The count and Earle rode Eleanor’s train to Philadelphia.

They spent three months in New York.

The count and Earle enjoyed New York.

The count met many of his friends from his country and from school.

Earle met a woman.

He was thinking between she and Margaret.

Gary completed his paperwork and it was signed by Eleanor and sent of.

Eleanor gave Mr. Long legal authority to sign the contracts for the railroad and the Freed Men Center.

Mr. Long was thinking about his native Austria.

He made enough money in America that he can live the rest of his life as a prince.

Shirley did not know the workers at the dress shop but she put Mary (Alice and Ginger’s cousin) as the manager until she returned from Europe.

Shirley, Brenda and Patrick held meeting amongst themselves and then with the staff.

They stood in the middle of the hall.

Iris was standing at Star’s door.

Charlie Jr. had completed his last screaming.

Charlie Sr. and Vince walked out his room.

The cooks, Mable, the grounds keepers and the housekeeper walked up to the meeting.

Sara finished with Charlie Jr. and cleaned everything and walked to the meeting.

Patrick spoke and said. “Good morning.”

The staff spoke.

Brenda was standing next to Patrick and nodded very graciously and said, “Good morning.”

The staff spoke.

The count and Earle walked in the hospital to see Shirley.

The count was holding flowers in his hand for Brenda and Shirley.

Patrick looked back to see who walked in.

Brenda saw them as they walked up.

Earle was holding a bunch of balloons.

Patrick said, “I want to introduce a friend to you.”

Shirley looked up at Patrick she slowly turned her head to see.

Dr. Woodson and Dr. Greene were watching Shirley intensely.

Dr. Greene was looking at Shirley and telling Dr. Woodson what was wrong with Shirley.

Dr. Woodson was looking and watching and slightly nodding his head.

Patrick watched the doctors watching Shirley he thought, “I like these doctors. Sorry Lorraine. Maybe you can find a husband in Europe.”

Star had been in the hospital for two months.

She was in tremendous pain every day.

But she was able to sit up straight in her wheelchair.

The doctors would put restraint rubber bands on her and make her walk everyday.

Iris wrote to Allen that Star has grown six inches.

President Allen was happy.

The boys checked out of school and caught the overnight train and left all their bags at the train station with George.

They took the carriage from Michael and Shirley’s old friend. To the hospital.

Michael sent the carriage driver to pick them up the next morning.

They stayed in the owners’ suite and found the gun.

Percy said, “See they listened to me.”

George knocked on the door.

Bruce opened the door.

George held out his hand and Percy walked over and handed George the gun.

George closed the door and took the gun to his room.

George sent Patrick a telegram and told him what happened.

Debra was walking to hand the Patrick the telegram.

Shirley saw the count and Earle and grinned big.

The count and Earle grinned at Shirley.

Patrick said, “These are Eleanor’s friends and our family friends. Count Joseph from Austria and Earle his assistant.”

Dr. Parker said, “Oh really.”

Dr. Woodson laughed.

The count looked at them.

Patrick looked at Dr. Parker.

Dr. parker said, “Hello count Joseph and Earle.”

The staff spoke.

Nurse Smith said, “Well Eleanor.”

Nurse Brono giggled.

The boys ran into the hospital.

Dr. Ralph looked and these uniformed young lads running into the hospital.

Debra ran and reached the telegram to Patrick.

Patrick turned and looked at Percy.

Percy said, “George?”

Patrick said, “I’ll talk to you in a minute.”

Michael ran to his friend Dr. Ralph.

Michael was so happy to see Dr. Ralph.

They hugged each other.

Dr. Woodson laughed.

Dr. Greene said, “That is in trouble. Look at Patrick looking at him. That telegram did it.”

Thomas ran behind Patrick and held onto his back.

Percy and Bruce kissed Shirley on her cheeks.

The boys saw the count and Earle standing back by Shirley’s room.

They ran to the count.

Shirley was happy with her friends, she said, “Good morning.”

Patrick and Brenda stepped away so Shirley could conduct her own business meeting.

Shirley touched her heart and patted her chest. She exhaled several times.

The count was watching her stand on her own.

Shirley said, “My heart is full of all of you. The best people on this earth.”

Patrick clapped.

Brenda was holding onto Patrick’s waist and started crying.

Lorraine and Meredith were standing back with the boys.

Dr. Greene and Dr. Ralph watched the boys with Lorraine how they hugged her and Meredith.

Dr. Woodson was touched by Shirley.

Michael walked to Dr. Ralph and held his hand.

The count was watching the boys.

Dr. Woodson was watching the count.

He thought, “He seemed to really love these children. The whole family and especially Eleanor.”

He giggled.

Shirley said, “You took a twisted and mangle little girl and you untwisted me Dr. Ralph. Thank you. Dr. Greene I felt your prays all day.”

Dr. Greene nodded his head.

Debra looked at Dr. Greene and said, “GOD YOU picked the right one for me.”

Iris heard Debra and touched her arm.

Debra looked at Iris with tears in her eyes.

Shirley said, Dr. Woodson you were confident in your healing of me that it calmed me down and Dr. Parker your sternness made me sit up and think about what to do.”

Everybody laughed.

Dr. Parker would close the patients’ doors and walk away.

Dr. Parker said, “I’ll work on that Shirley.”

Shirley said, “Dr. Hutch would light up my day especially when he smiled.”

Meredith just clapped and grinned.

She looked at Lorraine.

Lorraine rolled her eyes at Meredith, as held onto Thomas.

Hutch looked at Lorraine and looked at Dr. Ralph who was looking down at Michael.

Hutch thought, “Jason you have to stop holding hate for her and for President Allen.”

Shirley said, “My heart Debra and the nurses, cooks that feed us oatmeal and soup and Mable and all you wonderful people that keep this hospital running. Michael.”

Michael looked at Shirley.

She said, “You run this place, please.”

Shirley handed him envelopes.

Michael looked at Shirley and whispered, “My trust fund?”

Everyone heard him.

Brenda laughed.

Patrick said, “No. Me and your grandma.”

Michael jumped back in his happy and cheery mode.

He said, “No names but Debra.”

Shirley said, “Yes.”

Michael looked and saw Debra and took her the envelope.

Debra opened her envelope and grinned.

Dr. Greene grinned at his excited wife and grinned and he thought, “Good. I hope she has that excitement tonight.”

Shirley said, “The hospital is able to run on it. I am leaving. You wonderful people have given me a life I never thought I could every have. It is a perfect life for me. I will be moving to Europe with my family. I will always watch this hospital. Debra knows how to contact me.”

Nurse Smith said, “Oh Eleanor.”

Shirley said, “I hate to tell you this, but Dr. Woodson will be taking a sabbatical and travel with us to Europe. He was the lone brave soul that would travel with us.”

Nurse Smith was surprised.

She had her eyes on Dr. Woodson.

Her husband died as a soldier in the civil war.

They purchased a small house in a nice neighbor.

She thought if she and Dr. Woodson married they could stay in her home.

Everyone cheered for Dr. Woodson.

Meredith was shocked and stood lifeless.

Meredith was not going to Europe to let another woman take Hutch while she was away.

Lorraine stood lifeless. She did not care anymore. She was going along for the last time for Shirley.

Hutch looked at Meredith.

He knew she was counting on going to Europe for at least two years and she wanted him to go.

He told her he had to think. He wanted to get back in surgery, but he wanted to stay at the bone hospital. He told Ryan he could only work one day a week at his hospital, so he can get his certification.

He would not leave the hospital short handed for two years when Dr. Woodson return.

Shirley looked at Dr. Woodson and said, “You want to tell them?”

Dr. Woodson said, “We had a meeting and Dr. Greene agreed to act as medical director until I return.”

Debra was shocked and clapped her hands for her husband.

Nurse Brono and Nurse Smith clapped and looked back at Debra whose mouth was open in surprise.

Patrick did not know Dr. Woodson was going.

They thought it would be Hutch.

Nurse Greene and Sara looked in their envelopes and had fifty dollars.

Nurse Greene whispered to Sara, “I’m putting this in the stock market.”

Sara said, “I am paying tithe and buy me a pair of shoes and put the other half in stocks.”

Vince listened to his mother and thought, “That’s why she could retired and live meagerly. But she loves working here part time.”

The entire staff was happy and congratulated Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Ralph was glad so Lorraine can leave and not come back.

He was missing Michael and Shirley, but he counted Shirley as a success.

Dr. Woodson and Dr. Greene completed their rounds.

Dr. Woodson went to his rented room and got his money that was hid in the room and hid it with his packed belongings.

He went his mother and sister a wire that he would be in europe for some time and first stop was Paris and send any messages to the hotel there.

Shirley paid Dr. Woodson his yearly salary plus a bonus the same day.

Michael and Bruce were at the hospital and was telling Dr. Woodson what type of clothes he needed.

They left the hospital and went with Dr. Woodson to shop.

Michael told him, “Dr. Woodson they don’t have soap and lotion and shaving stuff like we do over here.”

Dr. Woodson frowned and looked at Michael and said, “Yes they do.”

Bruce said, “When we got off the train we saw boxes and boxes of soap with momma’s name on it to go to the ship.”

Dr. Woodson said, “I’ll use yall.”

He finished shopping and he treated them to lunch.

Dr. Woodson went to the bank and saw Ryan.

Ryan congratulated him on his sabbatical.

Ryan said, “You’re going to have a great time. I loved it over there. You are going to see about Shirley?”

Dr. Woodson said, “Gen.”

Ryan looked at Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson said, “So I maybe back before the two years.”

Ryan said, “Spicy girl. I hate to hear that. I thought she and Ben would last forever.”

Debra walked into the bank and spoke to the doctors and picked up the payroll.

She smiled and left.

Ryan said, “I don’t like for her to be by herself to pick up payroll. All sorts of people are around.”

Dr. Woodson said, “I’ll mention it to Dr. Greene. I can stop that and have Vince come with her. I can do that until this evening.”

Ryan and Dr. Woodson shook hands.

Michael and Bruce were in the carriage waiting for Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson took the boys back to the hospital.

Brenda was reading over a telegram from Chasity about her wedding.

Mabel said, “She would go to help with the flowers.

Gen sent Brenda a telegram of how she was making flower rings for their hats and wanted to know what color she wanted.

Eleanor sent a monetary gift to the Freed men shelter Mable and Joe Jr. and Danny were. The owners sent a thank you note.

The count and Earle left a day ahead of Brenda and Shirley and the boys.

Bruce and Percy were talking to Star.

Shirley was in Star’s room and sitting in her wheelchair.

The four were playing checkers and chess.

They had a good time.

Lorraine and Meredith packed up all of Shirley’s stuff.

Shirley asked Lorraine to make a gift basket of all the bath items she did not use.

Lorraine and Meredith, Thomas and Michael took her stuff to the wagon and had the driver to take it to the train.

Meredith and Hutch walked outside to talk.

Michael found out a little boy was in the back.

He was peeping and Dr. Greene looked at Michael and said, “You can go and visit him if he wants company.”

Michael ran down the hall.

Dr. Woodson laughed and said, “I see why Eleanor wanted all her children’s nannies to be nurses.”

Dr. Greene said, “You have your medicines packed.”

Dr. Woodson stopped and folded his chart and walked out the hospital.

He turned and walked to Dr. Greene.

Dr. Greene looked at Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson reached on the nurses’ desk and took a piece of paper and wrote something and signed his name.

Debra was passing by.

Dr. Woodson looked at her and said, “Debra.”

Dr. Greene looked at Debra and smiled.

She walked back to Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Greene was about to walk away.

Dr. Woodson said, “Dr. Greene wait a minute.”

Tony’s heart nearly sunk because he knew it was something involving Debra.

Nurse Greene looked.

Debra said, “Yes Dr. Woodson?”

She looked at Tony.

Dr. Woodson handed her the piece of paper.

She was holding her soup on a tray.

She read the paper.

And looked at Dr. Woodson and Dr. Greene.

She said, “I am a big girl. I don’t need Vince to take me to the bank for payroll.”

Dr. Greene thought and said, “Yes you do. With all these robbers running around here.”

Debra stormed away.

Nurse Brono snickered.

Dr. Greene looked at Nurse Brono and she walked way.

Michael was talking to Charlie Jr and Sarah.

Charlie Sr. looked at Michael and said, “You’re my boss.”

Martha looked at the child.

Michael had pockets full of suckers he put them in his hand and walked to Charlie Jr., Sarah, Martha and Charlie Sr.

They took the flavor they liked.

Brenda and Thomas were walking down the hall looking for him.

Mabel came out the cleaning room with her bag.

She stood and waited for Brenda.

Brenda was talking to Mabel and Thomas kept walking to find Michael.

Dr. Greene watched Thomas.

He laughed and said, “They are going to give Bradley a run for his money.”

Nurse Smith turned and puffed away.

Dr. Greene looked at her.

Nurse Brono looked at her.

Debra looked at Nurse Smith.

Debra waited until she walked down the hall and said, “She should have told him.”

Nurse Green said, “Too late now.”

Dr. Greene looked at Debra.

Debra smirked and nodded her head.

Dr. Greene looked back at Nurse Smith.

He shook his head and finished his charts.

Thomas stood outside Charlie Jr.’s room and watched Michael as he waited for Brenda.

Brenda walked down to Thomas and spoke to the family and said, “Michael we have to leave now.”

Thomas and Michael spoke and ran down the hall to Star’s room.

Thomas and Michael nearly ran into Lorraine as she walked to Star’s room.

Dr. Greene nearly said, “Watch out”, but he thought about how wild he and his boy cousins were growing up. They ran every where. Debra was complaining about their three old son running all the time.

The boys ran passed Debra.

Dr. Greene laughed.

Debra said, “Eleanor’s boys.”

Brenda smiled.

Debra hugged Brenda and was crying.

Brenda whispered in Debra’s ear.

Debra grinned and nodded her head for yes.

She walked over to Dr. Greene he looked at his wife.

He closed the patient’s chart and handed it to Nurse Brono.

Brenda walked to Star’s room and she and Iris hugged.

The boys hugged Star and ran to the carriage.

Shirley looked back and saw Lorraine with the large basket of bath items.

Shirley said, “Star this basket is full of Lorraine‘s love.”

Lorraine heard Shirley but did not look at her.

Star said, “I can smell strawberry.”

Iris said, “Star you can smell?’

Lorraine placed the gift basket on Star’s stomach and walked out the room.

Dr. Ralph was looking at a solemn Lorraine.

Dr. Greene and Debra watched Dr. Ralph.

He watched Lorraine leave the hospital.

Debra said, “Let’s go.”

Dr. Greene said, “No. I want to tell Shirley bye.”

Debra started back crying.

Shirley said, “You can smell Star? That’s great. You getting better. Do what you need and want to do. The doctors will push you. To get better. I will you often. It is going to take time for you to get the letters.”

Shirley had written a number of cards for Debra to give to Star each week or when Star needed a smile until they get settled in Europe where she write to her.

Shirley rolled out of Star’s room and stood up.

She said, “Bye Mrs. Iris. Grandma I want to walk out.”

Brenda nodded her head for yes.

Shirley walked to the hallway.

The staff looked at her.

Dr. Greene and Debra walked to her and grinned.

Debra was crying.

Brenda said, “Cry baby.”

Dr. Greene looked at Debra and hugged her and was walking outside with Brenda and Shirley.

Dr. Ralph walked them outside.

Meredith and Hutch were walking back.

Hutch told Meredith he has been thinking about her, but he really wanted to be an excellent doctor and surgeon. He thinks two years should cause him to know exactly what he wants to do. He told Meredith if she finds someone over there for her to marry them. He told her he would not marry and if he could not contain himself then he would send her a telegram to speed home.

She laughed.

They kissed for a long time.

They walked around front to the hospital and saw Dr. Greene holding the door for Brenda and Shirley to walk out.

Percy and Bruce jumped out the wagon and escorted Shirley down the steps to the second carriage.

Thomas and Michael helped Brenda in the wagon.

Hutch stole another kiss from Meredith.

Star turned on her side to see them leaving.

Mabel was sitting with Lorraine and Meredith and Percy and Bruce.

Brenda was going to seat in the driver’s seat to drive to the rail station, but Shirley asked Brenda to let her drive.

Brenda stood for a minute.

Everyone looked at Michael and Thomas helped Shirley move over to the driver’s seat.

Star and Iris were looking out the window.

Star laughed in pain when Shirley drove out the hospital’s yard.

Brenda went and sat next to Shirley with Thomas and Michael.

They waved to the staff and Shirley zoomed out the hospital’s yard and all the way to the train.

Bruce did not know they were on their way home nor to Europe.

Dr. Hutch watched them out of sight.

He looked at Dr. Ralph and walked inside the hospital.

It was Hutch week to stay at the hospital.

Hutch kept his gun at the hospital.

Dr. Ralph walked home.

Dr. Greene and Debra passed him as they went home and to their son.

Brenda and Lorraine and Meredith cleaned out theirs and paid the bill that morning.

Debra told Tony Shirley wrote a number of cards and letters to give to Star as she went through her therapies.

Dr. Greene said, “That is very nice. I loved that Shirley wanted to walk out the hospital on her own. She was the worst case I have ever seen in my life.”

Debra stared at Tony.

He looked at Debra and then he took a double looked at her.

Debra said, “So Shirley could not be healed but some kind of way GOD healed her.”

Dr. Greene looked at Debra and said, “Yes my dear.”

Debra was quiet.

Dr. Greene said, “Debra why are you quiet?”

Debra said, “GOD used you and the other doctors to perform HIS miracle on Shirley?”

Dr. Greene said, “You can say that. Over two and half years ago Shirley was dying and said she saw a man of light walked through her window into her bedroom. I knew GOD heard her prayer and would heal her. I prayed everyday for her therapy and what HE wanted to do in her body and mind.”

Debra exhaled.

Dr. Greene looked at her and said, “Why you do that? Are you well?”

Debra said, “Tony GOD used you to perform a miracle. You had to stay in front of HIM to hear Him, but GOD used you to do HIS will of performing a miracle on HIS earth.”

Debra touched her heart as they stopped in front of their home and saw their three year son run to the door.

Debra said, “I don’t want anymore children. I want to spend all of my time with you Tony.”

Tony said, “Well we better figure out a way for you not to have any more children.

They laughed.

He walked over to help Debra out the wagon.

He looked at their nice home and they had a housekeeper and three horses and a wagon.

He thought of how GOD used other people to help him. How one of the richest families in America came to their little hospital and the children used part of their trust fund money to re-establish a much needed specialty hospital.

Tony thought about the LORD GOD Almighty paid him with a new life and a new wife and gave him everything he never had just for being obedient to GOD and praying and seeking HIM for HIS will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Tony was helping Debra out the wagon.

She remembered Tony’s ex-wife said, he could not have children, that’s why she left him. She thought about how GOD allowed her to marry and have a son, so Tony could have a son and an heir.

Her heart fluttered.

It was light like a butterfly.

She knew that was GOD agreeing with the thought HE placed in heart.

Debra thought, “What a Great and Mighty GOD we serve. Who always cause us to triumph.”

Brenda and all were on the train.

Mabel, Lorraine and Meredith had first class private accommodations.

They arrived home several days later and settled in house.

Eleanor and Patrick told Eleanor and the boys they were travelling to Europe with them.

Eleanor and the count spent a lot of time together.

Earle decided on Margaret.

Denise was working with Eleanor on the opening of the Freedmen Center.

The sign arrived in town as Brenda and everyone was leaving the train and going home.

The center was ready.

Eleanor had the dedication on that Thursday and the new governor, old governor, the mayor and his wife and all the workers from their mansion that would work at the center.

Eleanor put Robert the butler as manager of the center, Denise the greeter, Stanley over all security and Nathan over the maintenance.

She hired them so they could work and earn money.

They could stay at the mansion.

Nadine would be over the mansion.

Chasity was getting married and quitting.

Natalie was having a small church wedding and reception in June with Josiah.

Brenda and Patrick said, William and Wyonna will be going, with Dan, Meredith, Lorraine, Alice and Monica.

They needed to know, What was Margaret’s status. Because they needed their laundry to be taken care of.

Eleanor decided to take three male teachers with her.

The count said the boys could attend the schools of the royals he attended growing up.

He boys voted against that because they were used to having their freedom.

Eleanor said, “The boys could attend the summer schools.”

The boys were angry.

Nadine, Mellissa, Ruth, Harriett, Danielle were busy packing for the entire family.

Mabel and Brenda and Shirley were helping getting the flowers arranged for Chasity’s wedding.

Patrick and Percy ad Bruce were meeting with the lawyers and contractor to make sure everything was going as planned.

The entire town turned out for the dedication and opening of the Stith Freed men center.

Brenda was outdone at the quality and beauty and how Mabel had started a garden in the back and on the sides of the building.

Eleanor had a telegram machine installed.

They sent out telegrams in the south at different safe houses to tell them the freed men could rest at the Stiths house.

Brenda bought a new dress while they were in Philadelphia.

Eleanor saw Shirley standing in the crowd and she smiled at Shirley as a friend not as her only daughter.

Shirley was casual back to Eleanor.

She knew she and Eleanor would never be mother and daughter again.

She new she and Lorraine will part and never be second mother and child again.

The count was proud of all of Eleanor’s hard work.

Mr. Long cleared up everything and told Eleanor he would be moving permanently to his home in Austria, but he would stay until everything is cleared.

Mary, Alice and Ginger attended the dedication and opening of the Stith House for the Freed men.

Eleanor and Patrick went to the bank on Friday and then to the family’s office to check and double check all their businesses.

They went home and relaxed as Mabel, Tracey and Glenda decorated the grand staircase.

Chasity was packing her bags to move and Putting out her beautiful wedding dress and her accessories.

Her mother gave her the list of people they sent invitations to and the ones that said they will attend.

Chasity looked at the list ad became furious with her mother, who was trying to pretend they were big shots because they were having the wedding and reception ay Brenda at the Stith’s mansion.

Chasity cried and jumped up and rode her horse to the Stith mansion.

Chasity went to Brenda and Patrick and told them her mother invited Christopher and Sue who she could not stand to her wedding.

Patrick said, “Chasity calm down. We know how to handle the situation if they show up.”

Brenda said, “You know those bas\*\*\*ds are going to show up and try to pretend they rule things.”

Brenda said, “William.

He walked to Brenda and Patrick.

Brenda said, “Seal my house so Christopher and his worthless wife Sue will only be allowed as all guess in the grand hall and the formal dining room. Take all of our baggage down in the storage area. Have ten of the field hands control the carriages and close of all access to my home even to their bad ass kids.”

Chasity went home.

William and Wyonna were walking through the house checking everything before they left for the day so they could spend a few days with their family before they sail to Europe.

Bruce went to the hospital to see Shirley.

Dr. Greene saw him and walked to the empty room that used to be Shirley’s room.

Dr. Greene walked over to Bruce and said, “Shirley is healed and is home with her family.”

Dr. Ralph walked over and said, “They are moving to Europe.”

Dr. Greene did not look at Dr. Ralph but went back to his patients.

He thought, “Dr. Ralph was being messy and should not have volunteered any information, It was on Bruce to find out what the Stiths wanted him to know.”

Bruce stared at Dr. Ralph and he turned and walked out the hospital to is horse and left and went to the hotel and saw they all checked out last week.

He went to the train station and the manager would not give him any information about the trains.

Gen and Ben were the first to arrive as Max, Louis and seven of the field hands brought in the chairs.

Thomas and Peter, Betty, Vivienne and several of the maids made the cakes, finger sandwiches, punch and gift bags for the wedding reception.

William went and told the field hands what to do.

Wyonna went home and dropped their bags at the train station.

She thought about Chasity’s wedding.

She spent the night with her parents.

She woke and dressed for work and went to the mansion.

William was standing at the front door and watching how Mabel pulled the whole hall way together.

Wyonna walked through the dining room.

She walked next to William and looked at the hallway and said, “Beautiful.”

William said, “You brought your nosey butt all the way here to see a fight.”

Wyonna shook her head and said, “No more than you trying to see who Thomas has been with all of these years. You found out and you are sick.”

She walked away and looked at the directions on the chairs.

Gen and Ben were sitting in the parlor having tea.

They spoke to Wyonna.

Gen said, “You got to be excited.”

Wyonna grinned big.

Wyonna looked around.

Gen knew Wyonna over the years.

Gen whispered, “What is it?”

Wyonna made a step inside the parlor and said quickly, “Here comes my nosey ass husband. Chasity’s mother invited Christopher and Sue.”

Gen sipped some tea and uttered, “Fight.”

Ben looked at Gen.

Gen said turned her head and said, “Like my hat?’

Gen said, “It is very nice.”

William heard their conversation and said, “Excuse us.”

Wyonna looked at William and he said, ”Please check on the cookies.”

Wyonna said, “No.”

And walked away.

Gen bucked her eyes at Ben.

There were knocks on the door.

Gen was listening.

The two governors and the mayor and their wives arrived.

Mag and Roger arrived.

Mag told Gen and Ben they would be missed.

She told them her body felt good.

They all laughed.

Chasity rode in the wagon with her father.

Chasity said nothing to her mother nor father.

Nadine let them in through the kitchen.

The wedding party Nadine let in through the kitchen.

Several of the women started trying to walk through the house.

Louis opened the billiard’s room and closed it and stared at the women.

Alice was at the end of the hall and walked to the entrance to the kitchen to block any one from walking through the house.

The women and the men of the wedding party looked at the servants who blocked the hall.

They saw the house was not opened to them and they were not welcome to browse the mansion.

Gen showed Chasity the headpieces she and Mable made for the bride’s maids and the buttoners for the groom’s men.

The wedding party smiled.

One of the nosey women said, “Give us a tour of this fabulous house.”

Gen stood and stared at the young woman.

Gen continued to help the bride’s maids with their head pieces.

The woman said to Gen again she and a groom’s man, “We want to see this house.”

He said, “We want a tour. A personal tour by you.”

He and the bride’s maid looked at each other and grin sinisterly.

Gen stood up and handed her headpiece.

Betty was standing at the top of the stairs and would walk and tell Chasity who was saying what.

Chasity was getting mad.

Glenda was checking on all the rooms and walked in and looked at Chasity and begin to cry.

Chasity said, “Stop yall you making me cry.”

Chasity father was sitting in a chair in the hall.

He tried to get up and walk through the house.

Walley pointed and said, “Sit.”

Chasity said, “I did not know my mother and father and my sister and her husband would act like this in a million years.”

Natalie and Josiah ran through the kitchen to the top of the stairs.

Natalie ran to Chasity.

They screamed.

Chasity said, “I’ll be there for you and Josiah in two months.”

Josiah sneaked to the end of the rail and looked over the people and walked back and said, “Whoa. Natalie you should the view and the flowers.”

Natalie looked at Chasity and they both said, “Mabel.”

Josiah stood and said. “It is beautiful.”

Chasity’s stood and said, “It’s costing me a fortune.”

Chasity said, “Don’t tell no one else that the Stiths are paying for this. Don’t embarrass yourself. Let’s go so I can get this wedding over.”

Nadine walked out the formal dining and through the kitchen and said, “All groom’s men follow me.”

She took them through the formal dining room where they were stealing sandwiches and eating.

Brenda stood in the formal dining room and watched them.

They stared at Brenda because she was black. They thought she was a servant.

She saw why Chasity said she wanted to move either to another city or another part of town away from her family.

Alice looked and saw the groom’s men were walking down by the stairs.

They short groom’s man and the tall one were acting like street fools.

Chasity’s husband looked at them.

His father and uncles looked at them.

Alice was standing back looking.

She kept shaking her head and saying, “Uh, Uh, Uh.”

Chasity said to Natalie, “Why is she saying that?”

Natalie said, “Don’t worry about that you have less than an hour to go.”

Christopher and Sue arrived with their three bad grandchildren.

Brenda heard them walking on the porch and she slightly looked at them.

Nadine was walking back.

Brenda said, “Nadine get those nasty as women out of my hall and bring them the formal dining room and walk down the aisle. Tell Chasity first that I changed it.”

Chasity’s mother walked back to Brenda with two other women and said, “This Joe and Maria, they want a tour of this house. They are thinking about having functions here.”

Nadine stood and exhaled and put her hand on the chair,

Nadine said, “What the hell are you fools talking about? This house is opened only for Chasity’s wedding because of this lady. You poor ass folks cannot afford to pay for your own ride to this wedding. You had to double up. And you show this great disrespect for this lady and her family who opened their private doors to let your daughter have her wedding in their private space and then you come with that poor as mind set like you have any worth. Take your cheap as clothes and poor shoes in there and either sit down or leave now. That includes you too ragged as momma of the bride.”

The women stood and looked at Nadine.

Thomas and Peter and several staff members came in and said, “Who has been eating the food?”

Nadine looked back and said, “That trash groom’s men.”

Gen and Ben looked back.

The mayor looked back.

His wife stood and walked back to Christopher and Sue and Chasity’s mother.

She looked at the rude Christopher and the worthless Sue.

She looked at Brenda and said to Chasity’s mother and her friends.

Chasity’s mother flipped her head and said, “This is the mayor’s wife.”

The women turned to look at the impeccable dressed woman.

The mayor’s wife said, “Call William and the security.”

The women ran to their seats.

Chasity’s mother tried to speak to the mayor’s wife.

The mayor’s wife turned her head.

Brenda looked at her.

Christopher looked at Brenda and Brenda looked at him.

He looked at Sue who looked at Brenda and twisted her mouth as if Brenda was to bow to her.

Brenda looked at them and walked pass them to the wedding.

Nadine stood by the front door.

Christopher looked at Sue and then at their three children.

Nadine was watching them.

She thought, “Nall you heard they are leaving and you want to come in here. Why are you lingering back here.”

She looked at William.

William looked back at Nadine and pointed for Christopher and Sue and their three children to move and sit down.

They kept looking back.

Several knocks were made on the door.

William looked out the window.

He and Nadine stood and did not open the door.

Chasity walked down the stairs with her father.

The scene was magical.

Josiah and Natalie ran through the formal dining room and sat next to Roger and Mag.

Gen looked at them and smiled.

Brenda and Patrick were whispering.

Shirley was sitting with Mary and Alice.

The wedding was beautiful.

The field hands immediately took all the chairs out the hallway and move the rugs and what the rugs in the storage area.

They loaded the chairs up and took them to the Stith House, as Eleanor said.

They had a good reception and directed to walk out the front door.

Thomas and Peter were cleaning up as the guests ate.

Chasity walked out to the front porch with her husband and took a few pictures.

She said, “Good Bye“ to her guests.

Chasity and her husband sat and talked to Brenda and Patrick and their guests.

Everyone was happy.

Stanley loved working in town at the Stith Center.

Nathan worked at night.

Jose would control the mansion until Patrick and Brenda returned.

Nancy said, “We can live in the master bedroom and bring our families and friends on the trains.”

Jose stared at Nancy.

He paid for her a one way ticket back to Philadelphia.

Jose sent a telegram to his gambling friend who is now the hotel manager to hire Nancy back.

Jose told Nancy he would ride with her to the midpoint.

He explained to Nancy he made a mistake.

He was not the man she wanted to marry and he was glad God showed him who she really was .

He told her someone entrusted their whole life to him to protect.

Jose said, “You were willing to have the trust someone else gave me destroyed for your lust and greed. You were willing to destroy me.”

He wanted to make sure she was on the train and back to Philadelphia.

He knew she had no money and could not afford to come back.

He always remembered his father saying, “If you don’t want her send her back in at least her same condition.”

Jose made it back from the mid point to stand at the mansion and wave bye to Patrick, Brenda, Eleanor and the family and co-workers.

Lorraine rented her personal house to Stanley.

Nathan was working to buy Mrs. Singer’s house.

Eleanor put in a good word for him with the real estate company.

Stanley and Nathan rode the short distance from the Stith’s Freed Men House to the clerk of the court.

Their friend Steve was leaving with the Stiths and were going to say bye to their co-workers.

When they saw Earle and Margaret rushing into the clerk of the court.

Stanley stopped and looked.

He quietly rode over to the building.

Nathan followed Stanley to see what was going on with Earle and Margaret.

Earle was grinning and smiling.

He looked up and saw the muscular Stanley and Nathan.

The count and Eleanor were walking to the building to be Margaret and Earle’s witnesses.

Eleanor asked the preacher to come and perform the wedding ceremony.

The preacher and his wife were walking down the walkway on the porch to get to the court clerk’s office.

They saw Eleanor walking into the office with a man.

Stanley recognize the preacher from Chasity’s wedding.

He and Nathan stopped to let him and his wife pass.

Gary rode into just in time to tie his horse and run behind Joseph and Eleanor into the clerk of the court.

It was a beautiful day.

Eleanor was cleaning out her closet and had a number of dresses she would never wear again, because the style was different in Europe.

Margaret saw the dresses set to go to the garbage and asked Nadine who dresses were they.

Nadine said, “Eleanor.”

Margaret looked through the dresses and found ten new dresses.

Margaret found Eleanor and asked if she could have the dresses.

Eleanor looked at Margaret and thought, “Her bust is larger than mines.”

Eleanor said, “Yes.”

Margaret was happy.

She went and got the ten new dresses and five dresses for everyday. She thought that was all the clothes she had.

She went to the room she has rented for three years, sat on the bed and cried.

Steve heard her and got off his bed and walked to her door and knocked.

Margaret knew Steve’s knock. She stood and went and opened the door and saw Steve and pointed at the dresses.

Margaret told Steve that she and Stanley has broken up.

Steve said, “Did Stanley know about you and Earle?”

Margaret said, “I don’t know. He did not mention it. We are so poor Steve. We need to do something else to live. Eleanor was throwing away these dresses. Ten are brand new. The other five are dresses I can wear everyday. I have no other clothing. Not even underwear. No hair combs and brushes. There is no reason for us to be living like this.”

Steve said, “It’s hard to get a job, for someone to hire you and then it is bad work..”

Margaret said, “No more excuses. I am going to find a way to make more money. The Stiths hired us because we had nothing. They did not have to hire us. Eleanor and her were gone. Brenda and Patrick were alone in the house. You know they did not need four laundry people.”

Steve held his head down in shame.

Margaret said, “For three years we could have done better. But we have nothing to show. Steve I am going to change my life.”

She held up her dress and showed her boots that she had sewed back together by the shoe repair man that she had no more space.

Steve laughed and showed her his boots.

Margaret looked at Steve.

Steve said, “What are you going to do?”

Margaret said, “Patrick and Brenda help workers that go to school or start their own businesses. It’s going to be one of those.”

Steve laughed and said, “You are dumb. That’s why you use your body to get money from men.”

Margaret stared at Steve.

She stood and said, “Steve as of this day. We are finish. You go back to your dirt poor momma and your even dirt poor daddy. Your mind is just like theirs that they can never be better and can never do better and always have their hands out for a morsel of bread.”

Margaret walked to her door and opened it and did not look at Steve and said, “Get out!”

Steve was shocked and stood and looked at Margaret.

She did not look at him.

He tried to grin and laugh.

Margaret did not look at him.

He walked out the door.

Margaret slammed her door.

She put the fifteen dresses under her bed.

She thought, “If I don’t have to pay rent. I can buy me some underwear.”

She looked down at her ragged shoes and saw the thinning leather and said, “How do I do this?”

A thought came into her mind.

Margaret thought, “Each week I can buy a pair of shoes or underwear. Patrick and Brenda servants have nice homes and clothes and sent their children to school. The shoe repair man has worn shoes people never came back and got, maybe I can buy a pair or two. Earle has a room and they will be leaving soon and a bunch of the workers. They don’t pay rent. I can always eat at the house and I would not have to be concerned about getting to work and having to ride with Steve. God I do not ever want to have anything ever to do with Steve. Stanley is out of my life. That gives me room to start a business or go to school. But I am so dumb.”

Margaret cried all night.

She could not sleep.

The word dumb kept floating in her head each time she thought about sleep.

She got up and washed and walked all the way to work.

William looked at Margaret.

Wyonna and Nadine looked at Margaret.

Margert said, “Good morning. Is Eleanor up.”

William said, “Eleanor is not here.”

Margaret fell into the wall and cried.

She turned to walk away.

William looked at he.

Nadine looked at her.

Wyonna called her, “Margaret what do you want?”

Thomas was sitting and reading a book, he looked over the book at Margaret and Wyonna.

Margaret stopped and said, “I need a place to stay.”

William sat and looked at Margaret.

Nadine turned her head to finish talking to William.

Wyonna said, “Wait in the workers area.”

Thomas eyes followed Margaret to the end of the hall.

He put his eyes back to his book and continued to read.

William looked passed Nadine to Thomas and he had a distaste in his mouth for Thomas.

William, Wyonna and Nadine finished talking.

William said, “Wyonna check and make sure all of Gary’s stuff out the room and let Margaret move in there and give her a comb of brush.”

Wyonna looked at William.

Nadine said, “There are some new combs and brushes in the supply area.”

Wyonna walked into Gary’s room and double checked and went and got a broom and swept the room and mopped the room.

Wyonna dust the room and put clean sheets on the bed.

William walked to Margaret in the workers area.

He said, “Margaret, Wyonna is cleaning Gary’s old room and you can stay in there.”

Margaret had her hand over her mouth.

William did not know what to think.

He said, “Eleanor and Patrick is gone for at least thirty days to build another railway stop. They left early this morning.”

Margaret turned her head.

William stood and looked at Margaret.

Nadine was walking up the hall.

Phyllis from the laundry walked in the house and saw William.

She walked to William and said, “William, when will they back?”

William turned his eyes from Margaret to Phyllis and said, “Who?”

Phyllis said, “Whoever is going to Europe.”

William said, “Patrick and Brenda will be returning in a year or two.”

Phyllis said, “I quit.”

Nadine looked at Phyllis.

Thomas put his book down and looked towards the workers area.

Wyonna walked through the hall to William.

William said, “When?”

Margaret looked at Phyllis.

Phyllis said, “Today. Now.”

William turned and walked to the kitchen to his desk and wrote Phyllis a check.

He completed her termination papers and put them in his file.

Nadine looked at William and walked to the workers’ area.

She looked at Margaret.

Wyonna said, “Phyllis what are you doing?”

Margaret took her hand from her mouth.

Nadine quickly walked into Gary’s room and ran back to the workers’ area.

Thomas eyes were over the rim of the book and watched Nadine run.

Nadine handed Margaret a comb and brush.

Nadine said, “I am tired of seeing you look dirt poor. Shampoo, comb and brush your hair. No wondered Eleanor stared at you yesterday. You look like trash. No one else who works here look like you and your brother Steve.”

Wyonna looked at Nadine.

Phyllis looked at Margaret then Nadine.

Margaret said, “Thanks for the comb and brush. I can take these off my to buy list.”

Margaret pushed from the table and took her hair to comb and brush her hair.

Nadine looked at Margaret.

Margaret said, “Why are you looking at me Nadine? You think I am going to leave and not hear what Phyllis is going to say.”

Nadine rolled her eyes at Margaret.

Margaret started combing and brushing her hair.

Wyonna turned from Margaret back to Phyllis and shook her head and said, “Phyllis.”

Phyllis was looking at Margaret and said, “Margaret just by you combing and brushing your hair you look like somebody. Be treated like you are somebody.”

Margaret looked at Phyllis.

Nadine rolled her eyes.

Phyllis looked at Wyonna and said, “I ran away from home two years ago. I did not want my family anymore. I did not want to be responsible for helping them anymore. I did not want them to continue in life thinking I am there for them. My back hurts, my legs and feet are swollen everyday. My hands and fingers are swollen and stiff. I have lost weight over the past two years because I haven’t eaten a lot. I rent a very small apartment. I need to leave here. I need to travel to another place. I am not ready to go home. I don’t want to see them. The thought of them makes me sick. Not as sick as I was before.”

William walked in and handed Phyllis her check and the termination papers to sign.

Phyllis said the papers and looked at her check and said, “I am going to keep the horse.”

William acted like he did not hear her so he would not be responsible for the horse.

He walked quickly out of the area and back into the parlor and the guests’ suites.

Margaret sat and thought, “Phyllis is leaving. Doing something new. Waking to the unknow.”

Wyonna hugged Phyllis.

Margaret stood and hugged Phyllis.

Margaret said, “Wyonna you said Gary’s room?”

Wyonna said, “Yes.”

Phyllis looked at Margaret and said, “It’s time you separate yourself from dead weight Steve. Let him find his own way in life. He’s old and he needs to think on his own.”

Margaret smiled and walked to Gary’s room.

She fell on the bed and slept until there was knocking on her door.

She looked at the door and flipped over.

William sat and listened.

Steve walked back to William and said, “I thought you said she was in there.”

William looked up at Steve and said, “Oops.”

Steve stared at William.

Thomas laughed so hard he nearly fell off his stool.

Peters looked up and continued to knead his dough.

Steve turned and walked out the kitchen and out of the house.

William always carry a pocket knife.

He fired workers in the past and they would jump on him and beat him up pretty bad.

Margaret got up early and walked back to her room and got her fifteen dresses and her only bag of all her personal items.

Steve heard Margaret and flung his door open as Margaret was opening her door.

Margaret walked out the house.

Steve ran to the door and she kept walking.

Louis was sitting out in a wagon waiting for her.

Thomas saw Margaret leaving and asked Louis to follow her and help her with her stuff because she was moving into Gary’s room.

Louis looked at Steve and waved and he looked at Margaret and said,   
Thomas sent me to pick you up.”

Margaret stared at Louis.

He looked at her and said, “Is this it?”

Margaret tried to smile but held her head down to hide her shame.

Louis looked at her and put her dresses and bag in the wagon and helped her in the wagon.

Margaret got back and Louis brought her dresses and one torn bag in the house.

Louis gave Thomas a hard look.

Thomas looked and tried to figure out what that look meant from Louis.

Margaret said, “Thank you Thomas.”

Thomas said, “Sure.”

Louis passed by the kitchen and rolled his eyes at Thomas.

William was walking in the kitchen from the formal dining room he turned and walked back to the parlor.

Margaret was able to buy underwear one week.

The next two weeks she bought three used pairs of boots that looked as if she worn them.

The fourth week she bought sweet soaps and hair ribbons and underwear.

Stanley and Margaret said their good byes earlier that week.

Stanley started pursuing the young lady that work in Shirley’s dress shop.

Stanley thought some of these people I will never see again.

The travelers’ bags were sent several days before on the train that Nancy was on.

When their bags reached the Philadelphia train station, George took the bags and sent them to the ship.

Earle and Margaret ran and got their marriage license early that morning.

The preacher performed the ceremony.

Steve was coming to Europe to do the laundry.

There was no one but he and Margaret. The rest of their family was good for nothing and was weighty and wore them down.

Stanley was there and kissed Margaret bye.

Everyone loaded the train up.

Mag and Roger waved at their friends.

Gen and Ben were laughing.

The former governor and his wife surprised all of them. They jumped on the train.

Patrick and Brenda saw them when they jumped on the train at the last minute.

Brenda said, “The train is moving. “Where are you going?”

The former governor said, “We have paid for this ride. We are going all the way.”

The governor’s wife hugged Brenda.

Everyone was calling Gen and Ben but they were busy laughing with Meredith and Lorraine.

They looked up and saw the former governor and his wife.

Gen’s mouth dropped open with surprise.

Gen yelled to Roger and Mag and pointed to the old governor and his wife.

They all laughed.

Eleanor, the count, Shirley, Bruce, Percy, Thomas and Michael were standing on their balcony.

The full train rolled out the town and into Philadelphia.

They meet Dr. Woodson at the docks.

Patrick, Brenda, Eleanor and Shirley greeted Dr. Woodson at the ship.

Dr. Woodson and Dr. Greene were going over hospital business.

Debra was holding their son’s hand.

He broke a loose.

Captain Moss caught him.

Dr. Greene laughed and said, “He’s going to keep me fit.”

Dr. Woodson smiled.

Ellen walked to Captain Moss, with her sister Belinda and their twins and Steve (Belinda’s husband).

Roderick, Sheryl and their son had sneaked on the train and caught one of the many wagons to go the docks.

When they jumped off the wagon.

Percy saw Roderick.

He screamed and ran passed Dr. Woodson and Dr. Greene.

Patrick and Brenda stared.

Then they saw it was Roderick and Sheryl and their three year old son.

Eleanor screamed.

Dr. Woodson looked at an emotional Eleanor.

Bruce, Thomas and Michael ran to them.

Bruce had one of the twin boys and Thomas was holding another one of the twins and Michael was holding Debra’s toddler’s hand and he ran passed Dr. Greene.

He and Dr. Woodson stopped talking and began to enjoy them set sailing.

Ellen walked to Patrick and Brenda and introduced her husband to them.

Patrick said, “Captain Moss you worked for me over ten years and I never met you. I am going to do better.”

Dr. Greene looked around at the happy people going sailing. He watched them crew packed the ship with food.

He saw Michael run with his son and Michael said, “You got me lamb chops?”

Eleanor heard him and was walking to Michael.

Michael saw Eleanor walking and he said to Dr. Greene’s son run.

They ran back to the other crowd, who was walking towards Patrick and Brenda.

Hutch rode in just in time.

Meredith saw him and ran to him as he was getting off his horse with her flowers.

Dr. Woodson said, “She couldn’t wait until he got off the horse.”

Dr. Greene smirked and said, “You wait, you will see.”

Dr. Woodson smirked.

Dr. Greene’s son ran pass by him.

Debra caught him as she was talking to Steve and Belinda.

Dr. Greene said, “This is beautiful here and exciting. I think we may come back and holiday here.”

Eleanor and Sheryl hugged. They talked.

She thought she saw someone looking at them, but her attention went instantly back to Roderick and Sheryl.

They boarded the ship and became comfortable.

Ellen and Captain Moss met them at the docks.

Debra and Dr. Greene and their son rode to the docks to say bye.

Hutch rode to the docks and gave Meredith flowers.

Steve and Belinda, Roderick and Sheryl walked and hugged Patrick and Brenda.

Brenda said, “This is our first sailing. Imagine we own this ship and never set foot on it.”

Beverly and Alfred made it to the docks.

Beverly hugged Brenda.

Alfred shook Patrick’s hand.

Beverly said, “Thank you Bren for forgiving me for the sale of everything and keeping the money. Thank you for still loving me and not turning your back on me.”

Brenda said, “I forgave you of that a long time ago. GOD gave me Patrick. He has been my true love and life. His love has shown me nothing is worth getting in the way of his love for me.”

Patrick stood and listened to Brenda.

Alfred listened and grinned.

Patrick, Alfred, Brenda and Beverly continued to talk.

The captain walked out and greeted Captain Moss.

Captain Moss walked him over to the owner and pointed and said, “This is his party.”

The captain shook Patrick’s hand.

The captain said, “All supplies and bags are on the ship. We can begin to board.”

Dr. Woodson was taking in a life he never thought he would live. One woman set him free.

Debra walked to Dr. Greene holding their son’s hand.

She whispered in Tony’s ear and said, “Can we stay and have lunch with Ellen, Captain Moss and maybe Steve and Belinda and their twins and Roderick and Sheryl and their son. I have not seen them in a long time”’

Debra placed her chin on Tony’s shoulder.

He said, “Debra you are my life. I want you to be happy.”

Debra said, “Can we afford it?”

Tony said, “Yes.”

He kissed her face.

Debra looked and said, “Is that…?”

Dr. Greene said, “Yes. Shush”

Roderick and Sheryl and their son walked over to them.

Steve and Belinda walked to them with their twins.

Ellen and Captain Moss walked back to the crowd.

Ellen walked and stood next to Dr. Greene.

She stared pass Dr. Greene.

Dr. Greene looked at Ellen and turned back.

He said, “I did not see Shirley.”

Debra looked and pointed, “There she is standing next to Dr. Woodson with Percy and Bruce.”

Dr. Greene laughed.

Debra yelled, “Shirley!!!”

Dr. Woodson said, “Shirley.”

Shirley looked at Dr. Woodson and he pointed at Debra and Dr. Greene.

Shirley flashed her big grin.

They laughed.

Brenda and the former governor and his wife and Gen and Ben found alcohol.

Dr. Woodson looked at them.

They did not know what to do.

Patrick was looking down at his drink and said, “I brought all the liquor from the house and had George to pick up cases of scotch, bourbon and brandy. I am not going to be hiding on my own ship from him.”

The governor’s wife turned her head and said, “You better do something.”

Gen whispered, “Bren.”

Bren did not say anything but continued to sip her rum.

Gen said, “Scaredy cat.”

Bren said, “Yeap.”

They all laughed.

Eleanor and the count walked to Shirley.

Dr. Woodson looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at him and exhaled.

Eleanor said, “Hello Shirley.”

Michael ran to Eleanor and hugged her waist.

The count looked at Michael and grinned.

Dr. Woodson thought, “He is a nice man.”

Shirley said, “Hi Momma.”

Eleanor said, “This is the first time you have travelled, it takes five and a half weeks to get to Europe.”

Shirley smiled and said, “I brought needlepoint.”

Eleanor said, “That’s good.”

Eleanor pointed to three males not far from Shirley standing at the rails looking at the crowds of people.

Dr. Woodson turned and looked.

Eleanor said, “Those are your teachers.”

Shirley stopped grinning.

Dr. Woodson laughed.

Michael looked and said, “Well we don’t have to worry about them until we get to Europe.”

Eleanor said, “You start at eight am tomorrow,”

Shirley looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at her.

Michael turned and ran screaming to Brenda.

Shirley turned and stared at Dr. Woodson. He tried not to laugh and bite his lips.

Lorraine looked up at the ship and saw Michael running.

Meredith looked at a running Michael.

She said, “He’s mad about something, if he was hurt Dr. Woodson would take care of it.”

Dr. Greene smiled.

Hutch walked over to Lorraine and gave her a bunch of flowers from Dr. Ralph.

Lorraine took the flowers and threw them on the ground and stomped them.

Shirley’s mouth dropped open.

Dr. Woodson looked over the rail and saw the destroyed flowers on the walk.

Lorraine turned and walked to the ship and the crew helped her on the ship.

Brenda heard Michael running and screaming.

She saw Eleanor standing by Shirley.

Patrick said, “It better not be about no damn lamb chops.”

Michael ran to Brenda and grabbed her by her waist.

Percy, Bruce and Thomas ran to Michael.

Eleanor and the count begin to walk to Brenda.

Lorraine walked to Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson turned to Lorraine and said, “Feel better?”

Lorraine said, “No.”

Dr. Woodson said, “What would make you feel better?”

Lorraine said, “To kick Jason’s ass so he has to sleep on his stomach for the rest of his life.”

Dr. Woodson was shocked at Lorraine’s violence.

Shirley turned and screamed, “Eleanor!!”

Dr. Woodson jumped and looked at Shirley.

Eleanor turned to stomped back to Shirley.

He looked back at the three male teachers who were watching them.

Lorraine said, “Those the teachers?”

Dr. Woodson said, “Yes.”

The count grabbed Eleanor by her waist.

Gen started grinning and held her glass to Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson looked at Gen.

Lorraine said, “I need a drink.”

Dr. Woodson said, “I don’t think you should be drinking.”

Lorraine pulled out a pint from her dress pocket and turned the bottle up.

Dr. Woodson turned and looked at Lorraine.

Dr. Greene and Debra saw Lorraine.

Debra said, “She will be like that for six weeks on the water. Thank God I don’t have that problem.”

Dr. Greene gave Debra a quick peck.

Debra laughed.

Brenda said, “Michael what is wrong?”

Michael said, “Can I sip your drink?”

Gen and the governor’s wife hollered.

Dr. Woodson looked passed the count holding Eleanor to keep her from coming at Shirley and saw Brenda very tendering saying, “No Michael you cannot have any liquor.”

Michael pointed at Eleanor and then he turned and pointed at the three men.

Patrick looked at the three men.

He thought, “Who are they.”

Brenda said, “Yes Michael those are your teachers.”

Percy, Bruce and Thomas turned and looked at the three men.

Michael was stress. He put his hands to head.

Brenda said, “You start school tomorrow at eight am.”

Percy, Bruce and Thomas turned and looked at Brenda.

Patrick drank his drink and said, “Why did Shirley scream for Eleanor?”

Patrick walked pass the count trying to restrain Eleanor.

Patrick spoke and said, “Dr. Woodson.”

He looked at Lorraine with a half full bottle of whiskey and nodded and said, “That’s who you need to worry about.”

Patrick bent down and looked at Shirley and said, “Baby why did you scream ‘Eleanor’?”

Shirley said, “I have an emergency.”

Patrick said, “What is your emergency Shirley?”

Shirley pointed back to the three men.

The three men were sitting and staring at Shirley pointing at them.

Shirley said, “They are teachers.”

Patrick said, “Yes.”

Shirley said, “Why.”

Patrick said, “Shirley you better give me an emergency why you are screaming on my ship.”

Dr. Woodson saw a few crew members were peeping at Patrick and Shirley.

Shirley batted her eyes at Patrick.

Patrick said, “That’s not an emergency.”

Patrick looked at the count struggling with Eleanor and losing.

Patrick said, “Shirley the count is getting tied. He can’t hold your mother like Bruce.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and back at Patrick.

Shirley said, “Does I don’t want to learn count as an emergency?”

Patrick shook his head for no.

Shirley said, “What now?”

Patrick stood up and stretched and said, “You get only one scream for an emergency or that you are hurt. You have used it up. Don’t do that again. The next time no one will be able to hold Eleanor. I know I can’t, because I am old. Shirley you are the oldest grandchild. Set the example.”

The captain brought a telegram to Patrick.

Patrick looked at the captain and read the telegram.

Patrick handed the telegram to Shirley.

Dr. Woodson was thinking it had to pertain to the hospital.

Shirley read it again and looked up at Patrick and held it up and said, “I am a kid why did you give this to me?”

Patrick said, “You want to be grown. Make a decision.”

Shirley walked to the hall and held up the telegram and yelled, “Brenda. Christopher and Sue and John are trying to move into your house!”

Brenda threw her rum glass against the wall and stomped to Shirley.

Dr. Woodson jumped, because he never seen Brenda angry.

The captain blinked.

Patrick said, “See Shirley you did not make a decision about this.”

Brenda snatched the telegram from Shirley and read it.

She walked to the door followed by the captain.

Patrick closed his eyes.

Shirley looked at Patrick.

Patrick said, “You cannot make decisions and stick by them. So you lose. You go to school with the boys.”

Shirley said, “Who is going to be up that early?”

Lorraine said, “Not me.”

Patrick looked at the drunk Lorraine.

He walked over and struggled with Lorraine and took the bottle out of her hand and drank the rest of the whiskey.

Dr. Woodson thought, “I have to live with these people on this small space for six weeks. I may start drinking.”

He turned back around and looked out over the party scene of the people who were there to say goodbye.

The ship’s horn blew.

Meredith kissed Hutch and ran up the plank to the ship.

A few people were running, the crowd begin to cheer them on.

They made it to the ship.

The crew lined the decks of the ship.

The captain and his team were at the bow of the ship.

Captain Moss saluted them.

They saluted Captain Moss.

Dr. Greene grinned and looked at Captain Moss.

Dr. Greene thought the whole cruising scene was festive.

Dr. Hutch walked along the dock where Meredith stopped with Lorraine and Earle and Margaret and the three teachers.

Brenda sent a telegram to Jose to shoot Christopher, Sue and John.

Jose received the telegram and told Nadine, “Brenda said to shoot them.”

Nadine said, “She meant that.”

Brenda sent a telegram to the mayor to throw them away from her house.

The mayor, the sheriff and several deputies rode that evening to Patrick and Brenda’s house.

Christopher and Sue and Jon and his wife had all of their relatives there and were trying to break into the mansion.

Brenda hired the sixteen remaining field hands to be security for their property.

Nadine went to the field and told them they were forcibly moving into Patrick and Brenda’s house.

She told them that everyone suspected John to be the head of the mob.

John broke into the house and overran it with his wife’s relatives.

The field hands, the former soldiers, mounted their horses and rode to the house.

They already discussed their plan of action.

They walked into the house and moved from room to room and threw out John’s and Sue’s relatives.

The mob was entering the door as the former soldiers instantly pulled out their guns on John.

He yelled, “I am the boss of this house.”

The sixteen soldiers moved up on John. The field hands said not a word.

The man that wore the gray coat and several others were walking into the door. They tried pulling their guns.

The mayor, sheriff and several deputies rode fast to the house and brought a jail wagon.

Nadine, Thomas, Jose, Peter and Louis and other workers beat the people out the house.

The people refused to leave the property.

They tried to run to the barn and the re-modelled supply shed.

The other workers beat them in the backyard.

The workers tied them up.

A worker ran and signal for the jail wagon.

The jail wagon came around back.

Christopher and Sue saw the jail wagon and the beating the workers were putting on their relatives.

They turned their wagons around and fled.

The sheriff told the mayor to stay on his horse.

The sheriff and several of his deputies moved to the house.

They asked no questions but arrested all seven men including John, his wife and their four bad boys.

Jose kept them from touching anything.

Jose sent a telegram to Patrick and Brenda and told them what happened. John was the head of the mob. The sheriff took him, his wife, four sons, the man in the gray coat and six other heads of the mob to the next major city where they would stand trial in six months.

Eleanor said, “Good.”

Captain Moss and the rest went to a seafood place and enjoyed a beautiful day.

Captain Moss and Ellen had everyone to stay overnight with them. They sat on the porch and enjoyed a beautiful fireworks scene.

Dr. Greene liked the scene.

Alfred and Dr. Greene talked about medicine all night.

Alfred worked at Ryan’s father’s hospital and with the Freedmen.

Dr. Greene and Alfred agreed to stay in touch.

Everyone got up in the morning rode the five hours back into town.

Roderick, Sheryl and their son went to the train station and rode back.

Eleanor upgraded their seats to first class.

Steve, Belinda and their twins went back to the city and to their nice house they bought.

Mabel rode back to the city with Steve and Belinda.

Steve and Belinda took Mabel to the Freedmen house.

The children were excited to see Mabel return to them.

Belinda had to catch herself because she was about to break down.

Steve looked at Belinda and smiled and waved at Mabel.

Mabel and Belinda started talking about flowers and Mabel showed her how to walk and look down and pick up anything to start an arrangement.

Belinda thought, “I can make money from this.”

Dr. Greene and Debra watched Mabel how close she walked to the water.

Dr. Greene and Debra rode the five hours back to the city and went home.

When the ship was pulling off the crowds were waving and cheering the passengers on.

Brenda was standing by Patrick and said, “Patrick?”

Patrick said, “He’s been here all day.”

Bruce were standing back behind a supply shed watching as his whole family was leaving America. He would never see them again.

Ellen kept her eyes on Bruce.

They walked to the seafood restaurant she saw Bruce get on his horse and ride away.

Captain Moss grabbed Ellen’s arm and whispered, “He’s gone.”

Ellen was shocked her husband knew Bruce was there and that she saw him.

He grinned at her.

They had a wonderful day with wonderful friends.

Dr. Greene sat and looked at the starry sky and said, “I can make a lot of money here.”

He felt good that he and Captain Moss paid for everybody’s dinner.

On the way home the next morning Dr. Greene said, “Debra what about…?”

Debra cut him off and said, “We will live where GOD put us. HE provided for dinner last night and HE will provide for our many vacations and outings with new friends.”

Dr. Greene laughed.

The Patrick and Brenda’s servants went through the entire house.

From room to room and found a few of Sue’s relatives hiding in Brenda and Patrick’s suite.

The field hands tied them up and threw them and their clothes in a wagon and took them into town.

The sheriff arrested them and sent them to the other city to stand trial in six months.

Jose blocked the front door.

Louis moved in with Thomas.

Peter and Nadine found a nice house and moved together.

Robert began to polish Denise to be a greeter.

Denise begin to love greeting the Freed Men.

Nathan finally moved into Mrs. Singer’s house.

After a year Stanley and the sales clerk married and started a family.

He bought the house behind’s Lorraine.

Stanley boarded up Lorraine’s house and sent her a telegram that he bought the house behind her, he is married and has a family.

William and Wyonna’s children were at the train station in town to say good bye.

Roger, Mag, Josiah and Natalie planned their simple wedding for two months.

Patrick and Brenda planned a big party for everyone the first night on the ship.

They introduced everyone to each other.

Afterwards they went to dinner.

Dr. Woodson, Meredith, Lorraine, Earle and Margaret ate on the deck.

Dr. Woodson was stunned by the beauty of the night sky.

Ben saw them and he walked over to them and spoke.

He looked at the beauty of the night sky and said, he really miss sailing.

But he is enjoying himself tonight.

They all sat and was quiet and enjoyed the magnificence of the LORD GOD’s creation.

Shirley was enjoying herself with Bruce and Thomas in the formal dining room.

He was all dressed up in an evening dress with her pearl and diamond earrings.

Eleanor looked across the table at her children and smiled at them.

The count held his head down for a minute.

Patrick looked at the count.

Eleanor looked at the count and touched his arm.

The count held his head up and smiled at Eleanor.

They continued to laugh and talk through dinner.

But Patrick kept his eyes on the count.

Patrick thought, “God No!!!”

The next morning life started as usual.

School.

Dr. Woodson’s routines.

Patrick found Dr. Woodson an office out of the way from the passengers.

Dr. Woodson would see all his patients in the morning and Shirley after school.

He would finished his therapies around noon.

He had lunch.

He sat on deck or in the library (Eleanor’s idea) or in his room and read, prayed and read his bible.

Dr. Woodson could not believe this type of life.

Eleanor and Patrick were monitoring the businesses.

The mayor was keeping them informed about Christopher and John.

The ship landed the third week of May.

Everyone was excited to be in Paris.

Meredith and one of the male teachers had become intimate.

Meredith and Lorraine were sitting at breakfast when one of the teachers walked over and kissed Meredith hard on the lips.

Lorraine said, “Meredith.”

Meredith turned her head away from Lorraine.

Lorraine said, “Suppose you get pregnant by him and Hutch is home waiting for you.”

Meredith said, “Nurse Smith will take care of him.”

Lorraine’s mouth dropped open.

Meredith said, “I told him I knew about them. He said, if I find someone and marries, he would understand.”

Lorraine was drinking a lot of coffee to get out of her drunk mode.

Meredith said, “If you stop drinking like a cow and look around at all these men, maybe you will forget about Dr. Ralph.”

Lorraine looked at Meredith for calling her a cow.

A grinning Margaret walked over and joined them for breakfast.

Lorraine said, “Where is your new husband?”

Margaret grinned and said, “The count was not feeling good today and Earle spent more time with him. I’ll see him later.”

Meredith said, “My stomach was a little upset this morning. Probably from something I ate.”

Lorraine coughed.

Margaret looked at Lorraine and grinned.

Meredith stood up and walked away.

Gen limited herself to one glass of alcohol all day.

The glass was double filled.

Gen, Ben, the former governor and his wife would play cards or checkers until dinner.

They were having a great time.

The count told Earle to go and get Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson went to the count and examined him.

Dr. Woodson did not like what he was getting from his examination of the count. He checked on the count twice per day.

Eleanor saw Dr. Woodson leaving from the count’s room.

Then Earle left.

She looked and went to the count room and knocked on the door.

He did not answer.

She twisted the handle and the door was locked.

She followed Earle to his room.

Eleanor knocked on Earle’s door.

She heard him and Margaret and she walked away.

She thought about her and count and grinned.

The last two weeks of the sailing, the count would not come to dinner.

Dr. Woodson would go and see the count three times a day.

The ship landed in Paris.

Patrick and Brenda rented a large estate in Paris.

The estate had ten guests’ rooms and seven workers room.

Eleanor had a block of rooms at the hotel until she decided on her manor in Paris.

They left the ship and rode the train to Austria.

She and the count plan to marry in a week.

They would leave on the train to Austria in two days.

The count decided to leave for Austria the day they arrived in Paris.

Eleanor did not think anything of it.

Dr. Woodson, Earle, Patrick, William, the three teachers, the boys, Shirley, Meredith and Lorraine went onto Austria.

Eleanor wanted to find her a wedding dress and one for Shirley’s hope chest.

Eleanor picked out a plain cream dress for her and a handmade beautiful dress for Shirley.

Brenda and Gen and Ben loved the dress.

The mayor’s wife was speechless.

Brenda said, “Eleanor I always promised Shirley I would buy her wedding dress.”

Eleanor said, “Ok.”

Brenda looked at Eleanor’s nonchalant attitude and hope she had not distance Shirley further from her.

Eleanor was thinking about the lavender flowers she saw and wanted a simple bouquet of the flowers.

They were passing a hat shop.

Eleanor screamed when she saw a beautiful cream color hat and said, “I want that hat and Gen you can make me a headpiece out of the lavender flowers.”

Gen walked to the window and saw the beautiful hat and said, “It is beautiful.”

Eleanor went in and tried the hat on and bought the hat.

She was happy.

It was late and they had dinner in town and the driver took them back to the estate after dinner.

Gen said, “Bren why would Patrick leave you here for your first time in Paris?”

Brenda said, “I don’t know. I got a sick feeling in my stomach.”

They looked at Brenda.

The next morning they went to the champagne house and tasted the champagne.

They order several dozens and took it with them to Austria.

They loved the train ride to the city.

Patrick and William were waiting for the train.

Eleanor was stepping off the train and said, “Hi daddy.”

She ran and kissed Patrick and hugged him.

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Gen and Ben saw Patrick’s look.

They knew something was wrong.

Eleanor had one arm around Patrick’s neck talking about her wedding in a few days.

They had several floors reserved at the hotel.

Eleanor sent William to make sure all her plans were being followed at the hotel.

Brenda walked up to Patrick and looked at Eleanor and said, “Move. He’s just your daddy. I am his wife.”

Eleanor took her arm from around’s Patrick’s neck and looked at Brenda.

Brenda walked to Patrick and they hugged and he kissed her.

Patrick turned Brenda slightly so they can walk.

He looked at Brenda.

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Eleanor was thinking and said, “Daddy did Joseph get the marriage license?”

Patrick said, “Yes.”

Brenda watching her husband’s face.

Eleanor was walking with the governor and his wife.

She said, “What did he decide. Reception at the hotel or his castle?”

Patrick turned slightly and said, “Castle.”

Gen and Ben knew something was up.

The governor and his wife were walking arm in arm.

They looked at each other at how Patrick was answering Eleanor.

Eleanor was so excited about getting married that she was just thinking about her wedding.

Eleanor said, “We can have the wedding ceremony at the castle either outdoors and the reception outdoors or either in their great hall. It’s only going to be us and his side.”

Gen and Ben looked at William.

William shook his head and walked to Patrick.

Ben and Gen looked at William.

They went to the castle for an informal dinner to meet Joseph’s parents.

Eleanor was so very happy to see Joseph’s parents and she introduced his parents to her side.

Eleanor looked around for the count.

His mother saw Eleanor peeping for the count.

Eleanor’s boys came in and they introduce Michael to Joseph’s parent.

Shirley walked in with Dr. Woodson.

Lorraine was drunk at the hotel.

Brenda said, “Good evening. Where is Lorraine?”

Michael yelled, “Drunk and sleep.”

Brenda closed her eyes and said, “Thank you Michael.”

Eleanor slightly turned around to address Michael and introduced him to Joseph’s parents.

She turned back around to look at the staircase.

She saw Earle walking down the staircase and smiled.

Eleanor knew Joseph would come down soon.

She turned and walked back to the parlor and sat.

Everyone was having a decent conversation until the maids called for dinner.

They all walked to dining hall.

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Joseph’s mother smiled at Brenda.

Brenda was getting irritated.

Eleanor waited in the parlor.

Joseph’s father looked back at Eleanor and said, “Joseph was a little under the weather and he may not join us.”

Brenda was getting angry.

She knew something was wrong.

She looked at Dr. Woodson he turned his head and talked to Gen.

Gen leaned to Dr. Woodson and whispered, “Where’s Joseph?”

Dr. Woodson said, “Upstairs.”

Gen looked at Dr. Woodson and turned her head.

She knew Dr. Woodson would never disclosed another patient’s information.

Gen looked over at the governor’s wife.

Joseph walked in.

Eleanor was so delighted and well pleased.

He sat next to her and ate no food.

He sipped on water.

Eleanor thought because he was late and did not want a full plate.

She turned to him and said, “Here take a bit of my food. You loved this.”

Joseph bit a little because it made Eleanor happy.

When they arrived in Austria, Dr. Woodson went with Joseph to the hospital and ordered the tests.

Joseph was released from the hospital the morning Eleanor arrived in Austria.

Joseph arrived at the castle after noon.

Eleanor looked at Michael and said, “Michael that better not be a damn lamb chop.”

Michael had his elbows on the table and eating the lamb chop with both hands.   
He cut his eyes at Eleanor.

Eleanor held her head down.

She was sick of Michael and the lamb chops.

The count started grinning.

He turned to Eleanor and said, “Don’t be mad with Michael. You are my guests for the moment.”

Eleanor knew what he meant.

She looked at him and grinned.

Eleanor and the count whispered between themselves the rest of the evening.

Dr. Woodson would go back to the hospital the next morning and get the medical tests results.

He already knew the tests results.

Joseph’s mother and father told Dr. Woodson.

Earle had a small room at the top of the barn.

Margaret saw his room.

Earle snickered and said, “You should see Gary’s room.”

She begin to curse.

Earle held up his hands for her to stop cursing.

Margaret said, “When?”

Earle was embarrassed and ashamed and held his head up and turned his head and muttered, “A month.”

He sat on the foot of the bed.

She said, “I have never seen a room this small. Gary must have hung out the window.”

Earle looked around and then at Margaret.

Margaret looked around and said, “Where are you going to sleep?”

Earle said, “On you,” laughed.

He knew that was the wrong thing to say.

He woke the next morning and washed and dressed.

He squinted his eyes and looked at several figures walking to the castle.

He cracked the blinds and jumped back and twirled around in the floor.

Margaret squinted her eyes then she opened her eyes and sat up in the bed and looked at Earle.

Earle ran towards the window and peeped and ducked.

Margaret looked around and said, “You better talk fast.”

Earle closed his eyes and exhaled.

He turned and said, “Come and see.”

Margaret got out of bed and stumbled over Earle’s pallet on the floor.

He ran and rolled his pallet up and tossed it on the bed.

Margaret said, “What am I looking at?’

Earle was smelling her hair and playing with her braid.

He said, “Those four women are Gary’s mother and three sisters. Since Gary did not come back. The count stop paying Gary six weeks ago. They want blood.”

Margaret turned sideways and looked out the window and kissed Earle good bye.

She went to bed and went back to sleep.

Earle looked at Margaret and said, “Well this evening. Right?”

Margaret did not reply.

Earle left and Margaret laid in bed and said, “I should have gotten more of Eleanor’s dresses. But I do have a new bag full of underwear and I have four pairs of shoes, two old, one kind of old and one pair new.”

Margaret started kicking her feet and arms in the bed over a new pair of shoes.

Earle walked back to grab his tie.

He looked at Margaret and Margaret looked at him.

She was embarrassed said, “I was thinking about my new pair of shoes.”

Earle said, “A new pair of boots. Yeah. I hope it would have been about your new husband.”

He walked out the room.

Margaret sat up in bed and covered her face with her hands.

Gary’s family knocked on the door.

The maid went and got Joseph’s mother.

Gary’s family said they wanted to see the count.

Joseph’s mother said, “You will not see the count. Gary did not come back. You get no more money. Leave.”

Gary’s mother and three sisters were angry but they knew Joseph would not tolerate them.

His sister said, “Do you know how we might reach him.”

They all shook their heads and looked at the count’s mother.

She thought for a minute and said, “Give me the letter and I will send it.”

Gary’s mother said, “No.”

Joseph’s mother shut the door in their faces and went and sat with her husband for morning tea.

Joseph’s father looked at her and said, “What, by fire?”

Joseph’s mother said, “Yes. My son is dying and all they can think of is using that boy to feed their faces.”

Her husband held her hand.

They looked at the empty fireplace.