The commanders looked at the high grass in Brianna’s unkept yard.

The lead commander dismounted and told the others to wait.

Skip said to the soldiers, “The one who found this come with me and show me what you saw.”

The soldier dismounted and they tipped through Brianna’s yard and the soldier help out his hand and bumped into a structure.

They stopped.

Skip walked and touched the structure and they moved the grass and the weed back and saw the wagon.

The soldier and Skip uncovered a piece of the wagon cover and they pulled it partially back and saw the coal.

The soldier said, “Sir are we going to arrest he homeowner?”

The lead commander said, “No. We have to investigate. You continued your search by going to her door and knocking on her door and tell her, not ask her, but tell her you will be searching her property.”

They had walked back to the commanders.

The soldier said, “suppose she say no or put up resistance?”

The lead commander said, “Your order is for you to search her property. We don’t know if she knows anything or not or a part of this. Some people don’t want the government on their property.”

The soldier said, “If she says she doesn’t know anything?”

The lead commander said, “You take her at her word, pending your investigation.”

The soldier said, “She has a house full of small children.”

The lead commander said, “You have your orders. We will stand here.”

The lead commander mounted his horse and turn and said, “I saw a wagon of coal. We will stay here and let the soldiers conduct their search. To show her we are not tolerating thief of government property.”

The commanders and the rest of the soldiers stayed back.

Andrew got out of bed and got dressed.

He did not like for his sleep to be disturbed.

The men of his troop knew to follow protocol he came.

But he was always up and working. Ready to resolve problems and issues.

But when he was sleep he was sleep. His body needed the rest.

Andrew looked at the time.

He started his investigation.

The on duty commander had gone for the day.

Skip made sure a commander was on duty twenty four hours per day.

He did not like to wait until he got to work the next day and receive a telegram something happened and the soldiers had to wait for resolution.

The troops were glad that Skip initiated that procedure.

Andrew looked around and went to the window and peeped.

He saw the commander leaving.

Andrew tipped across the hall and pulled the lock.

He knew it was going to be locked, so he picked the lock.

He slipped into the headquarters office. He knew he only had a few minutes because he saw the next commander arrive.

He went into the file area and started by date order back in November.

He looked and found the file.

He slipped the file under his vest.

He heard the commander at the door.

Andrew squatted down.

The commander had to unlock the door.

Andrew locked the door behind him, so if the sentries checked, the door would be locked.

The commander entered and went to the telegram office and no telegrams.

He looked around and went to the file room and checked the door it was locked.

Andrew was squatting down and listening to every step of the commander.

He tried to teach that to the soldiers.

The commander walked away and came back to the file room and unlocked the door.

Andrew was angry and said, “He would be the one that do that.”

The commander looked around and went into Skip’s office and sat at his desk.

He read out loud the title of each folder with the reports of the executions and the burials on Friday.

He looked over the list of the trials that were to take place that morning and throughout the day.

He saw the folder with Donovan Wilson’s name.

He said in surprise, “Donovan Wilson.”

The commander read all the charges against Donovan.

He said, “My god. His father is going to be angry. I have to watch out for him.”

The commander reached for his coffee mug and there was no mug.

Andrew said, “Good go.”

The commander said, “Come on Andrew and let’s get some breakfast.”

Andrew started cussing.

He stood up and put his arm on the file cabinet and his hand up to his temple.

The commander walked to the door, “Let’s go. You could not hide when you were a child and can’t do it now being bigger. I want steal anything from your father. Everyone knows your father is an honorable soldier. Let’s go.”

Andrew thought, “I got to make sure this file don’t drop, because he would be the one that would arrest me.”

Andrew with his arrogant attitude walked out to the commander and said, “Good morning.”

He tried to run but the commander had locked the door.

The commander hit Andrew on his head.

Andrew nearly passed out.

The commander unlocked the door and said to a wobbling Andrew, “I’ll tell your father I hit you with your bad ass. You were a bad ass kid and now you are a bad ass grown up.”

Andrew waved at the commander as he walked down the hall.

The commander closed the door and said, “I like that bad ass kid. What was he looking for in the files? No telling I am going to let Skip deal with that mess. I wonder how Sheryl is because I know that damn Donovan he’ll go over to Skip’s house knowing he is not there.”

He turned and walked out the office and said, “I’ll ask if he went to check on Sheryl. My wife is going to have a fit if anything happens to her precious sister.”

The commander was mimicking his wife fussing.

He looked down the hall and said, ”Where is that damn boy?”

The commander turned and walked back into the office.

The commander looked at the files where Andrew was hiding he thought, “So much evil is all about us every day. We don’t know who to trust.”

Andrew was peeping around the corner at the commander. He knew he had to get the folder back before he figure it out.

Andrew started reading the file.

He continued to read.

Someone passed him.

He stooped and tiptoed to the hall and saw it was the commander going down the steps.

Andrew tipped to the steps and peeped at him.

The commander said, “That’s that damn boy.”

He kept going to get his breakfast.

Andrew tipped toed running down the hall and continued to read the file.

He stooped down and picked the lock.

He looked behind and said, “He’ll double back.”

Andrew locked the door and unlocked the file room and placed the file back in it’s place.

He locked the file room and tipped to the door.

He saw a shadow but no body, he said, “That’s that damn commander playing shadow games with me.”

Andrew looked around.

The commander rushed to the room and unlocked the file room and walked in and looked around and did not see Andrew.

He went into the office and looked under the desk but did not see him.

He wondered where he was hiding.

The commander walked out the office to breakfast.

Andrew opened the window to grip it before he climb in.

He thought, “I better not he’ll be mad about now.”

Andrew looked down and closed the window back.

He quickly scaled down the wall in front of a group of captains.

Andrew looked at the captains and said, “Good morning.”

The captains slowly spoke.

The commander thought and rushed to the office and raised the window and saw Andrew’s hair he yelled, “Andrew!!”

Andrew started running.

The commander said, “I’m going to kick your ass!!!”

The captains looked at the lead commander who was hanging out the window looking at Andrew fly across the headquarters campus.

Andrew thought, “I need my daddy. Because that bastard won’t give up. I have to move my sleeping quarters so he won’t find me. He can’t mess with me while I am training the soldiers then daddy will stomp him. I have to have a plan.”

Andrew was bent over and he stopped to take a breath then it hit him.

Andrew sneaked to his horse and rode back by the headquarters building and barely sneaked by his uncle by marriage.

The commander kept looking out the windows watching for Andrew.

He knew he could not say or do anything to him while he was training the soldiers because Skip would kill him.

So he need to get him while he was sleep.

A lady walked to the door and opened it.

Andrew fell into her arms and said, “Auntie Vivian.”

The lady held a bewildered Andrew and hugged him and patted him.

She said, “Andrew my child what’s wrong?”

Andrew looked at her with a pitiful look and said, “Uncle Harold is bothering me. Make him stop. Make him leave me alone.”

Vivian said, “I have guests we are having a tea. I’ll speak to Harold this evening Andrew.”

Andrew looked with a sullen look at his Auntie Vivian.

She pushed his hair off his forehead and said, “Such beautiful curly hair.”

She moved Andrew to the door.

Andrew turned to Auntie Vivian and sighed. He said, “You told me I can always come to you.”

Vivian said, “Go back to work.”

Vivian turned from the door and locked it.

She returned to the women who were seated in the parlor including her sister Sheryl.

Vivian sat next to her sister and picked up her cup of tea and sipped some tea.

Sheryl was stunned and said, “Vivian.”

Vivian was talking to the other six women, she pretended she did not hear Sheryl.

Sheryl stood up and said, “Vivian!”

Vivian turned and said, “Why are you standing? Are you leaving?”

Sheryl looked around at the other six women and smirked and sat down.

Vivian said to the other women, “I love Andrew’s hair.”

The other women chimed and said how striking he was.

One of the women who was a little fat said, “Oh if I was younger.”

The other women looked at her and she said, “And thinner.”

The women roared in laughter.

Sheryl just looked at the women.

She it was inappropriate comment especially because Andrew was her stepson, even though he and Bruce did not like her.

Another woman said, “I heard he’s seeing the surgeon’s daughter.”

The overweight woman said, “She’s a quadroon.”

The women nodded, but Sheryl did not know what they were talking about.

Skip kept his boys to himself and from Shirley.

Sheryl did not have any children. She and her husband kept trying and she kept losing the babies. She did everything to be safe.

She buried them around the oak tree. They sold that house and moved to the coast to their beach house.

Her husband set up a horse repair shop there.

There she was until he died.

Sheryl had his body returned to the capitol and buried with their three children at the old house.

She could not sell the portion of the land they buried heir babies on, it was their burial place.

Vivian and Harold were there to greet them at the site.

Their preacher performed an outdoor ceremony which was really lovely.

Vivian and Harold sat Sheryl’s side to console her.

Vivian and Harold had a beautiful lunch afterwards at their home.

Sheryl woke in the middle of the night screaming for Walter.

She was rubbing her hand over the bed and grabbing the pillow.

Harold looked at her and walked back to his bedroom and went to sleep.

Vivian looked at him.

Vivian held Sheryl and rocked her for hours.

Sheryl held onto Vivian nightgown and balled it in her fist.

Sheryl kept saying, “Don’t you leave me Vivian. Vivian are you going to leave me? Please don’t leave me.”

Vivian broke and rocked her sister.

Vivian said, “Never will I leave you Sheryl.”

Harold was up and dressed and ready to go to the headquarters he passed by his wife holding and rocking Sheryl and said, “No breakfast?”

Vivian put Sheryl to bed and kissed her and pulled her fists off her and said, “Baby, I’ll be back.”

Vivian went downstairs and took several knives out the drawer and lit the stove and boiled water and got the pole they used to rack the coal.

Harold looked at the time and said, “Hurry would you.”

Vivian slapped Harold and threw the hot water on him. It was not boiling like she wanted.

Harold being a soldier jumped from the table to run to the door.

Vivian did the Peter, she begin to throw the knifes and the knives nailed Harold’s arms and legs to the back door.

Vivian walked to Harold and showed him the red hot poker and Harold screamed.

He told Vivian, “All of this because I asked for breakfast.”

Harold screamed.

The neighbors jumped because they heard him screamed.

He did not report to work for several days.

While he was recuperating, Sheryl decided to drive herself home.

She took the three day ride and screamed and hollered and cried all the way home.

Vivian and Harold made up.

Harold said, “Vivian I promise I will never ask for breakfast again. If you do this each morning.”

Vivian kissed her husband and said, “Yes.”

Sheryl went home and sat in Walter’s chair.

The holidays were near and Vivian was worried about Vivian.

Harold said, “Why are you worried about her?”

Vivian opened the knife drawer.

Harold had just walked in the house from work.

He turned and ran out the house and jumped on his horse and flew.

Vivian said, “Good.”

She was younger than Harold and gave up everything and followed him to that god forsaken state.

Her sister moved to the state with her so she would not be alone.

Sheryl met a wonderful older man and married him. They had a good and comfortable life.

Another woman said, “I thought she was a mixed race child.”

The overweight woman said, “That’s what a quadroon is.”

Another one of the women patted the one on her shoulder and said, “You have learned another word today.”

The woman said, “Oh shue you.”

Everyone laughed.

The woman lifted her teacup and took a sip of tea.

Another woman said, “She’s a pretty girl.”

The overweight woman said, “Sure is. I bet that’s where Andrew made a bee line to.”

The women giggled and cut their eyes at Sheryl.

Sheryl was mumbling trying to figure out who they were talking about.

One of the women said, “Sheryl you have to get out more. The only reason you are here today is because Skip is out of town…”

The woman pointed to herself and said, “I know because my husband is with him.”

She sipped some time.

Vivian stood up and walked to the cabinet and said, “Brandy?”

All the women held out their cups.

Vivian said, “Only a teaspoon. You all know what happened the last time. I barely made it home.”

The overweight women said, “I slept for two days. The nerve of my husband and my son trying to wake me and make me cook for them. That didn’t work.”

She snickered and stirred her brandy in her tea.

She said, “We all need to lose weight.”

She put the cup of tea to her mouth and smiled.

The overweight woman reached her cup to Vivian and said, just a bit more.”

Vivian gave her another teaspoon and the other five women held their cups out.

Vivian poured another teaspoon of brandy in the women teacups.

She turned to Sheryl and Sheryl covered her teacup with her hand.

Vivian looked at the woman seated closest to the door and.

Vivian carried the brandy to the cabinet and put it back in.

She looked at the woman, who was scared and very nervous.

One of the other women said, “I did the unthinkable.”

She fell back in her chair and hollered.

Sheryl said, “What?”

The woman said, “I peed in front of a business.”

Sheryl mouth flew opened.

Vivian was still watching the other woman.

The overweight woman laughed.

The other woman said, “that was a mess.”

The woman said, “And then some.”

They just laughed.

Sheryl out of concern said, “You made it home.”

The woman said, “That was the most curious thing. I don’t remember getting home. I woke on my sofa later that night with my husband staring at me with his beady little eyes.”

The other woman said, “I was with you. You peed in front of your husband and his business associates. He whisked you away down the street. I yelled…”

The woman put her hand upto her mouth to demonstrate how she was yelling at Beatrice’s husband to slow down as she was stumbling over her feet and other people’s feet and over the ground…”Wait for me. He said you bloodied didn’t say that when you were getting drunk.”

Beatrice mouth flew opened and said, “He did not say that did he?”

Alice looked down in her tea and said, “Yes hell he did.”

The women laughed.

Beatrice laughed and said, “Alice how can you remember that and I don’t?”

Alice said, “He was cutting. You remember that.”

Beatrice said, “I know you made it home. How?”

I was wondering down a familiar street and stopped in front of the barber shop over on Canal Street and waved at the men. That’s all I remembered until the next day.”

Wilhelmina said, “You don’t! That was your husband’s barber shop you stopped in front of. He let you stand out there all evening until he shut the shop down and then he walked you home and carried you upstairs and you said he did the nasty several times before he fell asleep.”

Alice said, “What a girl has to do to get her wife part.”

They hollered.

Vivian was watching the woman who was scared and nervous.

The woman kept taking her finger and circling her tea.

Sheryl was the only one who did not drink and the other nervous woman.

Sheryl saw the women getting quiet she put her tea cup down and turned to Vivian and said, “Why did Andrew come to you?”

Vivian said, “He and Bruce come to me about Harold.”

Sheryl said, “Why?”

Vivian looked at the other women and said, “I love you Sheryl, but they don’t want anyone in their mother’s position.”

Sheryl started crying and said, “They hate me.”

She stopped and looked at Vivian.

Vivian stared at Sheryl and held her head back.

The other six women looked.

Sheryl wiping her tears said, “You helped them to hate me.”

Vivian said, “Sheryl you are drunk.”

The overweight woman was bobbing her head for yes.

Sheryl said, “I am not drunk. I had only tea. The rest of you slushes had liquor.”

Wilhelmina said, “Ugh, name calling. Let’s make that name stick. More brandy Vivian.”

The women laughed.

The front door opened.

All the women turned to look, including the nervous one.

Vivian leaned forward to see who was coming into her house with a key, because Harold was at work.

Harold stepped in the house and closed the door.

Vivian screamed, “Harold you scared me!!”

The other women sighed, fanned and exhaled.

Harold stepped into the parlor and spoke and said, “Afternoon ladies.”

He looked around at the women then at his cabinet.

He looked back at the women and they all smiled at him but Sheryl.

He knew was not drunk.

He remembered the last time he was walking home with some of his friend and he saw Vivian across the street feeling on a few men and getting frisky.

He tried to ignore her.

The men knew she was drunk, they were laughing at her friskiness.

Harold was so scared he did not know what to do.

One of the men said, “Harold is that your wife?”

Harold, “Where I don’t see anyone.”

All the men pointed across the street.

Harold stood and exhaled and walked across the street and grabbed Vivian.

A couple of the men yelled leave her alone.

One of the men seated said, “I got something for her since you can’t take care of her.”

Harold ran back before the man could stand and stomped him in his crotch.

The other men laughed and said, “Bring her back anytime.”

The man Harold stomped yelled and said, “It hurts. That ain’t funny.”

The men laughed at Harold.

He walked her home on the opposite side of the street.

His friends were walking down the street watching them.

Harold fussed all the way home.

He said, “You got people on the street thinking I can’t do my husband duties.”

He was more angry that the men thought he could not take care of Vivian womanly desires than her public drunkenness.

He quickly unlocked his front door and pushed Vivian in the house.

Vivian walked towards the parlor and stumbled and fell onto the floor.

Harold was so angry he stood by the door and stared at Vivian.

Harold was standing and looking at Vivian laid out on the floor.

He said, “I ought to let your ass stay there.”

There was a knock on the door.

Harold jumped and looked at the glass sidelines he said, “Damn.”

He stood for a minute and cracked the door.

He looked at two of his friends on the porch and the three standing in front of his house.

One of the friends on the front porch leaned his head forward and whispered, “Is Vivian ok?”

Harold said, “She’s drunk. She is fine.”

One of his friends name Ralph was standing in the street in front of his house said, “If you need her service I am available.”

Harold was shocked.

His two friends on the front porch were shocked and turned around and looked at Ralph.

The other two friends were stunned.

Harold flew out the house and down the front steps.

The man bucked and started running around in circles.

Harold was trying to get pass Skip and Arnold to hit Ralph.

Harold yelled, “Your ass is older than me.”

Ralph started doing motions at Harold.

That made it worst.

Ralph broke and ran.

Harold looked around and picked up rocks and started throwing at Ralph. He hit him a few times.

They heard Ralph screamed ‘ouch’.

Skip and Arnold looked at each other.

The two men on the front porch ran down the steps to see Harold hit Ralph several times with the rocks.

They cringed and looked at Harold.

The other two men watched Skip and Arnold.

Peter said, “Do you all know where your wives are?’’

Skip was waiting for Harold to calm down.

Skip said, “Harold you need to calm down and go and care about your wife. You know Ralph is just talking.”

Peter said, “That’s not what I heard.”

Skip and Arnold stared at Peter.

Peter hitched his shoulders and said, “I wasn’t suppose to say that?”

Harold said, “I heard it too. I am not going to have a round head, beady eyes and pointed nose baby in my house.”

Arnold turned and walked away.

He was trying to get home as soon as he could, before his girls got home.

Skip was trying to think about where Sheryl was and what she was suppose to be doing that day.

Skip turned and crossed the street and nearly broke out in a sprint home.

Harold looked at Skip and Arnold and said, “Yeah you’ll don’t know.”

Peter and Malcolm laughed.

Malcolm said, Harold ago and check on Vivian I’ll wait here. Go on now.”

Harold was walking up his steps cussing.

He got to the door and turned the knob and it was locked.

He stood for a minute and thought.

Malcolm said, “Is it locked Harold?”

Harold did not say anything.

Peter and Malcolm looked around.

Peter ran up the steps.

Harold moved aside.

Peter kicked the door just hard enough to knock the key out.

Harold had his head down, in shame.

He twisted the knob and it was unlocked.

Harold said, “Thanks.”

Peter and Malcolm turned and continued to walk home.

Malcolm was a widow, his wife and child died in childbirth. It had been twenty three years that.

He swore he would never marry again.

He realized he caused two innocent lives to be taken because of his hatred.

He treated his young wife so badly.

She was a poor girl from a poor family.

Her father was dead.

An anonymous benefactor sent her to a private school so she can meet wealthy kids.

The anonymous benefactor included all of her expenses for the entire years she was in formal school.

She was the oldest of the six children.

Malcolm saw her in school and the boys and girls were talking about how poor she was.

Malcolm faxed to want to be her friend, so he could have sex with her.

Malcolm befriended her and used her for two years in formal school.

He went away to the military academy.

She sent him word she was pregnant.

Malcolm sent her word back, “You are not who I will have.”

The girl had to leave school and the privileged life she thought she was going to live.

She had started mis- treating her brothers and sisters and mother, because she thought she was better than them.

Her mother told her, “If you don’t straighten up. I will have you pulled out that school with all those snobs. You mis-treat us and your used to be friends. I have enough from you.”

Then the girl became so sick.

That her mother had to call the doctor.

The doctor came and examined her and told the mother, “Well you gonna have another mouth to feed.”

Her mother was shocked and sat with her mouth opened.

The doctor was putting his stethoscope in his bag.

He looked at the stunned mother and said, “She’s your oldest?”

The mother nodded her head for yes.

The doctor said, “You put your hopes on her?”

The mother shook her head for yes.

He said, “I’ll send you my bill.”

The mother humbly bowed her head and mumbled, “Thank you.”

The doctor looked at the mother and walked out the door.

He looked at the five brothers and sisters sitting on the floor and lined up in the hallway and walked out heir house.

The mother walked out the one bedroom.

The girl was sleeping in the one bedroom, so she could be refreshed for the private school the next day.

The children taunted her and treated her badly.

The master of the school was informed of the children behavior and contacted each parent with a warning.

The children stopped taunting the girl and some helped her to adjust to their school and environment.

She started going to some of their parties and events.

Her brothers and sisters asked her to take them to some of her events she said no. Or would tell them yes and run off and leave them, because she did not want them to embarrass her.

Two of her brothers she took to a rugby match and they were stealing all the snacks.

They were belching and passing gas.

On the way they bragged about how much they stole on the way home.

The mother and the children laughed when the boys told how they belched and farted all over the place.

They said their sister was embarrassed and ran away with her boyfriend to the woods.

The oldest boy was not invited to the rugby match.

He stayed home and as his brothers were laughing and the other children laughed.

He and the girl next to him peeped in the bedroom where their sister was crying her eyes out.

The family enjoyed the stolen snacks all week-end.

The girl cried all week-end.

She did not want to go to school, but Malcolm found out where she lived and after three days of her not coming to school.

He and a fellow went to that side of the town.

Her mother was not home and all the children were in school.

The oldest boy was on his way home because he did not have any food to eat.

He came home to find a piece of bread or something to eat.

Malcolm and his friend had found the house and Malcolm knocked on the door.

His fellow said, “Whew.”

He looked around to see where the stink was coming from.

Malcolm looked around to see where the stench was coming from.

The girl came to the door and saw Malcolm and his fellow and was shocked.

Malcolm almost felt something for her.

Her oldest brother saw the two lads at his door and saw when his sister opened the door.

He saw how Malcolm grabbed her and kissed her.

Malcolm and the girl went into the house.

Malcolm’s fellow sat on the steps and waited.

The girl’s brother watched from up the street n front of a neighbor’s house.

Her brother waited.

He decided to start walking home.

Just before he got home the door opened.

He got a better look at Malcolm.

He was fair skinned with brown hair.

He Kissed his sister again and he and his fellow ran away,

At first her brother thought Malcolm genuinely care for her, he gave a slight smile.

Then he saw when Malcolm made a motion, her brother gasped with surprise.

Malcolm and his fellow laughed and they kept running to get out the neighborhood.

The girl saw her brother as she closed the door.

When Malcolm looked back their door was closed.

Her brother went into the house.

He stopped at the bedroom and looked at his sister.

She was nasty and said, “What are you looking at me for. You want some?” and pulled her nightgown off her shoulder.

Her brother was so stunned and started to walk away from the door and stepped back to the doorframe and looked at her, as she sat and folded her clothes.

She was smiling to herself.

Her brother felt compelled to tell her.

He walked to the door and said, “You be careful. He is using you.”

She jumped from the bed and stared at her brother with hatred.

She turned around and around to find something to throw at him.

He ran to the loft where he slept.

He locked the bottom door and the upstairs door.

He slept in his clothes.

Her brother did not come out again until it was time for him to go to school.

His older sister would leave early to go to school.

His mother would go and sleep in his sister’s bed.

Their mother cleaned houses and made curtains for a poor living.

The oldest brother and the sister next to him went to the same school and they would walk to school together.

He ran downstairs and met his sister in the narrow hall and they ran to school.

He told her their eldest sister’s boyfriend came to their house yesterday.

The sister was so excited and happy that rich people came by.

Her brother said, “Yea. He came by to use her.”

The sister was being stared down by an old ugly neighbor.

She turned to her brother and said, “Why is Mr. Nelson looking at me like that?”

The boy said, “That’s what I am trying to tell you. Because of her the neighbors think you are loose like her.”

The girl was shocked.

He told her, “Don’t walk alone with any boys or go to any friends’ houses.”

The girl protested and said, “That’s crazy these are my friends. They wouldn’t do anything to hurt me.”

He came home that evening,

His sister was in the bedroom and the doctor was examining her.

A group of boys jumped on her and raped her on the way home from school.

The older man Mr. Nelson was trying to rape her too but neighbors ran him away and two men carried the girl home.

The mother was pleading with the doctor, how hard it was for her to take care of her children, because she worked all the time.

The doctor got his medial bag and told the mother in all the children hearing, “I am a Christian man. Never call me again. You should have never had any child not alone six of them.”

The doctor walked out the house and did not look back.

The oldest sister was in the bedroom with her sister and mother and the rest of the four children stood in the hallway and looked.

The oldest son who was fourteen and the oldest girl who was sixteen and the girl they raped was thirteen.

The oldest brother walked downstairs into the bedroom and the mother was sitting on the bed with the thirteen year old.

The oldest daughter was standing up looking at her younger sister.

The mother was saying tat now since the girl had been raped, she could go out and make the family money with men.

The oldest daughter laughed, because she knew was going to take care of her.

The oldest boy put his father’s bible in his school bag.

He walked in the bedroom and the oldest girl tried to fight him and push him out and their mother jumped on him and scolded him to get out.

He looked at his thirteen year old sister and said, “I told you not to walk alone with those boys, Because she made everyone think you were loose like her that’s why they raped you and beat you to show you are nothing. This is the life your mother wants for you to make her money from your body. You can either go with me or stay her and let them turn into the trash of man.”

The thirteen year started to get out of bed.

She was screaming out in pain.

Her brother walked over to her and helped her out of bed.

She only had one shoe.

He reached and got the blanket the oldest daughter was privileged to used.

He helped his sister out the bed and out the house.

The doctor was on the other street leaving a patient and saw the children leaving their home.

He stood and wondered.

The neighbors started shutting their doors and windows, saying they had no room.

The doctor looked at the people.

He thought of how he come to them and they never pay him.

He called and waved the children to him.

The children walked across the street to the doctor.

The girl hobbled all the way.

The doctor knew they left or they were kicked out.

The doctor walked them to his wagon and said, “Do you’ll have a place for tonight?”

They said, “No.”

The doctor said get in my wagon.

The mother and the oldest daughter were watching out the door.

The mother smirked and closed her door.

The doctor looked at her and said to himself, “Trouble.”

The doctor took them home and introduced them to his wife and children.

He looked at his wife and she looked at him.

He told his wife what happened and the children decided to leave.

His wife nodded her head for yes.

They all sat down to dinner and they shared soup and bread.

The brother and sister had no meal for days.

The doctor told his wife the girl had to rest.

The doctor had three boys and one girl.

The mother went through the storage clothes and found a pair of her daughter’s shoes that fit the sister.

The wife gave the sister the pair of shoes and she was so excited.

The wife never seen such a grateful child before.

She and her daughter went through the much fabric that was stored up in the attic and begin making the girl dresses.

His daughter met a man in the military and decided to marry him.

He was older than she but that was fine with her.

She finished formal school in the summer and would get married immediately afterwards and travel with him to his next duty station.

She and her mother and the sister was busy making her a new wardrobe.

The other saw the doctor one day and flagged him down and begged him to come and look at her daughter.

The doctor pulled his buggy over and followed the woman in the house.

He examined the girl and said, she was pregnant.

The doctor noticed the mother did not ask about her son and daughter.

The mother sent word to Malcolm, at the military academy, that her daughter was pregnant with his child.

The mother expected to receive money.

Malcolm sent word back and sad, “I don’t care about your daughter nor grandchild. I will not marry her. I will marry my love, the one I am betrothed.

The mother was devasted.

Someone spoke to Malcolm’s father and told him what happened.

He and Malcolm’s mother called him home.

He married the pregnant girl the next week.

The girl was smiling at the simple saying of the vows before the preacher.

Her mother and two brothers and sister were at the service.

Malcolm’s father and mother and twin sisters were at the service along with their mother’s parents and their father’s parents.

The twin sisters were sitting and sticking their tongues out at the girls’ brother and sister.

Their mother saw them out the corner of her eye and gently looked back at her sixteen year old daughters and smiled and said, “No.”

Malcolm stood and said the vows and once the preacher pronounced them man and wife and you may now kiss the bride.

The girl turned to Malcolm and was grinning.

Malcolm turned and walked out and went to his horse his best friend brought.

Malcolm parents ran out the church behind him.

Malcolm’s twin sisters were laughing until they saw how the girl fell down crying.

The mother’s father turned his head.

The father’s mother eyes filled with tears.

Malcolm left and went to the military academy.

The mother of the girl walked passed the girl and walked over to Malcolm’s grandparents and left the girl’s bag with them.

She called her children and they got up and walked out the church with their mother.

Never to see their sister again.

The doctor’s two sons were attending the military academy.

They both were younger than Malcolm and stayed out of his way.

The doctor’s family was very prestigious and all the males went to the military academy while they were in formal school.

He doctor lived a simple life and no one knew he was that wealthy.

He managed his money and met with his family when necessary.

His family demanded for his daughter’s wedding to be held on the family estate and they pay for everything.

The doctor’s daughter’s husband and his family were shocked at her wealth.

They thought she was a simple girl and expected a simple life.

The man decided he wanted to wait a while before they married.

The doctor’s daughter left and went to school in Switzerland with all of her cousins.

She met a prince and married and lived in Europe.

Her family would come and stay each summer, including the brother and sister.

She had a set of red hair twin boys.

The doctor had only one child at home. He was their youngest boy of ten years old.

He was very sickly and the father and mother never left him by himself.

Malcolm’s parents took the girl in and tried to help her with her nasty attitude that they had to help her.

The grandparents were disappointed mostly with Malcolm’s attitude towards what he had done.

His father required him to come once per month to check on the girl.

Malcolm treated her so badly and spoke to her terrible.

His parents told him to take her with him to his friends.

Malcolm took her when he visited his girlfriend.

His girlfriend looked at the girl and said, “Malcolm what is this?”

Malcolm stared at the girl and nonchalantly said, “Whatever you want to call it.”

His girlfriend pointed and said, “I am talking about why is -she- here on our date?”

Malcolm said, “My parents said for me to bring her with me.”

The girlfriend’s parents were standing and listening.

The girlfriend yield, “Mom Dad!”

Her parents ran downstairs.

The girlfriend said, “Malcolm brought his girlfriend to my house on our date.”

The girl lifted her finger and smiled and said, “Wife.”

Malcolm got in the buggy and made the girl walked home.

Malcolm returned and got his horse and went to the military academy.

His parents asked where his wife was and he told he made her walk home.

He rode off.

His parents kept walking to the window looking for her.

The twins kept looking out the windows.

Hey yelled, “Mom. Dad.”

Everyone ran out the house to help her in the house.

She passed out and never woke up again.

The next Sunday Malcolm came home to go to an all day Sunday party.

His family returned from the church service and saw his horse.

He did not go to the girl’s room nor asked his parents where she was.

He sat for supper so he could leave and go to the party.

His girlfriend was there and everyone stared at Malcolm.

Malcolm had a good time at the party and his fellow told him everyone is staring because you are out fast.

Malcolm said, “What are talking about?”

His fellow told him, “The girl died last week with your baby in her. Your family buried her and your child in your family plot. Why you act like this is new.”

Malcolm swallowed hard and tap Peter on his shoulder and said, “It is news to me.”

Malcolm wobbled out the party under the eyes of all the party goers.

Peter married Malcolm’s girlfriend. They had three girls. They all went away to finishing school and came home for the holidays and for summer.

The three girls had summer weddings at their church and receptions at their home.

The three girls moved to the same city out of state and had children.

Peter and his wife would spend Christmas and fourth of July with them and come home to peace and quiet, because seven grandchildren were enough.

Harold saw the parlor full of drunk women.

He turned around and went to the café for dinner.

The women left and went home.

Vivian was washing the dishes and wondering about the one who was so scared and nervous.

She wondered what she did.

Vivian slowly looked up and stared in the distance.

Vivian had cleaned the parlor and put everything away.

Harold returned and said, “Everyone is gone and Vivian said, “Harold come and sit.”

Harold started mimicking Vivian and when turned he instantly stopped.

Vivian sat on the sofa and patted for Harold to sit.

He sat and she looked him in his eyes and said, “Leave Andrew alone.”

Harold jumped from the sofa and went and got the brandy and held it to the light and turned to Vivian and said, “Two teaspoons.”

Vivian said, “That’s why you came home early because you thought you were going to catch Andrew here.”

Harold took a glass of brandy and said, “Ah.”

Vivian said, “I watered the alcohol down.”

Harold said, “I know.”

Vivian said, “I never want my friends to go through that drunkenness again.”

Harold had the brandy glass in one hand and the watered down brandy in the other hand.

He said, “Get upstairs.”

Vivian stuck her tongue out grinning.

Harold started walking upstairs and said, “Lock the front door.”

Vivian locked the door up the stairs behind Harold.

Vivian looked over at Harold and lifted upon the bed and said, “Are you gonna leave Andrew alone?”

Harold exhaled.

Vivian stared at him.

Harold said, “How did that bad ass boy get in our bed?”

Vivian whispered in Harold’s ear.

Harold said, “Really? You will do that if I leave him alone until his daddy get back?”

Vivian was laying on her husband and biting her bottom lip.

She grinned and nodded her head.

Harold leaned on his elbow and looked at Vivian and said, “You better not double cross me.”

Vivian laughed.

Harold would sit in Skip’s chair and look in the file room and wondered what Andrew was looking for.

He knew Andrew was onto something.

Harold turned around and brought his attention back to the reports on his desk.

He exhaled and begin to read the names of some of his friends that were scheduled for rial next week and that would be executed the same week and buried by the state in a mass.

Harold saw, the other lists that had the names of prominent men.

Harold thought, “All of this is about money. Senseless.”

He looked into the file room again.

It was really bothering him that Andrew might be onto something.

Whatever it is he wanted credited for it.

Harold started reading the files beginning with the A’s.

He was getting so many orders from Skip, that he wished Skip would come on back to the headquarters.

Harold knew Skip would not be back until Bruce was well and he closed every loophole.

Andrew as at peace.

He took Aunt Vivian a dozen of yellow roses to thank her for intervening between her and Harold.

Vivian heard the knock on the living room door she just finished mixing her bread to knead for dinner.

She walked through the hall wiping the dough off her hands with her dish cloth.

She was walking and peeping and saw a uniform and knew it was Andrew.

Vivian unlocked the door and Andrew hugged her and said, “Aunt Vivian” and handed her the yellow roses.

She grinned and took the yellow roses and said, “How beautiful.”

She was walking a bit slow.

She and Andrew walked in the kitchen and she tried to stoop to get her bread pan and a flower vase.

Andrew looked at her.

She slightly turned and Andrew rushed to her and stooped down in the cabinet and said, “Aunt Vivian what do you want?”

Vivian looked at the back of Andrew head and said, “The bread pan and a flower vase.”

She said, “Harold is not going to bother you until Skip gets back. I know Skip will take care of you and Harold.”  
Andrew said, “Is that the reason you can’t move?”

Vivian turned and looked at Andrew who was wiggling and grinning.

Vivian said, “What?”

Andrew said, “You did that for me. I love you and I feel love…”

Vivian hit him on his arm with the bread pan,

Andrew started laughing.

Vivian said, “I hear you are running behind the doctor’s daughter be careful.”

Andrew said, “I really like her Aunt Vivian. You know what I mean?”

Andrew winked at Vivian.

Vivian said, “Come on so I can let you out.”

She and Andrew were walking to the door and she put her hand on the door and before she opened the door, she said, “Andrew I have a married friend who was drunk three months ago.”

Andrew said, “I was told of you were. But go ahead.”

Vivian said, “Is it all over town?”

Andrew shook his head for yes.

He said, “Girls were just having fun.”

Vivian said, “Exactly. Andrew my of my friends you had that day. Don’t have her or any other spoken for woman. Understand me. Her husband is a killer. He will hunt you down. This is life not college. I hope she is not pregnant.”

Andrew said, “How did you what that together?”

Vivian said, “She was here the other day when you came. I noticed she leaned all the way back in the chair and kept her head down to keep her face from being shown. And when I rubbed your hair. She went into a tizzie. Leave her alone and stick with the younger women.”

Andrew said, “Will do.”

Vivian said, “Good.”

Donovan was sitting in court with Linda and they had Donovan released to them.

They had his bags packed and a horse for him to leave and stay away for his lawyers to handle his case.

His father handed him a roll of money.

Donavan mounted his horse and rode all day.

He got to the address his father gave him.

The caretaker was in the small house.

He started a fire in the fireplace and had hot water for a bath and stew in the fireplace.

Donovan paid the caretaker and took a bath.

He sat and ate beef stew and stared in the fire.

He had time to think on his eight hour travel to the location.

He laid in the bed and went to sleep.

The third in command, Richard Snow and Reagan rode into the town and went the shortcut to the lake.

Joseph, Marc, Alice, Jason and Laura went to the morning service along with Ida and the governor’s three children.

Joseph went back to Jake on Saturday to take him a large plate of fish and vegetables. He told Jake of the very short Sunday service, if he wanted to attend.

Laura put the turkey on and had cooked most of the food before she left.

She was putting her stuff next to the kitchen door, so Marc and Joseph could easily load up the wagon for her.

Jake had bathed the nigh before and was dressed and had his bible. He got a horse ready to ride to the church service. He knew about the short cut by Brianna.

Jake cut there and saw the military.

One of the commanders said, “Is that…”

The lead commander said, “Jake.”

Arnold said, “Where is he going?”

The lead commander said, “They are having a church service over by the lake.”

The commander who looks away all the time said,”Jake looks good. Retirement suits him.”

Arnold said, “It will suit me also.”

Mellissa did not want to go to the church service and Clara stayed with her.

Clara did not trust for Mellissa to be home by herself.

The two soldiers walked to Brianna and knocked on her door.

She came to door and saw the soldiers and opened the door.

She did not say anything.

Johnny and Sarah saw that the soldiers were the ones who gave them food and brought them home.

They said, “Hey.”

The soldier said, “Ma am, we’re searching the town for our wagons and we are here to search your property.”

The two soldiers had feed their horses and her horses and sneaked back to watch the evil ones.

Ida drove the wagon with the governor’s three children.

They passed Brianna and they saw all the military.

Johnny saw the people passing and going to the lake.

He and Sarah ran out on the porch and waved at the governor’s children.

Then Alice and Jason rode by with Joseph and Laura and they all waved at Johnny and Sarah.

Marc rode his horse behind them with William and Melvin.

The lead commander was happy to see people going to church.

Johnny and Sarah were jumping up trying to see what was going on at the lake.

They were laughing and having a good morning.

The soldiers rode their horses in Brianna’s yard.

They went in the yard and found the five wagons of coal.

The soldiers continued to search and found three wagons of blankets and other items.

Johnny and Sarah were playing outside and did not see the soldiers.

They jumped back on the front porch, then they saw the soldiers.

The children waved.

Arnold waved.

The soldiers rode to the lead commander and said, “Sir, there are five wagons of coal and three wagons of blankets and other items.

The lead commander said, “You five go and drive one wagon to the troops in the new settlement, the troop by the lake, the troop at the brook and the troop at the beginning of the town. The fifth wagon leave some coal at this house for the children and take coal to the soldiers by the evil building and the ones camped out at the end of this street and the ones at the governor’s house. No they can use the coal that is there it is government coal. If any coal is left take it to the post. The governor has plenty of coal.”

The lead commander said, “Arnold you and Malcolm go and determine if that woman knew our supplies were in her yard.”

Arnold and Malcolm rode to Brianna’s house and dismounted their horses.

Johnny said, “Mom!!!”

Brianna was sitting on the ragged spring sofa thinking.

Her children did not have any food.

They were cold.

Brianna walked to the door.

She saw the soldiers driving the wagons.

She stepped out the door and walked to the end of the porch and just stared.

The commander that was Donovan’s uncle said, “She acts like a chicken. She acts like she is purely dumb.”

Malcolm whispered to Arnold, “You handle. She is an idiot.”

Arnold said, “Ma am we are commanders with the military. Some of our supplies went missing. Some of these supplied have been located on your property…”

Sarah and Johnny ran to the end of the porch and stared at the wagons of coal the soldiers were hitching their horses to and driving away.

Arnold was watching the children.

Brianna’s other children heard male voices and they ran out the house and was looking.

The oldest daughter had the youngest child, a boy, on her hips, the other two boys who are twelve and eleven walked out. They sat on the front porch and watch the soldiers.

Skip was watching the children.

Skip said, “That boy looks sick.”

He other commander who stayed with the troops at the lake area said, “They are hungry.”

Malcolm looked back at the lead commander and the other commanders and shook his head.

Arnold said, “Do you know anything about these wagons of coal?”

Brianna just stood and watched the soldiers.

Arnold yelled, “I asked your dumb ass do you know how the government wagons got on your property, …”

Arnold started unfastening his gun.

The boys sitting on porch looked up at Arnold.

When Arnold started unfastening his gun. The eleven year old jumped up.

The ten year looked up at the eleven year old.

Skip yelled, “NO!!!!!!”

The children started screaming.

Skip and the commanders rode to the house.

The soldiers at the road to the house.

The two soldiers at the end of the street heard a yell and they ran because they thought it was about their horses.

They started running up the street.

The soldiers getting the wagons of coal ran to the house.

Malcolm grabbed Arnold arms.

Skip took Arnold’s gun.

He knew that Arnold would ride away and shoot perfectly hit his target.

The lead commander said to Malcolm, “Take him back to the command post and stay with him and don’t let him out of your sight.

Skip turned to Arnold and said, “She’s no worth you killing her. You have your retirement to look forward to.”

Skip looked at the woman.

He knew she was crazy.

Skip looked at the children and said, “Who is the oldest?”

The girl trembling with the two year old boy on her hips, said, “I am twelve.”

Skip said, “What is your name?”

The oldest said, “Amy.”

The eleven year old boy who was standing on the ground said, “Sir, I am Jerome Jr. I am named after my father.”

Skip exhaled he thought the whole family was a family of idiots.

The boy sitting on the porch slightly turned and said, “I am Peter. I am ten and I want my daddy. That’s Johnny he is eight and Sarah she is seven and Scot, the one on Amy’s hip is two. I want my daddy. Can you get him. I need him. I am really sick.”

The commander who stayed at the lake area walked away and mounted his horse.

He passed Skip.

Skip just looked at him.

All the soldiers looked at him.

The commander rode to the lake area and joined the group for Sunday Church service.

After the brief church service.

Jake walked over to the commander and shook his hand and said, “I remember a running nose young man,”

The commander laughed.

The third in command, Richard introduced the civilians to the troop.

Jake pointed to Brianna’s house and said, “What is all of that?”

The commander looked and said, “Since you are retired military and a brother to Skip.”

Jake grinned.

The commander said, “DO you remember Donovan Wilson?”

Jake said, “Yes and I could not stand the scoundrel.”

Ida passed in her wagon with the governor’s children.

Laura, Joseph and Marc were talking to the troop.

Richard knew something was going on but he did not want to over step his boundaries.

He continued to talk to the troop and answer biblical questions.

Skip was so stunned the commander rode away.

Skip had walked to the edge of the yard and saw the commander talking to Jake.

The commander who slept with the troop at the beginning of the town waited for Skip to resolve this problem with this woman.

He turned and walked back to the yard and sat next to Peter and said, “Peter you say you are really sick.”

Peter was swirling his leg nervously and looked Skip directly in his eyes and said, “Yes sir.”

Skip said, “How are you sick?”

Peter, “My stomach. Please help me. If you can’t, can you find my daddy and ask him to come back for me? Sir.”

Skip looked up and all his soldiers were looking at him.

Skip thought,”Shirley!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Jake was talking to the commander and the commander said, “Donovan’s son stole the coal and blankets and hid them at that lady’s house. Arnold was questioning her and she just stood there and said nothing.”

Jake shook his head.

The commander said, “Arnold lost his mind he was about to shoot her in front of her six children.”

Jake said, “I know Brianna. She is an idiot. I believe she is retarded and the man that married her. Married her so he can have her body and he was retarded because he did not think she could get pregnant and have children. He left over a year ago and did not leave her nothing but the house.”

The commander said, “He never came back.”

Jake said, “No.”

The commander said, “You know Skip. He is going to arrest her for having stolen government property.”

Jake said, “Where would he put the children. Brianna can’t help. I think you’ll need to lean on Donovan to find out who signed for the coal. Better yet, you can telegram the coal company tomorrow. He won’t need Brianna.”

Laura walked up to Jake and touched his arm and spoke to the two men and said to Jake, “You’re welcome to have Sunday supper with us.”

Joseph was still angry with Jake, he looked straight ahead.

Marc passed Jake and the commander and did not say anything.

Jake looked and said, “A whole lot of good church did you today, Marc.”

The commander looked.

Jake said, “They are still mad from my tongue scolding from Friday.

The commander looked at Joseph and Marc to remember their faces.

Marc still did not say anything but walked his horse to Laura’s wagon.

Alice and Jason ran behind Marc with their new clothes and shoes.

Joseph picked them up and put them in the wagon.

Ida was at the command post.

The military escort drove the mile to the governor’s tent.

The children jumped out he wagon and saw Joshua and Angelica sitting in the window waving at them.

The governor’s children ran to the tent to see their parents.

Foster rode behind the wagon to see the governor’s children face when they saw their father.

Betsy was setting their snacks on the coffee table and had apple cider and punch over the fire in the fireplace.

Betsy got the last of the goodies.

She said, “Well I wonder what this mean?”

Angelica looked back at Betsy and Joshua turned around and said, “What, what means?”

Betsy said, “All the goodies that we had from the governor and first lady are gone. “

Joshua said, “Buy some more Aunt Betsy.”

Betsy smiled and she looked at Angelica.

Angelica had her hands folded in prayer at her mouth. She looked and turned back around to the window.

Betsy said to herself, “She knows this is symbolic and it means something.”

JESUS was looking and said, “Angelica tell Betsy what it means when the old store is used up.”

Angelica turned back around and looked at Betsy.

Betsy was folded the bags and packages up.

She caught Angelica out the corner of her eyes.

Betsy looked up at Angelica and said, “Angel you have something to say?”

Joshua was playing with his sailboat in the air.

Joshua said, “Anytime she say something it is trouble.”

JESUS laughed.

Joshua said to Angelica, “Why you laugh?”

Angelica and Betsy looked at Joshua.

Betsy said, “Joshua Angelica did not laugh.”

Joshua said, “I heard someone laugh.”

Angelica said, “JESUS laughed.”

Joshua stood and looked at Angelica.

Betsy took a deep breath.

Angelica said, “Momma Betsy.”

Betsy turned her head and looked at Angelica.

Angelica, said, “JESUS said…”

Joshua said, “See did I tell you Aunt Betsy?”

Betsy said, “Joshua be quiet and let Angelica speak.”

Angelica looked at Joshua and said, ”Thank you Momma Betsy.”

Joshua rolled his eyes and sighed.

Angelica said, “JESUS said, when HE has provided you your provisions for a season and those provisions were only meant to last you for that period of time. When the provisions are used up that means it is time for new provisions.”

Joshua said, “That’s make sense. So where is the money to buy more goodies.”

Betsy said, “Joshua, she is not talking about food we eat. She is talking about the spiritual food that GOD provides for us each day. HE gives us HIS Word each day to live off. She is talking about all the terrible things that happened to all of us this past year, HE gave us the amount of strength, courage, free will and wisdom to get through all of those. So now since the winter season, the bad season is gone HE is going to give us more spiritual provisions to help us get through this next season of our lives.”

Joshua cried and ran to Betsy ad hugged her.

Wes walked in the door with the governor’s children who were chirping and laughing because their daddy was up and going to live.

Wes looked at Joshua and Angelica.

The governor’s children ran in the house out the cold.

Lydia ran over by the fireplace and looked at Joshua and Betsy.

Angelic stared at Lydia.

Wes looked at Angelica and cough.

Angelica turned and looked at Wes.

Wes said, “Your friends are here.”

Joshua stopped crying and turned and saw Lydia and said, “Hey Lydia.”

Angelica said, “Lydia over here.”

Lydia held Joshua’s hand and walked over to the other children.

Angelica looked at Lydia’s hand.

Betsy did a double take.

Wes pulled off his quilt and coat and put them across the arm of the sofa.

Wes looked at Betsy.

Betsy was still trying to shake the image of Angelica’s jealousy out of her mind.

Wes sat next to Betsy and said, “I saw that too. I don’t know what to think or say, but that is GOD dealing with her.”

Betsy said, “All the goodies are gone.”

Wes said, “Well they lasted a long time.”

Betsy said, “Angelica said JESUS said, those provisions were only for the season we were in. Now GOD will give the provisions for this season.”

Wes thought on that for a minute and nodded his head.

Wes said, “Shelia is doing great. Her fever is gone and she doesn’t require but a few more pints of blood.”

Betsy held up her hand and Wes looked.

Betsy ran outside and threw up.

Wes thought, “It was the blood.”

Betsy went to the wash shed and cleaned up.

Dr. Obersteen and the two soldiers washed and shaved the slim governor and put pajamas and socks and a robe and two blankets for him to sit and visit with his children.

The children ran to their mother first and held her hands.

They did not see their father sitting in the wheelchair.

Ida peeped in the tent and she saw him.

Wes put up his finger for her to be quiet.

Ida walked in the tent and looked over at Newsom and then at the captain who did not look good to her.

After the children stood and visited with Shelia for a few minutes.

They kissed her and ran to their father’s cot.

It was empty.

The children were in panic mode.

David could barely lift and turn his head to see his children.

He said, “Over here.”

The children heard a whispered that sounded like their father’s voice.

Lydia’s tears were flowing because she was looking at an empty cot.

Wes and Dr. Obersteen had to catch the children from jumping on the governor.

Foster was overjoyed.

Wes told them especially Lydia, “He can’t be touched right now.”

The children were so happy.

Wes let them stay a few extra minutes with David.

He and the two soldiers put David back to his cot.

Wes said, “I need to have this tent cut.”

Dr. Obersteen was looking.

David said, “What me on the outside?”

Wes said, “You need to sleep.”

David said, “I know how to spit.”

Wes patted him on the shoulder.

Wes and Dr. Obersteen looked at the tent wall.

They were talking to themselves.

David eyes’ were near shut.

David whispered, “Ida?”

Ida was crying.

Foster touched her and pointed to David.

Ida walked over to David.

David held his hand out and whispered, “Thank you and that soldier who bring the children.”

David went to sleep.

Ida and Foster wept and held onto each other and walked out the tent.

Foster mounted his horse and rode back to the command post.

He saw commanders Arnold and Malcolm and had to beat them back to the command tent.

Foster said, “Dog I won’t. I know they are going to tell Skip.”

Foster nodded his head and saluted them and stop at the command tent and went in’

Todd said, “How was the captain and Newsom?”

Foster said, “I did not think about them.”

Todd looked at Foster and turned back around to his telegram.

The governor’s children ran to the wagon and got the gifts for Joshua and Angelica.

Wes was walking out the tent and saw the governor’s children running to the wagon.

When he walked up the steps and got to the door the children were behind.

He opened the door and the children rushed and were so excited about their daddy.

Wes sat and waited for Betsy to return.

Betsy opened the door and walked and sat next to Wes.

Wes looked at her and said, “Sorry. I have to watch what I say.”

Betsy leaned over and rested her head on Wes’ chest.

Wes said, “Dr. Obersteen leaves tomorrow,”

Betsy sat up and said, “No Wes.”

Wes said, “He has to go back. He is the head of a hospital…”

Wes laughed and said, “He left a school kid in charged of a hospital. I can see those snooty doctors now.”

Betsy said, “What happened to …”

Wes said, “Zachery, he left two days ago. He told Dr. Obersteen he just couldn’t do it. Maybe in the summer. Oh yeah Betsy.”

Wes cut his eyes at Betsy.

Betsy did not say anything.

Wes said, “Dr, Obeesteen is holding me to spending time at the hospital this summer to pay for Mattie’s bill. He doesn’t know I plan on us being there anyway. I don’t know how that is going to work. That man did leave this house to you and Natalie…”

The attendant was sitting on top of the house listening to Wes.

The new commander looked at the attendant.

The strange man said, “I believe Wes know you are an angel. He is angry with you for some reason and that is making him bitter towards you.”

JESUS was moving a large book, HE looked and listened to the angel.

The attendant looked at the strange man and the new commander.

Betsy said, “He said he will be back this spring.”

Wes said, “Huh,” and turned his head and looked at the children.

The strange man and the new commander looked at the attendant.

The new commander said to the attendant, “You know why Wes hates you. You and he had an encounter before. It was something you did not do.”

The attendant did not say anything.

Ida got in the wagon and drove up the dirt road to Craig and Naomi.

She spent nearly an hour visiting with them.

Ida said,”The governor is improving. They had to operate on the first lady a few days ago and found more bullet fragments. Their children were happy to see their parents today”.

Naomi turned and said, “The governor’s children are here?”

Ida stared at Naomi, because she heard something in her voice.

Craig slowly turned his head and looked at his wife and said, “Why?”

Ida sat still and her heart dropped.

Craig said, “They leave today to go back to the capital and to their lives.”

Naomi peeped over at Ida and said, “Is that true Ida.”

Ida said, “I have to go and get them so we can get started be down the road before night fall.”

Naomi said, “Where will you sleep?”, She held a cup of coffee to her mouth and looked sly over the rim at Ida.

Ida stood and said, “Too many questions Naomi.”

Crag walked Ida to the wagon and whispered, “I don’t know what this?”

Ida said, “Keep her away from me and the governor’s children.”

The governor’s children gave Angelica her new bible.

Angelica was so excited.

Her mouth flew opened and she turned the bible over and over and rubbed it and held it to her chest and said, “Thank you and gave each one of the governor’s children a hug and Joshua got in line and got a hug.”

Angelica said, Momma Betsy and Daddy Wes look They gave me a bible. I got my own bible.”

Betsy and Wes said, “We see.”

Betsy said, “And we see Joshua got in line for a hug.”

The governor’s son pulled out the marbles and said, “Joshua the commander gave me money to buy us more marbles. I told him I did not know what happened to our marbles.”

Wes face sank.

Betsy was trying to think what could have happened to their marbles she surely hasn’t seen any around.

She sat and thought and turned and looked at Wes.

Wes cut his eyes at her.

Betsy pinched Wes and it really hurt him.

Thelma begin to scream.

The governor’s children put their hands over their ears.

Wes eased passed Betsy, rubbing his thigh.

Betsy was so angry with him and she rolled her eyes at him.

He rushed to the end of the sofa and grabbed his coat and quilt and ran out the house.

A soldier in the front area said to another soldier, “His wife has gotten him for something.”

The governor’s children stayed and played with Angelica and Joshua for about two hours.

Ida got in the wagon and drove past the cute house to the command post.

No one was in the post that afternoon but Foster and Todd.

She told them of Naomi’s bizarre questions.

Ida said, “I feel something. I just don’t know what. Tell your commander Skip. Let him put his mind to this last piece of the puzzle. I have to go and get the governor’s children so we can hide. I don’t care about that lush mother-in-law of his. Tell the lead commander to check on his son. I don’t like the way he looked.”

Todd looked at Foster.

Ida ran out the command center.

Todd said, Andrew sent another encrypted message to the lead commander.”

Foster said, “Should you have told me that? This evil is not over. I don’t want to know nothing.”

Ida drove back to the cute house.

Wes was finishing attending to Thelma and Newsom.

Wes said, “I need to go and get the herbs while you are here with hem. John I really thank you I could not have done none of this without you.”

David held up his hand and whispered, “Thanks.”

Dr. Obersteen was overwhelmed and walked and shook the governor’s hand.

Wes said, “I need some blood for Newsom and Bruce and Thelma.”

Dr. Obersteen, “It’s only five soldiers we haven’t tap.”

Wes said, “What about the cooks. Then there is another hundred soldiers at the front. I don’t understand why this area is freezing, because it was not part of the burning town. Probably because somebody did not do their job.”

The attendant looked at Wes.

The strange man looked at Dr. Obersteen’s path he had to travel the next morning.

He looked at the attendant.

The new commander and his six thousand angels looked at the attendant.

They knew Wes was talking about him.

Wes got his pails and walked to gather his herbs.

Dr. Obersteen gathered all the items to be burn.

He looked around and the patients were resting but he did not want to leave them and something happen to them.

So he decided to go over the patients’ charts.

He kept reading Bruce’s chart.

He began to take Bruce’s vitals every fifteen minutes.

Dr. Obersteen walked to the tent door looking for Wes.

One of the soldiers in the yard said, “Doctor what do you need?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “I need Wes.”

The soldier thought, “Oh God.”

He turned and ran pass Terry to the brook and saw Wes picking his herbs. He was finished and was getting off his knees.

The soldier yelled, “Wes, Dr. Obersteen need you.”

Wes stood for a minute.

He picked up the pail and begin to run to the governor’s tent.

The soldiers looked.

Wes entered the tent and put down the pails.

Wes said, “What John?”

Dr. Obersteen pushed a chart to Wes and said, “Bruce.”

Wes stomped and said, “How could I have missed this?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Take him off all of these herbs and give him a full dose of these in his IV.”

Dr. Obersteen had gotten all the medicine out to put in Bruce’s IV.

He and Wes worked on Bruce for a long time.

Ida had come and gotten the governor’s children and was sped through the evil town to their house.

The governor’s children said, “What’s wrong Ida?”

Ida said, “I don’t know.”

The oldest girl was sitting in front with Ida.

Ida said, “Something just isn’t right.”

The children began to cry.

Ida said, “I know you three are mere children. I don’t think it is the killers I think it has something to do with the evil in this town. We won’t leave today. We are going to stay and fight.”

The governor’s children said, “Yeah.”

The governor’s children said, “The LORD rebuke you o’satan.”

Ida said, “Where is that.”

The governor’s oldest daughter said, “Zechariah 3:2.”

Ida said, “Where did you reach for that?”

The governor’s children said in unity, “Angelica!”

Ida got to their street and rode by the house and went to William.

She told him of Naomi. Bizarre attitude and she told her that she was taking the governor’s children and leave now so they can make it back to the capitol.

William said, “Whoa. Mom suppose she is involved with this evil.”

The new security saw Ida when she passed the house.

They were talking between themselves why she passed the house.

The mother in law as eating the peach pie Ida made for dinner.

William and Melvin said they would camp out at the house that night.

The older driver readied his battery gun.

The soldiers had completely removed every piece of the evil building.

They swept the area.

The third in command, Richard Snow and Reagan, went to the spot and prayed in the center of the spot and asked GOD to send HIS holy angels to defeat the devil and his evil spirits and every house and land in that town to run the evil spirits out and cast them into darkness. They anointed the entire site of the building with holy oil.

Richard said, “I feel something.”

Reagan said, “I do too I don’t know what this is. I keep seeing the captain’s face.”

Ricard call all the soldiers together to pray for Bruce and Newsom, because they did go into the building.

The soldiers prayed for long time for Bruce and Newsom.

Alice and Jason went to Laura and said, “Please pray for the captain and Newsom.”

They started crying and pleading with Laura.

Joseph and Marc had just loaded Laura’s wagon.

Melvin and William had cleaned a space for her wagon.

Mellissa and Clara had completed setting the two tables.

Laura was shocked and said, “Why you two want me to pray for the captain and Newsom?”

Joseph walked in and heard the children pleading for prayer.

Jake knocked on the front door and turned his ear to hear why the children were crying.

Clara ran to the door and opened it for Jake.

Alice ran to Jake.

Jake bent down.

Alice said, “They are killing the captain and Newsom because they went into their evil meeting place. Please Christians pray.”

Jake grabbed Alice and sat on the sofa.

Jason ran to Jake.

Jake put Alice on one leg and Jason on the other and he said, “Bow your heads.”

The rest of the house walked in the living room.

Jake began to pray and pray and pray.

He was quoted scriptures on top of scriptures.

He asked LORD GOD Almighty to send HIS Word and heal them and deliver them from their destruction.

He asked GOD to send his angelic defense to Newsom and the captain and around all those that are taking care of the patients and protect all the soldiers and protect all the people of that town. He asked the LORD GOD Almighty to give Alice and Jason his peace.

Jake said, “LORD GOD Almighty, YOU watch over YOUR Word to perform it. Perform it for Newsom and the captain. Break the evil over them and over the people in this town. I don’t know what is going on. I trust YOU Heavenly FATHER. YOU raised me up now I beseech YOU to raise up the captain and Newsom. In JESUS’ name. Amen.

Alice and Jason laid their heads on Jake’s shoulder and cried.

They were overcome with grief and sorrow for the captain and their friend Newsom.

Ida went home and fed the governor’s children.

They put on comfortable clothes.

The mother-in-law was sitting in the living room, drinking tea.

Ida looked at her.

The children went into their bedroom and closed the door.

They were praying together for their parents, Wes and the other doctor, the two new men and Angelica and Joshua.

They played.

They read.

The governor’s boy liked his water painting.

The oldest girl was needle pointing. She bought plenty of supplies from the twenty dollars the lead commander gave them.

Lydia was doing a puzzle.

Ida cleared the table and washed the dishes.

She put away the food and the dishes.

Ida offered the two new security soldiers dinner, they said ‘no’.

Bruce coughed.

Wes bowed his head and said, “Thank you God.”

David was praying.

He knew something was wrong.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Thank YOU JESUS.”

Dr. Obersteen looked at dejected Wes and said, “Wes you are only one person. I can’t stay any longer.”

David said, “I can help.”

Wes and Dr. Obersteen turned and looked over at David who was weak, had holes that were still healing.

Dr. Obersteen said, “How.”

David, “Tell them when to scream.”

Wes grinned.

Dr. Obersteen laughed.

David said, “Wes you do good. I have known Bruce most of my life. He fights.”

Dr. Obersteen said,” I am going to the troop of a hundred and get blood. About fiteen quarts?”

Wes was thinking.

Dr. Obersteen said, “I’ll get twenty, that should last.”

Dr. Obersteen walked out the tent with the blood kits.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Where’s your lead?”

One of the soldiers walked to Terry and told him, “The doctor need you.”

The soldiers saw how slowly Terry was moving.

Dr. Obersteen looked at Terry and said,”I need two soldiers to go with me to draw blood. It should take about two hours.”

Terry didn’t say anything he pointed at two soldiers in front of the house.

The two soldiers looked around and got the wagon that was left there for their supplies.

Dr. Obersteen put the blood kits in the wagon.

He stood and looked at Terry.

Dr. Obersteen realized Terry was overwhelmed and depressed.

He realized he was thrown into a leadership position when he always been a follower.

Dr. Obersteen thought suicidal.

He thought, GOD I have to talk to him. What can he do?”

Dr. Obersteen checked his horse.

He walked to the cooks and said, “I have to draw blood and I need at least twenty tems that are sweet. It can be fruit, drink cookies, anything.

The cooks looked around and found some sugar items.

One of the cooks said, “Doc go on we will bring it down when we pull it together. We are cooking dinner now.”

Dr. Obersteen rode behind the soldier’s wagon to the next troop.

The two soldiers drove to the second in command followed by Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen told the second in the command, “We need blood. Twenty pints that means twenty soldiers. They need to rest for at least four hours and have something sweet to eat or drink.”

The second in command said, “Dr. Obersteen how is Bruce?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “We are hopeful.”

The second in command made an announcement, “Twenty men are needed to give blood and must rest for at least fours after and eat something sweet. Do I have any volunteers, step forward please.”

More than twenty soldiers stepped forward.

Dr. Obersteen turned and looked at Shelia’s campsite. He looked around and found a stump and he took twenty five pints of blood.

The cook had baked cookies for the soldiers’ dinner treat.

He brought the cookies, lemon flavored teacakes.

Once the soldier gave blood the cook was passing out five cookies per soldier.

One big and muscular soldier no sweet.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Then you must lye down.”

Dr. Obersteen looked at the second in command that was waiting to give blood.

The second in command told the big soldier, “You are relieved of duty for the rest of the day.”

The second in command closed his eyes.

The cook gave him his cookies and he said, “No.”

The second in command went back to his tent and pulled out a tin of short bread and ate and took a long nap.

He heard a wagon.

Dr. Obersteen looked up as he finished drawing the last pint and saw the wagon.

The soldiers said. “Where is your lead?”

The soldiers pointed.

The soldiers said, “The lead commander found your coal he ordered and it was stolen. They are bringing your blankets also.”

The second in command said,”You are saying someone stole our supplies?”

The soldier said, “Yes.”

The second in command said, “We are in groups of ten.”

The cook had to divide some of the cookies, but no one complained.

When he finished passing out the cookies, he went and found the tent where the soldiers were playing cards.

Dr. Obersteen put the blood in the wagon.

And rode behind the wagon to the cute house.

He looked at Betsy’s campsite and he missed Emma and Mattie.

He thought about them on his way back to the cute house.

Wes asked one of he soldiers to fill the two buckets with water so he could make the herbs.

Wes was sitting next to Newsom.

The soldiers filled the pails with fresh water.

After Wes made the herbs he poked his head out he tent and said, “Soldier I need someone to stand outside this tent door while I pour these herbs in the bottles.”

Wes stood for a minute and said, “Wait. Can you go to the house and ask Betsy, my wife, to give you the box that’s in the bedroom with the bottles in it?”

The soldier said, “Yes sir.”

The cook was leaving the house with an empty tray in his hand.

The cook took fried chicken and mixed beans and cornbread to the house with beets.

He mashed a sweet potato for Angelica and he sweetened a half of glass of milk with honey.

She and Joshua had their plates in the window and were eating looking out.

Angelica saw the soldier walked on the porch.

She leaned back with her fork in her hand and looked at the soldier.

The soldier heard a little sick girl was in the house.

The soldier knocked on the door and Betsy went to the door.

She opened the door and the soldier said, “Wes need the box with the bottles.”

Betsy pointed to the bedroom and they walked to the bedroom.

The soldier picked up the box and was walking out the house when Thelma started screaming.

The soldier nearly dropped the box.

Angelica said, “Sir, you need to pray the little girl be already.”

The soldier turned slowly and looked at Angelica.

He said, “Thank you.”

Angelica said, “Your welcome.”

Betsy was stunned.

She walked behind the soldier and closed the door.

The soldiers divided the coal into ten piles.

And every group was responsible for keeping their fire going.

The second wagon came into the yard.

They had the blankets and found the soldiers at the beginning of the new settlement did not have any blankets.

They gave those thirty soldiers two blankets each.

The soldiers worked backwards to cover one.

They ran out of blankets where the soldiers had received two.

The big soldier did not want any blankets.

He was laying on his mat reading his bible.

The soldiers said, “We are required to give you the blankets. It is your ration.”

They left his blankets.

The soldiers flew back to the command post.

The lead commander left three of the soldiers at the house with Brianna.

He asked her, “What is your husband’s name?”

Brianna said, “Jerome Baker.”

The lead commander said, “Where is he?”

Brianna said, “I don’t know.”

The lead commander said, “I need to contact him. You have no idea what city he is in?’

Brianna said, “No.”

The lead commander said, “Where is your family?”

Brianna said, “The city by the capitol.”

He lead commander said, “What is wrong with Peter?”

Brianna said, “I don’t know.”

The oldest girl went into the house and went in the letter box and came back with a piece of paper and handed it to Skip.

Brianna aid, “Amy what was that?”

The lead commander thought, “You can be clear on what you want.”

Amy said, “Grandma’s address.”

Brianna said, “Why?”

Amy said, “Mother he asked for information to help locate daddy.”

Brianna turned around and looked out at the street.

The lead commander said, “Brianna I am going to ask you one question and you better answer me truthfully. Do you understand me?”

Brianna said, “Yes?”

The commander rode back with Jake from the Sunday service.

Jake spoke and gave Skip a look.

Jake continued down the street.

He saw the two soldiers peeping from the down the street.

Jake rode passed them.

They looked at Jake.

Jake wondered why they were on that street.

The lead commander turned and looked at Brianna and said very clearly, “Did you tell someone they could put the wagons in your yard?”

Brianna said, “Yes.”

The lead commander said, “Do you know him?”

Brianna said, “I don’t know him?”

Skip said, “That’s the wrong word. Do you know him if you see him again?”

Brianna said, “Yes.”

One of the three soldiers that was waiting at the street, jumped on his horse and sped away.

Skip ran out the yard and yelled, “Get him!!”

The children ran to the end of the yard to see the soldier ride.

Peter did not move.

The two soldiers peeping from the end of the street said, “Aw-shucks.”

They turned and ran back to their post.

Al the soldiers were stunned.

The two soldiers closest to him mounted their horses and sped behind the soldier.

The soldiers at the lake area saw what was happening.

They stood and watched.

The lead commander said, “Look at that shit.”

The lead commander said, “You soldiers get that coal to the troops.

The two commanders were watching the chase.

The lead commander said, “Brianna, was that the man who asked you to let him put the wagons in your yard?”

Brianna said, “It was all of them.”

The two commanders took off behind the three.”

The seven soldiers got the coal wagons and hitched their horses up and distributed the coal.

The commanders yelled at the soldiers to mount and follow them.

Skip walked through Brianna’s house.

Jerome followed him.

Skip looked at the windows, walls, doors and he kicked and stomp ped the floor.

Jerome said, “What are you doing?”

Skip looked at the boy who followed him in the house.

He said, “I checking e foundation of the house.”

Jerome said, “To see how strong it is?”

Skip said, “Yes.”

Skip looked at the name of the grandmother.

The commanders returned.

Fifteen soldiers were pursuing the three soldiers.

The lead commander walked out of Brianna’s house.

He handed the paper to his two commanders and said, “Does that name ring a bell with either of you?”

The commander who camped with the troop at the beginning of the town said, “You now I have to think on it. It does seem familiar.”

The commander that slept with the troop at the lake was thinking.

He said, “Yeah, that name is familiar. I just can’t tell you why?”

The lead commander said, “Go to the lake and get five of those soldiers and tell them to break camp and come here and camp at this house.”

The children said, “Whoa.”

The lead commander said, “This child is sick and she just sat here and did nothing. I am going to take him to Wes.”

The commander that was leaving said, “They are stretched.”

The lead commander said, “I know.”

The other commander said, “We need more doctors and nurses.”

The lead commander said, “Brianna I need for you to get your bag and get Peter’s shoes and come with me. I am taking him to a doctor.”

The children started shouting.

Brianna stood there.

The lead commander said to the commander that was there, “Take Brianna and Peter on your horse to the command post and get a wagon and take them to see Wes. Tell the cooks to send enough food for these children for the next two days, unless they want to cook and bring it to them each day. I want food and milk now. Where are those blankets?”

He commander said, “I don’t know? They need blankets going over there. Peter where are your shoes?”

Peter said, “I don’t have any. That’s why I can’t go to school.”

The lead commander mounted his horse.

The commanders heard the horses.

They saw the horses.

The horses did not have any saddles.

The lead commander rode his horse in the high grass followed by the other commander.

They spotted the wagons.

They went to the wagons and found the new blankets.

They looked at Brianna’s back yard. She enough space to walk out her backdoor to the hanging lines and back to the house.

The other commander said, “Who lives like this?”

The commanders sat and looked over the tall grass at the pretty scene over the lake area,

The commanders heard the five soldiers coming with the commander.

The lead commander and the commander rode to the front of the house.

The lead commander said, “There are wagons with blankets in them.

Have these soldiers to hitch their horses to the wagons and take them to the new settlement.

The commander got off his horse and went and picked up Peter.

Amy went in the house and got Brianna’s bag and gave it to her.

Brianna said,”Why are you giving me this?”

The commander put Peter on the horse.

He said, “Amy put your shoes on and come with Peter.”

Amy stood and held her head down.

He commander said, “You don’t have shoes?”

He commander looked at this twelve year old child.

He said come, “Come on and we will work out that later.”

Amy handed the two year old to Brianna.

Amy said to Jerome Jr, “Watch the kids until we get back.”

The lead commander said, “You soldiers I am posting you at this house. Watch and notate any activity around this property for the coal and blankets. Baby sit these kids and their mother. I have ordered food from the cooks for them. Make sure they are feed each day. I have ordered coal to be dropped here, but I don’t know if this house is safe for a fire.”

The fifteen soldiers returned with the three soldiers.

The fifteen soldiers surrounded the three soldiers.

The hands of the three soldiers were tied behind their backs.

The lead commander said, “You are under arrest. Good job. Take them to the command post.”

The commander followed the fifteen soldiers.

The lead commander rode through the lake.

He felt that he needed to get back to the post.

He turned and roe to the post.

The commander had told the cooks to take the food to the children.

He got two blankets for Peter and Amy and was walking back to the wagon.

Foster walked out the tent and handed him the signature form that he was taking the wagon.

The lead commander dismounted his horse and the fifteen soldiers rode pass him to their post by the lake.

The lead commander walked in the command center.

He walked to his desk and sat and read his reports and the encrypted message from Andrew.

He told Todd, send Andrew a message and tell him, “NO.”

Todd looked at Foster.

The lead commander looked at Foster and said, “You have something?”

Foster said, “The governor saw his children and they all were happy.”

The lead commander said, “I saw that report. What else?”

Foster said, “Ida came by and was alarmed about a possible threat to the governor’s children.”

Todd looked back at Foster and frowned up.

The lead had no tolerance for Foster.

He heard the wagon with Amy and Peter exit the command post.

The lead commander said, “Foster go to the lake area and get five soldiers to camp out at the governor’s children house. Now”

The lead commander turned to Todd.

Todd swallowed hard and said, Ida said, you need to check on your son, because he did not look well.”

Skip got his hat and walked out the tent.

He mounted his horse and flew passed the commander and got to the cute house and dismounted his horse.

A soldier caught his horse.

The lead commander ran to the governor’s tent.

Wes was putting the herbs in the bottles.

He looked up and saw Skip.

Betsy was in the window with the little girl and getting their plates when kip rode into the yard.

Betsy looked up and grinned.

Then she saw kip’s face.

Her heart sank.

The little girl looked at Momma Betsy.

Betsy kissed her on the top of her head.

Joshua was playing with his sailboat.

Dr. Obersteen rode into the yard.

The little girl saw Dr. Obersteen, he waved at her.

She waved back.

Angelica leaned forward to peep at the other wagon just pulled in the yard.

Angelica said, “Momma Betsy look.”

Betsy walked to the window and saw two kids in the wagon.

The commander was talking with Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen said, “You have to bring him in here.”

Dr. Obersteen looked up at the window.

Betsy looked around the living room was in good shape.

She said, “Joshua put up that sailboat and go into the bedroom for these children are in need of a doctor.”

Joshua said, “Why can’t they go into the bedroom?”

Angelica stared at Joshua and said, “Because I sleep in that bed.”

The commander picked up Peter.

Amy jumped out the wagon.

Angelica was so shocked and yelled, “Momma Betsy no shoes.”

Betsy was about to run to the window when Dr. Obersteen knocked on the door and opened the door.

Angelica was leaning and looking back at the door.

Angelica and Joshua were looking at the children with no shoes.

The commander carried Peter into the house.

Amy ran in the house, from the freezing cold.

Angelica said, “Girl where your shoes?”

Betsy said, “Angelica come on. Don’t say another word. I should have known you were going to say something. Come and let’s go.”

Betsy was standing by the fireplace folding up her quilt.

Joshua waited while Betsy was moving out the way so the commander could put the boy down.

Amy was embarrassed and held her head down.

Betsy stopped in front of Amy and said, “Hi. I am Betsy.”

Amy looked up at Betsy and smiled.

Joshua said, “Boy what’s wrong with you?”

Betsy turned and said, “Joshua! Get in the bedroom now.”

Joshua started walking to the bedroom.

Dr. Obersteen slightly looked at Joshua.

He thought about all Joshua had been through in a few months that some people won’t go through their whole adult lives.

Dr. Obersteen smiled at Joshua’s indomitable spirit.

Dr. Obersteen felt Angelica was about to say something.

He cut Angelica off from asking the girl again why she did have any shoes.

He put his doctor’s bag on the table.

Angelica saw she had to rush because Dr. John was coming over.

Angelica said, “Girl..”

Dr, Obersteen picked up Angelica and said, “Hush.”

JESUS said, “Don’t say anything Angelica, you are embarrassing her.”

JESUS said wave at her.

A knock on the door the cook was coming to pick up the dinner dishes.

Dr. Obersteen was holding Angelica.

The cook looked around the room.

Betsy said, “What’s your name?”

She said “Amy.”

Betsy said, “Amy had you two eaten today.”

She said, “No ma am.”

Betsy looked at the cook and said, “Do you have anything left for them to eat?”

The cook looked at Amy and saw she had no shoes.

He said, “I’ll find something.”

He saw Dr. Obersteen closing the bedroom door.

Dr. Obersteen took Joshua’s sailboat and put it on the dresser and put angelica in the bed.

He covered her up with blankets.

He said, “ Joshua take a nap.”

Joshua was angry with Dr. Obersteen for taking his sailboat and putting it up and telling him not to get it.

Joshua stared at Dr.Obersteen and said,”I- am- not- sleepy.”

Dr. Obersteen was walking to the door and said, “Joshua I know what that tone mean. Go to sleep.”

Joshua said very slowly and said, “I-am-not-sleepy.”

Angelica yawned and said, “Joshua I am going to sleep.”

Joshua looked at Angelica and said, “You are the one that asked that girl where her shoes. You are trying to go to sleep before Aunt Betsy come in here.”

Ngelica wa laying on her side and yawned.

The cook saw Dr. Obersteen and said, “Omelet?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Yes please.”

He walked out the bedroom and closed the door.

Betsy sat with Amy for a minute.

When Dr. Obersteen walked in the living room, the cook picked up the tray from the coffee table and walked out the house.

Betsy patted Amy’s hand and walked in the bedroom with Joshua and Angelica.