The fat thief, Richard, every three days would walk the five miles to the entrance of the new city with oil and light the lamp sticks.

He would stop and check in the sheds for any sign that someone had been there.

On the way to check on the oil he saw two horses and a wagon standing next to the welcome shed.

He was startled and scared.

He looked around for a weapon and remembered the oil and matches he had.

Ricard approached the shed and yelled, “Who are you?”

The hired driver with the comic books appeared in the door.

Richard looked at the man and remembered him.

The man said, “I brought some of your supplies about a month ago.”

Richard said, “Yeah I remember, but what are you doing?”

The man said, “I decided to leave the big city. I told your attendant, I might want to move here in the spring. But I decided to beat the rush and move now.”

Richard said, “Rush?”

The hired driver said, “Yeah. People are talking about this new settlement where they could get land and not pay for it.”

Richard smirked.

The man said, “I’ve been here for three days and I rode my horse over much of this area. I want to stake a claim for this area and back.”

Richard was surprised at the man’s mannerism.

The hired driver notice Richard’s quietness.

Richard told the man, “The shed is for passer throughs who need help for a day or two. “

Richard wondered about the man.

The man turned and pointed at his wagon and said, “I brought my own supplies. I saw what the attendant bought for each of you and I bought double for me.”

Richard said, “Everyone has a vote.”

The man said, “When do I meet with them?”

Richard said, “I will tell them what you said. But for now come out of the shed and don’t go back in there.”

While Richard was lighting the oil lamp sticks he kept a watch on the hired driver.

When Richard passed back the hired driver pulled his wagon back about a half of mile from the shed and was setting up his tent.

He set up two tents.

One for him to sleep and one for his supplies and the horses supplies.

Ricard was slow walking the five miles back to the others.

He did not stop until he got to Frank and Glenda.

He told them of the hired driver and what he said about people want to move there in the spring and stake out land.

Richard said he told the hired driver everyone got a vote and he wants to know when he can meet with us so we can vote on whether he can stay or go.

Richard said, “Now I wish the attendant was here.”

Frank shook his head for yes. He looked at Glenda who was still throwing up and not feeling well.

Cate saw their oil lamp sticks and took the extra torch Joshua made and lit it and walked to Frank and Glenda.

Cate, “Good evening. What’s going?”

Frank said, “Another man has moved into the settlement that we did not know was here.”

Cate jumped and looked around in fear.

Richard, Frank and Glenda looked at Cate who was nearly hysterical.

Cate said, “How are we going to watch that?”

Richard said, “I was just saying now we need the attendant.”

Glenda said, “He did seem smarter than all the rest of us.”

Frank said, “I heard that he and the younger doctor did not like each other and did not get along.”

Glenda raised her head from Frank’s shoulder and looked at him.

Cate said, “How do know that? Who said that?”

Richard said, “Harold. That’s sound like him. Anything to shine a bad light on the younger doctor.”

Cate started laughing.

Glenda said, “Richard in three days when you go back to light the oil lamp sticks take Frank and Harold with you.”

Frank looked over at his wife and said, “For what?”

Cate said, “That’s right Glenda.”

Frank looked over at Cate and said, “What’s right Glenda?”

Glenda looked up at her husband and smiled and said, “To show unity. Like we are really organized as a new city.”

Cate said, “And we need to come up with a name for this new city, especially since God destroyed everything here and allowed us, without a home and without anything to move here and possess land.”

Cate held her head down and walked out of Frank’s and Glenda homesite to her tent.

The angel over the new city asked the scribe whether the hired driver’s name was in the book for that city.

The scribe looked in his book and said, “No.”

The new city was completely surrounded by holy angels.

The angel over the city called one of his angels to him.

The angel walked over to him and said, “Go back in his life and see what is causing him to stake out here”

The angel over the new city said to the angels at the beginning of the city to watch him and control everything he does.

The scribe and the angel over the city watched Cate cry and run all the way back to her homesite.

Richard stood and walked to the road.

He watched until the light from Cate’s torch reach her homesite.

The angel over the city looked towards Mike.

He said, “Mike has not read the telegram from his mother. It has been three weeks. He has it stuffed under his mattress. He need courage to read the telegraph and strength to bear the results.”

The scribe said, “They need to tell the others about Rex Walter.”

Richard walked back to Frank and Glenda and blew and shook.

Glenda lifted her head from Ricard and looked at Richard.

Frank said, “Richard did she make it home?”

Richard said, “Yeah. We all got so many problems and things wrong with us. But just to think God has forgiven us.”

Richard held his head down.

Glenda looked at Richard.

Frank looked at Richard.

Richard picked up his torch and walked the mile to his homesite.

Frank and Glenda sat in quietness.

Frank said, “Babe I thought we were the messed up ones in the group.”

Glenda looked out at the darkness of the rod where Richard had to walk.

She knew what ever was in his past he had to travel that dark road alone until he meet with God for forgiveness. So the light of forgiveness can lead him to Christ.

Frank stood and he tapped Glenda’s shoulder so they could go to bed.

Frank looked around and said, “It’s getting bad.”

Glenda reached up and got Frank’s hand and he pulled her up by the waist.

Glenda looked around at their stuff that the attendant bought.

Frank watched his wife and said, “What?”

Glenda said, “Cate was right. We had nothing but God gave us all of this.”

Frank kissed Glenda on the forehead.

They were to step into the tent.

Glenda stopped and said, “Frank, the fire.”

Frank looked around and said,”Let’s keep it going tonight.”

Glenda looked at her husband who looked around and they went into their tent.

Frank helped Glenda dress for bed.

He put one of their blankets and quilt over them.

He usually snuggle up to Glenda.

But that night and the rest of the nights, until they meet Rex Walter he slept facing the tent door.

Glenda watched her husband, when he got up and went outside and came back with the little stick.

Frank put a small piece of the tent upon the stick so he could see any shadows from the outside.

Glenda watched her him and waited until he got through fussing with the stick and measuring it.

She said, “Frank.”

He said, “What?”

He got out the bed and tinkered with the stick again, because he did not want the cold air inside.

Glenda hit Frank’s pillow and said, “Now.”

Frank turned and looked at Glenda then his pillow.

He knew she meant business.

Frank got in the bed and Glenda looked at him.

Frank kissed her.

She put her head on his chest and said, “We have to decide on what we can do to make money.”

Frank said, “Why? The attendant saw to it that we had everything.”

Glenda raised her head off Frank’s chest and in the darkness and stared at him.

She turned over and cried all night.

She could not believe her husband did not know they could not live off people anymore and they had to work for a living. All she could think his mind was to be a beggar.

It broke her heart.

Frank turned over to watch the outside.

He knew the way Glenda was crying he broke her heart but did not know why.

He really did not really care.

Frank went to sleep under the cry of Glenda’s broken heart.

The attendant was standing with the scribe and the angel over the city when the angel returned and showed Rex Walter’s life to them.

His life showed he was troubled.

He had made up his mind that he would be a hired killer.

Rex Walter was beaten by his mother and stepfather until he was deformed.

He ran away at fifteen and joined the military.

He stayed in the military for ten years. He learned to kill and enjoyed the pain he inflicted on others.

The military saw where they had trained a killer and let him go.

He receives a pension each month and once per year the military require him to check in with them to re new his pension.

But the reason was to keep an eye on him.

Rex Walter believed he could hide in the new city and use it as a base for his business.

The angel over the new city said, “What city is he to settle in?”

The angel with Rex Walter’s report, said, “The next city.”

They looked at the scribe and the holy angel over that city.

The scribe said, “His name is in the book for here.”

The angel over the city said, “His end is here.”

The attendant said, “He has killed a number of people. Some were scheduled.”

The attendant looked at Mike and Richard.

Harold was walking passed them to his homesite.

Betsy and Natalie stayed at the cute house.

The younger doctor was glad to have Betsy near to him.

He stayed outside in his tent.

He watched the outside and the cute house.

He wondered who built the house for “him”.

Betsy allowed Joshua to come into the house and sit with the little girl.

Joshua would tell the little girl funny stories.

He told her, “I told Mattie I knew she was my momma.”

Natalie turned and looked at Joshua.

Betsy walked to the door of the bedroom.

The younger doctor was sitting on the porch, enjoying the cold afternoon air.

He thought he heard Joshua say that Mattie was his mother.

Natalie wanted the front door opened in the daytime.

Betsy told Natalie, “It’s getting cold Natalie and we can’t have that door opened. I can get sick and we don’t know what will happen to her. Are you prepared for her to have a set back? And Natalie bathed once per week and washed all the rest of the days. Just because the attendant allowed you to do that I am here and I won’t.”

The younger doctor sat on the porch and smiled and said, “That’s my girl.”

The strange man said, “Bossy woman.”

The younger doctor called , “Joshua, come on so I can walk you half way home. Your mothers and father are not coming today. But they will meet you in the road.”

Joshua yelled, “Ok.”

Betsy walked out the house with a shawl on and had her arms folded looking at the younger doctor.

He looked at Betsy and said, “What?”

Betsy said, “Not a word.”

Joshua ran out the house and jumped off the porch.

He said to the younger doctor, “Come on. I want to get home.”

The younger doctor jumped off the porch and looked back at Betsy who did not smile.

The younger doctor knew not to ask Joshua anything.

They walked the road with Joshua playing with his wagon.

Joshua looked up and saw his mother and Mattie walking to meet them with a torch.

Joshua said to the younger doctor, “Bye.”

He ran to meet his two mothers. When they turned to walk back down the road, the younger doctor waited for a minute and he turned and ran hard back to Betsy for information.

Betsy was standing on the porch ready for him and he stumbled when he saw her staring at him.

He thought, “I hate that she can anticipate my moves.”

He said, “Well?”

Natalie was in the bedroom said, “Well.”

Betsy said, “Natalie since you can hear well, I am going to tell the story only once.”

The Betsy told them of Mattie being violently raped and beaten and left for dead. Bill and Emma took her in and cared for her and adopted Joshua since Bill and Emma could not have children.

Betsy turned to the younger doctor and said, “Neither can I. That’s why I am not married. And don’t have a family.”

The younger doctor did not blink.

The younger doctor said, “Go inside Betsy. It’s getting cold out here.”

Betsy looked at her beau. She did not know whether his heart was getting cold towards her and that he would move on to another woman that could give him children or at least one child.

Natalie looked at Betsy s she closed the front door and closed the windows that Natalie had sneaked and opened.

Natalie turned around real quick from Betsy and was scared.

The younger doctor stood up and grinned, because Betsy was quick and caught Natalie.

He went to build a fire and he heard the front door opened and Natalie was walking out with a blanket.

He stooped down to build a fire and turned his head and laughed.

The he thought, “She’ll be out here with me.”

The younger doctor yelled, “Betsy!”

Betsy walked to the front door and slammed it.

The strange man said, “Bossy woman.”

Natalie sat on the front porch and laughed at the younger doctor.

Natalie thought, “Yelling like a sissy that Betsy was going to make everything alright.”

The younger doctor rolled his eyes at Natalie and stood from the fire and tried to figure out how he can stop her getting any heat.

He thought, ”This is stupid. I am a doctor. I am a good person. I want Betsy. I don’t know what made “him” say that.”

The younger doctor thought, “Whoa I am still made with “him”. I can’t even say “his” name. I need JESUS.”

He went into his tent.

He positioned the tent so he could see the back and front of the house.

He made it very comfortable.

The younger doctor did not dressed for bed because it was early night.

He would sit by the fire and read for hours.

Dr.Obersteen, gave him a good number of books to read and keep up his skills.

The younger doctor thought about Betsy and that she could not have children.

He wondered who told her that being in the country.

He thought about his dad and the telegraph he told him to come in the spring for his wedding.

He looked up and saw Natalie watching him.

He got up and went into his tent and closed the tent.

The younger doctor said, “That was smart. Now I can’t read.”

He folded the page down.

He wanted Natalie to go in the house. She was upsetting his routine. He laughed at Betsy putting her out.

He thought at the first sign of the weather breaking, “I’ll take Betsy into the big city and have her examined. Then pick out our place and telegraph Dad to come for a country wedding.”

He laughed out, as he thought about a country wedding. He

He wondered could “she” hear him.

He ran to his tent door and opened the flap and Natalie was staring at him.

He slammed the tent cover and went to bed think about Betsy and not Natalie.

Natalie was watching the younger doctor and wondered why he hated her so much.

She begin to bathe and keep her body washed.

Betsy had on her nightgown and dressed for bed.

Every night she would go and kneel at her little girl’s bed and pray with her for God to help her and bless her with health and a quick recovery.

Betsy let down her hair beautiful hair and was brushing it.

Thinking about her beau whether he would abandoned her and if she should let her heart live with his.

Betsy stopped brushing her hair and stood still she looked around and she heard “Betsy.”

Betsy ran to her little girl and leaned over her and the little girl smiled.

Betsy kissed her on her scarred face.

JESUS and the attendant were standing on the front porch.

The trop of holy angels cheered.

JESUS wanted the attendant to be present for the little girl’s recovery.

Betsy ran out the house screaming.

Natalie, jumped up and ran into the house because she thought her little princess was dead.

The younger doctor woke from Betsy ‘s screaming and ran out of his tent with his thermal’s on.

The younger doctor grabbed Betsy and was shaking her.

Betsy stopped screaming and, “She’s awake and talking.”

The younger doctor was talking to himself like he was trying to calculate the time.

He ran to his tent and put on his jeans.

As he ran passed Betsy, he knew she was going to do something because he shook her.

Betsy hit him with her fist.

The younger doctor stumbled into the house.

The strange man said, “Bossy woman.”

Betsy turned and ran into the house.

The little girl was grinning and whispered “Natalie, are you happy?”

Natalie was crying and wiping her tears.

Natalie said, “Yes.”

The little girl whispered, ”You have new dresses. I want to see them.”

Natalie was shocked and looked at Betsy and the younger doctor because her little princess did hear their conversations.

The little girl drifted back to sleep.

They were all stunned.

The younger doctor, reached for his journal.

He kept it on the dresser in her room.

He looked at the wall clock. 10:05 pm.

Betsy cried and cried.

He looked at Betsy as he sat on the floor and recorded everything.

Betsy stood up and put on her shawl and boots.

The younger doctor said, “Betsy, what are you doing?”

Betsy walked out the front door.

Natalie turned and looked.

The younger doctor caught Betsy by the shoulders.

He said you are in shock.

Betsy said, “I am going to tell Joshua. He has the right to know his best friend is alive.”

Betsy began to cry.

The younger doctor grabbed Betsy and held her head close to him his cheek.

JESUS stood on the front porch.

He knew they all needed relief to give hem strength to keep going.

The younger doctor said, “I need to be here with her. I don’t know if she will need herbs or not. You have to walk most of the way by yourself.”

The younger doctor ran to get his horse.

Betsy did not turn around and said, “No horse.”

The younger doctor was still trying to untie the horse.

Betsy walked over and got the oil lamp stick and began to walk down the dirt road.

The younger doctor ran to the end of the yard and watched the oil lamp stick as it moved down the road.

Betsy cried out all the way to Joshua.

Mattie was sitting at the fire.

Joshua was under the wagon playing with his wagon.

Bill and Emma were asleep in the wagon.

Joshua stopped playing with his wagon and sat up on his stomach and was quiet.

Mattie was knitting her last bed cover for the winter. She was frustrated and tired.

Everyday she had to soak her hands

She thought that’s the reason they are vagabonds, they don’t want to work.

Joshua heard a faint whistle.

He jumped from underneath the wagon.

Mattie saw him and said ”Joshua, go back to bed.”

Joshua and Betsy had a secret whistle that no one knew but them.

He heard that whistle from his beloved aunt Betsy.

Joshua ran out of their campsite and ran to Betsy on the dirt road.

Mattie ran screaming behind Joshua.

Bill and Emma were flipping into each other and fell out the bed.

Emma was still angry with Bill over the Mattie situation and began to kick hm.

He was sleep and woke up and ran onto the dirt road and saw the light.

He reached over and grabbed their torch and ran to Betsy.

He just knew she was dead.

Emma finally crawled onto the road.

She looked up and down the road and saw the lights.

She began to crawl fast down the road.

The angels looked at Emma.

The attendant walked over to the crawling Emma and lifted her to her feet.

Emma said, “Thank you.”

She began to run down the road.

Emma thought somebody picked her up.

She began to run fast down the dirt road.

She picked up her speed and caught up with them.

The running Bill and Mattie looked at Emma as she passed them.

She did not hear Betsy but figured her son’s future wife was dead.

Betsy grabbed Joshua.

Joshua looked at Betsy.

Betsy said, “She’s awake.”

Everyone ran down the road lead by Joshua.

The younger doctor was standing in the yard and kept watching the front door for Natalie.

He was scarred.

He did not want it to be a situation where the little girl was awake for a moment and then died the next.

He looked down the dirt road and saw a few lights moving.

The LORD GOD Almighty and His throne room were watching everyone. The scribes were writing every thought, every emotion and all actions of the people.

They especially wrote when Emma was so angry with Bill over Mattie, that she got her revenge by kicking him.

Joshua ran passed the younger doctor.

The younger doctor looked at Joshua.

He ran behind Joshua and caught him in the living room.

The younger doctor held his finger to his mouth and said “Quiet”.

Emma entered the house and was out of breath.

She looked back of the door.

He younger doctor looked at Emma.

She went into the bedroom and looked at the little girl then at Joshua.

Joshua was so happy.

He was bouncing in the chair next to Natalie.

Natalie looked at Joshua then her eyes fell on the clock which displayed 11:15 pm.

She thought, “That clock can’t be right. It should have taken them longer.”

Natalie reached over and rubbed Joshua’s red hair.

Bill and Mattie walked into the house.

They were out of breath.

The younger doctor put water in a cup and told them to pass it around.

The younger doctor was looking for Betsy.

Betsy was overwhelmed.

She stood on the ground and stared blanketly into the house.

The younger doctor walked out the house and stood in front of Betsy.

Betsy did not see him.

He sat on the step.

He was thinking if she was in shock.

He thought she was moving about.

The LORD GOD Almighty told Betsy’s angel to heal her womb.

The angel touched Betsy’s womb and removed the dead part and put a new womb in her.

Betsy touched her stomach and slightly leaned forward.

The LORD GOD Almighty was teaching the younger doctor to be observant of his patents.

The younger doctor looked at Betsy and he looked at her hand touching her stomach.

Ordinarily he would not have noticed.

But because it was Betsy he looked.

He thought, “I haven’t touched her. And I know that damn Harold better not.”

The younger doctor still looking at Betsy said, “What’s wrong Betsy?”

Betsy, passed him and walked into the house.

The younger doctor, “What is wrong with me? She said she is barren. And I am going to have her tested.”

He thought, “Unless.”

He stood and walked into the full house.

Betsy made a tired Emma move off the sofa and she laid down with her boots on.

The younger doctor saw Emma laid out on the floor. He went and got one of the shawl coverings for her.

Emma went to sleep.

He offered Mattie and Bill a blanket.

They said they were fine and the younger doctor looked at Mattie.

Mattie and Bill looked at him.

The younger doctor said, “Mattie can I look at your hands?”

Mattie was thinking he knew about Joshua.

Mattie showed the younger doctor her hands.

He looked at her hands and flipped them and over.

He looked into her eyes.

He had Mattie to look up at the ceiling and back down.

He patted her shoulder and walked into the living room and sat on the sofa where Betsy was laying.

He pulled off Betsy’s boots.

He stared at Mattie.

He spoke silently, “If you are God, please heal Mattie so she can live and be with Joshua.”

Mattie and Bill looked at the younger doctor.

Mattie was now upset.

Everyone fell asleep.

The LORD GOD Almighty said to the attendant, “Extend Mattie’s life thirteen years. Heal her of the cancer. She has to get all the bitterness and hatred out of her heart. She has Joshua back which will heal her and deliver her of the bitterness, There is much work to do to deliver her of the hatred.”

The attendant bowed.

He walked to the Strange man and said, “Mattie will not be going home in the spring.”

The strange man looked at Mattie.

The attendant walked to Mattie and removed all the cancer out of her body.

The attendant said to the strange man, “Mattie will be ill for the next thirty days, as her body is recovery from the attack of cancer on her organs.”

The younger doctor looked at Mattie and then put Betsy’s feet in his lap.

He folded his arms and went to sleep.

The little girl screamed in pain.

Mattie and Bill ran out the house down the dirt road.

Emma was crawling on the floor and calling Josh.

The younger doctor jumped up and knocked Betsy out of his lap.

He caught her before she hit the floor.

She ran to her little girl and patted her head.

Joshua was holding her little eaten hand.

The younger doctor ran and washed his hands and dried them. He took the herbs and mixed them.

He dripped the sedative into her mouth.

He waited until she calm down.

Everyone waited.

Emma sat on the floor in the living room watching Josh.

The younger doctor watched Emma and wondered how she felt to lose her only child.

He looked at Betsy who could not have children and wanted the little girl as her child.

He thought, “This is a mess. Mattie is sick unto death. This family will be wiped out in another generation. No one will be left but Joshua. Because me and Betsy can’t have any children.”

He looked at Natalie and said, “I bet she can breed like flies but who want flies.”

Natalie looked at him like she heard him.

He turned his head, because he knew he was not talking out loud and he doesn’t care if she has acute hearing.

The little girl calmed down and she moved her hand Joshua was holding and whispered, “Joshua.”

Joshua bent over and kissed her hand.

The younger doctor blinked.

He looked at Joshua and then at Betsy.

Betsy saw it but was too busy holding her stomach.

The younger doctor, said, “What’s wrong with her?”

The younger doctor thought, “I have enough patients here. I want to go to the big city to be a surgeon and make money. I want Betsy to have a big house and nice furniture and belong to the society clubs and have her business of producing her preserves. My daddy said never take your wife from what she loves.”

I want to encourage Betsy.

I want Betsy.

The “he “comes along with that evil seed.

JESUS looked at the attendant.

The little girl fell asleep.

Emma got off the floor and grabbed Joshua by the arm and said, “Let’s go.”

Joshua snatched away from Emma.

Betsy said, “Don’t Emma.”

Emma said, “You don’t have a child.”

The younger doctor was watching Joshua.

He looked at Betsy and then at Emma and said, “Whoa, sister fight.”

Then he thought what am I saying, “Bill is gone and I don’t have anyone to help me stopped them from fighting.”

He looked at Natalie and said, “Yeah, “her”.

Betsy said, “Nor you.”

Emma ran home crying.

Betsy turned to Joshua, “Go home Joshua. She knows you have been here. She probably will sleep for several days.

Joshua said, “Only because you said so.”

Joshua pulled his whistle from around his neck and put it in Betsy’s hand.

Betsy smiled.

Joshua said, “When she is awake, blew hard.”

Betsy saluted Joshua and said, “Aye aye sir.”

The younger was sitting on the floor and writing in his journal.

He got up and touched Betsy’s shoulder and said, “I’ll walk with him.”

The younger doctor was worried about Betsy, he said, “Betsy are you ok/”

Betsy said,”Just a nervous stomach.”

Joshua said, “I can stay and help the younger doctor out.”

The younger doctor pushed Joshua towards the front door.

Betsy looked at the younger doctor.

He walked Joshua out to the road and down the road.

Joshua was not talking but was skipping and happy.

It was daybreak.

They looked down the road and saw the light from Joshua’s campsite.

Joshua said, “I can make it from here.”

The younger doctor stood and watched Joshua play all the way home.

He didn’t mind waiting for Joshua to get home because he was thinking.

He thought about Mattie and her cancer. He thought about the little girl and the type of painful rehabilitation she had to endure.

He thought Joshua and getting him a bike to ride up and down the dirt road.

The younger doctor said, “I don’t have no money. The only way for me to get money is to work at the big city hospital.

He stood and was quiet and then a thought cane to him, work part at the big city hospital.

He thought he wanted to travel and show Betsy the world.

The younger doctor said out loud, “If I claim some of this land and it’s not too far from my dad.

He did not understand why the little girl was attacked. But they all seemed to know why.

He looked up in time to see Joshua wave and walked into their camp.

The younger doctor thought the little girl needs a wheelchair. And Joshua’ needs a bike.

The younger doctor said, “I can’t leave her. And “she” won’t leave. He didn’t trust anybody else. And I don’t have any money.”

When he got back to the cute house, he looked at it and said, “Even though I don’t like him, Harold has done a good job keeping up the yard.”

He walked in the house and saw Betsy hanging off the sofa with her sweeping the floor.

He looked at the little girl.

Natalie said, “Can you leave the door open?”

The younger doctor said, “No. Go outside for fresh air.”

Natalie rolled her eyes at him.

He looked at her and walked to Betsy and pulled her off the floor.

Betsy was asleep he felt on her stomach. He didn’t feel anything wrong.

He sat and thought.

Natalie got up and walked out the door.

He got up and closed the door.

He walked into the room with the little girl.

He turned and got the three water pails.

He went to the brook and carried two pails back to the front porch.

He went back and got the third pail of water and poured it the black pot he stooped down and light the pot with a match.

He went to his horse and feed and gave the water to the horse.

He took two pails of water in the house and checked on the little girl.

He went to the shed and discarded the old water.

He walked to the black pot and dipped out a basin of hot water and gave it to the Natalie.

Natalie had sat on the front porch and was swinging her legs. She had been crying.

Natalie held her head up and rolled her eyes at the younger doctor.

He said, “Natalie I don’t know what your problem is and that attendant won’t be back for nearly six months. I am not him. I mean for you to wash your body every day.”

Natalie stood up and walked into the house.

The younger doctor looked at Natalie.

She returned with a washcloth and soap,

She walked off the porch and picked up the basin of hot water and walked to the bath shed.

The younger doctor went into the house and poured cold water into his basin and washed his hands.

He stood in the bedroom door and watched the little girl.

He poured her water in a cute water basin and washed her body.

The younger doctor gave the little girl the herbs and made the paste she needed on her back.

He looked at her sheets and took them off the bed and put hem in the living room for Betsy to wash.

He covered her with one of the many knitted bed covers Mattie and Emma made for her.

He went to the chest of drawers and pulled out the last sheet of sheets.

Natalie walked back in the house with the purple dress on.

She combed and brushed her hair.

The younger doctor looked at her and finished putting the sheets on the little girl.

Natalie helped spread the sheets.

The younger doctor did not say anything.

He looked at the little girl and sat and wrote in his journal.

He stood up and said, “I’m going to get the herbs. You now how long it takes.”

It normally takes him about two hours to get the herbs and to prepare them another hour.

He has seen the real benefit of the herbs. Once he prepared the herbs they last two weeks.

Before it was a daily routine before she was healing.

He took the herbs in the house and he looked at a sleeping Betsy.

He opened the drawer and two envelopes were in the drawer with Natalie’s name and the younger doctor’s name.

The younger doctor said,”Natalie, here is an envelope with your name on it.”

Natalie got the envelope and held it in her hand.

The younger doctor sat and opened his envelope and it had a wad of cash.

Natalie then opened her envelope and she had a wad of money.

The attendant told Natalie she could leave but she had to stop running. That she had grown and did such a great job with the little girl.

Natalie looked back at the younger doctor’s horse.

The younger doctor saw her and said, “Don’t look at my horse.”

An hour later Betsy woke and sat on the sofa.

Harold knocked on the door and came in.

He said Bill rode his horse and told everyone the little girl was awake.

Harold looked at the younger doctor and said, “How is she?”

The younger doctor looked at the little girl and said, “Improving.”

Harold turned to walk out and took a long look at Betsy, who sat on the sofa with her nightgown on and long hair down her back.

The younger doctor was sitting with his legs crossed and looked at Harold.

He did not say anything because he felt he won that fight. Now he has to work on Betsy and her rejection.

The younger doctor wanted Betsy.

He lusted after Betsy.

But he wanted to truly love her better and more than the other women in his life.

Frank and Glenda rode in the wagon with Mike, Thomas and Shelia.

Thomas was not feeling well.

He was coming down with a cold.

He peeped his head inside the door and said, “Hey yall. I hear the little princess woke up.”

He began to cough.

Natalie looked at him.

The younger doctor put down his journal and said, “Thomas you got to go.”

The younger doctor walked to the door and Thomas said, “Yeah doc. I need I got a cold. I need something for it.”

The younger doctor looked around and said, “Outside. We don’t want her to get sick. We won’t know what will happen. The attendant did not leave instructions about herbs for colds.”

Thomas, said “Oh, whoa.”

The younger doctor said, “Thomas get home out of the weather and drink hit tea and stay warm.”

Thomas said, “I will do that once we get all the traps today.”

The younger doctor went to his tent and got the medical books and began to read the books about colds and pneumonia.

Betsy got up and took her basin and washcloth and soap to the bath shed.

Glenda was feeling much better and she and Frank was roasting a rabbit Shelia caught and boiled some beans.

Emma sent bread, butter and Betsy’s fig preserves.

The younger doctor walked out the house.

He remembered the attendant

 Bought the wagon for the settlement.

The younger doctor walked to Frank and Glenda and said, “We need some medicines.”

Frank said the attendant used herbs,

The younger doctor said he used herbs for the little girl and Glenda. He did not show what type of herbs to use for colds. Can you and Frank go into town tomorrow and get somethings ad turn around come back.”

Frank said “Yes.”

The younger doctor wiped out his note pad and begin to write. He saw how Frank looked at him.

He said, “Frank can you read?”

Frank said,”Not doctor’s handwriting.”

Glenda smacked his shoulder and laughed.

Frank said, “You’ll have to watch out for Glenda. There’s folks creeping in.”

The younger doctor said, “Glenda can stay here.”

Frank said, “No, because she might get comfortable in a house then I have to move in.”

The younger doctor said, “She can stay with Cate.”

Glenda looked at the younger doctor because all he wanted was Betsy. He did not want anyone else around.

The younger doctor gave the list to Frank.

Frank read the list and said, “Bike?”

Glenda was peeping and said, “Honey?”

The younger doctor wrote honey.

He said, “The medical supplies you have to get from the hospital.”

The younger doctor counted the money out and gave to Frank and said, “I want receipts.”

The younger doctor walked back in the house.

The Natalie was sitting and hearing them. She ran out the house and handed Frank some money and said get me and Glenda a new dress,”

Glenda was happy and describing the dress to Frank.

Natalie heard Shelia talking to Thomas and Harold, she said, “Get Shelia and Cate a new dress also.

Natalie reached Frank some more money and ran into the house.

Shelia heard Natalie say “Shelia”.

She looked at Glenda.

Glenda giggled and peeped back at the house and said, “A surprise.”

Shelia said, “Ok.”

They got in the wagon.

They went to Richard’s homesite and picked him up.

They went to Rex Walter ‘s tent and told him to make them in three days at noon.

Richard lit the oil lamps and Harold and Frank checked the shed.

Mike saw how Rex Walter was watching them It put fear in Mike.

It was getting cold.

Mike and frank decided to leave that night.

They left and rode all night into the evening the next day.

They immediately went to the hospital and got the medicines, wheelchair and a doctor’s bag.

Mike and Frank ran into Dr. Obersteen at the hospital.

He asked about the younger doctor and why he didn’t come.

Mike and Frank said, the little girl is awake and he did not want to leave her.

Dr. Obersteen was amazed, He said, “My word. A miracle. I want to see her. Can you bring her here?”

Frank smirked and said, “No.”

Frank did not like Dr.Obersteen because he was snooty.

Dr. Obersteen stood and was perplexed thinking the little girl was an orphaned.

Frank said, “You can’t take other people childrens.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “I thought she was an orphaned.”

Frank said, “What? Did you see her bag with the King’s symbol on it?”

Mike elbowed Frank and they left.

Dr. Obersteen saw the poster for the governor’s inauguration and as he walked home that evening, he heard the building of the stage and bleachers.

He heard wagons leaving the city and thought about leaving to get away from “Thelma.”

He stood and listened to the construction, people were excited and passing by him giggling.

Mike and Frank walked into the hotel as Dr.Obersteen passed them going home.

He looked and saw Mike and Frank.

They were talking.

All they had to pick up were the dresses for the women and some hay for the horses.

Mike said we should make it back by midnight.

Frank looked at Mike, because he wanted to get back to Glenda.

Dr. Obersteen thought his two mentors have done well. He will recommend them to medical school.

He thought,”If I leave the big city, what will I do with my apartment I love my view.”

He sat and looked at the lights being lit.

He could not rest.

He got up and started packing his closets and boxing up his things, especially his suits.

The apartment clerk knocked on his door.

Dr.Obersteen opened the door.

The apartment clerk looked and saw where Dr. Obersteen had packed nearly all of his stuff.

The apartment clerk was becoming nervous because an apartment maybe vacant.

Dr. Obersteen said, “I want this apartment. I will leave until this inauguration is over. How do I keep this apartment?”

The clerk said, “Pay your rent and have someone else live in it until you return.”

Dr. Obersteen said , “Fine.”

Dr.Obersteen closed the door and thought ”I don’t know anyone to leave in my apartment until I get back.”

He sat and tried to figure it out.

He walked downstairs and paid the rent for three months. He waited for his receipt.

Dr, Obersteen left the apartment and went to breakfast at Lydia He ran into April and Samuel.

He walked to their table and said, “Good morning.”

Samuel and April were excited and said, “Good morning.”

Dr. Obersteen began to pull the chair and said, “May I?”

The children said “Yes.”

April was giddy.

DR. Obersteen said, “I’m going out of town for the inauguration. Do you think you can stay in my apartment until I return?”

Samuel and April starred at Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Oh I have paid the rent for three months.”

The children smiled and April said, “Yes.”

Samuel looked at April.

Dr. Obersteen said, “I was talking to Samuel.”

Samuel said, “Dr. Obersteen we are a pair.”

Dr. Obersteen was about to leave when he heard Mike and Frank walked pass.

Dr. Obersteen, said “Ok.”

He took the children to his apartment and introduced them to the apartment clerk.

He showed them his apartment and the children were impressed.

Dr. Obersteen went to the hospital and told the city hospital administrator he to leave town until the inauguration was over.

The city hospital administrator looked at Dr. Obersteen and said, The governor’s wife?”

Dr. Obersteen could not speak.

The city hospital administrator said, “Well you did finish your project. If I have any questions how do I contact you?”

Dr. Obersteen, “You won’t be able to reach me. I am going to the country.”
He pulled out his note pad and Samuel and Zachery names and said, “They were my assistants, I’m going to recommend them for medical school this coming fall.”

Dr. Obersteen handed the city hospital administrator the contact information.

The city hospital administrator was impressed and said, “Dr.Obersteen you have out done yourself.”

Dr. Obersteen was walking to the door.

The city hospital administrator said, “Dr. Obersteen, how long will you be gone?”

Dr. Obersteen sighed and turned around and smiled, “From today until the inauguration is over.”

The city hospital administrator said, “Thirty days. I guess we can get by and especially since I have your assistants contact information.”

Dr. Obersteen closed the door.

The city hospital administrator’s secretary was watching Dr. Obersteen.

He nodded to her and close the outside door to the office.

He ran down the stairs.

He hired a wagon that morning as they sat at Lydia.

Dr. Obersteen went by the medical library and check out a number of books for him to read.

He thought about what he could take the younger doctor as a gift

He got several dozens of eggs.

He saw Mike and Frank with a medical bag and he packed his medical bag and put the books in the wagon. The book on herbs he kept out.

He packed several pairs of jeans and many flannel shirts and underwear.

He bought several pairs of socks from April and decided to give the younger doctor a pair.

He was leaving the city as the governor’s entourage was coming into the city.

The governor sent his wife before him to make sure all arrangements were very good and well pleasing to him.

Thelma was in the carriage with their three children.

She was looking out the window when she saw a familiar stride.

Thelma watched the single male rider and recognize the way he rode.

She had not seen John in fifteen years.

She knew him by the way he rode his horse.

Thelma stared at the lone rider as he approached her coach.

She sat and watched him to take in a long view of her true love.

Her children were fussing amongst themselves.

Their nanny was trying to break up their fighting.

Thelma would not allow anything especially her children to distract her final

Look upon her true love.

She stared at John and she felt he knew she was looking.

She sat prim and proper, looking out the window.

The nanny watched Thelma.

Thelma took a moment and looked at her three children and wondered if they would behave different if they were John’s children.

She knew they would have been spoiled terribly.

She smiled.

She saw the nanny trying to peep at the man who passed.

Thelma knew she would never see John Obersteen again, because the next stop was Washington DC and later the White House.

Dr.Obersteen kept his head straight to not look at her if she was in the carriage.

He made it to the Betsy’s town.

He spent the night outside the town.

He used one quilt to keep his horse warm and the other two quilts to keep him warm from the freezing air.

The next morning, he did not make coffee but got on the horse and rode for hours to the new settlement.

Mike and Frank made it back last night.

They drove the wagon to the cute house and unloaded it.

The hired wagon was at the entrance to the new settlement and the hired drivers slept in the wagon waiting for him.

Dr. Obersteen rode up to the drivers and said, “Good morning. Follow me.”

He rode through the new settlement.

Richard was looking at him, because his homesite was the first in the new settlement.

Dr. Obersteen nodded at Richard.

Richard said, “He’s back.”

He looked at his supply wagon and wondered what he had.

Ricard continued to sweep his yard and thought about what Dr. Obersteen could be bringing.

He put down his broom and went into his tent and put on his coat.

He then remembered they were to meet Rex Walter.

Dr. Obersteen passed Frank, Glenda and Cate.

He titled his hat and keep riding to the cute house.

Frank turned his head.

Glenda and Cate smiled and spoke.

Once Dr. Obersteen and his supply wagon passed.

Glenda whispered to Cate, “That’s an old money man for you.”

Cate whispered back to Glenda and Frank said I can hear you. I don’t like him. He is snooty. What kind of doctor is he?”

Glenda said, “A well to do one.”

Cate and Gena whispered all the way to Richard’s homesite.

They saw Mike driving the wagon with Shelia and Thomas meeting them.

Shelia looked and said, “Dr. Obersteen.”

She looked at Mike and said, “Is he moving back?”

Mike said, “I don’t know nothing about nothing.”

Thomas tapped Shelia’s knees.

She knew that meant to leave it alone and say nothing else.

Thomas began to cough.

Mike said, “Thomas maybe you should have stayed at home.”

Shelia said, “He’s here now. But once this is over you take some more cough syrup and stay in bed until you are this thing.”

They all ran into Rex Walter who rode his horse.

The children’s father rode his horse to the meeting.

Dr. Obersteen rode to the yard of the cute house

And the supply wagon stood in the road.

The younger doctor heard a wagon.

He stood and walked outside.

Dr. Obersteen was walking in the yard.

The younger doctor and Dr, Obersteen shook hands.

The younger doctor looked at the supply wagon and said, “Thelma?”

Dr. Obersteen turned his head.

Betsy walked to the door and saw Dr. Obersteen and walked back inside.

Betsy said to Natalie,”Your friend.”

Natalie turned around and saw Dr. Obersteen and turned to Betsy and said, “What is he doing here?”

Betsy said, “I don’t know.”

They continued to watch the little girl.

Dr.Obersteen and the younger doctor turned to look at Betsy.

Betsy did not speak.

Dr. Obersteen, “I saw Frank and Mike they told me the little girl was awake. Can I see her?”

The younger doctor pointed and said, “You see those two.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Can I camp here for thirty days?”

The younger doctor said, “Sure.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Where is the attendant?”

The younger doctor smirked and said, “He said he was going home for the winter and come back in the spring.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Why did you smirk?”

The younger doctor said, “I did not realize I did that.”

Dr. Oberstee said ,”Yes you did. You have to be careful, especially if you join the hospital staff. They are vipers.”

Natalie was repeating the entire conversation to Betsy.

The little girl giggle.

Betsy and Natalie stopped talking.

They yelled.

Both doctors ran into the bedroom.

Betsy and Natalie were touching he little girl’s legs.

Betsy turned to the younger doctor and said, “She giggled.”

The younger doctor smirked.

Betsy said, “I am not a liar.”

Natalie looked at the younger doctor.

He looked back at Natalie.

The little girl whispered, “Mommy.”

The doctors were stunned and moved closer to the little girl’s bed.

The younger doctor looked at his journal on the dresser and reached over Betsy to get it.

He thought, “She going to knock me out for reaching over her.”

The younger doctor whispered, “Excuse me.”

Natalie rolled her eyes at him.

He looked at Natalie.

Betsy walked over towards the younger doctor to get closer to the little girl.

The little girl said, “Mommy.”

Betsy said, “I’m here.”

The little girl wiggled here fingers.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Fascinating!”

Natalie and Betsy rolled their eyes at him.

Betsy turned back to her baby.

The younger doctor was watching and opened his journal.

The little girl wiggled her fingers again.

Betsy looked but did not understand what the little girl wanted.

She looked at Natalie.

Natalie shook her head.

Betsy touched her baby’s back and said, “I’m here.”

The little girl touched Betsy’s stomach and said, “Mommy,” she fell back asleep.

Betsy smiled in the midst of her tears.

Natalie could not think about what just happen.

The younger doctor looked at the little girl and wondered how she knew Betsy could not have children.

He looked at Betsy who was so thrilled the little girl was healing she did not listen to what the little girl said.

The younger doctor wrote down in his journal the little girl woke and said “Mommy” he put no more details.

The hired drivers knocked on the front door.

The younger doctor stood and walked around Betsy.

Dr. Obersteen reached for his journal.

The younger doctor gave Dr. Obersteen his journal.

Dr. Obersteen started reading the journal.

The hired drivers said, “Is all well?”

Dr. Obersteen lifted up his head and said, “Oh yes.”

He looked at the younger doctor.

The younger doctor said, “You know I want you to be on the end near Mike. It’s something there. I just don’t know what. I just need your eyes and ears.”

Dr.Obersteen said, “Not only the local doctor but the keeper of the locals.”

He looked at the hired drivers.

Dr. Obersteen reached the younger doctor his journal as he walked down the steps.

Dr. Obersteen turned to the younger doctor and said “Where?”

The younger doctor said, “Exactly seven and a half miles down this road.”

Dr. Obersteen was walking to his horse.

The drivers were in the wagon.

Natalie yelled, “Hey.”

Dr. Obersteen thought the little girl had become conscious.

He was running back to the house and yelled to the hired drivers, “Can you set up my tent? I’ll pay you.”

The younger ran into the house at a staggering Betsy, who was holding her stomach.

The younger doctor caught her as she hit the floor.

Natalie said, “Damn. I could have done that.”

The younger doctor looked at Natalie as he picked Betsy up from the floor.

Dr. Obersteen ran passed them going to the sleeping little girl.

Natalie said to Dr. Obersteen, “Where are you going?”

Dr. Obersteen was looking at the little girl.

Natalie nodded her head backwards and said, “He needs your help.”

Dr. Obersteen looked at Natalie and walked back to the younger doctor who was holding Betsy and put her on the sofa.

Dr. Obersteen looked at Natalie who was looking at him and said, “What an obnoxious woman.”

Natalie said, “I don’t know what that means but I know that’s its ugly.”

The younger doctor was really concerned about Betsy.

He knew Mattie was terminally ill.

He knew something was wrong with Mike.

Thomas had something and Glenda was terminal, but was doing better.

He thought he could not lose Betsy.

He stood up and looked at Dr. Obersteen and said, “Do not pay her any attention. I need you to see if you can find out what is wrong with my future wife.”

Natalie turned and smiled to herself.

She was happy for Betsy, even though she could not stand the younger doctor.

She knew when they were in the big city, she saw him looking at wedding dresses and apartments.

Natalie thought, “That;

 ‘s why the attendant had to go back into the big city because the younger doctor did not buy himself any supplies because he was going to take Betsy back to the big city to live.

Natalie held her head and said, “Whoa.”

She giggled and stretched her legs out in front of her and shook them in excitement and cold not wait for Betsy to come to so she could tell her.

Natalie giggled to herself.

Then she heard the younger doctor say, “I need you to examine Betsy and see what is going on with her stomach. I did and could not determine anything.”

Natalie turned around and said, “I don’t you two are supposed to be doing that.”

The doctors yelled at Natalie to shut up.

Natalie stood up and walked into the living room.

Dr. Obersteen put up his fists.

The younger doctor looked at him.

Natalie looked at him and blew at his attempt to scare her.

Natalie said, “I may not know much. But when I sat with patients I was told the doctors could not do anything without the patient’s consent.”

The younger doctor heard something he did not know.

He saw Natalie’s concern for Betsy.

He said very sternly, “I am the doctor. Betsy is my concern. Take care of the little girl.”

Natalie looked at the passed out Betsy and then at the pompous Dr.Obersteen.

She walked back into the bedroom and closed the door.

The younger doctor looked at the door and was amazed a door was there.

He thought how could he not have observed the door.

Dr. Obersteen walked over to the younger doctor.

The younger doctor nodded at the water basin.

Dr. Obersteen washed his hands and came over and began to exam Betsy.

The younger doctor stood in the doorway and watched.

Natalie was so nervous for her friend she stood at the bedroom door.

She did not say anything because she knew the little girl could hear.

Dr. Obersteen was considered one of the best doctors in the state.

The younger doctor knew if anything was wrong he would find it.

Dr. Obersteen finished his examine of Betsy.

He had a worried look on his face and got up and washed his hands.

Natalie had her ear to the door so she could hear.

The younger doctor looked at the door and the floor to see where she Natalie was, but could not tell.

The younger doctor extended his arm to walk outside.

Dr. Obersteen looked back at the closed door and looked at the younger doctor wondering that the woman could not hear.

The younger doctor said, “Trust me.”

Natalie did not want to open the door.

She laid flat on the floor and put her ear to the threshold.

The younger doctor said, “You look concerned.”

Dr. Obersteen was standing with his arms folded and said, “Not much.”

The younger doctor looked at him because he did not say anything else.

The younger doctor said, “John. What is it?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “It’s really is cold .”

The younger doctor said, “John.”

He ooked at Dr. OBersteen.

Dr. Obersteen, said, “Do you have a relationship with her?”

The younger doctor was embrassed and said, “Yes.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “The little girl was right.”

The younger doctor said, “What are you talking about?”

Dr. Obersteen said,”Betsy is pregnant.”

The younger doctor stood nailed to the front porch.

Natalie nearly screamed.

She could not move, if she did they would know she was eavesdropping.

She slid backwards and stood up and danced in the floor for Betsy.

Betsy was her friend and she desired to have a baby even if it is with that ass.

The little girl giggled.

Natalie leaned over and whispered in the little girl’s ear you were right.

Natalie kissed the little girl on the cheek.

The little girl would be present in the LORD GOD Almighty throne room.

She would hear decisions and she would present her petitions.

Betsy was coming to.

Dr. Obersteen cracked the door open and saw Betsy sitting up.

He told the younger doctor, “Her womb is soft. You have to be careful not to tear it or put stress on it.”

The younger doctor looked could not think.

He said, “She was barren.”

Dr. Obersteen, “Not anymore.”

He stepped in the house and got his coat and brought the water basin and gave to the younger doctor.

Dr. Obersteen reached in his pocket and said, “Here.”

The younger doctor’s hand was full.

Dr. Obersteen put three whistles in the younger doctor’s shirt pocket.

Dr. Obersteen, said you keep one whistle, give a whistle to a homesite close to you and then to the last homesite. It’s a way to communicate, especially if there is a problem.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Dad.”

The younger doctor gave a half witted smile

Dr. Obersteen and rode to his tent.

The hired drivers set up Dr. Obersteen tents.

They set the larger one with his full bed and rugs and extra insulation.

The next tent was his and the horse supplies.

Dr. Obersteen gave the hired drivers a very large tip.

The hired drivers were so excited.

They were suppose to leave in the morning but decided to leave that night so they could spend their tip drinking.

Dr. Obersteen began to dress for the night.

He heard someone calling him.

He went to the tent door and it was Harold.

He said, “Harold, what do you want?”

Harold said, “Everyone wants to know how long you will staying.”

Dr.Obersteen said, “Thirty days. I just wanted to avoid that inauguration mess.”

Harold yelled, “Woman trouble he’ll leaving soon.”

The rowdy people clapped.

Dr.Obersteen pulled his tent door closed.

Harold put an oil lamp stick outside Dr. Obersteen area.

Harold said, “Hey ya’ll will call this our visitor area.”

The rowdy group clapped and cheered.

Dr. Obersteen shook his head.

He was thinking about the younger doctor.

He laughed when the younger doctor said, “He’ll say the baby is Harold’s.”

Dr. Obersteen stopped laughing and looked back at his door and said, “No child deserve that.”

Harold was outside making sure the oil lamp stick was stable and he thought he heard Dr. Obersteen say something but since he could not make it out he left.

Dr. Obersteen was putting his clothes away in the dresser he had them to bring, He put his many books on the dresser.

He poured a big glass of vodka and got one of the books to begin reading.

He looked around and said, “Not much light.”

He went outside and build a fire with the wood he brought.

He wrapped one of the quilts around him and sat and sipped his vodka and read his book until the wee hours of the morning.

Dr. Obersteen added a few more pieces of wood and went into his tent and crawled into his full bed and went to sleep.