyone was finished with their pie but Beverly.

Gen was looking at Beverly's key lime pie and shook her shoulders and said, "Is it good?"

Ben cut his eyes at Gen.

Ryan was looking at Gen.

Beverly said, "I am not saying anything. I don't want that skinny white man saying anything to me."

Alice looked at Beverly.

Ryan said, "I am not skinny but healthy."

Beverly turned her head and said, "Huh. Huh."

The waiter passed by them with champagne.

Al, Ben and Gen's eyes followed the champagne, but they knew not to ask for any while Ryan was near.

Debra said, "I need to give Barry water."

Al and Ben grinned.



Percy saw Eleanor walking by the ship.

Percy said, "Let's catch momma."

Bruce looked around and they all jumped and ran after Eleanor.

Debra caught Barry and said, "Drink water Barry."

Gen and Beverly hollered.

Ryan looked at them and thought, "I better put these two to sleep."

Gen said, "Let Barry run and burn off some of that sugar."

Debra looked back at Gen and put Barry down.

He was loud and running behind Percy and Bruce.

Percy and Bruce stopped and waited for Barry.

Dr. Greene saw Debra and he got her hand and they walked behind the rowdy group.

Debra said, "Tony I am sorry."

Tony looked at her for a second as he watched the boys.

Debra hit Tony on his chest and said, "You know."

Tony thought and grinned and said, "Baby, whenever it will be great."

Debra put her head on Tony's shoulder.

She raised her head.

Tony said, "Keep walking."

Debra looked at Tony and said, "What you think?"

Tony said, "I think he and Eleanor will re-marry. But he will never have a relationship with his sons. Nor with Patrick and Brenda. They will not welcome him back. Nor will he have a penny of their money."

Debra said, "Is this what it is about? The money?"

Tony said, "I believe that is a large part of it. But Bruce is racist."

Debra screamed, "What?"

Eleanor looked back.

Tony grinned and waved at Eleanor and said, "Debra be quiet."

Debra said, "Sorry."

Dr. Greene said, "Bruce family told him to have eight babies by Eleanor and make her feel guilty about Shirley and that way she would continue to have babies by him. Eleanor did not go to Patrick and Brenda

and Bruce beat her down. Until Patrick told Eleanor he was going to put her away and he sewed up the money that no one can get a penny. The boys are just like Patrick.”

Debra said, “Is that the reason Eleanor seemed distance?”

Tony said, “Yeap.”

Debra said, “Can a doctor help her get from under that?”

Tony said, “No.”

He looked at Debra, “She is a brilliant business woman. Look at this. Bruce could not have achieved this. But he would have taken the credit. Like he was the great white mind behind this. You did not see how he walked up and spoke to no one and pushed Thomas out of his way to hold Eleanor’s hand. He said he told his mother he would take Eleanor back. She has to shake off and out of her mind that she was abused because she was black.”

Dr. Greene kissed Debra’s hand.

They walked up the landing to the ship.

Debra said, “I’m trying to put Barry asleep. I want a hot bath and go to bed. If Eleanor take Bruce back.”

Dr. Greene said, “But she will.”

Debra said, “It will never be for love but for friendship.”

Dr. Greene said, “Right. With no benefits. I know because that is what I went through until you came.”

The boys ran wild on the ship.

Debra and Tony went and sit on the landing to wait for them.

Barry ran and jumped on Dr. Greene’s back.

Tony grabbed Barry’s legs and jumped up and down like a horse.

The rowdy boys ran pass the back to the tent.

Eleanor and Debra were walking behind Dr. Greene and Barry.

Debra looked Eleanor up and down.

Eleanor looked at Debra.

Debra said, “Eleanor you look good. We talk about your clothes all the time. I wanted to come to the ball but Tony said no. Did you all take photographs?”

Eleanor grinned and said, “Yes. I believe they maybe at the house.”

Debra said, “Is Shirley’s dress shop doing good?”

Eleanor said, “Yes. I told her I was going to close just before we left.”

Debra said, “What? Why?”

Eleanor said, "Shirley wanted to take the family's money and use it instead of her own. She agreed to use her money so I would not have closed the dress shop. I still don't think she understand the business."

Debra said, "But the prestigious business school she is at will help her."

Eleanor said, "Excuse me."

She walked to Brenda and said, "Momma Jose telegram and said Steven was not paid for the train station."

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Brenda thought and said, "I can't remember. Do you pay him?"

Eleanor said, "I told Jose to give Steven a hundred dollars, but I am sure you promised him more than that in the contract."

Patrick's mouth started to quiver.

Bryson was grinning with Lilian and stopped and looked at Brenda.

Patrick said, "Eleanor, tell Jose to give Steven another hundred dollars that should be the correct amount. Your momma did not write a contract with Steven."

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Bryson said, "Brenda baby we have to see about you."

Patrick bit his lips and his eyes filled with tears.

Nathaniel and Lillian looked at Brenda who was staring at Patrick.

Eleanor ran from Brenda screaming.

Ryan looked at Eleanor.

Beverly looked at Eleanor.

She put her head down.

Shirley stood and looked over at the table with her grandpa and grandma and then at Eleanor.

Gen begin to cry.

Ben said, "Gen what is wrong?"

Gen wiped her eyes and kept her head down.

Ryan looked at the table and knew they knew something.

Eleanor ran up the ship landing and ran to the office and locked the door and fell back on it and said, "God that my momma and daddy serve please change this. My momma. I have not had enough good time with her. Please don't take her mind where we won't remember the good times. She did good works for You and helped others. Please, please, please help my momma. Help my poor daddy."

Jose gave Steven a hundred dollars for his design and building of the rest stop.

Brenda did not get a chance to see it when the train sped through.

Steven went and paid for Alicia books so she could start school on Monday.

They went and bought Emilou five dresses and two pairs of boots to start school.

Alicia said, "Emilou we can get you three dresses for now."

Emilou looked at Steven.

Steven winked his eye.

Alicia bought her two pairs of boots and three outfits.

She liked to dress going to school.

They went to the coal company and ordered a quarter of a ton of coal for the winter. They were scared of freezing.

They thought and ran back to the general store and people were in line ordering blankets.

They looked at each other.

Steven was counting the money and they ordered the three of them long johns and Alicia's yarn.

Steven and Alicia did not know how many blankets to order.

An older woman said, "Order three or four a piece. It is suppose to be a bad winter."

Steven looked at Alicia and Emilou.

He said, "We got stuff we wanted. Now let get the stuff we need."

They ate at the restaurant and stopped by the poultry shop and got to chickens so they would not have to go back.

Steven walked around the house over and over.

He climbed on top of the house and looked around.

He saw a few tree branches that needed to be cut.

Eleanor sent Jose a telegram to give Steven another hundred dollars until she got back.

Jose received the telegram and said, "Damn. That means I have to take him this money and the receipt book so he can sign for it."

Jose counted the money out and locked up the house and left and went and found Steven's house.

It was his grandmother's house they moved in when their house was destroyed by fire.

Jose saw Steven on the roof cutting the tree branches.

He waited and did not say anything.

Alicia looked out the poor screen door and walked out the door and said, "Hello Mr. Jose."

She walked out and looked around and said, "Steven should be out here."

Jose said, "He's on the roof and I don't want him to fall. I'll wait."

Alicia saw the envelope in Jose's hand and grinned and said, "I'll give Steven the envelope."

Jose said, "No."

Alicia looked at Jose.

Emilou was playing with some more little girls.

She saw someone in her yard and peeped and saw it was Jose.

She grinned big and waved at Jose.

Jose smiled at Emilou and waved.

Jose said, I hope is being wise with this money.

Steven was standing on the roof and saw a few spots that needed to be repaired.

He saw Jose and smiled.

He climbed down and was about to step off the porch and his foot went through a board.

Steven was shocked.

Jose said, "Steven Eleanor said for you to have another hundred until she comes back. I hope you are working on the hospital design. It looks like you will need to repair this place before the winter. You need a few hands to help."

Steven said, "No body around here helps me."

Jose looked at Steven and dismounted his horse and gave Steven the envelope and the receipt for him to sign.

Jose said, "That horse is not going to make it."

Steven said, "I know. Nor the buggy."

This will help me. Us."

Jose walked and got on his horse and looked around the neighborhood and said, "I hear the last fair before it gets winter is this Saturday in the capitol. You may get some of the things you need before the supply is gone. I will by and help you build a shed for your coal, because you don't want that to get wet. It won't be any good. And you need a stable for the horse. I hope you buy some more horses and another buggy. It looks like you have to do a lot before Eleanor gets back."

Steven said, "Mrs. Stith hired me."

Jose, "She retired and Mr. Stith. Eleanor sent you this telegram. I don't know what it says because your name was on it. It was sent a week ago."

Steven looked at Jose.

Steven read the telegram.

He said, "Jose tele Eleanor I can do that and will be in Philadelphia in two weeks with the drawings and plans for her approval."

Jose said, "Alright."

He rode away.

Steven was very calm and walked in the house and screamed.

Emilou heard Steven and ran to the fence and looked over at her house.

She did not see he nor Alicia and knew everything was fine.

She went back to playing with her friends.

Jose heard Steven and grinned.

Steven looked around the house.

He said, "Alicia I need your help, because when you start school Monday I don't want you to do anything but study so you can finish school this year. I believe we all got clothes for the winter. I cut the branches off the roof. I need to put in new windows and door and patch up around. Jose said the last fair to buy stuff is this Saturday in the capitol. I guess he saw we are in need of everything. Let's get organized. We need a place to store winter food and we need dressers for our clothes and we need to check the well. These people don't speak to us especially me but comes over here to our well and get water. They have to pay from now on."

Alicia said, "They really won't like us."

Steven said, "We can't continually buy peace or for them to like us."

Steven looked at the neighbor as she passed his window with her pail.

Steven said, "Let's make our lists."

He and Alicia sat at the wobbling table and wrote their lists.

They went into town the next morning and put in their orders.

They went home and pulled up the old wood and put down new wood.

They were happy and they found a wall and put shelves on it to place the winter food.

Steven ordered him an architect desk and lamp.

They ordered Emilou a new bedroom to her surprise.

Steven sat on the front porch and put in new planks and made sure the porch was sturdy.

The same old nasty walked in Steven's yard and did not speak nor asked if she could get the any water.

Alicia stood in the door and watch her.

Steven was seating on the porch drinking a glass of water.

Steven said, "Old lady get out of my yard."

The old nasty woman kept walking.

Alicia stepped out on the porch.

Emilou was across the street playing and heard Steven and saw the old woman.

Emilou walked home.

Steven purchased a stone and placed it on the well.

The old nasty woman could not move the stone.

She turned and walked out the yard.

She went and told some of the male neighbors and one of them grabbed her pail and walked to Steven's yard.

Steven said, "Emilou and Alicia get in the house."

Steven stood on the porch and yelled, "Get out of my yard."

Nathan was riding down the street and heard the yelling.

Nathan sped up.

The old nasty woman saw Nathan and stopped him and said, "That nigger is trying to stop us from getting water."

Nathan rode to the house and saw Steven standing on his porch telling the men to get out of his yard.

Nathan got off his horse and looked at the white men and said, "What are you doing?"

One of them said, "We coming to get Miss lassie's water."

Nathan said, "Whose house is this?"

The other man said, "That nigger."

Alicia and Emilou were standing in the door.

Nathan looked at Steven and said, "Is this your property?"

Steven said, "Yes sir."

Nathan said, "Where do you two live?"

They pointed down the street.

One of them said, "We always come and get our water."

Nathan said, "It stops today. Don't enter this property again. You better not set the sole of your feet on it. You better not go to his well again. You better not shot up here or try to burn him out. I sware I will hang you myself."

The bigger man said, "What are we suppose to do about our water?"

People had gathered in the street.

Nathan said, "I don't give a damn. You buy it and not steal it. I better not have any problems from you."

A man was walking through Steven's yard and plucked an apple. He stood and ate the apple and looked at Steven and Nathan.

He said, "Hey sheriff. You are the new sheriff."

Nathan said, "Where do you live?"

The turned and pointed behind Steven.

Everybody laughed like he was the big bully in the neighborhood.

Nathan said, "I'm going to say this once. You get out of this yard and don't trespass again. You will not steal any more from this property. If I suspect you have tried to shoot in this house, burn it down or poison the trees or land I will hang you myself."

Nathan saw the shotgun leaning by the planks on the porch.

The men were standing looking at Nathan.

Nathan looked at hem and said, "You have not moved."

The big man said, "You did not say please."

They all grinned and laughed including the old nasty woman.

Nathan hit the big man in his stomach so hard the man was falling to his knees and as he was falling to his knees Nathan kicked him hard in his face and drew both of his guns on the other two men.

He said, "You are under arrest. On your knees."

The two men did not know what to do.

The people in the street ran.

The two men fell to their knees and watched Nathan.

Nathan took his time and went to his saddle and roped all three men and tied them to his saddle and rode them through town to the jail and put them in jail.

Nathan said, "You three fools will be in jail until the judge comes back from vacation in two weeks. You get one meal a day."

The man that walked on Steven's property and picked an apple and ate it in Steven's face yelled, "I will be fired and lose my house by then!"



Nathan rushed to his cell with a two by four and the man fell back in the cell.

Nathan screamed, "You should have thought about being fired and homeless before you trespassed and dared me."

The other big man was holding his stomach and said, "Sir. Mr. Sheriff. I am sorry. Can I go?"

Nathan said, "You fools don't say nothing else to me. You could move, but you will not bring this racist, hate filled mind into this town."

The other man said, "It's already here."

Nathan said, "Yeah you were breed liked that."

The three prisoners looked at Nathan.

Nathan sat at his desk and filled out the arrest papers.

He filled out their property papers and put their property in a separate bag like Denise showed him.

He told Denise not to come to the jail, but they would discuss everything away from the jail.

She looked into Nathan's eyes and knew it would not be safe for her nor him.

He was thinking about the brown and white house.

When he rode through Steven's neighborhood he saw a house that's yard was full of every type of fruit trees and fig bushes and plums. It had a small stream running in the back and the sides.

Nathan though about a garden on the other side of the house. Denise did not like snakes which the stream would bring. But he settled on one of those two houses.

He was angry because of the men's attitude and the attitude of the neighbors about black people.

He was not going to take Denise and ask her to allow that type of abuse again.

He heard about Mabel talking about suicide. Nathan was not going to let that kill Denise.

Steven realized he need a lot of help.

He put the shotgun in the house.

The neighbors saw the shotgun and ran.

Steven did not have bullets in it.

He bought the shotgun at the general store because the manager cut the price and added the cost of ammunition to his order.

Steven rode to Jose and went around the back.

He looked around at first and Dan was sitting in the window of the re-modeled barn looking out the window and saw Steven.

Dan thought his face was familiar and then remembered Nadine's nephew.

He wondered what he wanted.

Steven jumped out his buggy and stood and yelled, "Jose."

Jose was sitting at his work desk looking over the work schedule and heard a faint noise.

He stood and walked to the windows he could see out.

He saw Steven pull up and sit in the buggy.

Jose shook his head at Steven.

Steven jumped out his buggy and stood and looked up at the house and yelled, "Jose".

Briana and two more workers were coming from the washer room. They had completed all the linens from the celebrations and folded all the linens and were taking the linens to put in the closets until the holidays.

They heard Steven and turned around and looked out the back door at Steven.

Steven did not see them.

He was looking at the back upstairs windows.

Jose opened the kitchen window and yelled, "What Steven?"

Steven jumped.

The workers started laughing at Steven.

One of the dish washers was there because he liked one of the workers.

Jose said, "I am not going to pay you. You are relieved of duty until the holidays and that's if you come back. I am not paying you to date."

The dish washer rolled his eyes at Jose as the worker was coming into the kitchen.

Veronica spoke and he did not speak and she made her a sandwich and offered Jose and the dish washer a sandwich.

The worker looked at the dish washer and said, "I was always taught to speak to people. If they spoke fine and if they did not shake the dust off your feet. So sir I am shaking your dust off my feet."

Veronica turned and Jose quickly held his head down.

The worker looked at Jose as she walked down the hall to the ballroom and waited for Briana and the other workers to join her in bridge or poker. They were learning how to play while all the good players were gone. They wanted to win their money back.

The dish washer stood in amazement.

Jose threw open his arms in the air to say look fool she is gone.

He went back to his work schedule.

Until he heard the buggy with Steven.

Jose went from the window to the back door.

He unlocked the back door and walked onto the porch.

Briana and the other workers were laughing and standing in the back door to hear what Jose was about to say.

Maureen said, "Isn't that Nadine's nephew?"

Dora said, "Yeah. He's cute."

Briana said, "Look at his hair."

Maureen said, "Not like Michael and Thomas."

They all laughed.

Briana said, "Come on yall."

The dish washer was standing in the hall watching the way Veronica went and when he heard the workers as they passed him he threw his hair back.

They laughed at him and said, "No sir."

They continued to laughed as they went down the hall.

They saw Veronica sitting in the ball room.

Veronica tried to shuffle the cards and the cards flew all over the table and floor towards the door.

Briana, Dora and Maureen laughed.

The dish washer looked to see what they were laughing at and saw Veronica trying to pick up the cards.

He ran to help her.

Veronica said, "Move you rude person!"

She started swatting at him.

The dish washer fell into the hall.

Briana, Dora, Maureen stood in shock.

The dish washer started scooting backwards on the floor and stuck his tongue out at Veronica and said, "Nay. Nay you missed me."

Jose stood in the floor and looked at the dish washer.

Jose stood and did not say anything.

Veronica turned and saw Jose.

Briana, Dora and Maureen mouths were opened.

They turned and rushed down the hall to the room Brenda turned into the linens room since she was going to leave the ballroom opened.

The dish washer sat on the floor.

Maureen stepped back into the ballroom and stuck her tongue out at the dish washer and balled her fists at him.

The dish washer said, "What are those lollipops?"

He started licking his tongue like he was licking a lollipop.

Jose stood and looked at the dish washer.

Briana, Dora and Maureen were peeping from the linen room.

Veronica stopped and looked at the dish washer.

Jose said, "Get your ass up Allen and come and talk to Steven."

Allen saw Veronica liked what he was doing and he continued.

Jose walked to Allen and looked at Veronica.

Veronica jumped and ran back to her table and tried picking up her cards.

She sat and stared at Allen.

Jose stood in front of Allen.

Allen was grinning and said, "Move."

Jose said, "Then I will ban you from here and not contact you to come back."

Allen was grinning at Veronica and looked at Jose and jumped off the floor and said, "What Jose?!!"

Jose said, "Bring your ass on."

Allen was walking behind Jose and ran back and licked out his tongue to Veronica.

Veronica sat and looked at Allen.

Dora said, "Oh."

The three women ran to the ballroom and picked up the other cards and grinned and sat at the table with Veronica and giggled.

Allen and Jose heard the women giggling.

Allen grinned and threw his arms up in the air the way Jose did him.

He walked and outside and saw Steven and Jose walked out and Dan was walking up at the same time.

Dan said, "Afternoon."

Jose said, "Dan. What I can help you with?"

Jose thought, "He's number two, then Thomas and then crazy Peter."

Dan said, "I saw Steven and wanted to know if everything was ok."

Allen was standing with his arms folded looking at Steven.

Jose stood next to Allen.

Jose said, "Steven has to go to the end of next week to meet Eleanor and Patrick to build something and he needs help this week and next to get winter repairs around his house done. You interested?"

Allen heard the women walking to washer room and he was grinning.

Jose did not look at Allen and said, "I will ban you."

Allen exhaled and looked at Jose.

Dan wondered what that was about.

Dan peeped at the giggling women.

Allen turned and sat on the porch.

Dan looked at Allen.

He said, "I will help you Steven."

Steven said, "Thank you."

Dan said, "Have you the supplies?"

Steven said, "I ordered them and they should be here Monday."

Dan said, "I'll be there Monday where do you live?"

Jose said, "I will give you the address."

Allen said, "What repairs are you doing?"

Steven said, "Windows, doors, replacing wood."

Allen nodded his head in agreement.

Steven continued, "Building a coal shed."

Allen turned his head and looked at Steven.

Steven said, "Stable for the horses."

Allen pointed at the horses Steven had on the buggy.

He started laughing.

Jose said, "Wait a minute. Didn't Jessie and his sons start a horse business in the capitol?"

Allen said, "Yeah."

He continued to laugh at Steven's horses.

The horses turned their heads and looked at Allen.

Jose looked at the hoses.

Steven said, "We will go to the capitol for the festival and tried to find this man. I need at least four horses."

Allen leaned back on the porch and said, "And a buggy."

Allen said, "Where do you live?"

Steven said, "Woodrow."

Allen leaned on the porch and stared at Steven.

Dan looked at Allen.

Jose looked at Allen.

Dan said, "Allen what is wrong?"

Allen said, "How did you end up in Woodrow?"

Steven got scared and said, "Our house was burned down three years and our grandmother's house was given to us by our aunts."

Jose cut his eyes at Steven.

He said, "I'll be there mid-morning once I complete the work here."

Dan looked at Allen and said, "I'll be there at day break because I have to be on the other end of town around three pm."

Everyone looked at Allen.

Allen did not say anything.

Steven turned to Dan and said, "It maybe better to meet me at the supply company at daybreak."

Allen with those horses.

The horses moved toward Allen.

Jose ran in the house.

Steven was jumping back and forth.

Dan ran backwards.

Allen jumped on the porch.

Briana and the workers ran downstairs.

One of the window washers that groomed the horses said, "They heard you and did not like what you said."

Steven was scared.

He got in the buggy and was breathing hard and exhaling and drove home.

He was trying to think about the money they had left over.

He was passing through the part of town by the hospital.

He stopped at the hospital and reviewed it.

He put his hands up and did mental photographs of how the hospital should look.

Steven thought, "Alice is in school in the capitol. Maybe she wants to spend the day at the festival with us. How do I contact her?"

Steven jumped in his wagon and rode home fast.

The other patrons were looking at him barley moving and they smirked at him.

Steven finally made it home.

Alicia and Emilou were sitting on the porch.

Emilou had her hands out while Alicia was unwinding the yarn.

Emilou saw the horses and waved and spoke to the horses.

Steven said, "Hey. I want to invite Alice to the festival Saturday how do I contact he Alicia?"

Alicia said, "It's too late for a letter. We just have to try to find her. I know where she and Ginger stays."

Emilou said, "Now for a gift."

Steven bent down to Emilou and said, "Now for the gift. You liked Alice?"

Emilou said, "Yeah."

Steven said, "I do too. She likes to read."

Emilou said, "A book."

They all laughed.

Alicia said< "I am baking a chicken and vegetables and biscuits for dinner."

Steven said, "Alicia you are trying into momma."

Alicia and Emilou became sad.

Steven said, "I am so sorry. I did not mean to bring up sadness."

Alicia said, "We know."

Steven sat next to the two and held them by their shoulders.

They held onto each other.

Emilou said, "Look at the horses."

Alicia sit straight and said, "The buggy is too heavy for them. We had them ever since mommie and daddy."

Steven got up and unhitched the horses from the buggy.

Emilou put the yarn down and ran and picked two apples for the horses.

Alicia said, "Emilou I told you about jumping to catch a tree limb and standing on those spools where you can fall."

Steven said, "A smaller ladder."

Steven loosed the horses in the backyard.

Alicia was able to complete a pair of stockings for Emilou before dinner.

Alicia went into the house and put the stockings up for the winter.

Steven was working around the house.

The children did not want to play with Emilou anymore because their daddies were in jail.

They ran Emilou out their yards.

Emilou yelled back at the kids, "If your daddies were stealing my water and my apples they would not be in jail."

Steven heard Emilou and ran from the back.

One boy picked up a rock and threw and hit Emilou in the eye as Alicia was running out the front door.

Steven picked up a rock and photograph it in his mind and hit the boy in his head and knocked him down.

Steven was proud of himself.

Then he heard Emilou crying.

Alicia ran to Emilou who was holding her eye.

Steven ran and picked up Emilou and took her in the house and laid her down.

Steven was standing on the porch against the pole.

He was thinking about his momma and his daddy that night they were killed.

Alicia was tending to Emilou's eye.

Alicia went and read her book about the ye.



She went back to Emilou and said, "It looks bad but you should not have any damage. When we get to the capitol on Saturday we are going to see a doctor."

Alicia walked out on the porch with Steven.

She put her hand on his shoulder.

Steven looked at her.

Alicia said, "I don't know how bad the damage is. Saturday in the capitol are eye doctors there. I want to take her."

Steven nodded his head for yes.

He said, "That evil boy tried to put out her sight. He tried to take away her sight. How evil can a child be. I want let them kill you and Emilou."

Alicia swallowed and sniffed and said, "I won't let then kill you neither."

Emilou was standing in the door and heard the conversation between Steven and Alicia.

Alicia whispered and said Emilou.

Steven looked back and held his hand to Emilou.

She walked out the door and the three of them stood on the porch and went into the house and ate dinner.

Steven said, "In two weeks I will be leaving to go to Philadelphia and build a rest area for the Stiths. This should give us money to last through the winter. And I have to give Eleanor drawings for the hospital."

Alicia said, "They are actually going to build a hospital here. I can work here."

Emilou had her head on the table.

Steven looked at her.

Emilou said, "what is going to happen to me?"

Alicia said, "We are going to be together Emilou."

Steven said, "Now since you don't have any friends and Alicia's school is on the other end of town."

Alicia looked at Steven.

Steven said, "I wanted this to be a surprise Alicia will have her own carriage with new horses to go back and forth to school."

Alicia was excited and, "Steven can we afford it."

Steven said, "We will. I don't want you Emilou here by yourself."

Alicia looked at Emilou.

Steven said, "There are three schools near Alicia school before you get back here."

Emilou jumped up from the table and said, "I want my friends. Steven if you would have let them get water and stuff I would have my friends and my eye."

Alicia said, "Emilou."

Steven sit back in his chair and looked at Emilou.

He said, "You can cry all you want Emilou. Those kids are not your friends. You will have your eye and your eyesight. I will no longer let these evil people run over us and our property and run it down like their houses to keep them from causing harm to us. That evil will follow us wherever we go. I will not be run off anymore. So cry Emilou. I will not buckle this time."

Emilou jumped and ran from the table and out the house.

Steven did not move.

Alicia jumped and ran outside to find Emilou.

The boy that Steven hit made it home and his momma was coming to Steven.

Emilou was running down the street and Alicia saw her dress when it turned the corner.

The boy's mother grabbed Alicia.

Alicia hit the woman in her eye and kept running behind Emilou.

The boy's mother bent over and was holding her eye.

The boy said, "See momma."

The old nasty woman told the boy's mother what happened earlier that day.

The woman was at work.

She looked at her son and said, "Why didn't you tell me where your daddy was?"

The boy looked at his mother.

She said, "Did you throw and hit the girl in her eye. And she may lose her eye because of you?"

The old nasty woman was laughing and showing the mother how the boy threw the rock."

The mother turned to her son and said, "You can go to prison son!"

The boy looked at his mother with a look that it was nothing to go to prison.

The woman stood and looked at her son.

She ran to Steven and said, "Sir. I am unarmed. I want to ask you what happened today."

Steven heard the crowd telling her what happened.

Steven did not move but looked at the shotgun.

Steven shook his head and sighed.

Alicia finally caught Emilou and grabbed her.

Alicia said, "Emilou I won't have you running away because you want to buy friends of people who are bad. You will see again and will have the same beautiful eyes that our mother had. You come back to the house. You know I go to the nursing school near the capitol and get home late. So you will be going to ne of those schools so I can pick you up on my way home from school. Now you stop it!"

Emilou looked at Alicia who was on her knees looking at her.

Nathan pulled the shades at the jail and went and put in three dinner orders.

The big man's son and his wife were on the porch to the jail waiting.

When Nathan returned with the three meals.

He saw the woman and boy and knew it was the family of one of the fools.

Nathan walked up and stood and looked at the woman and boy.

The boy tried to grabbed one of the meals.

Nathan hit the boy really hard on his head and pushed him back hard that he stumbled and fell.

Nathan said, "Who are you and what you want?"

The woman said, "I'm Maureen Nathan."

Nathan looked at her.

He did not blink.

She said, "I work at the Stiths. You were there on certain days and I was there on certain days. I married Craig about three years ago and inherited this. I am sorry."

Nathan was looking at her.

She looked at Nathan and said, "Can I see him?"

Nathan said, "He's not going anywhere."

He unlocked the door the boy ran passed them.

Emilou was crying and Nathan looked back and saw Emilou and Alicia.

He stepped back out the door and said, "Come here now!"

Alicia looked at Nathan.

Emilou was still crying.

Naureen looked at Emilou's eye.

Nathan said, "What happened to your eye?"

Alicia said, "Emilou answer him."

Emilou pointed at the boy standing in the jail.

Maureen looked at Emilou's eye and her heart sank.

That's what happened to her eye when she was about Emilou's age and no one wanted to marry her because of her eye.

Maureen's heart sank.

Nathan turned and said, "Boy get out here."

The boy ignored Nathan and was in the jail talking to his daddy.

His daddy saw Nathan when he turned around.

He said, "Son go to the sheriff."

The boy said, "No."

Nathan walked in the jail and put the dinner plates down on his desk.

The other two men were looking at the dinner plates then at Nathan. They wanted their meals.

Maureen knew it was not going to be pretty because Nathan did not play with them on the job.

Nathan picked up the jail keys and grabbed the man's bad boy and dragged him into the last cell around the corner and unlocked the cell and threw him in and they heard the door lock.

Nathan came out the cell and closed and locked the main door.

The man was standing at the cell looking at Nathan.

He said, "You put my ten year old in a cell?"

Nathan stood and walked to the cell and stared at the man.

The man that stole the apple was sitting on the cot and looking at Nathan.

The other man was looking at Nathan.

Nathan said, "Ten minutes."

Maureen ran to the cell of the big man and said, "What have you done?"

The big man yelled, "Get me a lawyer!"

Maureen said, "With what we have no money?"

Nathan heard them and walked to the jail cells with the dinner plates.

He was walking to the first man and looked and saw Alicia and Emilou standing outside.

Nathan had a faint memory them, he could not remember from here.

Nathan turned to walk to the door, the prisoners yelled, "Hey!"

Nathan yelled at Alicia and Emilou, "Go home now!"

Emilou took off running.

Alicia was running behind her.

They ran all the way home.

Nathan had to stop from laughing.

He turned and put on his evil face and, "Meatloaf or liver?"

The first man said, "Meatloaf."

Maureen's husband said, "Meatloaf."

Nathan looked at a weary Maureen with a red eye in the same eye that was damaged when she was a little girl.

Nathan looked at her husband and unlocked the cell and gave him the plate.

He fell back on the cot and sat and ate like an animal.

So did the first man.

Maureen looked.

She heard her son in the back screaming.

Maureen said, "Nathan."

Nathan kept walking to the last cell.

Maureen realized she called him by his name.

Her husband looked at her.

She waited until Nathan gave the last prisoner his plate of calf liver.

Nathan turned and looked at Maureen and saw she had on the Stith's uniform.

He looked at her.

Maureen said, "Sir is there anything I can do to get him and my son out?"

Nathan said, "Not a thing."

Her husband looked up from his plate and said, "Give my son dinner."

Nathan turned and looked at the man, "You knew you get only one per day you knew you were not giving him your plate. So shut up."

Nathan turned to Maureen and said, "You can come back in the morning and sign out the savage."

Maureen looked at her husband and said, "My husband?"

Nathan said, "Are you a fool also. Your husband will be in jail for two weeks until the judge gets back. That other animal of yours you will fill out these papers to get him out in the morning."

Craig said, "If you don't get my son something to eat I will break this plate."

Nathan turned and looked at him and said, "Break it."

Craig looked at Nathan and thought, "Can I go to jail for that?"

Nathan looked at Maureen.

Maureen looked at Nathan and ran out the jail crying.

Nathan stood and thought, "What the hell was that? She better not pull a fast one on me."

Nathan sat and filled out papers and made files.

The judge and his wife met the governor and his sister at the new rail stop and went fishing.

The judge and his siter learned how to fish and hunt with their uncle.

He took them when his sister died.

He raised them up on the land. They new good farmland and land that would be good for building.

The uncle sent them away to go to college and become sophisticated.

The uncle sold his house and all his land to have enough money to send them to college.

They sent him the invitations to their graduations. He did not attend

His friend would get all his mail and hold it for him.

Once a year the bag would disappear.

Finally, the judge and his sister got together two months before he was sworn in as a judge.in that small town.

They went home and track the uncle down in the woods.

He lived in the woods for twenty years because he had no home.

The uncle's house was gone.

The judge and his siter pulled their money and bought the uncle's land and had a small cabin built.

While his cabin was being built they took him to the city and introduced him to civilization.

He was ready for the nephew's swearing in ceremony.

The nephew moved in the neighborhood where Dan bought that house.

He raised his three sons in that neighborhood.

His three sons went o college further north and joined the military for the civil war and came back alive and well.

One became a dentist.

One became a business man and one became a preacher.

Their uncle died ten years later and was buried on his land.

The judge and his wife would go take a month and visit their three sons.

The judge and his sister would go fishing and hunting once per year.

But when the governor came across the new city. It was much closer and they could spend additional two days hunting and fishing.

The governor said, "We are going to build up this place."

The judge's wife did not like camping but would go along with her husband.

The governor showed them the place he staked out for his vacation cabin.

His wife grinned.

Her brother said, "That's a pretty piece of land. I don't want to be that close to you."

They all laughed.

The judge said, "Look at that over there. "

Everyone looked and said," Yes."

The judge hugged and kissed his wife, who was a retired teacher.

The governor told them about the Stiths' grand boys and showed where the men were trying to bury them.

The judge's wife turned and ran all the way to the rail station.

The governor and judge rode and caught her at the trail station.

She was out of breath.

Mag and Natalie stared at her.

The judge's wife was on her knees trying to crawl to the train.

Natalie went and got her water to drink.

The judge jumped off his horse and grabbed his wife and gave her some water.

She continued to sip the water.

Mag and Natalie stood alone with the patrons and watched the men.

The judge saw how everyone was looking at them.

The judge said, "She's ok."

The people stood and looked at him.

The judge said, "We have to tell them something.

The governor's wife rode in a wagon.

The governor's wife recognized Mag.

She told Mag the judge told his wife what happened to Thomas and Michael and she ran.

Natalie said, "Me and my husband plan on building our home by the creek."

Mag said, "The Stiths are very close friends of mine. I did not want to build a house by the creek because I know they will come to visit. I felt my husband telling me it would be ok. So my cottage will be a little further from son and his wife to give them privacy."

The governor and his wife laughed.

The judge smiled.

He said, "Those stakes out there are where you have staked out that land."

The governor's wife walked over to her sister-in-law and pushed her hair down.

She said, "Mattie get up. Your clothes are torn up. These people are close friends of the Stiths and say the family is ok. You know you have always pride yourself on your appearance."

Mattie was on the ground and her husband held her a few more minutes.

He stood and pulled her up with him.

He said, "Mattie you look like a lion, with all of that red hair all over your head."

Mag and Natalie looked at the judge.

They thought his comment was insensitive.

Mattie looked at him and roared like a lion.

Her husband grabbed her and held her tight.

He said, "Honey that's why I became a judge to put these animals in prison."

Mattie whispered, "Thank you."

The judge looked back at Mag and Natalie as the train was pulling in to go to Cedartown his wife looked back at the train and stopped.

The judge said, "You can go if you want to."

Mattie looked at her husband.

She said, "I truly love you. I will stay with you, but you owe me a new outfit."

He held her and snuggled his face in her hair and kissed her head.



They walked to the wagon.

Mattie got in the wagon and slept all evening until the next morning.

Her husband and brother-in-law had returned from fishing and were cooking breakfast.

Mattie was looking at them from the wagon.

Her sister-in-law walked pass her and handed her the comb and brush.

Mattie blew her breathe in her hands and said, "Oh God I need a bath and brush my teeth also,"

Mattie waved to everyone and got a pail and went to the creek and got fresh water and washed her face and brushed her teeth,

She sat and stared at the creek.

She thought about how God stopped the evil ones from killing those little boys. She thought about her sons and daughters-in-laws did not want children after slavery and seeing the evil of man.

She said, "God, good morning. I had a bad day yesterday. I know You saw it. I thank You for letting me sleep through it. I don't know what to pray. You know all things. I have not thought about it much after my sons said, they did not want children. But I think I do want grandchildren. But I really don't want them hurt or scarred or damage but evil man. If I may. I request You keep them, if any are born, from the evil of man and they grow up to be men and women of God and live a righteous life before You. In JESUS' name. Amen."

She sat and looked around the woods and the blue sky and white clouds and said, "Who can paint like You?"

The judge walked you and heard his wife and smiled.

He walked and sat next to her and reached her a plate.

She took the plate and kissed her husband and said, "I had to wash my face and brush my teeth. I was terrible."

Her husband said, "We know. None of us could sleep last night, because of your snoring."

She held her head down and looked back at the people at the campfire and waved and said, "Sorry!!"

They waved back.

Mattie said, "Is that why Kathleen was in her mood this morning?"

The judge laughed.

He said, "You know how she is. If she does not get a solid six hours of sleep everyone better move out of her way."

He looked back and said, "She's going hunting now."

Mattie looked back at Kathleen.

She cut her fish and ate the fish and grits.

She sat and looked around at the beauty.

The judge said, "You want to retire here?"

Mattie laughed and said, "I am retired. You mean you would like to retire here."

The judge said, "Yes."

Mattie said, "We are in the middle of a big city, Philadelphia or an up and coming town."

The judge said, "Either way it is a day and a half trip."

Mattie said, "We can sell our house or rent it. They want to develop the area by the military headquarters like the houses in Boston and Philadelphia and District of Columbia."

The judge said, "That's an idea. We can move here when our house is built."

Mattie said, "I have to request a modern bathroom and hot water. I did not see a school. There are enough children for a school."

The judge said, "You are trying to see how you can get back in school."

Mattie laughed and said, "It's in my blood. As far back as I can remember everyone was a teacher even those who were preachers taught somewhere."

Mattie and the judge laughed.

They put out the fires and cleaned the area up and rode the horses back to Mag.

Mag was thinking.

She told Natalie, "We can make a lot of money by renting our horses and wagons to visitors."

Natalie said, "I think so too."

The governor and his staff were returning to the train station and were giving all the meat and fish to the locals.

The governor and his staff caught the train.

They had a light dinner on the train and eggs and coffee the next morning and they arrived in Cedartown around noon when church was letting out.

Mattie looked at Kathleen and kissed her on the cheek and ran to the awaiting carriage and hid in the back.

The judge looked around and said she is trying to hide from her friends. They should be getting out of church now."

The governor and his staff loaded their instruments and rifles in their wagon to start their additional hour ride to the capital.

The staff said, "It was a good trip governor."

The governor said, "I need some contracts to have this place settled by Christmas."

The judge said, "I like Christmas here or in New York with my boys. Maybe we can move there in the spring."

The governor said, "That means you are retiring."

The judge said, "Yes sir. That should give me enough time to find a replacement. With the mob everywhere you do the best you can."

The governor said, "Congratulations."

They all got in their wagons and left the train station.

Mag had telegraphed Josiah and told him to buy two additional horses and another wagon and tents for them because of the winter. She had ordered a large number of wool blankets and underwear.

Natalie did not want to winter in the city. She knew Josiah had to teach and Patrick was paying her to help Mag.

The supply business was picking up and there was so many suppliers trying to get their supplies to buyers.

Mag hired ten men to meet the train every other day and load the train.

She sent a telegram to Patrick and told him the workload was overwhelming and she needed to hire more men four days a week and have another shed built to house any overnight supplies that have to be locked up until the train arrives.

Eleanor had been looking at the receipts and telegrams.

She went to Patrick that evening just before the fireworks.

Everyone was settled into their cabins.

Dr. Greene never been on a ship nor Debra.

They were so impressed with the ship and their balcony.

They had to catch Barry several times.

Alice who traveled on a ship was scared of this ship.

Ryan was happy and stood on the deck with Ryan Jr.

Everyone went to the fireworks.

Eleanor sat next to Brenda and they held each other.

Ryan watched them.

Dr. Greene watched them.

Patrick walked back and had a glass of champagne for he and Brenda.

Percy reached for the glass of champagne.

Dr. Greene laughed at Percy's coyness.

Debra turned to Tony and stared at him.

Tony looked around and peeped and saw Bruce laying on the rocks.

Tony kissed Debra.

Captain Moss was over the fireworks.

They took his boat off the shore into the waters.

They had a spectacular display for about an hour.

People were milling about the docks.

Shirley sat next to Eleanor and stared at her necklace.

Eleanor said, "You're not getting it Shirley. I am taking this to my grave. And the earrings from Joseph."

Shirley scooted back and looked at Patrick and said, "Grandpa?"

Patrick looked at Shirley and said, "Yes Shirley."

Shirley said, "Cn people be buried in their jewelry?"

Gen hit Beverly and said, "That Shirley."

Beverly said, "Good God. Who is she burying?"

Eleanor slightly turned her head and said, "Me."

They laughed.

Shirley was frowned up and looking at Patrick.

Patrick said, "Shirley we got a lot of problems and I don't want to bury anybody."

Shirley looked at Patrick.

Ryan looked at Brenda.

Shirley pouted and folded her arms but were still looking at Eleanor's necklace from her back.

The rowdy boys were laid out on the beach on blankets with their hands underneath their heads.

Barry sat on top of Bruce's stomach.

Barry liked Percy and Bruce.

Dr. Greene did not know why, because Percy and Bruce were not that loud.

Ryan Jr was standing up and when the fireworks started he looked around to see the noise.

Bruce pointed in the air.

The photographer took a large of photographs of the fireworks.

He traveled with the Stiths to the railroad opening, the college admissions and now the christening of the ship.

The photographer was happy traveling with them.

He put his money in a bank in Philadelphia.

The boys had not been to a christening of a ship.

Ryan had not been a christening and he was excited.

Alice tried to act as if she was excited, but the ship was dreadfully large.

Eleanor was sitting and enjoying the fireworks she determined at that point to put the older ships as cargo ships and the newer ships as cruisers.

Barry covered his ears and screamed, "Daddy."

He ran to Dr. Greene who picked him up as he leaned and to Ryan and said, "How much would a cruise cost to France for the three of us?"

Ryan said, "About a thousand."

Debra threw her champagne glass to her mouth and drank all the champagne.

Dr. Greene looked at her and took the glass.

Gen and Beverly were laughing.

Gen said, "He's been trying to put that baby to sleep all day."

Beverly laughed and elbowed Gen and said, "But it's her."

They hollered.

Al said to Ben, "You know it was something nasty."

Beverly said, "No more nasty than me sitting on your lap. You old..."

Everybody hollered and said, "Beverly."

Michael was on his stomach looking back at the old people said, "Let her finish. I need to know how to finish that sentence. Right Lorraine?"

Everybody looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine thought, "That boy is going to get me fired."

Patrick had the champagne glass to his mouth and looked at Michael.

Brenda was looking blankly out at the ocean.

Shirley turned from the necklace to Michael and quickly back to the necklace.

Debra was not talking.

She was off in happy happy land.

Dr. Greene looked at Debra.

Gen and Beverly elbowed each other and laughed.

Dr. Greene heard them and looked at the two.

Gen and Beverly could not stop laughing before Tony caught them laughing at he and Debra.

Dr. Greene smiled and bowed his head and held Barry and looked at the fireworks.

Everyone went back to their rooms.

Eleanor and her five children went to their suite with Lorraine.

Lorraine whispered, "Damn" because she heard about the casino and was playing on going to the temporary casino.

Ryan looked at Lorraine and was trying to figure what she was up to.

Ryan went to his room and they bathe Ryan Jr and put him to bed.

They bathed and sat on the deck.

Alice was drifting to sleep.

Ryan walked Alice to the bed and put her next to Ryan Jr.

He went back to the deck and locked the door and put a chair behind the door.

Ryan got dressed and counted his money and tipped out the door.

Barry was sleep.

Dr. Greene washed Barry and put him to bed.

They had a hot bath and sat on the deck for a little bit.

Debra sipped a hot cup of tea.

She looked at Dr. Greene and said, "What are we going to do about Barry?"

Dr. Greene grinned and said, I thought about the sofa."

Debra shook her head and frowned and said. "Sofa?"

Dr. Greene looked at a confused Debra and said, "We can sleep on the sofa."

Debra said, "We can go one at a time."

Tony looked at Debra.

Debra said, "I can go to the mid night buffet first and then you or I can bring you something back."

Dr. Greene said, "Food! Debra?"

Debra said, "What? I am not sleeping on a sofa."

Dr. Greene nodded his head.

Debra thought and laughed at Tony and said, "We can put Barry on the sofa. I will never sleep on a sofa."

Dr. Greene was grinning an hour later.

Barry was sleep on the sofa.

Debra was getting up to leave.

Dr. Greene said, "Debra?"

Debra said, "I want to be the first in line for the buffet."

Dr. Greene said, "Debra come back here."

Debra looked at Tony and ran out the door.

She Eleanor and Shirley dressed in finery.

They looked at Debra.

Debra turned to go back to her room.

Eleanor said, "I'll something to your room."

The governor and his wife were walking and peeped at Debra.

Lorraine was peeping out the suite door.

Percy, Bruce and Thomas were sleep.

Lorraine went and combed her hair and washed and put on another dressed.

She was watching Eleanor and Shirley go down the stairs so she could tip down the other stairs.

She saw Gen and Beverly and Gail standing on the stairway.

Lorraine was stomping and shaking her butt for them to leave.

The governor and his sister were walking.

They had freshen up.

Brenda and Patrick took a minute longer.

Brenda was confused about her clothing.

Patrick helped her dressed.

Everyone was concerned and waited for them.

Patrick opened the door.

He put Brenda on her ruby necklace and earrings.

She looked grand.

Patrick was about to cry.

Eleanor looked at Brenda's necklace.

Patrick said, "I want her to wear it as often as possible."

Eleanor brought Shirley's sapphire earrings and her new blue dress from Italy she never wore.

Lorraine cried when she saw Shirley.

Shirley grinned and left with Eleanor who was wearing Joseph's pearl earrings and the necklace Dr. Woodson gave her.

The pearl earrings and the necklace blended well with her outfit.

He walked down the stairs with Brenda on his arm followed by Eleanor and Shirley.

The state's current governor and his wife, the former governor and his wife and Gen and Ben and the other shipping executives and mayor and his wife.

It was a very grand entrance into the grand ballroom.

The photographer looked at his clothes and realized he need to also dress for the occasions.

Lorraine tipped down the backstairs and ran off the ship to the older ship and into the lobby.

There was a lot of people from all over the city in the temporary casino.

Lorraine was so excited she was running from one area to another of the casino.

Ryan was running through the ship's lobby.

He was winning money.

Lorraine was screaming at the table next to him.

After an hour the people at the casino heard a smile scream.

It was Michael who sneak in behind Lorraine and was playing and winning money.

Ryan heard the voice and stood from his seat and saw the little figure at the table and recognized the hair. He knew it was Michael or Thomas.

Ryan eased down in his chair.

The dealer said, "You know him?"

Ryan shook his head for no and kept laying.



Ryan was happy playing, he was winning and he was losing.

Ryan was so excited.

Then he heard a woman started cussing and he knew it was Lorraine and he thought, "Now I have to go and get her before she get locked up."

Then he heard Michael again.

Michael was cussing and said, "The dealer was cheating."

Lorraine popped up and stood and looked around the tables and saw Michael.

She threw her hand down and ran and grabbed Michael and ran out the casino.

Ryan ducked his head and watched them pass him.

He turned around and continued to play.

Lorraine and Michael were walking to the new ship.

Lorraine was walking with her head down.

She was fussing she lost her money because of Michael.

Lorraine said, "You made me lose my money."

Michael said, "Well the dealer was cheating."

Lorraine said, "I need a drink."

Michael said, "Vodka."

Lorraine slowed and looked at Michael.

Michael walked into Eleanor's stomach.

Lorraine kept walking around the group of dignitaries.

She saw all of them and figured they would not do anything to Michael.

Her argument was if the boys would not have sneaked from school she could have gone to the casino.

Michael recognized the stomach.

He touched the stomach and he felt the stomach.

He slowly looked at Eleanor and then he put his head on her stomach and held her waist.

Gen was falling on her knees.

Brenda said, "Michael?"

Patrick whispered, "Where's that damn Lorraine?"

Brenda said, "Your child."

Patrick made no comment.

Lorraine was running to the new ship.

Eleanor said, "Shirley take Michael back to the suite."

Shirley was having a grand time.

Shirley said, "Momma?"

Eleanor said, "You can come back."

Eleanor stooped down to Michael's face and said, "I'll see you in the morning."

Michael said, "Can you stand and watch me and not send Shirley."

Eleanor said, "No you might try something else."

Shirley said, "Come on Michael."

Michael folded his arms and walked back to the ship.

Ben and Al helped Gen up.

Beverly tried to be sophisticated and said, "Whip that ass."

Lillian and Margaret and Nathaniel looked in surprise.

Eleanor was embarrassed.

She turned and walked with the large group of dignitaries to the old ship lobby to the temporary casino.

Lorraine was at the mid-night buffet on the deck.

Shirley saw Lorraine and yelled, "Lorraine!"

Lorraine ignored Shirley.

Michael was running up the landing.

Eleanor heard Shirley and closed her eyes and ignored her.

Shirley called Lorraine again.

Everyone looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine smiled and walked over to the rail and said, "What?"

Shirley pointed and said, "Michael."

Michael was running to Lorraine.

He looked at Shirley through the rail and yelled, "I hate you!"

Shirley cried all the way back to Eleanor.

Eleanor heard Michael.

She waited for Shirley and held her and wiped her tears.

They joined the dignitaries.

People were looking at Shirley.

Ryan saw the dignitaries as they passed his table he tried to turn his head and when he turned around to peep at them.

He looked at a ruby and diamond necklace and knew it had to be Brenda.

He thought, "Wait until I tell my momma about that necklace."

Ryan looked at Brenda's ears and saw the earrings.

He thought, "And the earrings. Look at Shirley. Look at those earrings."

Ryan waved to Shirley.

Shirley smiled her beautiful smile.

Brenda thought, "Yeap she was born without any deformity we would have problems."

Lorraine went to the buffet.

Michael picked up a plate and followed Lorraine.

They were sitting at the table and Ellen and Debra joined them.

Ellen looked at Michael and said, "You are in trouble."

Michael said, "I don't care. I am eating this lamb chop right now."

Lorraine was shaking her head.

Debra was peeling and eating shrimp.

Everyone was talking and Michael who the dealer was cheating.

Ellen and Debra listened to Michael.

Ellen said, "That does sound like cheating."

Debra said, "To me too."

Debra looked around and said, "I was not dressed appropriately and Eleanor said she would have food sent to the room. The man brought cheese and crackers. I screamed. Tony got angry and told me not to be eating because I can gain weight."

Michael had his elbows on the table and chewing his lamb chop said, "Miss Debra you are still beautiful to me."

Debra started blushing and looked at Michael and said, "Oh thank you Michael."

Lorraine looked at Ellen and Debra and said, "What? You fell for that? I am going to get fired because of him."

Michael said, "Ug on. No way. And you are beautiful Miss Debra. You too Miss Ellen."

Lorraine rolled her eyes at Ellen and Debra.

Dr. Greene walked to the table with a woke Barry.

Debra looked and said, "Why did you bring him down?"

Dr. Greene looked at Debra and said, "What?"

Lorraine laughed and threw her napkin in his plate and held her head down.

Tony sat with Barry in his lap.

He looked at Lorraine and said, "Lorraine are you alright?"

Debra was talking to Ellen and said. "She's alright until Eleanor get. Seeing that Sir Michael sneaked off the ship and followed Lorraine to the casino and was playing at the card tables. He accused the dealer of cheating and was loud.

Lorraine realized he was in the casino and grabbed him and ran out the casino and on the way back ran into Eleanor all the dignitaries when Michael said he wanted vodka.'

Dr. Greene looked at Michael.

Michael was looking at Dr. Greene over his lamb chop bone.

Dr. Greene said, "I see you got your lamb chop."

Michael said, "Yes sir and it's quite tasty."

Dr. Greene said, "Good that is your last meal."

Michael looked at Dr. Greene.

Lorraine was shaking her head and said, "Come on Michael. Good night everyone."

Barry was waving.

Lorraine caught Barry's hand.

Michael tickled Barry.

Barry laughed.

Dr. Greene laughed and said, "Debra I never tickle Barry like that before."

Debra looked at Toy and continue to talk to Ellen.

Ellen said, "This was really nice. Eleanor did a great job. I was helping with is from the beginning of the year. This ship is fully staff. She is paying a lot of money out."

Debra said, "Did you see what she was wearing?"

Dr. Greene turned his head.

Debra said, "And Shirley had on blue. They broke the bank with Brenda's ruby and diamond necklace and earrings."

Ellen said, "I know I see it at the ball. Did Eleanor wear any jewelry?"

Debra said, "The earrings and necklace from today."

Ellen said, "The pearl earrings from Joseph and the necklace from Dr. Woodson. Very special to her."

Tony said, "Debra lets go. Barry is getting sleepy. "

Debra looked at Barry.

Dr. Greene said, "Ellen will you be alright?"

Ellen pointed and Captain Moss was walking and looking over the buffet.

Ellen said, "Eleanor wants us to cater the ship. That is a lot of work. It is too big for us. We can do something this size or smaller."

Dr. Greene said, "The food was fantastic."

Debra said, "All of it was fantastic."

Dr. Greene, Barry and Debra left and went back to their room.

Captain Moss walked to the table and sat with Ellen.

He said, "I am tired. But we made a lot of money. Michael sneaked into the casino."

Ellen said. "I know. I hope Eleanor doesn't kill him."

Ryan enjoyed himself at the different casinos.

He looked at the clock and left the casino and danced back to the new ship.

He saw the buffet.

He went to the buffet and got a very light bite.

He leaned back on the deck and enjoyed the night sky.

He thought, "This is really nice. I can live like this."

He put his hands behind his head and enjoyed the cool breeze from the ocean.

Ellen and Captain Moss begin to clean up the buffet.

Ellen saw Ryan.

She walked over to Ryan and said, "May I take the plate?"

Ryan smiled and said, "Yes."

Ellen said, "You want anything else?"

Ryan looked around and said, "No. So many stars in the sky. I have to take time and enjoy God's earth."

Ellen said, "Our cottage has an opening at the ceiling. We look out all the time and enjoy the sky."

Ryan said, "It seems like mariners like the sky."

Ellen looked at the tables and said, "Good night Ryan."

Ryan said, "Good night."

Ryan heard some of the dignitaries returning.

He peeped over the rail and heard Gen .

He jumped up and ran upstairs to his cabin.

Ellen and Captain Moss looked at Ryan.

Ellen peeped over the rail and saw Gen.

Captain Moss looked at Ellen.

Ellen said, "Gen."

Captain Moss said, "So he's afraid of Gen?"

Ellen said, "I don't think he wants her to know he was at the casino."

Captain Moss said, "Oh, blackmail."

Ellen laughed.

They got all the tables and plates out the area before anyone else came looking for food.

Ellen and Captain Moss put up all the food and place the tablecloths and dishes to be washed.

They quickly mopped the area and put up the sign of a wet floor and washed the tables and chairs before the dignitaries came looking for food.

Ellen and Captain Moss sneaked out the other stairwell.

They walked home and sat on their porch for a few minutes and went inside and enjoyed their night.

Eleanor saw Ellen and Captain Moss leaving the ship walking hand in hand.

Patrick had Brenda's hand.

They were talking to the governor.

Bryson was talking to the mayor.

Shirley was walking with some young women and men she met at the casino.

They were leaving to make the drive back to Philadelphia she realized they attended the same college she did.

They thought she needed a ride back to the city.

Shirley said, "Thank you, but I am staying here for the night."

One of the young men who seemed interested in Shirley said, "There is no place to stay."

One of the young men who was impeccably dressed and was holding onto his impeccably dressed date said, "That would be a gold mine."

Eleanor was walking slow so she could hear the conversation.

The young man that seemed interested in Shirley said, "Shirley, where are you staying here?"

The dignitaries were slowly walking and talking.

The group of well bred snooty young people saw all the dignitaries at the casino.

Shirley pointed to the new ship.

The dignitaries pointed to the new ship.

The group of young well bred snooty college students realized they were the ones being watched.

Shirley said, "Good night. I'll look for you around the campus."

The group said, "Good night Shirley."

One of the young men said, "That's the governor. May daddy golf with him."

The governor heard the boy and said to Brenda and Patrick, "I know his daddy quite well."

They laughed.

Eleanor stood and waited for Shirley.

Shirley giggled after these new friends and watched as they ran and played and jumped in a carriage and pulled away.

Eleanor looked at pretty Shirley.

She knew Shirley had her heart set on becoming a countess so she could be accepted by the world.

Eleanor reached her hand to Shirley.

Shirley looked at Eleanor's hand and her heart dropped.

Shirley reached for Eleanor's hand and then looked in her face and saw the eyes she remembered when she was younger.

Brenda and Patrick looked back at Eleanor and Shirley.

Patrick looked at Brenda and wondered.

He thought, "Dear GOD help Brenda. She still recognizes things. She knew to look back and watch Shirley and Eleanor, what is wrong with her? Help me JESUS."

The governor said, "Mrs. Stiths, I have only seen you a few times..."

He looked around.

Patrick looked around.

Brenda was looking at the governor.

The governor said, "My wife and her friends saw you at the railroad grand opening and they died over your outfit."

The governor looked around again.

Patrick and Brenda were smiling.

The governor said, "My wife got all the details down of your dress and they are going to die all over again this week at their teas."

Patrick and Brenda laughed.

The governor said, "She has not said anything about your jewelry specially these magnificent pieces because they are unattainable."

Brenda patted Patrick's chest and looked up at him and said, "My true love gave these to me for our thirty fifth wedding anniversary."

Patrick kissed Brenda and they kept walking.

The governor said, "It's twenty with me and my wife. We married out of college. I am glad I married a woman with education it helps in your growing."

Patrick said, "You know governor. I felt that way over the years and did not know how to express the help Brenda would give or her insight."

Brenda smiled.

The governor said, "That's right."

The governor's wife was walking and talking to Lillian and Nathaniel and yelled, "It better be all good."

The governor yelled, "It is my dear. It is."

They laughed and continued to the ship.

Patrick looked up and saw Ryan peeping over the rail.

Patrick thought, "Yeah you think you have sneaked off. She is waiting for you."

Eleanor said, "Shirley I am so proud of you..."

Beverly was listening.



Shirley looked into the eyes of her mother. This amazing woman said, "She is proud of me."

Eleanor said, "...You are a true miracle of God. He gave you strength to endure all that pain and misery and He gave you such a gentle spirit. He gave you a friendliness that welcomes people and a warmth that shows them the love of God. I am happy you held on to Him and allowed Him to transfer your life."

Beverly said, "I agree."

She was holding Al's hand she turned his hand loose and went to Shirley and Eleanor.

Shirley was crying and wiping her face.

Beverly took her handkerchief and wiped Shirley's face.

Patrick looked back and saw the three hugging and he saw Al standing watching and he knew it was a woman's thing that he will get the information on.

Eleanor was on one side of Shirley and Beverly was on the other side of Shirley and they walked to Al.

Al walked on the side of Beverly.

They continued to the ship.

Everyone had a night cap and went to their cabins.

Breakfast started at seven am.

Debra was the first person at breakfast.

Michael was the second.

He saw his lamb chop.

He sat with Debra and they ate and talked.

Dr. Greene was next with Barry.

Barry wanted to play and was trying to get Michael to go and get Percy.

Michael told Barry that Percy and Bruce were sleep.

Dr. Greene heard the conversation of Michael and Debra.

He realized how well grounded Michael was. He only saw him as a child, but he and Debra were having a beautiful conversation.

Dr. Greene teared up.

He thought, "GOD YOU have given me friends for a lifetime. I never thought I would have friends. YOU thought I was fit to be a friend. Thank YOU."

Michael looked around and back at the buffet.

Dr. Greene said, "Michael you were the last person at the buffet last night and the second person this morning."

Debra rolled her eyes at Dr. Greene.

Dr. Greene said, "You only got one lamb chop. I know your mother said one lamb chop at each meal."

Michael said, "She is not here."

Dr. Greene was putting Barry in the chair between he and Debra.

He stopped and looked at Michael.

Michael turned and looked back at the buffet.

Eleanor woke early and was reading the telegrams when she heard her door open.

She put on her robe and walked out the suite and saw some hair easing down the stairs.

She slowly followed and saw Michael going to the buffet.

She told Ellen at dinner to put a few lamb chops for Michael.

Ellen went to the market and got the lamb chops for Michael and brought them back to the ship and gave instructions to the cooks to cook five at the buffet and five at breakfast.

Others ate the lamb chops also.

Michael was dismayed.

Eleanor stood on the deck and watched Michael and heard him and Debra talk.

She saw Debra roll her eyes at Tony for calling her greedy.

Michael stood to go to the buffet to get another lamb chop.

Eleanor said, "Sit down!"

Dr. Greene jumped.

Michael stood still.

Debra jumped.

Barry looked.

Eleanor was flying down the stairs and her robe was flying open.

Michael looked back at Dr. Greene and said, "Did you wake her?"

Dr. Greene looked at Michael.

Ellen walked to the table with a hand full of telegrams.

The waiters heard her growl 'sit down'.

They walked in the corner to see who said that.

Eleanor looked over the table and looked at Dr. Greene and Debra and said, "Good morning."

Barry said, "Hey", and he waved at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at Barry and said, "Good morning sweet Barry."

Michael grabbed Eleanor by her waist and leaned his head on her stomach and said, "Good morning momma."

Everyone on the ship knew he sneaked to the casino.

The waiters were talking and giggling.

Debra looked at the waiters.

Dr. Greene shook his head at Michael.

He thought, "Where did these boys learned to con women?"

The waiters ran to Eleanor and said, "Ma am what do you need?"

Eleanor turned and looked at the waiters and said, "Apple juice and hot tea."

She looked at Dr. Greene and Debra.

Debra said, "Hot tea."

Dr. Greene looked at Debra.

Debra stared at Tony.

Eleanor thought, "It is just tea."

Eleanor looked back at the waiters and said, "Two hot teas and four apple juices."

Dr. Greene said, "Five apple juices."

The waiters disappeared into the kitchen.

Eleanor lifted Michael's head and said, "I'm going to tear your ass for sneaking from school and sneaking into that casino last night. How dare you be so defiant and disobedience?"

Dr. Greene mouth opened and he looked at Debra.

Michael pushed off Eleanor and folded his arms.

Eleanor turned to go to the buffet.

Michael said, "You never said not to go to casino."

Eleanor stopped in her tracks.

Debra started breathing heavy out of fear for Michael.

Eleanor continued to the buffet and got eggs and fruit and a roll.

She looked at Michael and said, "Sit!"

Michael sit and had his arms folded and pouting.

He said, "IT's too early in the morning for this."

Dr. Greene nearly fell out of his seat. He could not believe Michael was pushing Eleanor's buttons.

Gen and Ben were standing on the top deck.

Gen hollered and then covered her mouth.

Gen and Ben walked down the stairs like aristocrats and smiled and went to the buffet.

Gen got three strips of bacon and a croissant and eggs and grits.

Dr. Greene could not move because he thought he had to jump and pry Eleanor off Michael.

Eleanor sat next to Michael and bowed her head and said grace.

Michael sat and stared at Eleanor.

Dr. Greene said, "God don't let this boy say anything. He is looking at her like saying grace doesn't help her."

Eleanor looked at Michael.

Elanor had her hair down and wrapped around her neck.

Dr. Greene looked at her and thought, "Lovely. She has chestnut colored hair and deep green eyes. My. My."

Debra was still staring at Dr. Greene.

Dr. Greene cut his eyes at Debra to see if she caught him looking at Eleanor.

Then he looked at Debra's plate.

Debra ate several strips of bacon, grits, hash browns, eggs and sausages.

She knew Tony was on his way down with Barry and she ate quietly but fast so Tony would not complain about her overeating.

The waiters were bringing out the apple juice.

Gen said, "I want apple juice."

Eleanor looked up at the waiters and said, "Bring apple juice to our guests."

Gen said, "We will sit over here. Your table is full."

Barry said, "Daddy food."

Gen said, "Hello to you Sir Barry."

Barry looked at Gen and said, "Hey."

Gen and Ben laughed.

Ben said, "He wanted to know where that 'sir' came from."

Dr. Greene looked back at Barry grinned.

Gen said, "Proud papa."

Dr. Greene walked to the buffet and made him and Barry a plate.

Dr. Greene got eyes. Fruit and a biscuit for him.

Barry was looking at Gen and Ben's plate.

Barry said, "Meat."

Debra looked over at Gen and Ben, they were trying to hide their meat so Dr. Greene could not see it.

Debra said, "This thing about this meat has to stop."

Eleanor looked at Debra.

Debra jumped.

Michael said, "Miss Debra I agree."

Eleanor looked at Michael who was sitting with his hands over his head.

Debra whispered because Dr. Greene was walking back to the table.

She said, "I am not talking about you Eleanor. I am talking about Tony. Look at his plate."

Tony was happy.

He put Barry's plate in front of him.

Dr. Greene gave Barry a small amount of oatmeal some egg and fruit.

Barry looked at the plate.

Tony had eggs, fruit and a biscuit.

Eleanor looked at Barry's plate and D. Greene's plate.

She looked up and saw Gen and Ben shaking their heads.

Dr. Greene looked at Barry and said, "Barry eat."

Barry said, "No."

Debra belched.

Dr. Greene looked at Debra and knew she had more to eat than what was on her plate.

Gen nearly fell out her seat.

Michael looked at Debra and said, "Secrets."

Debra looked at Michael.

Eleanor knew Michael was threatening to tell Dr. Greene about Debra eating.

Eleanor hit Michael's thigh under the table.

Michael said, "Eleanor you are as bad as Bruce."

Dr. Greene looked from Barry who told him no to the food.

Dr. Greene looked at Michael.

Debra looked at Michael.

Gen and Ben looked at Eleanor and Michael.

Eleanor knew Gen and Ben would tell Patrick and Brenda everything.

Eleanor turned to Michael and said, "Michael when you are a friend to someone you have to be faithful to that person. You cannot tell that person's secrets that they trusted you with even when you hurt and want someone else to suffer with you."

Eleanor started crying.

She said, "Michael you have to be that person's friend until the end."

Gen was watching Eleanor she knew she was talking about that Bruce.

Dr. Greene knew she was talking about Bruce.

Debra looked at Eleanor and knew she was talking about Michael threatening to tell Dr. Greene about her meat.

Michael looked at Eleanor then looked at Debra and said, "I'm sorry Miss Debra."

Dr. Greene said, "Michael I know about Miss Debra eating all of that meat. We have to talk."

Debra got angry and leaned across the table and said, "Like you starving us to death and think it is fine."

Dr. Greene was shocked and said, "Debra."

Debra jumped up from her seat and said, "Let me get my son some meat."

Debra threw her napkin on the table and walked from the table.

Barry said, "Meat mommie."

Michael said, "Lamb chop Miss Debra."

Eleanor looked at Michael.

Michael said, "Or not."

Beverly walked up at that moment and said, "What did Al say?"

Gen and Ben fell out laughing.

Michael stood and walked to Eleanor and pulled his chair next to her.

He took Eleanor's hand and held it while she ate with the other hand.

Gen shook her head at Michael.

Patrick and Brenda were walking to the buffet and saw Michael holding Eleanor's hand.

They knew he had done something.

Beverly passed Brenda and Patrick and said, "Tear that ass."

Michael looked up at Patrick and Brenda and said, "You may ignore her."

Brenda and Patrick said, "Good morning."

The waiters walked out with Patrick's apple caramel pancake.

Patrick grinned.

They sat with Gen and Ben.

Patrick was holding Brenda's hand and walked to Eleanor and kissed her on her head.

Michael turned his head up for a kiss.

Patrick stood.

Michael frowned and looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, "Michael I love you but you all sneaking from school, riding carriages and trains and then you sneak into the casino and accused the dealer of cheating."

Gen fell back in her chair and covered her mouth with her napkin.

Michael said, "He was grandpa."

Brenda smiled at Michael.

They sat walked to Gen and Ben.

The waiter followed Brenda and Patrick and set the plate in front of him.

Michael threw up his arms at Patrick in a what now question movement.

Brenda saw Michael.

Eleanor had the pearl earrings on Joseph's pearl earrings and Dr. Woodson's necklace.

Shirley walked down the stairs and told the waiter a spinach, tomato and onion omelet and fruit.

He said, "Yes ma am."

Shirley liked that respect and he did not stare at her.

Debra walked to the table with a couple of sausages and some eggs.

She gave Barry a sausage and some more eggs.

Dr. Greene looked at Debra and saw she was angry.

He exhaled.

He said, "Debra honey can I have that sausage please."

Debra did not look at Dr. Greene but picked the sausage up with her fork and Dr. Greene his plate to her.

She put the whole sausage in her mouth and ate it.

Everybody looked at Debra.

Gen was surprised.

Ben's mouth dropped opened.

Brenda was about to sit and stopped bending over.

Patrick looked and acted like he didn't see Debra.

Beverly saw Debra.

Shirley saw Debra.

Beverly went and sat at the next table by herself.

Shirley went and sat with Beverly.

Beverly looked over at Debra and knew not to say anything.

Beverly had fruit.

Eleanor said Aunt Beverly that is all you are eating?"

Beverly did not know what to say.

Everyone looked at her.

She said, "The cooks had some lobster left. I asked for an omelet with lobster."

Michael frown up and said, "Yuck."

Barry laughed and said, "Yuck."

Debra was looking at Dr. Greene and slowly ate the sausage.

Eleanor looked at them and said, "Yall don't fight."

Dr. Greene said, "I just want us to last forever. Look at Patrick and Brenda. I may not know how to be a good friend, husband and daddy but I do know how to be a good doctor. I believe if I can at least keep you healthy that will give me time to become a good husband, friend and daddy. I'm sorry Debra if I offended you with meat."

Debra continued to eat the sausage in her mouth.



Barry was eating his sausage.

Al walked to the area when the waiter was bringing the omelets for Shirley and Beverly.

Al looked and said, "Good Morning. That buffet has a lot of meat."

Michael looked at Eleanor.

Dr. Greene held his head down.

Debra stared in front of her.

Brenda walked to Beverly with her plate.

Patrick looked back and said, "Beverly don't give her none. She will eat it all."

Gen smiled.

Everyone was watching Al.

Al looked at the buffet and complained and said, "It's just too much meat."

Michael looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor stood and walked to Al.

She put her hand on his shoulder and said, "Uncle Al we all love you. But we don't want to hear you complaining about food all the time. You don't complain about the liquor drink. Neither do we. We want you to enjoy life. Some people don't have food to eat, some people are sick and can't eat and enjoy what God put on this earth for us to eat. Select what you want to eat. If you don't want meat don't eat it. But don't make the rest of us and our guests miserable with your constant complaining. If that is too much for you. Then don't come to eat any more."

Eleanor kissed Al on his cheek.

She walked to Michael and reached her hand to him.

Michael wanted to stay.

He knew he had to leave with Eleanor.

He scooted out his chair and took Eleanor and looked up at his momma.

Al looked at Eleanor as she walked away with Michael.

Eleanor and Michael walked up the stairs to their suite.

Lorraine was sitting on the sofa.

Percy and Bruce were up and bathing.

Thomas was still sleep.

Lorraine had bathed and packed.

She was waiting for Eleanor to tell her she was fired.

Bryson and Gail were walking to the buffet.

They said, "Good morning."

Eleanor said, "Good morning."

Michael said, "Good morning."

Gail said, "YOU had a good time at the casino Michael?"

Michael said, "Yes and that dealer cheated."

Eleanor snatched him into the door and tried to smile at Gail and Bryson.

Gail said, "She's going to kill him. Talking about the dealer cheated."

They stopped at Lillian's suite and they all came out to go to breakfast.

Lillian and Bryson were hugging and walking behind everyone.

Margaret said, "Everything is wonderful but I have to change clothes. I noticed Eleanor's clothes and Shirley's clothes. They shop in the fine stores of Europe?"

Gail said, "You did not notice my clothes?"

Margaret turned and looked at Gail and Tom peeped over at Gail and they laughed.

Caleb and Stewart were running ahead of them with Nathaniel to the buffet.

Nathaniel looked back and said, "Everything is absolutely magnificent. I did not know they are this rich."

Lillian and Bryson were holding onto each other and talking.

Nathaniel looked at his wife and at his new-brother-in-law.

Margaret smiled and looked back at Lillian and Bryson.

Gail looked back at Bryson and Lillian.

Tom looked back at Bryson and Lillian.

Gail said, "See how God orchestrated this to today's date. An absolutely amazing God."

Al got oatmeal and fruit and went and sat with Beverly and Shirley.

Brenda was walking back to her table tasting the omelet.

She fell in love with it.

She gave Patrick a bite. He looked at Beverly.

Beverly said, "Good isn't?"

Patrick said, "I have to remember that."

Gen said, "Bren give me a bite."

Brenda gave Gen a bit.

Gen said, "Order one and we will share."

Brenda said, "Order your own and share with Ben. I am going to share with Patrick."

Gen rolled her eyes.

Brenda waved for the waiter and he walked over she said, "I want two of those lobster's omelets."

The waiter looked at Beverly's plate and looked at Brenda and said, "Yes ma am."

The waiter knew Brenda was the ship owner.

Brenda never say please to anyone. She always let them know she is the boss and to give her what she wants. She had white people try to mistreat her because she was black.

Patrick's mother would take her into town for lunch or to shop and the white people would treat Brenda bad.

Patrick's mother told her because the way the world was, people hated black people but for her to stand her ground and she and Percy would back her up. And never let anyone demeanor her and disrespect her and to always let them know she is the boss.

Shirley told Brenda for her to stop dressing poor so the white people would not pick at her.

Shirley told Brenda that her family helped build that town and for her to start dressing like one of the founders.

Shirley and Brenda noticed two white women in particular that would pick at Brenda all the time.

Shirley started going to church and taking Brenda and Eleanor especially when the men were out of town.

Shirley had the wagon loaded with rifles and guns.

Brenda and Shirley became the closest of friends.

Shirley saw Brenda truly loved her son Patrick.

Shirley knew Patrick kind of love Brenda but after Eleanor was born Patrick never moved.

He saw his love for Brenda was growing and he prayed that his love for her and her love for him would grow together.

He saw the more faithful he was to Brenda the more God bless him with money and business.

Over the years the more money Patrick earned Brenda went upscale on their clothes.

Brenda had many fights with the respectable white folks in the town.

Percy told them to leave Brenda alone.

Percy, Patrick and Patrick's brothers had a gun fight one night with several families in Cedartown.

The men decided they wanted Brenda to go and rode out to Percy's house.

The servants were in town and the workers in town told Percy's servants what they heard.

The servants rushed back and told Shirley.

Shirley had them to go the coal mine that was a day away to send a message to Percy.

Percy, Patrick and his sons had just arrived at the coal mine to be there three weeks and get coal for the upcoming holiday season.

The first coal mine telegraphed the second coal mine.

The second Percy and his sons rode into the coal mine.

The office clerk ran out and gave Percy the telegram.

Percy read the telegram and gave it to Patrick.

Patrick turned around and made the three day trip in a day and a half.

He made it home and home and put his mother, Brenda and Eleanor and all the servants in a safe place.

Patrick loaded all the guns in the house.

Shirley came out the storm shelter.

Patrick said, "Momma. Don't come out again."

Shirley said, "I want to tell you about the rifles out in the shed."

Patrick pushed the storm shelter closed and ran out to the hunting shed.

He loaded all the guns.

He kept looking at the oil.

He moved the oil pails out from the house.

He was tired and drank some water.

Patrick placed the holster on and put the guns in there and he had two rifles and ammunition.

Shirley sneaked out the storm shelter and got several rifles and guns and ammunition.

She showed Brenda a way to get out the storm shelter if it is burned down.

Brenda was scared and tried to Eleanor asleep.

Brenda thought about her husband upstairs standing alone.

She gave Shirley Eleanor and stared at her.

Brenda ran upstairs to Patrick.

Patrick heard someone running and he woke and ran through the dining room and saw Brenda.

Brenda ran to Patrick and touched his face and said, "I will not let anyone kill you. I won't go."

Patrick stared at Brenda.

Brenda said, "Give me a rifle."

Patrick gave Brenda a rifle.

She checked the rifle and got the ammunition.

Brenda walked to Patrick and kissed him, then they heard the group riding onto the property.

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Brenda ran to the side of the house and opened a window.

Several men broke from the group and rode to the side of the house with torches to set the house on fire.

The people in town were angry because Percy and Shirley's house was better than theirs and they wanted to burn down the house.

Brenda knew that and when saw them riding to the side of the house, she shot both men and killed them.

Brenda ran to the back of the house and saw a group riding through the fields.

She shot several of them and they fell to the ground.

She was able to re-load the rifle and run out the back door.

It was night. It covered her and no lights were on in the house.

Brenda learned how to shoot from a distance and not to waste ammunition.

She shot the men from the field and they fell.

She re-loaded and ran to the side of the house.

About a dozen of men got to the house.

The leader who was the bank clerk said, "Burn it down. They don't have a right to this type of house."

Brenda said, "God help me. Help me baby and husband."

She could hear the gunfire on the front and that Patrick was still alive.

Brenda aimed and shot the clerk and his three sons.

The other men fled.

She shot after them.

She re-loaded and heard additional firing and ran back in the house and called Patrick.

She fell on his side and looked out the window and saw men following from their horses.

Percy and his sons arrived and were shooting the group of about thirty five from the back.

Percy was mad because people from the town that was suppose to be business people he did business with were trying to destroy him.

One was Bruce's father.

Bruce's father was hurt but was able to sneak out Percy's yard and make it home.

He was not seen in town for two months.

The town's people talked and they were trying to figure out who went to the Stith's house to massacre them.

The town people was watching who they did not see.

Some of the families came out and claimed the bodies of their family members.

Percy and Shirley's workers took their horses.

All the families moved out of town.

Shirley and Percy kept a list of the families.

Patrick saved every penny of their monies but for the household.

Patrick made wise business decisions he and Brenda.

He saw the more he included Brenda in his plans they were successful.

She helped him a lot.

They learned together and they failed together.

They worked together and when they made a bad decision they swallowed and took the chastisement from Percy and Shirley.

Patrick saw a large number of acres for sale, he bought the land as a surprise for his mother, father and Brenda.

He met with architects and engineers and designed and built the Stith Manor.

He moved his mother and father in the house with Brenda and Eleanor.

Patrick and Brenda always hated Bruce's side of the family and banned them from their lives after Eleanor had babies by him.

Bruce's daddy and momma thought they could do business with Percy and Shirley once Bruce married Eleanor and started having babies.

Shirley said, "Those are evil people that they plotted to use my grand baby to have babies so they could get money from us."

Patrick was livid.

Brenda said, "We should have told Eleanor to stay away from Bruce."

Patrick said, "They were children. Who would have thought that such evil was in a child's heart."

Shirley said, "They are Simons!"

Percy was angry but did not explode.

Patrick was so happy with his family at home.

Patrick worked hard to pay off every debt so no one could take anything from him and Brenda and Eleanor and later his sons.

Bruce's family did not have any material wealth.

They tried different businesses around the town but they were maintaining but never making a profit.

When Bruce's mother saw Gen and told her that Eleanor was getting back with Bruce, Gen knew they had no money and needed Eleanor's money.

Gen could not understand how an entire family was poor but pretending they had money and who were they living off.

Al sat at breakfast and everyone was quiet.

Bryson and Lillian and their families came down and sat at the two tables next between Brenda and Beverly.

Everyone heard Eleanor talk to Al.

Eleanor was polite and respectful and quiet.

They were staving to hear.

Al was eating his oatmeal and looked at Beverly.

Beverly turned her head and ate her lobster omelet.

Shirley sat and watched Beverly then Al looked at Shirley.

Shirley smiled at Al and sipped her tea.

Caleb and Stewart spoke to Barry.

Barry was laughing.

Eleanor walked in the suite and saw Lorraine seating on the sofa and her bag at the door.

Michael went and hugged Lorraine and sat next to her.

Percy and Bruce were dressed for breakfast.

Eleanor hugged them and said, "Good morning."

She hugged them.

Thomas woke and jumped out of bed.

He looked around and walked out his bedroom.

He saw everyone in the sitting room and he stretched and yawned.

Eleanor looked at Thomas and said, "Good morning Thomas."

Thomas yawned and walked and hugged Eleanor.

Eleanor said, "All of you sit."

Lorraine was angry.

Eleanor looked at Lorraine and Michael sitting next to her.

Thomas bath water was waiting for him.

Eleanor looked at Lorraine and said, "Good morning Lorraine."

Lorraine's arms were folded and she was looking straight ahead.

Eleanor walked and put the telegrams on her desk.

She walked back and said, "Percy, Bruce, Thomas and Michael. I am disappointed at your disobedience to my orders to stay at school. But all of you decided to sneak from school and bring Caleb and Stewart with you. You put them in danger along with yourselves. Am I scared? Yes. I have to get over being scared for you. We give you instructions to follow so we know where you are and who should be around you. I never want to see any of you go through that evil ever again. I will put you on the express train today. Lillian and Nathaniel, Margaret and Tom will escort you all back to school. You have had your excitement. You will not leave school again until Thanksgiving. Your excitement is over. Don't do it again. Only if there is a real emergency not one you make up. Do you go outside of your instructions. Understand me?"

Percy, Bruce and Thomas and Michael looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at her sons and said, "I asked a question."

Bruce said, "Can we go and eat. I am hungry."

Lorraine came out of her fog and jerked her head and looked at Bruce.

Bruce looked at Lorraine.

Bruce said, "What am I suppose to say? We were caught."

Lorraine said, "Apologize."

Bruce looked at Eleanor and said, "I apologize mamma."

Bruce turned and looked at Lorraine.



Percy was sitting and looking at Eleanor he said, "Momma, if we had not come and brought Caleb and Stewart their grandmother and Mr. Bryson would never have met."

Eleanor said, "I thought about that Percy, that is the reason why I have not beaten all of your asses and pulled you out of that military academy."

Bruce was still staring at Lorraine.

Lorraine was staring at Bruce.

Thomas was yawning and said, "That's right."

Eleanor looked at the cool Bruce and thought, "He has those cunning ways of his daddy. God please remove those ways from Bruce."

Eleanor looked at Michael.

Michael was watching Eleanor very intensely waiting for her to attack him.

Eleanor said, "Michael, you went to a whole different direction last night."

Percy, Thomas and Bruce looked at Michael.

Michael looked at his brothers.

Bruce said, "What you do?"

Michael said, "I went to the casino."

Thomas was sitting with his feet on the sofa.

He said, "Casino."

Percy said, "What casino?"

Bruce stared at Michael.

Thomas looked at Eleanor and said, "What is a casino?"

Eleanor looked at Thomas and said, "It is a place where grown people go and play cards and games and win and lose money."

Thomas was staring at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, "I had a temporary casino put in the lobby of the old ship just for a few hours last night."

Thomas said, "How did Michael get to go and the rest of us didn't go."

Michael said, "Yall were sleep."

Eleanor balled her fists at Michael and made a few steps towards him.

Michael jumped backwards.

Lorraine looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor said, "It is against the law for casinos in most states, but I got a permission for fun for a few hours to help celebrate the christening of the ship. It is illegal for children to be at a casino. You go to jail. But you Sir Michael sneaked out of this suite and sneaked into the casino and jumped in a chair and was playing cards."

Percy jumped and looked at Michael.

Michael twisted his mouth and shrugged his shoulders.

Thomas looked at Michael.

Bruce was watching Eleanor and her balled fists.

He started to relax when he saw she un-balled her fists.

Bruce sighed and looked at Michael.

Bruce looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine was still looking at Bruce.

Eleanor said, "Michael not only were you in a place you were not to be but you loudly accused the dealer of cheating."

Percy jumped again and looked at Michael.

Bruce looked at Michael.

Michael twisted his mouth and said, "Well he did."

Thomas said, "You lost money?"

Michael said, "I played with house money."

Eleanor stared at Michael.

Lorraine mumbled and turned her head.

Bruce looked at Michael and said, "Is that our family money?"

Eleanor said, "Bruce, no."

Eleanor looked at Michael.

She said, "Thomas go and bathe and go and eat so you all can go back to the military academy. I have to think."

Bruce said, "Do we have to wait for Thomas I am hungry?"

Eleanor said, "No. Your grandparents are at the buffet."

Percy and Bruce jumped off the sofa and looked at Michael.

Michael jumped off the sofa.

Eleanor said, "Michael where are you going?"

Michael said, "I didn't finish breakfast."

Percy opened the door and was standing in the hall.

Bruce was standing in the door looking at Michael.

Eleanor stared at Michael and said, "Go."

Michael ran to the door.

He, Percy and Bruce ran down the hall and down the stairs.

They ran to the buffet and sat and was quiet.

Brenda looked at them to see blood or black eyes.

Patrick looked and said, "I thought I would not see Michael."

Patrick looked at his scared grandsons and said, "Bruce, where is Thomas?"

Bruce was scared and turned his head and looked at Patrick.

Dr. Greene looked at the three boys who were seated at the table by Shirley and Beverly.

Debra looked at the boys and sipped her tea.

She put honey in her tea.

Dr. Greene was about to tell Debra about her tea.

Debra put down her cup and threw her spoon on the table.

Gen and Brenda peeped over at Debra.

Patrick looked back at Debra.

Bruce said, "He is bathing."

Patrick drank some coffee and was looking at his grandsons.

He said, "Get your breakfast."

The boys sat for another minute.

Beverly watched Percy, Bruce and Michael and said, "Eleanor did not beat them but she scared them."

Shirley was watching her brothers.

The waiter brought the two lobster omelets out and sat them in front of Brenda and Gen.

Gen shared her omelet with Ben.

Bryson and Gail asked for a bite.

They fell in love with the omelets.

Brenda shared her omelet with Patrick.

They enjoyed their lobster omelets and coffee.

Eleanor looked at Lorraine and back at the door with Lorraine's bag.

Lorraine watched Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at Lorraine and said, "Lorraine I know you did not take Michael to the casino. You are not fired. I can't stop you if you want to go. I am sorry that I have made you, Meredith, Jose to take my place in my children lives. You told Shirley you would stay with her until she got settled in. I would appreciate if you do that. After that I cannot request anything else from you. You and I grew up together. You put me and my children before your life. You are still young enough to get married and have a child and your businesses. I reject I was selfish and did not think about you before now. Forgive me please. I am trying to make things better. I don't think I can make them alright and take away the pain and sorrow I cause everybody. I hate things did not work out with Dr. Ralph. He is truly dedicated to his patients like Bradley. I would never pull him from his patients. I thought about Shirley and how they helped her. I want them to help as many people as possible."

Lorraine looked at Eleanor and still did not say anything.

Eleanor walked to the table and picked up an envelope and walked to Lorraine and reached her the envelope.

Lorraine reached for the envelope and said, "What is this?"

Eleanor said, "That's the money from your table last night at the casino. I found out the table you were sitting at and got your money back."

Lorraine teared up and said, "I have no place to go and nobody there. I have worked for you most of my life."

Eleanor sat next to a sobbing Lorraine and hugged her.

Ryan, Alice and Ryan Jr walked to the buffet and saw everyone somber mode.

They sat with Dr. Greene and Debra.

Ryan looked at everybody and knew it had to do with the food.

He looked at Dr. Greene's plate and Barry and saw a piece of meat he looked at Debra and some grits and a half- eaten biscuit and he looked at Beverly who rolled her eyes at him.

Brue stood and went to the buffet.

He loaded his plate with grits, a salmon croquet and sausages.

Michael got up and looked back at Debra and got another lamb chop and grits and a biscuit.

Percy stood and walked to the buffet he got four strips of bacon and grits.

The boys started talking to Stewart and Caleb.

Percy was talking to Barry.

Ryan made Alice a plate of eggs, sausages and biscuits.

He made him a plate of oatmeal, eggs and bacon and a biscuit.

Ryan say Al peeping over at his plate.

He nodded at Al and ate a strip of bacon.

Beverly rolled her eyes.

Ryan saw the tension between Debra and Dr. Greene.

He thought, "We have a five hour drive this morning back to Philadelphia with them."

Ryan looked at Michael and wondered what Eleanor did.

Eleanor went into her room and bathed and dressed.

Thomas bathed and dressed he saw Eleanor's door was closed.

He knew when her door was closed she was bathing.

He was ready to eat and he walked to Lorraine and said, "I'm ready to eat. Would you walk me to the buffet?"

Eleanor was in the tub and closed her eyes and cried.

She said, "God help my children get over this fear."

Lorraine stood and held Thomas' hand and walked him to the buffet.

Ryan saw them walking to the buffet.

He saw Thomas was holding onto Lorraine's hand.

He looked back at Michael and smiled.

Ryan thought, "What he wants he get courage to do like the casino."

Lorraine walked Thomas to the food.

Barry said, "Hey."

Thomas turned around and grinned and said, "Hey Barry. Hey Ryan Jr."

Beverly saw Thomas holding Lorraine's hand.

She sipped her tea.

Brenda watched Thomas.

She watched a somber Lorraine. She and Patrick told Eleanor not to say anything to Lorraine they knew it was Michael.

Brenda wondered who was Lorraine's family.

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Brenda saw Patrick looking at her and she sipped her hot black coffee and whispered, "I wonder who her family is. It seems like she is sad a lot."

Gen laughed.

Brenda grinned and looked at Gen.

Gen said, "She carries your grandchildren and then Eleanor on her back all the time."

Patrick said, "I want that to stop."

Thomas ran to the table with his brothers and they laughed and talked to Caleb and Stewart.

Eleanor was dressed and going through the telegrams and sent telegrams and started checking the ship with Captain Moss and the current captain and the engineers who would be sailing on the ship.

Patrick saw Eleanor walking with the staff checking each part of the ship.

He and Brenda and the boys and Shirley greeted everyone leaving.

Eleanor and the captain greeted them from the deck.

The deck was cleaned and mopped and the dining rooms were made ready for the first sailing.

Eleanor, Patrick and Brenda stayed at the dock for the first sailing of the ship.

That ship would be the last ship of the sailing season and would be the holiday in America ship.

The stewards went from cabin to cabin and cleaned the cabins and packed everyone bags and took them to the many carriages waiting for everyone.

Bryson and Gail would spend the holidays with Lillian and Nathaniel.

Eleanor put the boys in the carriages.

Lorraine rode back to Philadelphia with the,

The express train was ready and took Nathaniel, Lillian, Margaret, Tom, Caleb, Stewart, Michael, Thomas, Bruce and Percy back to the military academy.

Lorraine went back to Shirley apartment and slept.

Gen, Ben, Bryson and Gail went to Philadelphia and rode home to Cedartown.

Ryan, Alice, Ryan Jr, Dr. Greene, Debra and Barry rode back to Philadelphia.

Finally, Dr. Greene and Debra started to talk.

Ryan was happy because he did not want to talk medicine any more with Dr. Greene.

The photography stayed and wanted to go on the new ship.

Eleanor allowed him to be the official photography on the new ship.

The dignitaries rode back to Philadelphia after a great beginning of the week-end.

Patrick, Brenda, Eleanor and Shirley walked with Captain Moss and the new captain and engineers and checked the ship over and over.

They saw the new ship set sail on that afternoon.

They celebrated.

Brenda and Patrick stayed with Captain Moss and Ellen for a week and went sailing around the coast.

The Monica came to wash Patrick and Brenda's clothes.

She went sailing with them and enjoyed the entire week-end.

Beverly and Al went to get their house for the freed men children in order.

Eleanor rode back to Philadelphia that night after the ship sailed.

She stayed on the train because she did not want to be bothered with Bruce.

She met with the people over the shelter Mabel lived.

The man over the shelter brought the freed men to meet with Eleanor.

Eleanor was thinking, "It has been three and a half years after the civil war and they have been freed and they are still living here. No wonder the city is closing this place."

She looked at the man over the shelter and said, "What are you going to do? And what are you going to do with this building?"

Eleanor told the men and women who she was and she needed manual workers.

One freed slave looking lustfully at Eleanor and saying things about Eleanor to the other men and women.

Some of the men and women looked at him.

He was sly way sticking his tongue out at Eleanor.

She saw him but kept conducting business.

She brought pen and paper and told them to write their names because that would be the start of worker file.

The ones who could not write Eleanor did not hire.

The lustful man was not hired. She decided she would not hire him. Because too many people to set him free that he was living off that shelter and did not want to read or write.

There was a total of seventeen people she hired.

She hired thirteen men to do manual labor and four women to keep the rest area clean.

They would pay for their rooms for the six weeks of work, but they had to pay for their own food.

The lustful man was shocked he was not selected.

He walked upto Eleanor in her face.

Eleanor held her head back and he tried to hold Eleanor's hand.

The man over the shelter did not stop him.

Eleanor hit him hard in his face and then pulled her gun on him.

Everyone was shocked.

Eleanor looked at the man over the shelter and said, "You are a part of this problem."

Eleanor contacted the governor and told of what happened at the shelter.

The shelter was closed that week.

The rest of the freed men were put on the street.

Mabel went to Thompson-Stith House and had selected her room.

She started working on the ground to build a beautiful flower garden.

Eleanor met Steven in Philadelphia and they rode to the capitol with the seventeen freed men.

Eleanor had found them rooms in the capitol they completed working on the rest area at the trail station.

Steven surveyed the property and determined where the pipes should be put for plumbing.

He ordered most of the supplies and brought them with him.

He had two designs for the rest area and he show Eleanor three drawings for the hospital.

Eleanor decide on a simple and modern design for the rest area.

Steven had the engineers to start immediately.

Eleanor and Steven went to the bone hospital.

Eleanor walked in and Dr. Woodson saw his necklace.

Debra walked out and showed them the hospital.

They left and went to both of Ryan's hospitals.

Steven began to draw a hospital design.

He gave Eleanor the design before she left to go down south.

She and Steven went to the manufacturer of the train cars.

Eleanor put an order for an additional ten cargo cars by the summer.



Steven was used to sleeping out in the open, because the city he built the first rest area had no rooms.

In the capitol at the rest area he camped out and would go every three days to a bath house.

Eleanor trusted Steven and left the pay for the next six weeks for the workers with Steven.

Steven looked at the envelopes and said, "Miss Eleanor I don't want to be responsible for these men pay."

Eleanor and Steven went to a bank and opened an account.

They sat in the office while the manager opened the account and counted all the money and put it in the safe.

Eleanor leaned to Steven and said, "Let this be the last time you smell."

Steven smelled under his arms.

Eleanor said, "It is all over. We have to set standards for our people."

Steven looked at Eleanor.

He realized they hired him because he was black.

Steven thought about that all day and went to sleep thinking about it.

Eleanor realized Steven only knew books. He knew nothing of the world.

Eleanor said, "Steven have you taken care of your family and house for the winter. You always double the time to finish a project. You may not be home until Christmas."

Steven stared at Eleanor.

Eleanor left Philadelphia and went to the south she was hesitant but they had to open that line quickly to start the supply business and have that market.

Steven signed a contract with Eleanor for the building of the rest stop and for the design of the hospital.

Eleanor choose the later design and showed them to Shirley.

Shirley did not know which design Eleanor had chosen and she chose the same design so did Lorraine.

Felipe said he would help Steven with a modern hospital up until he leaves with Meredith.

Meredith was excited about a hospital in her hometown.

Patrick and Brenda were paying her to take care of the security men.

Leon was doing better but he had a long way to go.

Meredith was concerned about leaving him when she had the baby.

Eleanor gave Meredith her pay from the time she left until December 31. Meredith nearly passed out.

She put most of the money in the bank, but ordered a double amount of coal, oil and water.

She looked at the baby clothes Lorraine brought to her.

Meredith realized her co-workers had provided for her baby.

She bought she and Felipe heavy coats, gloves, scarves and hats and socks.

She sent a telegram for Denise to knit them many socks and scarves.

Denise sent her a telegram back that she had so many orders and she would not be able to take her order.

Lorraine and Meredith ran around Philadelphia and found a place that just received the winter inventory.

Meredith bought she and Felipe a large amount of underwear because she would not be washing. She found a washer service and bought them sheets and blankets for the winter.

Felipe saw all the things and were impressed with Meredith.

Ryan went to the bone hospital and had two envelopes.

The financial office had to go back and see all the lectures Felipe and Dr. Charles did and the procedures.

It took them several months, but Ryan gave them their pay.

Dr. Charles and Felipe were happy.

Ryan apologize and his father apologize.

They did not know why Felipe and Dr. Charles were not paid.

Dennis asked his wife to quietly look over the books.

Felipe bought a buggy and a horse and put the rest of the money in the bank.

Dr. Charles moved out of Bruce's hospital to the room next to Vivienne.

Lorraine went to the bone hospital and showed Vivienne the diamond cross necklace and asked if it were hers.

Vivienne was crying and said, "Yes. If you turn it over my husband's name and my five children names are engraved on the back."

Lorraine examined that necklace over and over and saw the names.

She wanted to make sure it was Vivienne's necklace.

Lorraine gave Vivienne the necklace and that Patrick saw it at a pawn shop in the capitol.

Vivienne said, "So she was here."

Lorraine said, "Where? At the hospital?"

Vivienne said, "Yes. Sally saw her peeping in the window and when I looked out the window a shadow going down the street. I keep the window locked at night."

Vivienne talked to Dr. Charles and told him about her necklace.

He was happy for her.

Steven and Alicia made lists of everything they needed.

Whatever was on both their lists those were their priority.

They went to the fair in the capitol.

They found the eye doctor for Emilou.

The doctor treated her eye and said to come back in a month.

Alicia knew how to treat Emilou's eye.

Steven, Alicia and Emilou passed the three schools Steven told them about.

They all three decided on the second school, because it was closer to the town area.

Alicia saw some friends from Cedartown and asked them if they knew where Alice lived on campus.

They showed them where Alice lived.

Alicia and Emilou went and got Alice and Ginger and they spent the day with them.

They went to see about the horses and carriages.

They bought them four horses and two carriages.

They hitched the horses and carriages together.

They bought a lot of preserved fruits and vegetables.

They went to eat at a popular place.

Steven saw Dan and waved.

Dan said, "Quilts for sale."

Steven, Alicia, Ginger, Alice and Emilou walked over loved the quilts.

Steven bought the five quilts and gave Ginger and Alice one.

After dinner Steven took Alice back to her room with her quilt and told her he would be out of town for at least six weeks.

They rode home.

Alicia was riding her new carriage and Steven was in his.

Nathan, Allen and Jose spent a week helping Steven do repair work around his house.

They put up a fence around the property.

They built a simple coal shed and a very simple stable for the horses and had their hay and feed delivered for the winter.

The coal was delivered and Steven made a cover so they would not get wet while they were getting the coal.

They hung the windows and new doors and put the plastic over the windows on the inside of the house.

Their backyard was very organized.

Emilou's new bedroom arrived two days before Steven left.

They wallpapered Emilou's bedroom and put the new furniture and mattress in the room and her new sheets and bedspread.

Alicia wanted to buy chickens and build a chicken coop.

Steven said, "No that draws snakes and I won't be killing chickens."

Steven ordered a table and chairs for the eat in area.

The table and chairs after Steven left.

Allen and Dan went and picked up the furniture and took it to Alicia,

Steven had wallpapered the area and they put the large rug on the floor and Alicia and Emilou were so happy about their new home.

Steven had a separate simple room attached to the house that housed all their clothes and boots.

Alicia cried and held Emilou.

They took Steven to the train station for Philadelphia.

Steven left most of the money with Alicia to buy food for her and Emilou.

Alicia would take Emilou to school and pick her up daily.

Alicia took Emilou to the Capitol to the eye doctor and removed the patch.

Emilou could see and the discoloration of her pupil was going away.

Alicia was happy.

Alicia and Emilou met Ginger and Alice for lunch.

Alicia and Emilou left and returned home at dark.

They put the horses up and went inside the house.

They lit a candle and got ready for bed.

Steven put a metal bar across the front and back door like Jose had on the Stiths.

Steven put the shotgun under his bed by the front door.

Alicia and Emilou walked in their house and grinned when they looked at well it looked.

They had to figure out what to do about their water and heating it for the winter.

Steven counted the money Eleanor paid him.

He ordered a sofa and a chair and an icebox.

Alicia and Emilou were arriving home late one evening and saw Dan and Allen.

They saw the furniture and were thrilled with excitement.

People in the neighborhood saw they could use Steven's water, or eat his fruit nor cut through his yard.

Some of the people tried to clean their yards.

Allen hated that neighborhood.

Maureen went back to the jail the next day and completed all the paperwork.

She got Craig's son out of jail.

Maureen went home and took a hot bath and shampooed her hair and slept.

She woke a little later that morning.

She started a fire in the stove.

She went to the water barrel and got a pail of water and went in the house and put it on the stove.

She carried the tub of dirty water out on the back porch and emptied it.

A neighbor hollered and said, "Maureen what you gonna do about your husband and son?"

Maureen took a moment and said, "God I don't want this life anymore."

She held her head up and looked at the man neighbor and said, "Jack I can't do nothing about. I'll get the boy out of jail today, but Craig has to stay there until the judge comes back and hear his case."

A woman was standing on the back porch with Jack.

She was not saying anything but looking at Maureen.

The man looked back and pointed to Steven's house and said, "That nigger needs to go."

Maureen went in the house and locked the door.

The woman said, "Jack why you say that. That boy minds his business."

Jack said, "They bring down the neighborhood."

The woman said, "When Miss Nancy was alive you would not dare threaten her kin."

Jack said, "Well she is dead."

The woman stood and looked at Jack.

Jack said, "Why you looking at me?"

The woman said, "Miss Nancy died mysteriously Jack."

She turned and walked in the house.

Jack looked at the woman.

He turned and looked back at Maureen's house to see if she heard what the woman said.

Maureen heard the woman's comments.

She walked from the door and got a small pot and put water in it and the last piece of fatback and made cornbread.

She put the beans in the pot,

Maureen walked on the back porch and got her wash basin and walked in the house.

Jack was watching her to see if there was any sign she heard the woman.

Maureen locked the door and poured hot water in the pail and took it to her bedroom and washed and dressed.

She went out the back door and threw out the dirty water and put the wash basin and the rub board in the tub and pulled it in the house.

She locked the back and stood and looked around the small house.

She cried and moaned.

She thought her life should be far better than what she had.

She did not want to keep pointing to her and saying that's why men rejected her.

She was so desperate to marry, when she was in town with Ruth and Nadine and Craig was in town, they pushed her to talk with him.

Maureen and Craig started dating. They got married in a few months and he brought her to the small disgusting house.

She stayed in the same rooming house with Ruth and Vivienne.

She was use to being clean.

All her money she put into the house and it was sunk into the house and the house still looked like filth. His son was still ignorant and showed no human kindness.

She realized she failed.

She was surrounded by racist murders and she did not want any part of them.

She looked at the new curtains she bought and put in the kitchen and they were filthy and ragged.

She could not understand that.

How could every thing looked broken down and torn.

She bought plates and bowls, he and his son were not use to eating out of plates and bowls they would drop and break the bowls and plates and look at her to clean them up.

Nadine told Maureen to stop buying plates and bowls and let them eat out of tin cake pans, which was much cheaper and when they lose the forks let them eat with their hands.

Thomas and Jose heard Nadine and Maureen.

Thomas shook his head.

Jose turned and looked at Nadine.

Nadine did not care what she said.

She would never allow them to come and pick her up at the Stiths.

She caught a ride with whoever was leaving the house.

Craig would only work sporadically.

He told Maureen to take food from Brenda and bring it to them.

Maureen nearly did.

Thomas stood back and watched Maureen.

He was wanting for her to make that decision to steal from Brenda and he was going to have her fired.

Thomas heard Maureen married one of Ruth's friend and he was no-good. He wanted Maureen to provide for him and his son.

Thomas did not want Ruth working there nor Maureen.

He thought about everything he heard from some of the workers and people around town was take from her. He knew they did not say Patrick but from the black woman who all the money. They did not want a black person to have nothing. Not even her own chickens.

Maureen closed the ice box and got her bag and walked out the back door.

Thomas was angry because he wanted her fired.

He looked up and saw Brenda standing back watching Maureen.

Thomas was shocked.

Brenda looked at Thomas and walked away.

Brenda changed Maureen's duties.

Maureen was not allowed in the main house only to mop and wax the floors and dust with Nadine and Monica.

Neither one of them would allow Maureen to go anywhere or do anything away from them.

Thomas thought, "I am glad I did not have to say anything. Brenda is squeezing her out. Brenda hates betrayal."

Maureen made a fire and put on beans and cornbread.

She thought, "That's all he deserves to eat."

She walked out the front door and locked it.

She thought, "Ain't nothing in there. I want them to know they are less than nothing if I think they wants to steal."

She walked to the jail and opened the door.

Nathan was standing looking out the window and saw her walking slowly with her head down.

He thought, "Beat down."

When Maureen was about to enter the main street she held her head up and spoke to people she passed.

Brenda was emphatic that when are out in the uniforms to show respect and kindness to others.

She opened the jail door.

Nathan was standing in the middle of floor.

He did not open the door for her.

He showed her no kindness.

She looked at Nathan and said, "Good morning."

Nathan looked at her sternly and said, "Are you here to fill out the papers and sign them and take your boy home?"

Maureen said, "Yes."

She saw Nathan was not to be played with.

Craig was laying on his cot and looked backwards at Maureen and said, "Maureen take my boy home and feed him. He hasn't no food."

Maureen said, "it'll be ready when we get back."

She sat down and filled out the papers and signed them.

Nathan sat across from her and stared at her.

Craig looked at Nathan.

They heard his boy crying and hollering in the back cell.

She completed the forms and handed them to Nathan.



Nathan reviewed the forms and put them in a folder.

Nathan stood and took a key and unlocked the file cabinet and put the folder for the judge.

He locked the file cabinet and took another key and walked to the back.

Craig jumped up and tried to peep at Nathan.

He said, "Maureen get that key right there and come and let me out."

The man that walked through Steven's yard and ate his apple was laying on his cot and raised his head to look at Maureen.

The other man in the first cell saw Maureen reach for the key.

He jumped up from his cot and ran to his bars.

Nathan was coming back with Craig Jr by his neck.

He looked at Maureen.

Maureen had moved her hand.

Nathan stood and said, "What are you doing? That is twenty years in prison. How old you are you would die in prison. If you would have stood to make a step, it would be a jail break. I would have shot you just enough for you to suffer and put you in the back cell without food. Maureen get out of my face. I better never see you again. I will tell Mrs. Stith when she returns. You might as well look for another job."

Craig yelled, "Nobody cares about that nigger."

Nathan said, "You don't care about your wife, this white woman neither that you attempted a jail break."

Maureen was shaking and stood and looked at Nathan.

Nathan had Craig Jr by his neck and pushed him to Maureen.

Maureen was embarrassed and ran out the door stumbling out the door.

Craig Jr. ran behind her.

He was so weak he tried to look back in the jail and fell off the porch backwards.

She took Craig Jr and he ate the beans and cornbread like an animal.

She realized the three years she has been there has not helped them.

Nathan went to the file cabinet and pull out a thick set of forms.

He looked at the time and he begin to fill out the papers for an attempted jail break.

The man that ate the apple peeped at Nathan and stood and walked to his cell and said, "Sheriff what are you doing?"

Nathan said, "Filling out the papers for an attempted jail break."

The three prisoners looked at Nathan.

Nathan was mad.

The man that stood when he saw Maureen reach for the keys was frozen with fear.

The man that ate the apple from Steven's yard said, "Sheriff what are you talking about I was laying on my cot?"

The man that stood when Maureen reached for the keys said, "You have no proof."

Nathan said, "I heard you fools."

Nathan keep his head down for hours completing the paperwork.

He looked at each of them as he completed the paperwork.

Denise walked by the jail.

She told Nathan that she would let him know which house she looked.

If she liked the brown and white house she will walk on the opposite side of the street and if she liked the other house she would walk by the jail.

Nathan looked up and saw Denise walking directly by the jail.

He held his head down and picked up the papers.

The man who ate Steven's apple laid on his cot and yelled, "All of this because of a apple!!"

Nathan saw he was stupid but wanted to be bad.

Nathan looked at Craig who was standing with his hands hanging out the cell.

The other man was sitting on the floor with his back on the cot staring at Nathan.

Each time Nathan starts filling one of their paperwork he looked at them and start filling out the paper.

Nathan heard someone walk in the jail.

He did not stop until he got to the end of the paper.

The three prisoners were looking at the man.

Nathan slowly held his head up and looked at the man.

A woman was walking in the jail at the same time.

The man that stole apple turned his head and looked and said, "Hey sis."

She was walking toward the cell.

Nathan threw his arm and yelled at her and said, "Get away from that cell and get the hell back out that door!!".

The man looked at Nathan.

Mr. Thompson was the man who was staring at Nathan.

He realized Nathan was going to be hell in that town and the people better straighten up. He needs to begin to practice another form of law besides criminal.

The woman jumped.

Mr. Thompson turned and looked at her and said, "Where were you going? Step outside. I'll be out in a minute."

Nathan took a very long minute to get a good look at the woman and her attire.

He talked to some soldiers and they told him about the woman they caught with the mob and the double horseshoe symbol she had on.

Nathan saw this woman had a double horseshoe emblem on her dress.

Nathan thought, "I have to get her information and give it to the military."

Nathan watched the woman out the jail.

The man that stole Steven's apple, had his arms hanging out the cell and said, "What you do that for? I haven't seen her in years."

Nathan looked at him.

Then he looked at Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson reached out his hand to shake Nathan's hand.

Nathan stood and looked at Mr. Thompson.

The man that ate Steven's apple said, "He's not sociable."

Mr. Thompson turned and looked at the man.

Nathan did not blink.

He stood and stared at Mr. Thompson.

Mr. Thompson said, "I have been retained to get Mr. Coby out of jail."

The man turned his head.

Nathan looked at Mr. Thompson and said, "What is the first name?"

Mr. Thompson said, "Daniel".

Nathan said, "There is not a Mr. Daniel Colby here."

Mr. Thompson was thinking and mumbling and he turned and looked at the man who was peeping at Mr. Thompson through the bars.

Mr. Thompson said, "Sheriff may I have a word with that gentleman?"

Nathan was watching the woman who was signaling to a man across the street.

Nathan gave Mr. Thompson a dare look and said, "You represent Mr. Daniel Colby and not Mr. Jesse James."

Mr. Thompson turned and said, "Did you give the sheriff false information?"

Nathan turned and went into the file cabinet and got another stack of papers and slammed them on his desk.

The three prisoners sighed.

Mr. Thompson turned and looked at the stack of papers and then at Nathan.

He turned to walk out the jail.

The prisoner said, "I'll retain you."

Mr. Thompson said, "You can't afford me."

The prisoner said, "And she can?"

Nathan was listening.

Mr. Thompson walked to the woman and said, "Let's go back to my office."

Nathan watched the man since he was building his information on his siter.

The prisoners watched Nathan.

The first man said, "Sheriff I need to go."

Nathan said, "In two weeks."

The man said, "I need to go to the outhouse."

Nathan locked up the papers in the file cabinet and locked the jail and close the shades.

He unlocked the man cell and unhitched both of his guns.

The man walked out the cell.

Nathan said, "Hands up."

The man put his hands up. And walked outside to the outhouse.

He finished and Nathan took him inside and returned him to his cell.

Nathan was about to sit.

The prisoner who ate Steven's apple still had his head on the cell and said, "Meal time."

Nathan looked around and went out the door.

He stood on the porch and watched the man who dared Nathan.

Nathan walked across the street to the man and said, "Give me your name and your information now."

The man tried to stare Nathan down.

The people were going home for the evening.

They stopped and looked because they were tired of the mob.

Nathan saw the double horseshoe on the man's collar.

The man followed Nathan's eyes and saw he was looking at the symbol.

The man said, "Shelton Wilson."

Nathan said, "Shelton Wilson, give me official government verification of your name."

The towns people begin to move in on the man.

He looked around at the people.

Nathan unhitched his gun.

Denise and Robert were standing at the general store watching.

The man saw Nathan meant to kill him.

The man handed Nathan his verification and he was becoming weaker in Nathan's present.

Nathan had one hand on his gun and said, "That's your name. Where do you live?"

The man pointed and said, "On Green Street."

Nathan thought, "Which house."

Nathan said, "Which house?"

The man looked in the eyes of Nathan.

Nathan's eyes were lifeless worst than a shark's eyes.

The man said, "The green house."

Nathan said, "Who can vouch for you?"

The man said, "The woman that was over at the jail."

Nathan said, "No woman is at the jail."

The man said, "The one you ran away."

The previous sheriff gave Nathan all the information he had on the green house and a Stith's uniform was there.

Nathan knew the different uniforms of the maids.

He did not remember the young woman that walked into the jail, but he will.

Nathan was adamant that he will kill anyone who would hurt Denise.

As many as he could get rid of the better.

Nathan said, "You go and get the woman and bring her back to the jail within thirty minutes. Or I will come to your house."

The man looked at Nathan and thought, "He's crazy."

The man turned and tried to push through the crowd.

The men pushed him hard back and he looked at the people and saw the people were ready to kill him.

He thought, "I better get out of this town and make it to the rendezvous point."

Nathan walked down the street and watched the man as he walked to Mr. Thompson's office.

Nathan saw Denise and Robert and he walked to the restaurant and picked up the three meals and walked back to the jail.

People were still milling about to watch what was going to happen.

Nathan was not eating.

He needed to pray to GOD.

His mother taught him when he really need GOD to do something spend all that time you would be preparing food and eating and going to get water to drink and playing with friends to GOD in prayer.

Nathan fasted when he wanted to know if it was right for him to want Denise a former slave with all the problems.

After a week of fasting and praying he got peace and joy.

He knew he had to provide a living for her and the door open to apply for the sheriff's job opened.

GOD exposed all the mobsters that made it to the final round and could have been hired as sheriff.

He thought about how Brenda and Patrick gave him five hundred dollars.

Nathan thought, "The house Denise selected I can pay out cash for that house. It doesn't need that much work. I want to do the federal work that the sheriff and his deputies went to do."

Nathan locked the jail door.

He was about to give the prisoners their dinner.

There was a twist at the door.

Then a bamming on the door.

The three prisoners said, "Damn."

Nathan went and put their plates down.

Craig yelled, "Give me my food."

Nathan walked to the door with his hand on his gun.

He unlocked the door and it was Mr. Thompson, the woman and the man.

Mr. Thompson said, "You want verification of his information."

Nathan said, "From who live with him. Do you live with him?"

Mr. Thompson said, "No."

Nathan said, "Stand over there."

He looked at the woman and said, "Who are you?"

The woman said, "I live with him?"

Nathan said, "I did not ask you that."

The woman looked in Nathan's eyes and shook.

She said, "Doreen Colby. Daniel Coly's sister. I live with Shelton Wilson."

Nathan said, "Both of you write down your information and give me verification."

The woman looked at Mr. Thompson and said, "If I don't."

Nathan said, "In five minutes you will be in that back cell."

The man that went to the outhouse and said, "It stinks. Can I get my food. I smell fried chicken."

Nathan walked backwards with his hand on his gun.

He picked up two pieces of paper and two ink pens and walked to the man and woman and reached them the pen and paper.

They looked around and there was no chair.

The woman wanted to say something.

The man shook no at her.

Mr. Thompson frowned. He knew something was wrong but he did not know what he was seeing.

Nathan said, "Five minutes."

They looked at Nathan.

Nathan walked backwards and got the dinner plates.

Her brother said, "Start with me. I got liver yesterday."

Nathan started with the first cell.

Her brother stared at Nathan.

Nathan said, "Fried chicken, greens and candied yams or corn?"

Her brother said, "I want yams."

The first man said, "Yams."

Craig said, "Yams."

Nathan gave him the corn he was mad and stared at Nathan.

The man was looking at Craig.

Nathan walked to her brother and gave him the plate with yams.

Nathan turned and saw Shelton Wilson and said, "Recruiting?"

Mr. Thompson mouth dropped open.

Shelton Wilson reached Nathan the paper and the woman reached the paper to Nathan.

Nathan took the papers.

The woman said, "I want to speak to my brother."

Nathan said, "Who are you that you dare tell me what you want with that double horse shoe symbol."

Denise said, "Robert I don't like whatever that is."

Robert said, "I don't either."

He looked around and said, "Come on."

Denise yelled and said, "I'll be glad to."

Nathan heard Denise and wondered what she was doing.

The woman stared at Nathan.

Nathan said, "Get out!"

Denise tried to open the jail door.

Mr. Thompson did not move.

Nathan walked backwards to the door.

He opened the door.

Denise said, "Hey sheriff the manager at restaurant said he was busy and you left these apple pies. I told him I would bring them."

The restaurant is the one owned by Dan's hellish neighbor.

Nathan said, "They don't get dessert."

Denise turned and looked at Mr. Thompson and made a face.



She looked at the woman and the man.

Craig yelled and said, "Hey nigger bring me that pie."

The woman and the man ran out of the jail.

Mr. Thompson ran out of the jail.

The woman and the man continued to run towards their house.

People watched them.

Some people were standing on the jail porch and heard the sheriff said 'double horseshoe symbol.'

Nathan said, "Go and he looked at Denise."

Denise stared at Craig.

Nathan closed the door after Denise.

He closed the shades.

He slowly turned and stared at Craig.

The neighbors watched the man and woman and saw when they entered into the green house.

The neighbors started watching everyone and to see who wore the double horseshoe symbol.

Denise turned and waked slowly to the restaurant.

She, Robert and the restaurant owner ate the pie.

Denise said, "The mob is wearing a double horseshoe symbol. He called me a nigger."

The restaurant manager looked at Denise.

Robert stopped eating and looked at Denise.

Robert and the restaurant manager did not know what to say.

The restaurant manager said, "It's a neighborhood called Woodrow, I believe. That is where a lot of racists settled. I don't know where they came from."

Robert and Denise finished their pies and left.

Nathan slept in a cell across from the three cells.

Jose told Nathan to go to the supply store and buy him pants and shirts and make sure he buy a lot of socks and underwear for the bad winter.

Robert had his washing business on the side.

Robert got two of the washers Eleanor was getting rid of for the newer wringers.

He and his brother did a lot of washing for individual people.

They were making a lot of money.

Robert was saving every penny.

He wanted a house and did not know whether he wanted to stay in Cedartown or leave.

Nathan went and sent a telegram and returned to the jail.

Nathan was standing with his back against the jail wall and he listen to the prisoners.

Daniel said, "I have not seen my sister in twenty years and all of sudden she shows up with a lawyer. And she lives a few streets from me."

The fist prisoner said, "Huh huh."

Daniel said, "Stop trying to catch flies to eat."

Nathan exhaled and stood for a few more minutes.

Craig said, "Your sister work the same place with my wife."

Daniel said, "Why did you tell her to get the keys and let you out?"

Craig said, "I thought that fool would let me out and they put her in jail and let me stay out. I hate her. With her one eye."

Nathan stood and listened.

He thought, "That's what Denise and Robert were doing trying to see the woman. I don't want her at the Stiths. She is how the mob got into their house."

Nathan looked around as night begin to fall he said, "It's too dark around here. We need lights on each street and have someone who light them each night. Maybe the judge can sentence these fools to light the street lights for a year until we can hire street maintenance men like the capitol."

Nathan was about to unlock the jail when he heard Daniel say, "She wants something and I am the only person that can give it to her. I have to think. If that sheriff stop running her off I can find out what it is."

Nathan thought, "It can only be land. What would she want with land but to train and hide."

Daniel said, "That's why I like talking to you idiots. Now I am going to be in prison for a rotten apple and my sister can get what she wants."

Nathan unlocked the door and walked in the jail.

He locked the door back and went to the outhouse and put water in the water barrel and washed his face and hands and locked up the back and laid on the cot in the cell with a shotgun at his foot and his head and two guns under his bed.

He put his holster with the two guns on the floor.

He thought and pulled off his boots and got on his knees and prayed for an hour.

He finished praying and crawled on his cot.

He slept until pass midnight.

He heard a noise in the distance.

He woke and put both a gun in each hand.

Nathan prayed and part of his prayer was for God to quicken him and to alert him of danger and reveal all the time the traitors and let him not be fearful of the enemies.

Nathan laid on the cot and listened to the three prisoners.

He had already memorized their snores.

Nathan sat up on the cot he peeped at the guns he put under his desk and saw the silhouette.

He saw the shotgun he leaned against the file cabinet and he placed a shot gun over the edge of the back door.

Nathan saw three shadows at the jail's porch.

He blinked and looked again and saw three more silhouettes around the door.

He stood and heard the tampering with the lock.

Nathan grabbed a shotgun and ran back to the door.

The man tampering with the door unlocked it and they tipped toed in the jail.

The jail was pitch black.

Nathan wanted as many as possible to get inside.

Three of them rushed inside.

They were searching for the lights and keys.

They ran straight to Craig's cell.

Nathan shot all three and three more ran into the jail.

Nathan shot them.

He ran outside and said two men on horses and an extra horse.

Nathan fired on them.

They fled.

Nathan heard a fall.

A lot of people lived upstairs in their shops.

People started turning on lights.

Nathan sense something he turned and ran back in the jail and closed the door and ran to the back door as the shotgun was dropping he caught it and begin shooting.

He emptied the shotgun and ran out in the yard and begin to fire around the yard.

He ran back in the jail.

And grabbed the guns under his bed.

He laid on the floor next to the bodies on the floor.

The three prisoners were screaming.

Craig turned his back.

Daniel got on the floor.

The man got on the floor.

Six men ran into the front door.

Nathan shot all of them and ran out the jail and saw three figures on horses he shot all of them.

People started yelling.

Men were running out with shotguns and fired on the people.

Robert and Denise were at the rest stop and they could hear the shooting.

Robert said Denise stay here I will go and see about Nathan.

Denise fell on her knees and begin to pray.

Robert put on his boots and took his holster and ran out the door and got on his horse and rode into town.

People were running and screaming.

They caught the people who fell off the horses.

The manager of the ice cream shop ran and got three horses and tied them to the rail in front of his shop.

The restaurant manager stopped and looked at the ice cream shop man and the ice cream shop manager looked at the restaurant manager.

The restaurant manager looked around and saw someone running away from town.

Robert saw the silhouette and rode toward the person and would not let them get away.

The restaurant manager ran to the person and put his gun on the person and saw it was a woman holding her arm.

The restaurant manager said, "Where is your horse?"

The woman spit in his face.

The restaurant manager hit her in her face with his gun and knocked her out.

The restaurant manager was looking around because he needed horses for him and his children.

He thought, "He got three."

The restaurant manager was looking around for any stray horses.

Robert yelled at him and said, "Get back to her and drag her back to the sheriff."

The restaurant manager looked back at the woman on the ground.

He pulled her by the hair with one hand and had his gun in his other hand.

He was looking back and forth to see any horses.

He saw one and dropped the woman and ran and caught the horse and walked the horse to his shop and tied it up.

Robert stood and waited for the man.

The restaurant manager ran back to Robert and saw the woman coming to.

He hit her again the head.

He started dragging her both hands to get her to the sheriff fast so he could go and look for his horses.

The ice cream shop manager's wife was in the upstairs window watching the horses her husband found.

They could hear people running and getting the horses.

The restaurant manager was getting mad.

He hurried and dragged the woman to Nathan.

Some of the men who were not running after the horses were separating the dead mobsters from the alive ones.

They pulled the bodies out the jail through the backdoor.

The ones that were alive Nathan deputized six men to watch them and if they moved to kill them.

The two bodies that Nathan shot in the dark.

Several men went and retrieved the bodies and took them through the jail out to the back yard and threw them with the rest.

The restaurant heard some horses and he ran in the dark and caught another horse and he rode it back to the restaurant. He was happy.

He needed two more.

He looked around and started running the opposite way and found two injured mobsters and walked their horses back to Nathan.

Nathan looked at the mobsters.

One of them was Shelton Wilson.

Nathan said, "Take them through the jail to the backyard."

The restaurant owner pushed them off the two horses and rode one horse and walked the other horse to his restaurant.

Nathan looked at the restaurant owner.

Robert said, "I'll watch them until somebody come to help."

The restaurant owner walked back to the jail.

Nathan looked at him.

The restaurant owner looked at Nathan and pulled them one at a time to the back yard.

Once the town people had removed the bodies of the street.

Nathan said, "I need the military help."

He looked and said, "Robert can you go and tell them we have seventeen of the double horseshoe mobster. Nine are alive and eight are dead."

Robert said, "Sure but it's four thirty in the morning. Is anyone up?"

Nathan looked at Robert and said, "Robert they are up."

Robert said, "I'm back to tell Denise you are well."

Nathan said, "Thank you."

Nathan turned and saw people going through mobsters' pockets.

Daniel was in his cell and trying to grab the mobsters wallets as they were being pulled by him.

A man brought a lantern to see his way to the jail and that was all the light.

Nathan walked in the jail and got his lantern and lit it and placed it on his desk.

Daniel snatched a wallet from the last wounded body and grinned.

He stood and had his back to the door and counted the money. It had ten dollars, he grinned.

Nathan was standing at his desk and Daniel heard a stack of paperwork.

He turned and saw Nathan standing at his desk with a stack of paper in front of him.

Daniel exhaled and shrugged his shoulders and laid on his cot with his back to the door.

He threw the mobster's wallet out on the floor.

The restaurant manager picked up the wallet and looked in it and reached it to Nathan.

Nathan stared at the restaurant manager and said, "Thank you."

The restaurant manager knew Nathan was being sarcastic and said, "You are welcome."

Daniel had his back to Nathan and counted the money again and went to sleep holding the money.

Nathan had to get the bodies from the town.

He knew many of the town people would be going to the last fall festival in the capitol that morning.

The restaurant manager was happy.

Now the money he saved, he could use it to buy a carriage for his wife and daughter.

Nathan walked over to Craig and said, "Craig why were they trying to break you out of jail?"

Craig still had his back to the door and facing the wall.

He said, "I don't know. I was not a part of this jail break."

Daniel listened and fell asleep.

Robert arrived at the military headquarters and told them about the double horseshoe mobsters.

The night commander sent three wagons and forty soldiers.

Robert rode back with the military.

Nathan was writing the mobsters name.

When the leader of the troop arrived.

The towns people gave them the saddles and the empty wallets.

Nathan looked at the towns people.

Robert was laughing so hard he had to hold his head down to keep from laughing out aloud.

The lead soldier and Nathan looked at Robert.

Robert threw his hands up and turned and rode back to the rest stop.

When he turned Robert was laughing so loud.

He was disturbing the talk between the lead soldier and Nathan,

The soldiers loaded the dead bodies in one wagon and the injured bodies in the two other wagons.

Nathan was thankful the bodies were gone.

He went to the green house along with Selma's husband, the manager of the ice cream shop, the restaurant manager.

They searched the house and found nothing.

The moved rugs and checked floorboards.

They went through the yard and searched bushes and flowers.

They went in the attic and they had a full view of the neighborhood.

The restaurant manager said to Nathan, "What are they going to do with this house?"

Nathan shrugged his shoulder and said, "I don't know. Maybe the city will sell it for revenue. I don't know."

Nathan remembered Gary said Max and his wife hung stuff in trees.

Nathan began to look up in the trees.

The men thought he lost his mind and stood and watched him.

Nathan saw something in a tree.

He looked around and did not see a ladder.

He ran several times and finally was able to jump and catch the tree limb.

The men stood and looked at Nathan.

Nathan swung around the branch and was able to get on the branch.

He stood and pulled the bag out of a hole in the tree.

He looked around to see if he saw anything else in the trees.

He did not see anything else.

He opened the bag and looked in it and saw names.

He smiled.

The restaurant manager said, "Money?"

Nathan said, "Better. Names."

The restaurant manager turned and walked to the restaurant looking at the ground for any money.

He heard some of people rushing to the general store and the poultry shop.

The restaurant manager began to get sick.

Then he thought, "I prayed for four horses. That's what I got. I did not pray for extra money and I did not get extra money. I want that house free in JESUS' name."