The little girl had crawled out of bed.

She crawled passed Joshua into the living room where Betsy and Wes were sleep.

Betsy was sleeping on top of Wes on the sofa.

Her hair was all over Wes’s chest.

The little girl could see them from the fireplace light.

She looked at the front door and remembered JESUS told her she was being disobedient to Wes, because he told her not to go out the front door.

Wes felt something.

JESUS said, “Wes.”

Wes shook himself and woke.

He laid still and his sleep was taken from him.

He laid and let his eyes look over every inch of the house.

He let his ears listen.

He heard breathing towards the front door.

Wes saw a small figure moving towards the front door.

He raised his head and looked hard.

He saw the figure reaching and Betsy whispered into Wes’ ears, “Get her Wes.”

Wes pushed Betsy off him and eased and sat on the sofa.

He watched Angelica trying to open the front door.

Wes reached and lit the lamp.

Angelica sat still.

Wes looked at her.

Joshua stood in the bedroom door and rubbed his eyes and looked at Angelica.

Betsy sat on the sofa next to Wes.

Angelica did not know what to do.

No one said anything.

Wes did not know what to think or say.

Joshua said, “Angelica, what are you doing? Wes told you the soldiers would shoot you. The dogs have eaten you up now you want to be shot? If you are hardheaded God won’t hear you. That’s why you are still sick. You are hardheaded.”

Angelica said, “The people in the next town needs prayer.”

Joshua said, “Who are you talking to. I am back here.”

Joshua did not know Wes and Betsy were awake and looking at Angelica.

Betsy said, “Angelica, go to bed.”

Joshua walked in the living room and saw Wes and Betsy sitting on the sofa and they had turned on the lamp.

Angelica started crying.

Wes’ heart hit him.

JESUS was watching Angelica.

HE saw she earnestly wanted to pray for the people in the next town, because she felt they were in trouble.

JESUS said, “Wes help her to the window and you and Betsy go back to sleep.”

Wes stood and walked to angelica and picked her up.

He felt her heart was broken because she thought he was taking her to bed.

He carried her to her bed and got a blanket.

Joshua was behind them.

Wes rubbed Joshua’s head.

Betsy could barely keep her eyes open.

She heard Wes walking back in the living room,

When she looked he was holding Angelica.

Wes her in the chair and turned it and opened the curtain so she could look out the window.

Joshua had gotten his quilt from the floor and wrapped it around himself and went to the other chair and turned it around so he could look out the window with Angelica.

Wes looked at Joshua and silently cried he thought, “What a pure love this boy has in his heart for her.”

Betsy watched them, her family.

Angelica reached for Wes.

Wes bent and she kissed him on his cheek.

Wes relished in her kiss.

Betsy watched.

Joshua said, “Isn’t this better Angelica than being shot and dying because you were disobedient to Wes and GOD?”

Wes went back to the sofa and laid down.

He was watching Angelica and Joshua.

Joshua put his head on the windowsill and went to sleep.

Betsy was messing with Wes.

He hit her hand and whispered, “Go to sleep.”

Betsy pouted.

Wes kissed Betsy.

He looked at Betsy’s wristwatch, it was two a.m.

He held Betsy and watched Angelica and Joshua.

Wes knew they could never be married. He thought, “GOD Knows that. Why has HE let them become so close and have pure love for each other. I don’t know what to think.”

He and Betsy went to sleep.

Wes heard a scream and it was Thelma.

He was thinking< “I can’t understand this.”

He pushed Betsy over and jumped from the sofa.

Angelica looked back at Wes.

Wes was putting on his pants.

Angelica said, “Daddy Wes.”

Wes sat to put his boots.

His hand slipped off his boot and he early fell off the sofa.

Betsy heard Angelica.

Betsy raised her head to see Wes’s facial expression.

Wes said, “Angelica why you call me daddy.?’

Angelica said, “You feed me, you wash me, you buy me clothes, you take care of my sores, you stop the pain, you healed my back, you keep the soldiers from shooting me, you protected me from my crazy family and you LOVE me.”

Betsy held her husband.

Wes was stunned.

Joshua said, “Go to sleep Angelica.”

Angelica said, “That lady has a piece of tin in her stomach.”

Wes stood and said, “You know where?”

Betsy looked at her husband and said, “Wes?” She was thinking you are listening to a child.

Wes was at the front door.

The little girl stood and pointed under her rib.

Joshua said, “You’re, listening to a hardheaded disobedient Angelica.”

Angelica started crying and crawled back in her chair.

Joshua said, “Theatrics.”

He shook his head and put it back on the windowsill.

Angelica said, “I asked JESUS to forgive me for being hardheaded. HE said HE will hear me know. HE told me to tell Wes why the lady was still screaming, because Wes was worried.”

Wes said, “Angelica I was worried. Thank you.”

He looked hard at Betsy.

Dr. Obersteen ran to the front door and Wes was opening the door.

Betsy peeped around Wes.

Her hair was all over her head.

Dr. Obersteen said, “There’s a problem.”

He and Wes ran out the house.

The soldiers knew there was a problem.

Wes went to a convulsing Thelma.

Dr. Obersteen was holding Thelma down.

David said, “Please. Thelma.”

Wes ran to David and patted him and said, “We are going to help her.”

Wes washed his hand and got his surgical kit he put together.

He started looking at Thelma’s original chart.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Wes?”

Wes did not say anything.

Wes turned and put Thelma’s chart on her legs.

Dr. Obersteen began taking her vitals.

Betsy ran out the house and wrapped in a quilt and she sat on the porch and was crying.

The soldiers saw her because it was day breaking.

Betsy was rocking and crying.

Joshua and Angelica came out the house.

The soldiers were looking at Angelica because they were told she was sick.

The cooks looked up at the house.

Joshua ran into the house and got several blankets for Angelica.

Betsy, Angelica and Joshua were praying for the children’s mother.

Wes hard on Thelma.

He did not put under anesthesia because he was scared she would die.

Before Wes started he searched her wounds.

He felt a small thing it was near her ribs.

He cleaned the area.

He looked at Dr. Obersteen, he cut Thelma and she screamed.

Her blood went everywhere.

Wes put his hand in her rib area, he felt a small thing. He eased it out, a piece of a bullet.

He looked at Dr. Obersteen.

He continued to work the area and he found another piece under her rib, he put it on her leg.

Wes continued and felt something in her bone. He worked until he got it out.

Wes looked over at the blood and said, “John give her blood and we are going to need much more.”

Dr. Obersteen shooked his head for yes.

Wes looked at John.

Newsom started screaming.

Bruce started screaming.

The lead commander was entering the yard with several men.

He saw Betsy’s hair and he heard the screaming and his heart sunk.

Skip quickly dismounted his horse.

The lead soldier ran to get his horse.

The lead commander said, “What’s going on?”

The lead soldier who was Terry said, “We don’t know. We are not allowed in the governor’s tent. IT’s bad.”

He commanders could not tell who was screaming.

Angelica held Betsy’s hand.

Betsy said, “No. Angelica she has children asked JESUS to save her so her children can live. I know what it is like not to have a mother. Look at Emma and Mattie.”

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST were standing on the front porch.

They had just Angelica’s GOD ‘s Word for her for that day, before she and Joshua came on the front porch.

JESUS walked to the governor’s tent.

The HOLY GHOST stood with HIM.

There was a holy angel standing by JESUS.

The holy angels watched JESUS and the HOLY GHOST.

JESUS said, “I will give her five years, so she can make things right with her children. She will not die from this. I will show Wes what to do.”

The HOLY GHOST disappeared.

Thelma’s holy angel disappeared.

JESUS in a vision showed Wes where the last piece of bullet was and how to stop the bleeding.

Wes was so scared he had caused Thelma to die.

Skip and the commanders looked at Betsy and passed them and walked to the governor’s tent.

Terry walked with them and opened the tent door.

Wes and Dr. Obersteen did not look up.

Wes cleaned the area and he felt the area over and over.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Wes.”

Wes looked at Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen said, “You have done a very good job. Now it is left up to GOD. Close her up.”

Wes started stitching Thelma up.

The commanders stood and looked.

Terry ran out fell on his knees and threw up near the brook.

Thelma’s body was exposed.

Wes cleaned her up and put all the waste on the sheet she had on.

Dr. Obersteen say the commanders, he was devasted.

He was getting Thelma’s IV and loading it with medicine.

Wes took all the waste and rolled up the sheet and pulled it off the bed.

His hands were bloodied.

He looked up and saw the commanders and put the sheet back down on Thelma’s naked body.

Wes pulled off his surgical gloves and put them in the trash.

He went and got a clean sheet and put it on Thelma.

He moved the sheet and threw it in the trash.

Thelma closed her eyes.

Wes and Dr. Obersteen stood still.

The commanders stood still and watched Thelma.

They were also watching Dr. Obersteen and Wes.

Wes closed his eyes and said, “Thank You JESUS.”

Dr. Obersteen looked said, “Thelma.”

Wes looked at the commanders.

Bruce father looked at Bruce and nodded for Wes to see about him.

He could not stand to hear the torment Bruce was in.

The commanders walked out the tent.

Dr. Obersteen at Thelma with his bowed in thanksgiving to GOD.

David said,”Wes.”

Wes walked over to David and patted him.

Wes said, “David, can you hear me. Open your eyes and look at me.”

David, “I don’t want to.”

Wes laughed and patted David’s shoulder.

Wes began to work on David.

Wes had made each patient their individual container.

He would go through each container and replenish it.

Dr. Obersteen walked to Newsom and began to work on Newsom.

It took over thirty minutes for Dr. Obersteen to finish with Newsom. He gave him blood and an IV.

Wes looked up and saw the commander still standing in the tent.

Dr. Obersteen walked pass the commander and pulled his gloves off and went to the shelf and got a clean sheet and put on Newsom.

Davis opened his eyes and saw Skip.

David whispered, “Skip.”

Wes looked at the commander.

The commander walked to David.

David barely could open his eyes.

He struggled to open his eyes.

Skip walked over and touch David.

David made his eyes turn up to look at Skip.

David whispered, “Thelma. Alive.”

The commander said, “Yes.”

Wes and Dr. Obersteen began to work on Bruce.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Commander we need blood.”

The commander looked at Dr. Obersteen.

David laughed.

Wes stopped working on Bruce and looked at David.

Dr. Obersteen peeped over at David.

The commander did not know what Dr. Obersteen was saying.

David whispered, “Volunteers.”

Skip looked at Wes and Dr. Obersteen and knew for David to laugh he was out of danger.

David said, “I want to stand.”

Wes said, “Not now David. We are helping Bruce.”

David said, “He always get the attention.”

Betsy heard Skip’s heartfelt laugh.

She held her head up and stood.

She ran passed the commanders and into the governor’s tent.

Wes knew it was Betsy.

Wes said, “Betsy I know that’s you. It’s ok. Go back to the house. It’s freezing cold.”

Betsy looked at Wes and then Bruce, who was screaming.

Then to Skip and she peeped at David.

Betsy saw David’s eyes opened and said, “The man that has replaced me in my husband’s bed.”

Wes was so shocked and he stopped and turned and looked at the governor

Skip burst out in laughter.

David said, “I like her.”

Skip continued to laugh.

Bruce said, “Dad. Death.”

Skip walked over and spoke in Bruce’s ear, “No. You gonna let David beat you.”

Bruce continued to scream.

The commander touch Wes’ shoulder and said, “I want to be here and help David stand.”

David said, “There’s a wheelchair in the house. Betsy.”

The commander walked to Betsy and she took his arm and he kissed the top of her head.

They walked to the house.

The commander said this is really a very cute house.

Betsy said, “It to have changed since we came.”

The commander had a prick in his heart.

The commander looked at Betsy and said, “Strange.”

The cooks brought hot coffee to the commanders.

The troop looked at the cooks.

The cooks had a tray for the house.

Wes told them eggs, oatmeal and toast and juice and milk with honey for the little girl.

A commander said, “They need help.”

One of the commanders said, “No one is trained like them.”

Another commander said, “They really care about their patients.”

Betsy pointed behind the chest.

The commander reached for the wheelchair as the cooks were entering the house with the breakfast tray.

Betsy cut her eyes at the cooks because she knew they were trying to score points with the lead commander.

The lead commander said, “Put the breakfast tray on the coffee table. Have you fed the troops?”

One cook said, “The line will be opened when we get back Sir.”

The commander turned and looked at them and they flew out the house.

Joshua looked at the cooks and said, “Hot coco with whipped cream for lunch.”

The cooks looked back at Joshua.

Angelica said, “Two.”

Betsy heard Angelica.

The commander peeped out the door he said, “That’s the little girl the governor’s kids talk about.”

Betsy looked at Skip.

Joshua did a double look at Angelica and said, “Your being disobedient again. GOD wont’ hear you and we all would be in trouble.”

Angelica looked at Joshua and said, “What are you saying Joshua?”

Joshua said, “You know what I am saying Angelica, Wes said no to coco.”

Angelica said, “DR. Obersteen gave me some.”

Joshua said, “So I could snap out of my sadness.”

The commander was standing and listening.

He looked at Betsy.

The commander said, “I’ll wait for you to brush your hair and put on a dress. The governor wants to stand. I want it to be memorable for the troop.”

The commander kept the front door opened.

Betsy ran into the bedroom and undressed.

Skip kept his head out the door and he shook the thought of peeping out of his head.

He looked at the little girl, that was teaching the governor’s children to pray and be safe.

Betsy slipped on her blue dress Wes bought her and put on her boots and brushed her hair.

Skip was listening to his commanders.

He thought Wes did need help.

Betsy put on a heavy shawl.

The lead commander said, “Better.”

Betsy said, “Better?”

She and the lead commander walked out the house.

He had the wheelchair.

The commanders turned and looked.

Joshua said to the commander,”Where you’re going with the wheelchair?”

Angelica turned and looked back and said, “That’s mine.”

Joshua said,”Aunt Betsy where are you going?”

The lead commander looked at Angelica and said, “Let me borrow this for now. I will return it.”

JESUS said to Angelica, “Release it.”

Angelica said, “OK.”

Joshua stared at Angelica, like you going to let him take your wheelchair.

Joshua said, “You still haven’t told me where you are going Aunt Betsy.”

Betsy said,”To the governor’s tent.”

Joshua yelled, “Why?”

The lead commander said underneath his breath, “I swear Bruce and Andrew.”

Betsy laughed, “Which is which?”

The commander said, “I can’t tell yet.”

The lead commander shook his head.

He said, “Have you told Wes about us.”

Betsy said, “Oh. No. He’ll be putting me out.”

The lead commander said, “One day I want to talk to you about it.”

The troop was passing back and forth from breakfast, they saw the lead commanders and the wheelchair.

They did not know what to think.

Betsy was smiling.

She had her hair down.

Joshua was standing up on the porch so he could see.

Angelica was wrapped in her blankets looking.

The lead commander said, “The governor wants to stand. But he can’t do so yet. I am going to take him the wheelchair.”

The lead commander looked around and said to the troop, “Where is your lead soldier?”

The soldiers looked around for Terry.

One soldier walked away and found Terry.

He said, “Terry the commanders want you now.”

Terry washed his face and rinsed his mouth.

The soldier said, “Here drink some coffee to get rid of that vomit breath.”

Terry drank some coffee and walked to the governor’s tent and saw the commanders.

The commanders looked at him.

The older driver and Bishop’s family were leaving their campsite to meet Danny to look at houses.

Danny was waiting at the dirt road that led to the command post’

The older driver saw the commanders and he stopped he wagon and looked.

He said to his wife, “I hope nothing has happened to the governor.”

The older driver jumped out the wagon.

He was walking around his wagon to go to the yard.

His wife called him and said, “Help me out the wagon.”

He kept walking.

He said to himself, “Keep your nosey ass in there.”

She rolled her eyes at him and start getting out the wagon.

Bishop’s family pulled up.

Bishop’s wife asked her, “What are you doing?”

The older driver’s wife said, “I think something is going on with the governor.”

The commanders walked to the governor’s tent.

Betsy stood outside the governor’s tent.

Danny was standing and could see them.

Bishop’s wife and her brother got out the wagon and ran into the yard.

Danny said,”Where are they going?”

Then he thought, “The governor.”

He sped down the dirt road and reached the yard.

He got off his horse and looked towards the governor’s tent.

He saw Terry standing by the commanders.

The older driver looked at the house and saw Joshua standing and peeping.

He saw Angelica seated and covered in many blankets.

He walked over and said, “Good morning,”

Joshua said, “Hello.”

He bent over and said, “Hello sweetheart.”

Angelica flashed her big smile.

It melted his heart.

He said, “I can sit next to you?”

Angelica grinned.

The older driver sat next to her and opened his pocket and gave her a sucker.

Joshua started waving his fingers.

The older driver looked up at Joshua and saw his wife who was stnding staring at the scarred little girl.

He looked at Angelica looking at his wife.

He said, “Speak.”

His wife said, “Hello.”

Angelica looked at her.

Betsy felt something in her heart and she turned and saw the woman looking at Angelica.

She turned and walked fast to Angelica.

The older driver was looking at his wife, like he did not know who she was.

Bishop’s wife and her brother ran into the yard.

Betsy saw Danny dismounting his horse.

Betsy stood in front of Angelica and said to the older driver’s wife, “Why are you in my yard?”

The older driver looked at his wife then Betsy.

He stood from the steps and said, “Betsy this is my wife, Naomi and my brother’s wife Cyndi and her brother Marcus.”

Betsy did not move to welcome them.

Betsy said to the woman, “Why are you in my yard?”

The older driver watched Betsy and then his wife.

He said, “I thought something was going on with the governor and I stopped. Sorry for the intrusion.”

The Craig, the older driver, saw Danny.

Betsy watched them out the yard.

Bishop’s wife and brother jumped in their wagon and Craig and Naomi got in their wagon.

Naomi continued to stare at Angelica.

Angelica stared at Naomi.

Betsy moved her body to cover the side of Angelica that faced the dirt road.

The strange man watched everyone.

The attendant wrote each person’s thought against Angelica.

Michael watched Naomi.

He turned and zoomed I on her twins, Clara’s beau and his twin brother the captain.

He looked at the captain’s wife and their two blond sons, who were happy and playing with their mother in their yard. She missed her husband, who loved being in the field with the troops.

She thought his mother was not helping her like she told her son she would.

The captain missed his wife and their two sons.

But he made up the time with training his troop and fighting with his brother.

Michael wondered

The older driver pulled off, followed by Bishop’s family two wagons.

Craig could not understand why Naomi was acting like that and with a child.

He told her the little girl was attacked by wild dogs and were really hurt.

Joshua was looking at the governor’s tent and back to Betsy and the older driver and his wife.

He said, “Aunt Betsy, were they trying to hurt Angelica?”

Betsy said, “Yes.”

Joshua said, “You see Angelica you have to be obedient so JESUS can keep the bad people away.”

Angelica looked at Danny.

Joshua turned around and looked at Danny.

Danny heard them saying Bishop’s family was bad people.

Danny walked over to Betsy and said, “Good morning.”

Angelica was peeping around Betsy looking at Danny.

Danny saw two of the commanders watching him.

When Betsy walked back to the house, the commanders turned and watched the people walked in the yard.

Danny said, “Ma am, I am Danny . I have been assigned by the captain to show Bishop’s family around the town to his grave…”

He swallowed and continued and “Vacant houses and lands in the towns. I am a good person and I saw them run into the yard. I wanted to make sure the governor was alive.”

Betsy looked at him.

Angelica pulled on Betsy’s dress.

Betsy looked at Danny.

Danny saw Angelica holding onto Betsy’s dress and peeping around Betsy at him.

He said to Angelica, “Good morning little lady.”

Angelica looked at him with her big brown eyes.

Joshua said, “Aunt Betsy their coming out the tent.”

Danny walked to the governor’s tent.

Wes and Dr. Obersteen had completed working on Bruce.

Wes used the water for their hands and washed David’s face and brushed his hair.

They wrapped the governor in a blanket and Dr. Obersteen held his IV.

The lead commander said, “Wes how long?”

Wes said, “A minute.”

The lead commander pushed the governor out the tent.

The governor had lost weight.

The commanders stood around the governor.

The lead commander saw Danny. He looked at Danny.

Danny was one of the soldiers selected by the lead commander to escape with the governor and his wife.

Danny looked at the commander and then at the governor. He wondered about the first lady.

The lead commander told the members of the troop to hurry to the governor’s tent.

The governor was wrapped in a blanket.

Wes put all the stuff to be burned in the trash barrel.

He put all the sheets and blankets to be washed in the chair.

He wiped David’s bed down with alcohol.

David was able to hold his head up a little. He could see the soldiers feet and part of their legs.

He whispered, “Thank you.”

He began to cry.

Danny walked away.

He was satisfied.

He passed Betsy and reached into his pocket and pulled out a sucker.

And said to Betsy, “Can I?”

Angelica still holding onto Betsy’s dress reached for the sucker.

Danny smiled and gave the sucker to Angelica and said, “I’ll be seeing you around.”

Joshua said, “Where?”

Danny smiled and walked to his horse.

He mounted his horse and looked at the commander.

The commander looked at him.

Betsy was able to catch the commander looking at Danny at the last second.

She began to think.

Betsy said, “Wes said a group of men escaped with the governor and his wife. For Skip to give this man eye contact.”

Joshua said, “Angelica, you might as well give those suckers to me, because Wes is not going to let you have them.”

Angelica said, “No.”

Betsy said, “Angel!”

Joshua said, “No. Angelica.”

JESUS smiled at Joshua.

JESUS said to Angelica, “Share. I had them to give you two suckers. Joshua is your friend.”

Angelica said, “Joshua, here. You are my friend.”

Joshua said, “It’s about time you know that.”

Betsy turned and looked at Joshua and tried to shake what he said out of her mind. She walked away to the governor.

The soldiers cheered.

Betsy picked up Angelica and walked into the house.

She called Joshua.

They entered the cold house and Betsy looked around.

She sat Angelica down and had Joshua to sit with Angelica.

Betsy got the coal bucket and walked outside.

One of the commanders got the pail and went to the coal pile and filled the bucket and carried the bucket into the house and build the fires up.

Betsy changed Angelica’s linen and saw bleed and discharged stains from her back and legs.

She did not know what to do.

She sat Joshua and Angelica on the sofa and re heated their food over the fireplace.

Betsy smelled their food and gave it to them.

She went into the little girl’s dresser and saw her last new gown and socks.

She got the ribbons and brush.

Betsy passed the commanders with the water pail to go to the brook for water.

The commanders watched Betsy.

Dr. Obersteen said to the lead commander, ”Blood.”

The lead commander pulled David back inside.

As Wes was wiping down the governor’s cot with alcohol.

David saw Wes and said, “Bed.”

Wes said, “I’m thinking.”

The three men lifted David and put him on his cot.

David said, “I’m cold.”

Wes looked at the racks he set up and said, “Commander,I need them to bring the laundry back and take these to be washed.”

The lead commander said, “You need more linen?”

Wes said, “Yes. We got two additional patients.”

Wes put a sheet on top of the blanket and said, “This may help for now.”

David said, “No.”

Wes said, “David, let me think. I had you bought here because the weather is freezing and has kept your body where it can heal. There is no where you can go that I can be with you and the rest of my patients. Let me think.”

David said, “Blankets and pajamas.”

The lead commander said, “I can help with that.”

Bruce heard his father’s voice and said, “Dad.”

Skip walked to Bruce and held his hand and looked at him.

Skip said, “Son.”

Bruce did not say anything else.

Skip looked at Bruce and said, “I need you to be a soldier and fight your way back. I don’t want your mother to think I am not a good father.”

Skip smiled.

Wes thought about what Angelica said and called him, “Daddy Wes.”

Wes heart was heavy that day.

He thought he nearly killed Thelma and he still had to wait.

Skip stood at Bruce’s side for about fifteen minutes.

He looked at Bruce very hard to see if he was coming back.

Dr. Obersteen was attending to Newsom.

There was blood all over Newsom bed coverings from his wounds being changed and the blood transfusion.

Dr. Obersteen looked at the empty blood pail and said, “Blood.”

The lead commander put Bruce’s arm down.

He said,” Wes how much?”.

Wes was counting supplies.

He looked at Thelma, Newsom and Bruce and said at least fifteen pints. I need to see if I have enough bags for the blood.”

Wes said, “Everything is low. David doesn’t need any blood. Bruce I don’t know how much. The first lady needs a lot and Newsom needs a lot. I had to take out his intestines and put them back in.”

Skip got sick and said,”Write down what you need. I will telegram headquarters for them to express the supplies.”

Wes stopped and looked and said,” ‘Express’?”

The lead commander said, “Yes. They get the supplies from the capital which is four days away. There will be two drivers that drive for eight hours straight. Then another two drivers dive, so we are looking at two days instead of four.”

Bruce said, “Here.”

Wes looked at Bruce and said, “I agree.”

The lead commander rushed to Bruce and held his hand.

Skip said, “What does that mean?”

Bruce was unconscious again.

Wes said, “Stock the medical supplies here.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Blood!”

The lead commander looked at Dr. Obersteen and walked out the tent.

He was angry.

Dr. Obersteen looked at the lead commander.

Wes said, “He’s angry.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “We need a lot of blood. Look at this.”

Wes walked over and looked at Newsom.

The lead commander walked out and said, “They need a lot of blood. I need volunteers. The doctors will be out soon to get the blood.”

Terry walked away.

Another soldier fainted.

The commanders looked at the soldier.

The lead commander sent the other ten commanders and all the subordinate commanders but one back to headquarters.

Two soldiers walked and picked the fainted soldier from the freezing ground.

The lead commander walked to the other commanders.

One of the commanders said, “They really need help. If someone gets shot or sick they may not be able to help them.

The lead commander said, “They are very low on supplies. The supplies they had were for the governor and his wife.”

Another commander said,”With the two new casualties it has drained their supplies.”

Another commander said, “You have to order an express for their supplies.”

The lead commander said, “I told the doctors to make a list of the supplies.”

He looked around and called one of the soldiers with them to come to him.

The soldier walked to Skip.

Skip said, “Go back to the command post and find out where their laundry is. And search for new blankets. I don’t want used blankets on the governor.”

Wes walked out the tent with all the bloody trash including sheets and went to the trash barrel.

A commander said, “They need help.”

The lead commander turned and saw Wes taking the medical trash to the burn barrel and set it on fire.

The lead commander stood and looked at the subordinate commander and said, “What’s your name? You are a medical doctor. Get here and draw the blood and put it the pail.”

The other commanders stared at him for not stepping forward to help.

The subordinate commander walked into the tent and Dr. Obersteen was busy with changing Newsom wound.

He looked up and saw the young commander and said, “Yes?”

The commander was very haughty and said, “I am to draw blood.”

Dr. Obersteen leaned back and said, “Get that pail, get the blood kits and fill all that are there,”

Dr. Obersteen continued attending to Newsom.

While the young commander was in the governor’s tent.

Betsy pass with the water pail.

She stopped and was talking to Wes at the burn barrel.

Betsy said, “Whew.”

Wes saw she was getting sick from the smell.

Betsy said, “Wes there was a lot of blood and discharge from Angelica’s back and legs on her sheets.”

Wes said, “I know.”

Wes put the last of the trash in the burn barrel and took the water pail and told Betsy to go back to the house.

Betsy walked back to the house.

Wes went to the brook to get water.

The commanders were talking.

A commander said, “We are so ill equipped on this side of the state.”

The lead commander said, “That’s why the governor held his swearing in on this side of the state to include the people.”

The commanders shook their head.

The lead commander saw the young subordinate commander walk out the tent with the pail.

One commander said, “He did not step forward to help his fellow soldiers.”

One commander said, “I don’t like that at all.”

Wes walked back with the water pail.

”The lead commander said, “Where is that lead soldier?”

The soldier went and found Terry.

Terry walked to the commanders and said, “Sir.”

The lead commander said, “I read the captain’s orders. He ordered for you soldiers to help out around he.”

Terry said, “I am not aware of anything.”

The lead commander turned Terry around to face the governor’s tent and said, “Tell me what you see?”

The commanders watched Terry.

One commander turned his head.

The lead commander said,”Your captain assessed the situation and wrote orders for the soldiers to help out here so the one doctor at that time could take care of the governor and his wife and the critical injured child in the house.”

Terry just looked.

The lead commander looked at the other commanders who stared at Terry.

The subordinate commander stood and said, “Sir what am I to do?”

The commander turned his head again.

The lead commander said, “Come here.”

The young subordinate commander walked to the lead commander.

The lead commander said, “Do you have any sense? You go and get the volunteers to give blood. You find a place for them to sit and give the blood. You go and get them snacks to eat to build them up. You draw the blood from the soldiers and you package the blood and take it back in the governor’s tent. You sign the book they have for the pints of blood.”

The young commander was about to ask another question.

The lead commander said, “Don’t ask me nothing.”

The lead commander said to Terry, “Your captain wrote for soldiers to light the fires around the perimeter of this place…”

He turned Terry to the cute house and said, “To take coal in the house and water, to light the torches at night…”

The lead commander turned Terry around to Wes’ tent and said, to fill that black water everyday and to keep the fire going under it and the outside the tent. Do you see any of this?”

Terry just stood and looked.

The lead commander said, “Do it or I’ll bust you down.”

Terry said, “To what sir?”

The lead commander said, “We can’t retire this year.”

The commander turned his head again.

They looked at the young subordinate commander who was standing trying to figure out what to do with the blood drawing kit.

The lead commander watched him.

One of the commanders said, “I am going to retire this year. May I request you assigned him as a medic to one of the troops. He can’t be here because these doctors study and they care about the patients.”

The lead commander said, “Your suggestion is accepted.”

The commander said, “And that other one.”

The lead commander said, “Will do.”

He looked around and said, “we have a problem.”

The commanders listened, “He is still governor. He wants a bed and heat. Wes said he has to think about it because if he move the governor in the house, he has to get up every two hours to see about the critical patients out here who needs the freezing cold and the governor who is healing.”

The commanders turned around and looked at the area.

One commander said, “We can build a temporary building next to the tent and have it large enough to hold the beds as the patients are being healed. We can put a fireplace and a floor with rugs and have shelves for supplies.”

The lead commander said, “Great idea. The captain wants this place to be the medical supply place. So that building has to bigger than a bedroom.”

Wes came out the house.

Betsy bathed Angelica and made Wes to eat some eggs and oatmeal she heated over the fire.

When he finished eating he went in and gave Angelica her herbs, paste and physical therapy.

Angelica cried.

Betsy looked at Joshua.

Joshua looked toward the window and drank his juice.

Betsy said to herself, “This child actually care for Angelica and don’t want her to be in pain.”

Wes was finishing with Angelica.

Joshua said, “Aunt Betsy, what does her name mean?”

Wes and Angelica were listening.

Betsy said, “Messenger of GOD.”

Joshua said, “That’s a good name.”

Betsy said, “Why?”

Joshua said, “To do something for GOD.”

Betsy said, “A messenger of GOD is to tell people what GOD said. That’s the reason her name is Angelica. She has to go Joshua and tell people what thus say the LORD GOD Almighty.”

Joshua sat with his head straight and cried and a silent cry and sipped his orange juice.

Wes walked out the bedroom with Angelica water basin.

Betsy looked at Joshua.

She was trying to brace Joshua when Angelica would leave.

Wes saw Joshua’s silent tears, as he was in thought sipping his orange juice.

Wes did not understand it. He could not understand how Joshua had such strong pure love for Angelica that he wanted her to be his wife.

He walked out the door with the water basin to the bath shed and emptied it.

He walked back to the cute house and place the bath basin back in the bedroom of the sleeping Angelica.

Betsy said, “Tell Dr. Obersteen to come and eat. Before the food won’t be any good.”

One of the cooks was passing the commanders going to the cute house.

He had a tray of vegetable soup and tea for Betsy and hot coco with whipped cream for Joshua.

He and the other cook liked being there in the freezing cold, because they get so hot cooking over the stoves.

The freezing cold was helping them to be balanced.

The lead commander said, “I’m going to leave the cooks here.

One of the commanders said, “How is Bruce?”

The lead commander stood still.

He saw Wes running out the house.

The lead commander said, “I like that fellow and the other one who is here temporarily. I saw the governor get up today, because of their work on him. I believe Bruce will be fine.”

They watched Terry slowly pass them.

The one commander turned his head.

The lead commander said, “We can’t retire this year.”

The other commander said, “Let’s build this temporary building so I can retire.”

The commanders had been standing in the freezing cold for four hours.

The lead commander took the wheelchair to the house.

He heard the little girl in so much pain.

He put the wheelchair back and walked out the door.

He held the door open for the cook.

The cook said, “Thank you sir.”

The lead commander walked out the door and closed it.

The cook heard Angelica and leaned backwards and peeped at the closed bedroom door.

The other cook brought the commanders hot soup and hot apple cider.

One of the commanders said, “Take it back we will be down there in a minute.”

The cook said, “Sir,You can go into the house and sit.”

The commanders looked at him.

Another commander said, “We will not be comfortable while our men are out in the cold.”

Several soldiers heard the commanders and were happy they spoke out.

The cook said, “Sorry sir.”

The cook walked away with the hot soup.

The soldiers smirked at him.

One of the soldiers turned so the commanders could not see him and made kissing noise at the cook.

The cook thought, “I don’t care what you’ll think I will get my promotion and move to the capitol.”

Skip was walking down the cute house steps and heard wagons he stopped and looked.

The commanders turned with hands on their guns.

The soldiers watched the commanders and their readiness to fight.

Terr y slowly walked pass and went to the area behind the governor’s tent.

His soldiers looked at him. Then they looked at the commanders.

One soldier said, “Look at us and look at them.”

Another soldier said, “That’s why they are commanders.”

The wagons pulled in the yard and the soldiers jumped out the wagons and saluted.

One soldier said, “We brought the clean linen and to pick up the soiled linen.”

The lead commander said, “Where’s the state staff?”

The soldier said, “The captain did not want anyone to know where the governor and his wife were.”

The lead commander smiled at his son.

Betsy came to the door.

The soldier was familiar with Betsy.

He said, “Ma am.”

The lead commander said, “Go ahead soldier.”

The soldier ran into the house and got all the dirty clothes and ran to the wagon and the other soldier was bringing the clean linen into the house.

The second wagon passed the commanders to the governor’s tent.

The two soldiers took all the clean linen and several new blankets inside.

They had several pairs of pajamas for the governor.

The soldiers tried not to look at the captain and Newsom.

Foster stood and looked at Bruce.

He began to cry.

Wes looked at him.

Dr. Obersteen looked at Foster.

The other soldier and Wes were putting the linen on the shelves.

The other soldier patted him on his shoulder and walked out the tent.

Foster said, Sir. I used the telegram to weekly messages to my girl.”

Bruce whispered, “I know.”

Foster ran out the tent and hopped in the wagon.

Wes and Dr. Obersteen ran to Bruce.

The lead commander saw the look on Foster’s face and he walked fast to the governor’s tent.

He passed the subordinate commander that was draw the blood.

He did not know what to do and was stinking the soldiers wrong.

The commanders were watching him.

One commander turned his head.

The other commander was looking around the yard and said, “Yeah that’s where the temporary building should go so I can retire.”

He saw Wes and Dr. Obersteen attending to Bruce.

They saw the lead commander rushing to the governor’s tent.

They followed.

Skip walked in and immediately he notice the shelves were overflowing with linen.

Wes had placed two more blankets on David.

Skip stood at Bruce’s feet and said, “What is happening?”

Bruce said, “Dad. I’m fighting.”

Wes and Dr. Obersteen grinned and laughed.

Bruce went back unconscious.

Betsy watched Skip walk fast to Bruce.

Her heart dropped.

The governor said, “Brue can’t beat me.”

The lead commander grinned at David.

He shook Bruce’s feet and walked out the tent.

The commanders looked at him.

The lead commander said, “I believe Bruce is going to make it. But he and the governor can’t be in the same room.”

The commanders laughed.

The lead commander saw Betsy looking.

He waved to her and she turned and went into the house.

The lead commander said, “Let’s have lunch. “

One commander said, “The cooks want to impress us so badly.”

They laughed.

The young subordinate commander was still not getting the blood right.

Dr. Obersteen walked out the tent with the medical supply list and stood and looked at the young commander in disbelief.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Sir.”

Bruce’s father walked to the stunned Dr. Obersteen to get the list of medical supplies.

Dr. Obersteen pushed the young subordinate out of the way.

He told the soldier, “I appreciate you volunteering. I need you to hold this until I come back. I’ll be right back.”

The young subordinate commander was hurrying and put on his coat and ran to the other commanders for lunch.

The soldier kicked at him to make him fall.

The young subordinate commander said, “I can have you court martial.”

The soldier said, “Whew. Whew. I can have you court martial for being a quack.”

The young subordinate commander walked to the lead commander and pointed to the soldier and said, “Sir. I want him court martial.”

The other commanders looked at him.

Dr. Obersteen walked out the governor’s tent putting on his glove and stumbled.

But keep himself from falling.

The soldier looked at Dr. Obersteen and said, “Doc you need sleep.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “You will be fine. I know how to draw blood.”

Dr. Obersteen started drawing the soldier’s blood.

The soldier said, “Doc is there a chair in the governor’s tent?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Yes. Why?’

The soldier looked at another soldier and he went into the tent and brought the chair out the tent.

Dr. Obersteen was so tired and he sat in the chair and said, “Thank you. I didn’t think about it.”

The lead commander slowly turned to his commanders.

They walked with him to eat soup and drink hot apple cider.

The commanders liked being around Skip.

Skip was about taking care of his soldiers and their families.

He put up in positions and he put people down.

Skip had plenty of enemies.

Skip looked back at Betsy’s tent and smirked to himself.

He was thinking about what to do to the young subordinate commander.

Skip had determined he would never get a promotion as he was alive.

But he had to show him either be in with the military family or leave.

He thought he had to get rid of Peter also. They did not have the heart to be a fellow soldier. They got those positions because they had education and their fathers pushed for their promotions. A decision he regretted.

Skip looked over Wes and Dr. Obersteen’s medical supply list.

The young subordinate medical commander said to the lead commander, “Sir, do I need to start the court martial papers on that soldier?”

His uncle turned his head.

The lead commander lifted his head from the supply list and started at the young subordinate medical commander and said,”No.”

The young commander was saying something else to Skip.

Skip was finished with him.

Skip reached the young subordinate commander the list and said, “You go back to the command post and have this exact list telegrammed to headquarters. Don’t add nor take away anything.”

Skip took a pen from his chest pocket and signed it and wrote ‘express’

The young commander got up and rode to the command post.

The soldiers at the end of by Betsy’s tent were listening.

The commander who was the uncle of the young subordinate commander said, “You know he will not do what you told him to do.”

The lead commander said, “Go behind him and double check and make sure what the doctors wrote is what was ordered and expressed. I hope he will mess up. I will court martial him.”

His uncle said, “My brother will be mad.”

Skip said, “Your brother should have raised him to respect the military and the men who serve.

The cooks listened.

One said, “Amen.”

The lead commander said to one of the commander and said, “I need you to take several men and camp out by the lake tonight.”

He looked at the soldier who said, he was going to retire and said, “Draw up the plans for a temporary building and add a large supply room and use gas heaters.”

The lead commander said to the other commander I need you to stay with the troops at the beginning of the city. Stay overnight. I will camp with the troop tonight at the beginning of this new settlement.”

The lead commander turned to the young subordinate commander’s uncle and said, “I need the telegrams ready when I return. I need to see the list of executions.”

He was thinking about Joshua.

Andrew sat and told his father everything Betsy told him.

Especially how Bill raped and bashed Mattie’s head in and left her for dead.

How Emma and Bill used Joshua to keep Mattie bound and imprisoned.

He met that mighty little person today.

Skip wondered why Joshua wanted to ever visit Bill’s grave.

Betsy told Andrew she wanted proof of his death so she could get the insurance she had been paying on all these years.

He thought about what the governor’s children said about Angelica and Joshua.

Skip thought they should be back today.

He told the commander that was to draw up the plans, “Send a couple soldiers to check on the governor’s children and make sure they are back from the next town. And don’t say a word about their father…”

Thelma started screaming.

The commanders looked at Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen did not move but continued to draw blood.

They saw Wes come to the tent door.

Wes asked, “Dr. Obersteen how many pints do you have.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Three.”

Wes said, “That’s not enough.”

Three soldiers stood and said, “Show us how to draw blood.”

Wes looked at them and went and got gloves and came back out.

He showed the soldiers how to draw blood.

The lead commander said, “What is he doing? He can’t do that.”

The retiring commander said, “They need help. They have to help their patients. Commander do you need anything else from me?”

The lead commander said, “I want the soldiers in the field at the new settlement to have a hot meal at least once per day. Check with the cooks and their kitchen staff and see how quickly it can be arranged.”

The cooks heard the lead commander.

They were happy cooking three meals per day for the small troop of soldiers.

The one cook was on his knees behind the temporary counter he made.

He lifted his head up and peeped at the lead commander.

The commanders left.

Skip mounted his horse and rode through the new settlement and went to the captain and they rode over to the brook.

They went to Shelia’s campsite and stood and looked around.

The lead commander said, “So much blood shed.”

He saw Thomas’ empty tent.

He told Ricky, “I will be camping here tonight.”

Ricky was stunned and looked at the lead commander.

The troop did not like Ricky because he was nasty and ineffective.

The lead commander was inspecting the troops.

The lead commander turned to Ricky and said, “Where is the troop blankets?”

Ricky exhaled and said, “I have not requisitioned for the blankets. Sir.”

The lead commander said, “I told you before you left I had requisitioned for an hundred blankets for this troop and for you to assess the soldiers needs and requisition for an additional hundred plus play for the knitted coverings from this resident. I wrote these orders and sign off on the orders. Why you did not follow my orders?”

Ricky’s second in command was standing a little distance away and listening to the lead commander.

The lead commander turned around and addressed the troop.

Skip said, “I have been told you do not have the blankets I requisitioned for you. Nor do you have the knitted coverings. Give your information to the second in command.”

Skip walked to his horse and rode away to camp at Shelia’s campsite.

He sat on Shelia’s stump and thought about that disobedient Ricky and that defiant young subordinate.

He looked around and thought, “No telegrams. This troop should have a telegram machine.”

The lead commander and went on his knees.

He heard horses, but he did not stop praying to see who it was or what they wanted.

The lead commander was so glad and thankful that Bruce was coming back.

He prayed for Newsom and Thelma.

He said, “LORD GOD Almighty YOU trained me in the field I chose to pursue. You made a commander over men. I have tried to hear YOUR voice in every decision I made relating to another’s life. I need YUR help today at this hour. I pray and ask YOU to protect all the men YOU put under my authority. I lost some good soldiers to the evil ones. I know some of the soldiers and some of the civilians discovered the money and got the money. I figured YOU wanted them to have it. I ask YOU to show me how to report it. I pray for Emma, Mattie and that other lady. I met those two today. I met YOUR Angelica FATHER. Her big brown eyes, full of YOUR LOVE and YOUR POWER. Whatever YOU created her to do is great. What is my role?” Joshua is another Bruce. I would like to see how YOU will use him. GOD please bless Wes and Dr. Obersteen. They are tired and cold. Ease their burden. Let them invent devices that will heal people. Don’t let their love for medicine fade but grow. Tell me what to do about Ricky, Peter and the other one. Let everything I do I do it with YOUR righteousness and YOUR integrity and honesty. Whatever YOUR decisions are let me embrace them and walk in YOUR light. In JESUS’ name. Amen.”

JESUS was standing in the dirt road and listened to Skip.

JESUS knew Skip was getting wary with all of the soldiers who wanted a paycheck and did not care about the people.

Skip started having hard pains in his chest.

He wanted to come and see Bruce and his condition.

Skip also wanted to see if Bruce made any progress with his troop.

Skip wanted Bruce to take over his head position at headquarters.

He knew he would have a lot of opposition but he knew GOD told him Bruce.

JESUS eyes looked in Skip’s chest.

HE looked at his heart and commanded it to beat normally and for the pain to cease.

JESUS said, “Skip I will give you two more years. Shirley is waiting for you. I will help Bruce become the leader he has to be to take your position.”

Skip was humbly on his knees in front of the TRUE LEADER, JESUS the Son of the LIVING GOD.

Skip had such peace in the presence of the PRINCE of PEACE.

He stayed in JESUS’ presence.

The lead commander opened his eyes and looked to his right and three soldiers were standing waiting for him.

The lead commander stood.

The soldiers saluted him.

He saluted them.

The three soldiers handed him reports that were telegrammed from the command post.

The lead commander looked around for wires.

One of the soldiers lit the oil lamp sticks that was in Shelia’s area.

A soldier said, “Sir, this area is remote. We have to use the old telegram machines. The captain sent these bills for the knitted coverings.”

The last soldier said, “Sir, I did the inventory of the blankets we did not received two hundred blankets.”

The lead commander looked at the men and said, “Dismiss.”

Skip wrapped one of the blankets he brought around him.

He took his eye glass out of his pocket and placed the telegrams in his lap and put on his glasses.

He sat and read the telegrams.

The lead commander snatched his eyeglasses and stared off to the side for a good time.

He walked to his horse and pulled his bible out the saddle.

He sat and read his bible for hours.

The sentries rode passed him.

He laid on the ground and put his second blanket on top of him.

The sentries passed by him.

They were watching him, because the other soldiers told how the lead commander was on his knees for hours.

Skip slept until four a.m.

He started his day as he ended it, on his knees before the TRUE and LIVING GOD.

He read his bible.

Sentries passed and saluted him.

He got up and looked around.

He rode his horse to the brook and got water for he and his horse.

The lead commander washed his face and shaved.

He sat on the stump at Shelia and thought.

He heard the two wagons approaching from the cooks.

One wagon went to the soldiers at the front of the settlement and one came on the end where he was sitting.

The lead commander rode to the cooks and said, “Was breakfast easier?”

The cook and his aide said,

The cook said, “Coffee Sir?”

The lead commander said, “No.”

He looked towards the front of the troops.

He heard the bugle that morning and the troop responding.

Skip rode through the troops and did not see any coal.

He said to the soldiers, “Where is your coal for fire?”

They pointed at the captain.

The lead commander rode to the captain’s command tent. He was not there.

The lead commander sat and waited.

Ricky was sleep.

The soldiers ran to the wagons.

One soldier said, “Why the hot meal?”

The cook said, “The lead commander wanted you to have a hot breakfast.”

The other four commands rode into the camp.

They looked impressive.

The commanders saw the lead commander’s horse.

They dismounted and walked to the lead commander.

Who heard them and walked out to greet them.

They walked to Ricky’s tent.

Ricky was in his tent sleep.

The commanders got on their horses and rode to the cute house.

The lead commander went into the governor’s tent and checked on everybody.

He walked to the house and knocked on the door.

Betsy moved her hair from her face.

Skip said, “Wake up. “

He looked back at the bedroom door.

Betsy knew to sit up.

She pushed her hair out of her face.

Skip sat next to Betsy and said, “Joshua asked Wes if Bill’s body can come back to be buried here so he can visit him if he ever want to.”

Betsy said, “Yes .”

The door opened and it was Wes.

The lead commander stood and shook Wes’ hand and said, “Outstanding job. I personally thank you.”

Wes was wondering why Skip was in the house and his commanders were standing outside.

Wes looked at Betsy.

Betsy stared at Wes and said, “Good god Wes I am pregnant with your child. Skip and I dated for years before I finished college. I did not ask you about Charlotte.”

Skip looked at Wes.

Betsy patted the seat next to her.

Wes sat next to Betsy.

Betsy said, “Skip wanted to know what we thought about Bill being here so Joshua can go and visit if he want to.”

Joshua yelled, “Yes.”

Wes turned to look.

Betsy jumped off the sofa and pushed her hair back.

Skip stepped back.

Wes caught Betsy by the arm and pulled her to his lap.

Angelica said, “Be quiet Joshua, so we can hear.”

Skip said, “Andrew.”

Betsy clapped her hands and they both laughed.

The first lady began hollering.

Wes jumped up to run to her and he looked at Skip and Betsy and said, “I don’t have to be worried about anything between you to?”

Betsy looked at Wes and grinned.

He ran back and kissed her.

Skip said, “No.”

Wes kissed Skip on the cheek and ran out the door.

Betsy laughed heartily.

Skip said, “It’s good I know he is a godly man.”

Betsy laughed.

Skip put on his gloves and said, “See you later chipmunk.”

Betsy looked at Skip and grinned.

Joshua was standing in the bedroom door and said, “Sir.”

Skip turned and looked at Joshua.

Betsy jumped from the sofa and said, “Joshua.”

Skip said, “Yes sir.”

Joshua bowed his head and said, “Is my daddy dead?”

Skip whispered, “Betsy.”

Betsy ran to Joshua.

Skip walked to Joshua.

Wes walked in.

Skip moved back to let Wes in.

Skip got on his knees and held Joshua’s hands and said, “Yes, Joshua your father died yesterday,”

Joshua started swelling up.

Betsy held his head to her.

Skip looked at Joshua and said, “I make the final decision where your father will be buried. I will tell them to bring him back here, so you can visit him whenever you.”

Skip stood up and patted Wes shoulder and walked out the house.

Joshua boohooed and held onto Betsy’s waist so tightly.

Betsy gasped.

Wes was concerned about Joshua’s tight grip on Betsy’s stomach.

He picked Joshua up and carried him to a chair and held him.

Angelica sat up in the bed.

Betsy sat next to Angelica and held her.

JESUS was watching.

HE called the attendant.

The attendant was sitting on the house and stepped into heaven in JESUS presence.

JESUS and the attendant were talking.

The LORD GOD Almighty spoke.

JESUS and the attendant turned to the LORD GOD Almighty.

The attendant listened to the LORD GOD Almighty and bowed.

He stepped out of heaven in front of the strange man and the new commander.

The attendant gave them changes to their battle format.

The six thousand angels listened.

The commanders rode to the post.

They walked into the command center into Bruce’s office.

The lead commander told Foster, “Send a telegram to Ricky for him to pack up and report to headquarter until I return.”

Send a telegram to captain Tony and, “Tell him to communicate with his brother…”

The commanders started laughing.

Skip shook his head and said, “If mines fought like that. I don’t know what I would have done.”

The commander that slept at the lake said, “They are not twins.”

The retiring commander said, “I have five girls. They fought about everything. One may have the exact hair bow but a shade lighter or darker they fought about who should wear what shade. You think the baby would not be involved, no she was the center of the fighting. I tell you I was so glade she married first and left home. I don’t miss her. I love her, but I don’t miss her at all. Guess who she married?”

The commanders and SoldierTodd said, “Who?”

The commanders turned and stared at Todd.

Todd put his head in front of the telegram machine.

The lead commander said, “I think the governor wants wires out here to run the telegrams.”

The retiring commander said, “If I would not have come here and seen this place with my own eyes I would not have believed this area. It was in the stone age.”

The commander that slept at the lake area, “Tell us who your baby daughter married.”

The retiring commander said, “A preacher.”

The commanders hollered.

The retiring commander said, “My wife say she keep up hell with him. They travel over the country. I can’t see them with children. The children would have nervous conditions.”

Emma popped in the Lead commander’s mind.

Bruce and Betsy told Skip how they would fight all the time about anything.

Mattie would escape to her French books.

Betsy would escape to Skip.

Emma had Bill.

The lead commander told Foster and, ”Tell Captain Tony to tell his brother to report to me in five days here.”

The commander that slept with the troops at the beginning of the town said, “Isn’t he on leave?”

The lead commander help up some papers and said, “He’s working as security in the same town with his brother.”

They all laughed.

The lead commander told Foster, “Be sure you tell him that it is freezing cold at the new settlement. He has to go and get his uniforms. I told everyone when they are on leave to take a spare uniform.”

The lead commander sad, “What is going on with these supplies. I know we are in east hell, but why are there no supplies?”

The lead commander said. “Todd and Foster I ordered two hundred blankets for the men of the troop at the new settlement. They say they only received fifty.”

The commanders yelled, “Fifty!!”

The lead commander said, “I saw their inventory record and I saw the inventory record from here. That’s government money. They have no coal, there are no trees for them to cut down. I saw the residents of that area did not have left at their campsites so I assumed the soldiers got their coal.”

The commander who slept at the beginning of the town said, “did you order coal?”

Skip pulled out his order form he said, “Bruce asked me to order coal for this troop, which I did. On the way here, I had coal ordered for these five hundred soldiers. Where are their supplies?”

Skip threw the folder down.

The retiring commander said, “Chester is excellent at investigating, maybe you can assign him to that?”

The lead commander said, “Foster ride out to the new settlement and tell those ten soldiers to return to the command post today.”

Foster said, “Yes Sir.”

The lead commander picked up the folder with the medical supply list.

The commander who been turning his head, turned his head.

The other commanders looked at him.

The lead commander said, “I toId Donovan Wilson, MD yesterday to order exactly what Wes and Dr. Obersteen put on this list and to send it express. He sent a telegram to headquarters to order a quarter of what the doctors put on the list and send it by next week.”

Foster was shocked and looked at the commanders who did not say anything.

The lead commander said, “Told Harry to come and send the telegram and send the medical supplies express. I have never seen such flagrant abuse of orders.”

The retiring commander said, “Never heard of it.”

The commander who slept at the lake said, “Almost sabotage but why?”

The lead commander said, “Todd go with two security soldiers and bring him to me.”

The lead commander said, “Foster give me the mandatory expulsion papers.”

The commander that slept with the troops said, “You got to fight his daddy.”

The lead commander said. “I’ll stomp his daddy over my soldiers.”

The young arrogant subordinate commander walked in and looked at the commanders and the lead commander who was sitting.

He said, “Yes.”

Todd and the security soldiers looked at the subordinate commander.

Skip was ready to stomp Donovan.

The lead commander said, “Foster have you finished.”

Foster said, “I’ll be finished in a second sir.”

The lead commander stared in Donovan’s face.

Foster put the expulsions papers in a folder and walked on the lead commander and handed them to him.

The four commanders stared at Donovan Wilson.

He looked around like they did scare him.

Skip wanted to get rid of the devil worshippers and GOD showed him how to get rid of the program and put them in the reserves and they would eventually quit.

Donovan Wilson yawned.

The lead commander marked every reason was expel Donovan out the military.

The lead commander signed it and reached Donovan a copy.

Donovan was twisting his wristwatch and casually looked at the papers and said, “What is that?”

The commander that slept with the troop at the beginning of the town put his hand on his gun.

Donovan looked at him and smirked.

Foster and Todd looked at Donovan’s brazenness.

The lead commander said, “You have been expelled of the military forever. Your name will be removed, your stripes void, your medals voided. All your assignments removed. No money. Once I find out you stole the soldiers’ supplies I will have you brought to trial for thief of government property and you will spend the rest of your life in prison. I believe you worked with the assassins. There was no reason for you to cut my order for the medical supplies. You tipped your hand.”

The commanders including his uncle were looking at him.

Todd and Foster were shocked.

Donovan kept twisting his wristwatch.

The commander who was retiring looked at him.

Donovan stood and said, “That’s it?”

The lead commander said you can either sign this paper voluntarily or be arrested and locked up until your trial in the capitol.

Donovan turned and yelled at the lead commander and said, “You think Bruce is fit and better than me. You are preparing to give him the head of headquarters position. He is incompetent. He does not know how to run a simple troop not alone headquarters. I ordered the least supplies, so he could die. I am not an assassin. Take your military and shove it…”

His uncle said, “Where are the blankets and all that coal. We will let you walk out of here if not you are going straight to prison.”

Donovan was arrested and transported that day by three armed soldiers to the state capitol to stand trial for theft of government property.

Foster and Todd rode to the troop members in the new settlement.

They were told the lead commander wanted them back at post that day.

Captain Ricky passed them on his way back to headquarters.

Ricky was thinking about Laura all that day as he travelled out of town to the next town.

He passed the house where Laura was staying.

He cut his eyes at the house as he passed.

Jason and Alice were sitting in the window enjoying their Saturday dinner of fried fish and vegetables.

Alice could see that end of the street first from where she was sitting.

She saw Ricky before he got to their house and yelled, “Miss Laura, that man is back.”

Jason stood and looked.

Laura and Joseph were standing in the kitchen holding each other.

Laura turned and ran to the window and saw Ricky pass.

Laura wondered where he was going.

Joseph said, “I report in another day, I’ll find out what has happened.”

Laura said, “I’ll be back up there with William.”

Joseph looked at Mellissa who had her head down and her lips twisted to keep from crying.

Clara was sitting at the kitchen table with Mellissa.

Clara reached across the table and grabbed Mellissa’s hand.

They sat in silence.

Mellissa began to cry and got up and walked into her bedroom and closed the door.

Laura did not care.

Joseph said, “Laura.”

Laura said, “Marc did a good job fishing. I am glad your commander found a shorter distance to the lake and back.”

Jason said, “Miss Laura can you take us fishing?’

Alice shook her head and said, “Yeah.”

Laura said, “If I am here for the summer. It is too dangerous for you to go.”

Joseph looked at Laura.

Laura said, “I have a job. I Do work.”

The lead commander told the ten soldiers returning from the new settlement to form in two and search for the new blankets and the coal, between the post and the evil town. The lead commander gave them liberty if they wanted to stay in camp or camp with the soldiers in the evil town, but he wanted a report every evening.

He said, “The coal company is closed until Monday. They will tell where the coal was dropped off, but the soldiers are cold now.”

The ten heard about the evil town, so they all rode together.

They went up and down the streets and went into the abandoned houses and buildings.

They felt good, they covered two whole streets.

They sent the report by one of the soldiers.

He said the lead commander was not impressed.

The ten sleep with the twenty five at the lake.

The group went fishing for most of the day.

The soldiers had a large fish cook out.

Johnny and Sarah ran and asked the soldiers for food.

The soldiers looked around and sad, “Where do you live?”

They pointed to the house.

The house looked strange to the soldiers.

It was early evening right before dark.

The group of five soldiers that was closest to the ten soldiers gave the children several pieces of fish and bread to eat.

Johnny and Sarah were trying to carry the hot fish.

Two soldiers said, “We will carry you home.

They put the children on their horses and carried them home.

Brianna met Johnny and Sarah at the door.

Brianna did not speak to the soldiers.

One soldier said, “She’s an unfit mother.”

The other soldier said, “Yeap. Got her children out begging for bread. It does not look like nothing is wrong her.”

The other soldier said, “What is that she has in her year, besides the horses?”

The soldier dismounted his horse.

The other soldier said, “It’s dark and you can’t be on people’s land.”

He dismounted his horse and followed the soldier.

The soldiers walked through some high grass and walked into something hard.

One soldier held out his hand in front of him and felt something hard.

He kept his hands out and followed the object and put his in the object and said, “Coal.”

The other soldier looking back at Brianna’s house whispered and said, “Let’s get help.”

The other soldier said, “I’m going and eat fish and sleep a long time tomorrow. Then we get the lead commander and comeback here.”

The other soldier said, “Ok.”

They tipped out Brianna’s yard to their horses and rode back to the lake.

The sentries were up and down the streets all day and night.

Brianna and the children smelled the fish and she opened the door for Johnny and Sarah.

Johnny and Sarah walked in the house and all the children sat on the floor and the grille fish and bread.

Brianna was sitting on the broke down spring sofa watching her children eat.

Johnny got a piece of fish and bread and walked and gave it to Brianna.

Donovan Wilson was sitting in the wagon with the third armed soldier grinning to himself.

He laid his head down as the soldiers exchanged drivers.

They reached the capitol early Monday morning.

Donovan was processed and placed in prison until his trial.

He realized that was not a scare tactic.

He was in prison.

The lead commander sent his father a telegram and stated Donovan Wilson was charged with a number of charges including treason.

Donovan’s father received the telegram Sunday evening.

He worked all night to get a lawyer.

He went next door, he and his wife, to Skip’s house after midnight.

He and his wife bammed on Skip’s door.

Skip’s wife woke and sit in bed for a minute to hear.

She put on a shawl and rushed to the door, thinking , “Oh God Skip.”

As she ran down the stairs she thought, “No God. not Bruce.”

Her heart was fluttering and she was nervous.

She was fumbling with the lock.

She yelled, “Who is it?”

He yelled, “Don!”

Sheryl opened the door and was startled and said, “Don and Linda, what is wrong?”

Linda was Donovan much younger wife.

Donovan mother died in childbirth when she gave birth to him.

His father was the ladies’ man before Donovan was born.

Donovan continued to run behind women for fifteen years after Victoria’s death.

He began to date Linda while she was in formal school.

He saw her one morning he had to deliver a soldier’s death notice to his family.

Donovan saw her approaching him with her books.

He had a woman in the carriage waiting for him.

He hired a carriage to carry him to the soldier’s home, because he did not go on that side of town.

He pretended he was trying to lock the gate to the house.

The woman he had been with all night was wondering what he was doing.

He measured the timing and bumped into Linda and over did it and knocked her down, her books went flying.

He realized he over did it and looked at the carriage and around with great surprise and people were watching to see if he was going to pick up the child.

He bent over and pick up the child.

And her books.

The woman in the carriage knew what he did and was angry.

She had the carriage to pass him and take her home.

Donovan stood and was about to yell at the carriage driver.

Linda’s other classmates saw Donovan knock her down and they ran to help her.

Linda’s parents saw when he bumped into Linda.

They stood and watched.

Donovan bowed and asked Linda to forgive him.

He slipped his card into one of her books.

He looked around to see where he was.

One of Linda’s boy classmates pointed and yelled at Donovan, “That way.”

When Donovan was in town, he would meet her there each morning and walk her to school.

Donovan saw Linda’s parents watching from a distance.

He got there early that morning and spoke to her parents.

He said was interested in their daughter and a gentleman in the military and would be in town and out.

He offered them money to suit Linda, because that area was a low income area.

He dated Linda and had sex with her for her four years in formal school. Donovan paid for Linda to go to an upscale school and major in the piano.

He would sit patiently sometimes and wait for her piano lessons to be completed.

Donovan would twist in the chair, bend over and twirl his hat, turn sideways and stand up and look out the window.

He would spend the night with her and carry her to school the next day.

After she finished formal school, Donovan asked for her hand in marriage.

Her father said “No.”

Donovan had to come up with a large amount of cash.

Skip never knew where Donovan got the cash.

There were rumors, but Skip did not entertain gossip.

He knew Donovan was twenty four years older than Linda.

He was invited to their lavish wedding.

Skip was leaving home one morning and he saw Donovan and Linda moving next door to him.

Skip had inherited his house from his wife Shirley.

Shirley came from a wealthy family.

When they married, Shirley’s family came together and bought the house for she and Skip.

They knew with Skip being in the military they would never have much.

Shirley’s father, three uncles and two aunts, chipped in and bought he the estate in a very well to do area of the town, not where they live, because they could not afford the taxes, but in that neighbor.

Shirley went to formal school for the elite.

She studied music and butterflies.

She attended every class on butterflies.

Shirley’s parent paid for she and Skip to spend their honeymoon travelling in Europe for a year.

When she came home, she was pregnant with Bruce.

Her family gave her a lavish baby shower.

Skip had to leave for military duty, and he was not home when Bruce was born nor Andrew.

Shirley spent her days decorating their house and taking care of Bruce and later Andrew.

Bruce and Andrew were good looking babies. People would swoon to see the boys when Shirley was out and about with them in the city

One day Shirley was walking down her street with Andrew in his carriage and she was holding Bruce’s hand as they normally do. She was going to meet her mother and aunts for lunch at a famous restaurant.

Her mother saw Shirley from the restaurant’s window and she looked again she did not see Shirley nor the babies.

She jumped up and saw the end of Shirley’s dress turning the corner.

Her mother began to scream and ran out the restaurant and her aunts ran out behind her.

The women were screaming and running down the street.

They saw a tall man with dark hair had grabbed Bruce and was holding him and running with him.

Shirley was screaming and running with Andrew to catch the man.

No one would help her.

A waiter from a restaurant saw what was going on and he ran out the restaurant and caught the man and demanded the baby.

The women caught up with them.

Shirley who always carried a pistol and looked and left Andrew with her mother who was about to faint.

One of Shirley’s cousin use to run the streets on the rough side of town walked to Shirley and they both had guns.

Shirley had never used her gun before, Skip bought it and put it in her purse.

Shirley refused to touch it, but when she was changing bags.

Her cousin Arlene knew how to shot, because her rough neck boyfriends would carry guns and teach her how to shot.

Arlene’s mother told her, she had to marry and give her one child from the wealthy and well respected family she and her husband chose for Arlene or they would cut off her money.

Arlene loved her lavish lifestyle and wanted her money.

She married Harry and went to Europe for a year and got back a month before that day.

She was pregnant and wanted to get her requirements over so she could hit the rough streets again.

Arlene loved that rough lifestyle.

Her father scolded her about the rough life.

He said, “You want to know about the rough life come and work with me for a month!”

Arlene went to work with her father for a month. The first week she was bored and the second week she connected stocks to being daring and bold and unscrupulous.

She liked it.

The more she worked with her father in his business she was loosing the love for the rough streets.

Shirley said to Arlene later that day, “Is your love for the rough life loosing the knuckle brawl with the stock market?”

Arlene shrugged her shoulders and looked at Shirley and said, “I don’t know maybe?”

Shirley said, “I understand this day why our fathers own the shipping businesses.”

Arlene stood and had a glint in her eyes.

Shirly did not look back and kept walking to her beautiful house.

She unlocked the door and pushed the buggy inside with both babies in it.

She waved.

All her family waved back and got in the buggies and left.

Arlene disappeared across the street.

Shirley slid down the wall and cried all afternoon.

Her mother sent Skip a telegram the next day telling him what happened.

Skip was in the midst of a battle and could not come home until three weeks later, that’s the battle he and Jake were in.

They were out numbered and had ran out of ammunition.

Skip and Jake had a ceremony in the state capitol that was attended by the governor and his wife.

The governor and his wife were personal friends of Shirley’s parents. They sat with them at the ceremony. They all attended the cities elite schools growing up.

Skip family was not at the ceremony.

Both of Skip’s parents were dead. He and his two brothers did not speak. They all lived separate lives. And did not cross each other paths.

Shirley’s parents gave Skip a wonderful soiree.

Skip told them, “Ma am my partner and now my brother fought with me back to back. I can’t think that this great party can’t include him.”

Shirley told her parents that a bond was forged between the two soldiers.

Shirley mother looked I Skip’s eye and said, “Son your brother is here.”

She looked over by the ceremonial cake.

Jake stood.

Skip grinned.

Shirley was holding the beautiful Andrew with a head of thick and flowing hair. Her father held Bruce with his straight thick hair.

Skip walked over to Jake and they shook hands.

Shirley’s mother and father had the baker who delivered the cake to re-do the icing and put Jake’s name.

The baker was arrogant and said, “No”.

His work was a masterpiece and he would not change it.

Shirley’s father turned and kissed her and Andrew’s head and he started mumbling, “He does not know.”

Bruce ran behind her father.

Shirley yelled, “Daddy.”

Her father looked at her. He knew she was trying to be brave after the kidnapping.

Her mother turned her head from the cake for a minute and looked at Shirley.

She said, “Shirley we know. Come over here baby.”

Shirley walked to her mother and she was holding Andrew tight.

Her mother was slightly bent over the table and said to one of the servants,” Go into the kitchen and bring me a knife.”

She whispered something in the servant’s ears.

Shirley knew what she said.

Skip was standing in a hallway watching Shirley.

Her father saw Skip as he held Bruce’s hand and they walked up the stairwell.

He saw Skip was watching Shirley and her nervousness over the boys.

He also saw the baker peeping back in the house at his wife and his cake.

He shook his head and continued to walk upstairs with the good looking Bruce.

He did not know what to do.

He offered to buy Shirley a buggy.

She refused.

He offered her his buggy for she wanted to go.

Shirley refused.

Her mother offered her buggy or to come by and pick up Shirley and the babies.

Shirley refused.

Her mother turned from the cake and stood straight and looked at Shirley who was cradling Andrew and holding his head and kissing him.

Her mother looked at her daughter and said, “Let him go Shirley. “

Shirley looked at her mother and started crying.

Skip was watched and listened.

Shirley’s mother touched Shirley’s face and said, “We know. We are still hunting for him. But what do you think?”

Shirley looked at her mother who turned and took the knife from the servant.

Skip looked at his mother-in-law.

Shirley was shocked and said, “Mother!”

Her mother turned around and said, “They are beautiful. Everybody wants them, especially if they grow up to be tall like their daddy.”

She said,”Isn’t that right Andrew?” Grabbing him by his foot.

There was a know on the door, the butler went to the door. The guess started to arrive.

Shirley’s mother leaned over to her and said, “Especially cuter than all your brothers’ children. I don’t know where they came from. Come out Skip. Where should Jake’s name go?”

Shirley knew her mother and she was determined to put Jake’s name on the cake without Skip knowing it.

Shirley loved balloons and had her favorite place to deliver balloons for every event.

Her mother was sick of the balloons and h

Paid the driver to get lost so they would not have balloons at the soiree.

Her mother bent over to add Jake’s name to the cake.

The baker nearly had a heart attack and ran passed by Skip and held his hands to his head and screamed, “No.”

Shirley jumped.

Her mother was turning her head from the cake and saw Shirley and then she cut her eyes at the baker.

Her mother said, “Skip take Shirley to greet your guests.”

The governor and his wife were the second group to arrive.

The governor and his wife saw the baker run to the table.

His wife walked over to the table to Shirley’s mother and they kissed cheeks.

The governor’s wife watched the frantic baker.

Shirley turned around and looked back at her mother who had the knife in her hand.

The baker was in hysterics.

Her father walked across the hall with Bruce to greet their many friends.

Everyone saw Bruce and said, “Awe.”

The governor’s wife leaned and whispered to Shirley’s mother,” Eleanor, the Johnsons.”

Shirley’s mother bent over the cake and removed Skip’s name to make room to add Jake’s name.

Eleanor stood from the cake turned and said, “Where. I did not invite them”

The baker heard the guess coming in the parlor.

Eleanor said to the baker, “Either you fix it or I will tell everyone you messed up the cake.”

The baker turned his head to Eleanor, in shock.

Eleanor handed the baker the knife and she and the governor’s wife walked away.

The governor’s wife walked to Bruce and bent down and spoke to him.

She kissed Shirley’s father on the cheek.

Shirley looked back and saw the baker ordering her mother’s cooks around.

She grinned.

Skip was busy greeting the guess. He looked at Shirley with such love.

Her father smiled.

He said, “Finally true love.”

The guess were in the house and in the parlor when Skip addressed Eleanor and Bruce about Jake.

Eleanor watched the baker as he ran out their house.

It was a grand house, built by Eleanor’s grandfather.

He owned coal mines and then decided to buy his own shipping lines when the shippers stared demanding more money. He put Bruce’s grandfather out of business and Eleanor’s grandfather earned a bigger profit each year.

Eleanor’s father lived in the house with his mother and father.

Each morning until she started formal schools, her father would take her to the shipping business.

Her grandfather was over the coal mines and he would come home once per month on first Sundays to have holy communion with the family.

They still attend the small church they had attended for generations.

After first Sunday service everyone would gather at the grand house and have a hearty Sunday’s dinner.

After dinner and dessert, the grandfather and his six sons would go into the drawing room and have a business meeting.

Her grandfather wanted to get into the new transportation of the railroad.

Most of her uncles said ”no”, except for daddy.

She was sitting in her daddy’s knees.

He went with her grandfather into the railroad and shipping and coal.

They grew an empire.

So later in school she met Bruce and they dated secretly all through school.

Then Eleanor had to tell her parents she was pregnant with Shirley.

Her mother could not stand Bruce’s mother who accused her family of stealing the business from them.

Eleanor’s father who adored her said, “Send her away to South America and leave her child at an orphanage.”

Eleanor sat still with tears filed her eyes.

She could not speak.

She could not see giving her baby girl to the Bushes.

Eleanor’s father was angry and the next morning he worked all day to get the papers together to send her away until after she had the baby.

He would not speak to her for days.

Eleanor cried for days, because her best friend had turned against her.

She thought, “I did tell him my secret.”

She laid on her bed for days and cried. She could not move.

Her mother had the servants to bring her food every day.

Eleanor did not eat.

Her mother waited until her father left for work and she wrapped on Eleanor’s door.

Eleanor knew her mother’s knock.

She stood and walked from the bed to answer the door but tripped and fell.

Her mother and the servants broke the lock to get to her.

Eleanor was unconscious for days.

The doctor checked her and said, “No broken bones. He could not understand what was causing her to be sick.”

Her father was standing in the doorway with his elbow on top of her chest of drawers and her mother was standing in front of it.

Her mother looked at her father and he put his hand up to his eyebrows and mumble, “She’s expecting.”

The doctor said, “Expecting what?”

Her father stared at the doctor.

All he could think of was throwing the doctor down his grand stairs or out the window.

The doctor was new in town and Eleanor’s mother called for him because he did not know their associates.

Eleanor did not know the history between Bruce‘s family and her family.

The way she felt about Bruce was good. They played. They swam. She could outrun him. They studied together. They would fist fight and she would beat him ( because she was the oldest and had three brothers she learned to be tough). Eleanor would spend the summer with her grandfather at one of his of his mine’s digging for coal. Her mother was older than her father. She was a schoolteacher who meet him on a train from Pennsylvania and then on the streets of the city. The second time they saw each other. They decided to stay together. Her father lavished her mother with beautiful gifts. He would take her to Europe every few years for months at a time.

Bruce did not care about her crooked nose, she got when they climbed a high tree. He got down and told her to get down and she would not.

The children kept screaming for her to get down.

The now governor’s wife ran and screamed all the way to Eleanor’s house.

Eleanor’s father was arriving home from work.

He saw Eleanor’s friend, who had her hands up to her ears screaming, because she did not want to hear herself scream.

Eleanor’s father was getting her birthday gift out of his buggy.

When he heard a girl screaming and when he looked up it was Claressa.

He knew Claressa and Eleanor were two peas in a pod and since Eleanor was not with Claressa then it was,”Eleanor!”

People were running out of their houses.

Her friend’s father recognized his daughter’s scream he ran out their house and up the street calling,” Claressa”.

Claressa’s mother was in Eleanor’s mother’s house folding socks for the poor children.

The servants stopped.

Claressa’s mother stopped and said, “That’s my child I know her scream.”

They all ran out the house.

Claressa’s father was screaming calling her from down the street.

Her mother and all of Eleanor’s family were calling her from Eleanor’s house.

Claressa turned and ran up the stairs to Eleanor’s house.

Eleanor’s beloved grandfather had arrived home from the mines to surprise her for her birthday.

The other children ran passed the stunned parents running to their homes.

Eleanor’s mother’s heart sunk.

Eleanor’s father looked at his wife.

She said, “Go get my child.”

Claressa’s father picked up his child and said, “Where?”

Claress pointed and said, “Park by the cemetery.”

Her father shook Claressa and said, “What?’

His wife grabbed his arm and said, “Henry she’s a child!”

Claressa said, “The big tree.”

He said, “If it were her I want to know.”

Claressa fell out of her father’s arms into her mother’s arms and they both fell onto the ground.

Claressa’ father jumped in the buggy.

Claress’s father, ran and jumped in the buggy.

Her uncles were running behind the buggy for them to stop.

Eleanor’s grandfather ran and told the servant to bring him his wagon.

The servant brought the wagon and he did not move from the driver’s seat.

The grandfather ran to the driver’s seat.

The servant did not say anything (he wanted something from the grandfather. The grandfather knew he wanted something.)

The grandfather ran and jumped in the passenger seat.

His wife, Eleanor’s attractive mother and all the servants were waiting on the porch.

The grandmother said, “John go and get the doctor.”

Eleanor’s mother’s knees buckled and she became weak.

Claressa’s mother was trying to get up from the ground.

Eleanor’s mother and the rest of the women in the house tried to help them up.

The daughters-in-law were tipsy and falling over each other.

Eleanor’s grandmother rolled her eyes at them and walked in the house.

She told the maid, “I know the neighbors’ are having a good time.”

The grandfather saw his son’s running down the middle of the street.

He said, “Look at those drunks. Keep going.”

The servant turned and followed hard behind Eleanor’s father.

They arrived at the cemetery and saw Bruce and Alvin, who would later become the governor.

Eleanor’s father and Claressa’s father rushed into the park.

They saw the screaming boys but they looked up in the trees and did not see Eleanor.

People had begin to gather.

Her grandfather and the servant rushed in the park and did not see Eleanor.

The grandfather was bent over trying to catch his breath.

He heard a faint voice that said, “Hey grandpa.”

She saw her uncles stumbling in the park.

Her chubby arm was exhausted and drunk he fell on the ground. And went to sleep and begin snoring.

His bent over father turned and looked him.

He said, “You had to embarrass me, out in a public park. You could not keep that inside.”

The uncle snored again.

Eleanor’s father heart stopped. He saw Eleanor.

Bruce and Alvin were exhausted.

They succumb to physical and emotional exertion and fell to the ground.

Claressa’s father looked at the boys.

Her grandfather talking to God, “Please.”

Eleanor started climbing down.

She slipped and begin to tumble over the tree limbs.

She fell and screamed all the way to the ground.

She landed like a squirrel on her uncle and bounced off him onto the ground.

The grandfather thought, “If he’s dead. I’ll send his wife and four boys back to her folks.”

His son turned over on his left side and put his left arm under his head and crossed his right arm over on his left arm and continued to sleep.

His father saw him and that he was not dead and said, “Damn.”

Eleanor was sitting holding her nose and saying, “Ouch. Ouch.”

Her father was sent over with his hands on his knees.

Claressa’s father looked at Eleanor and he walked over to Bruce and Alvin and put them in the buggy.

Eleanor father got in the buggy and drove away.

Claressa’s father pointed and said, “You’re leaving your daughter.”

Eleanor’s father said nothing, but drove home and left Claressa’s father, Bruce and Alvin in the buggy.

He passed his wife and the drunken women and walked into the house and grabbed a bottle of alcohol from the table and continued upstairs.

His wife ran behind him.

Eleanor’s three brothers ran behind their mother.

They all stood in the bedroom doorway.

Eleanor’s mother stood and held her breath.

She held onto the doorframe.

The doctor arrived.

He had to tiptoe over the drunk women.

When he reached the top step he turned and looked back at the number of drunk women.

He saw two of his pregnant patients.

He was startled and he reached and knocked on the door.

A servant came and opened the door.

Eleanor’s brothers ran to the stairwell and saw the doctor enter.

The doctor looked up at the boys and did not see blood or hanging limbs.

The doctor walked in and saw the grandmother sitting in the parlor, in her favorite chair that she could see straight out the door and see everything.

The doctor walked to the grandmother and said, “You called for me?”

The grandmother said, “Doctor we are waiting for them to get back. Please.’’

She pointed to a chair.

The doctor leaned forward and saw the area was decorated for a birthday party.

The grand dining room table was set.

He saw a man drive a buggy away.

Eleanor’s mother looked at her husband who had drank nearly all the whiskey.

She said, “Please. Is she dead?”

Eleanor’s brothers ran into the bedroom to hear their father.

Patrick drank the last bit of whiskey and reached the decanter to John and said, “Go and get me another.”

Eleanor’s mother reached and got the decanter from John.

She cried out, “Patrick!”

Patrick said, “Not yet.”

Eleanor mother said, “What do you mean not yet?”

John went downstairs and passed the doctor and his grandmother and to the table of alcohol.

He got the brown alcohol and passed the doctor and his grandmother with the bottle and went upstairs and gave it to his father.

The doctor looked at the grandmother.

The grandmother ignored her grandson, and avoided eye contact with the doctor.

His father reached for the alcohol and Eleanor’s mother snatched from John.

John stepped back.

Patrick was trying to lie down on the bed.

He looked at his wife and sat up and reached for the decanter.

His wife snatched the bottle to her side and stepped towards her husband and yelled, “No. My daughter!!”

The doctor stood up and walked into the foyer and looked up the stairs.

The grandmother was sitting and said, “I wonder if I can get away from killing all of these fools.”

Patrick said, “I’m going to kill her.”

Eleanor’s mother looked at her drunk husband who never drinks.

She was mumbling trying to put puzzles together.

John beckoned for his brothers.

They walked out the bedroom and stood in the hallway.

Eleanor’s mother was perplex.

Her husband began to drink the brown alcohol.

His wife said, “What?”

He put the bottle to his mouth and put it down.

The doctor was trying to listen.

He had never seen such a group of drunk people since his military service.

Patrick made a dropping motion with his hand and whistled. Then he flipped his hand over.

His wife could not fantom what Patrick was saying.

Claressa’s father returned with the buggy.

Claressa’s mother said, “Where is she? What happen? Is she alright?”

Claressa’s father said, “Not now I need a drink to get home.”

Claressa’s mother said, “Henry. You live across the street.”

Henry did not knock on the door. He opened the door and walked in.

The servant was coming to open the door but turned around and walked back into the kitchen.

The doctor turned and looked at Henry.

Henry looked at the doctor and nodded.

He nodded at the grandmother.

He did not ask for a drink but went to the table and got a decanter and put it up to his mouth and waved to the grandmother whether he could take the decanter and he was leaving.

The grandmother nodded.

The grandmother was thinking, “How long does it take to get to Paris?”

Eleanor’s mother Henry open the door.

She rushed to the top of the stairwell and said, “Henry. Where’s my daughter?”

Henry turned as he was walking out the door and he did a falling motion and shook his head and walked out the door.

Eleanor’s mother sat on the stairwell.

The doctor said, “Do you need something to relax or sleep?”

Eleanor’s mother lifted the decanter up and leaned her head on the stairwell.

The doctor looked at this miserable people. He now knows it is about their twelve year old daughter. And whatever she has done two grown normally sound minded men can’t speak about it but it drove them to drink.

Henry walked down the steps and motioned with his hand for Claressa and her mother to come.

He put the decanter to his mouth and took a big drink.

His daughter said, “Father we’re not staying for Eleanor’s birthday party?”

Henry looked at his daughter and took another big gulp.

The judge was coming home from a bad day.

He grabbed the decanter from Henry and took a big gulp.

The doctor and the grandmother were looking.

Henry hit the judge’s arm and took the decanter from him and walked home.

The judge walked home.

The grandmother was thinking, “My ancestors came from France. Maybe me and him or not him can leave and tell no one where we have gone. I thought Patrick’s children would grow up to responsible people. I don’t know what that gal has done.”

The doctor looked at his pocket watch.

The grandmother said, “Doctor, I don’t know what has happen and pray not death.”

Then her husband’s wagon drove up.

The doctor turned and looked.

The servant was looking out the window and walked to the front door to open it.

The servants were peeping out the dining room window to see what happen.

The door opened.

The oldest son, Gerald whom Eleanor bounced off was carried through the door by the two brothers next to him, Owen and Ethan.

The doctor said, “What is wrong?”

The two brothers looked at the doctor.

The grandmother said, “Go to the spare room.”

She was telling all of them to go to the spare room and stay.

Rodney and Reynold walked in.

The grandmother said, “Spare room.”

Patrick was in his bedroom sleep but tossing back and forth.

Mumbling swoosk.

Eleanor’s three brothers were standing against the rail watching.

Her mother sat straight and held her head up to see what has.

Finally the grandfather walked and went to the alcohol but he looked for the whiskey.

His wife said, “Patrick drank it.”

The grandfather stood and looked in shock.

The grandfather looked on the table and said, “Where is the brandy?”

His wife said, “Henry.”

The grandfather turned back to the table and picked up the vodka and poured him a drank.

The doctor thought, “That’s better.”

The grandfather reached the glass to his wife and turned the bottle up to his mouth and sat down in the matching chair in the parlor.

The doctor heard a voice of a little girl.

The five women outside walked in behind the little girl.

The servant walked in behind them.

The doctor saw a bloodied handkerchief the little girl was holding up to her nose.

The grandmother said, “All of you’ll go to the spare room.”

One of the women went to the table and got the bottle of scotch.

The women kept walking to the spare room.

Eleanor continue to walk to the spare room.

Patrick was on his bed he started crying.

His wife and sons heard him.

John walked to the bedroom and looked in on his daddy.

Patrick, JR. and Christopher peeped in the bedroom to see what their father was doing.

John walked out and joined his brothers and they saw Eleanor walking through the foyer to go to the spare room.

Her mother said, “Eleanor stop.”

The servant went to the liquor table and was looking on the table and got the decanter of gin.

Eleanor tried to escape.

She moved her foot but it was not obeying her command to run.

Her mother yelled, “Stop!!!”

The doctor jumped and looked back at the stairwell.

The servant was trying to run with the gin.

But the grandfather said to him, “If you want to help you, you tell them what happened. I can’t do it.”  
The grandmother said, “What does he want you to do that has been bought with hush money?”

The grandfather frowned up and said, “Hush woman.”

The doctor looked at his pocket watch.

The grandmother said, “Doctor please examine my granddaughter.”

The doctor said, “For what? It some more that need to be examined.”

The servant took a big glass of gin.

He said, “We got to the park by the cemetery and two of her playmates were there and they were screaming and running around…”

He started running around in the foyer and screaming.

The servant continued and said,“They were looking up. So we all looked up in the tree and did not see her…” He pointed to Eleanor.

Patrick Jr. snickered.

Her mother turned and looked at him.

He continue, “Gerald runs into the park and collapses on the ground. She…”

Pointed to Eleanor, “Is at the top of the tree.”

Her brothers said, “Whoa.”

He said, “Her father could not talk…”  
He shakes his head and said, “Hey grandpa. Then she trips and fall through the limbs and leaves like this.”

He demonstrates with all fours wide open.

The servant said, “Her playmates passed out. She falls on Gerald and bounces off of him and lands next to him sitting straight up. Gerald turns onto his side and sleep.”

The doctor said, “That doesn’t seem bad. Come and let me see.”

Eleanor said, “Mother can I move?”

Eleanor’s mother rolled her eyes at her.

The doctor sat on the stairwell and he examined her legs, arms, back and neck. He examined her nose.

The doctor watched as she kept looking back at her mother.

The doctor said, “Her nose is broken.”

Her brothers said, “Whoa.”

Her mother said to the doctor, “Nothing else is wrong?”

The doctor said, “I see nothing else. A fall out a tree is not uncommon. But her nose will heal just be careful to keep it straight so it won’t heal crooked.”

The mother wanted to see the tree.

She told one of the servants to, “Run her a hot bath with epsom salt. I am going to see this tree.”

The three boys ran down the stairs to go to see the tree.

The grandmother stood and said, “Thank you doctor. I pray we have not taken too much of your time?”

The grandfather was sleep in the chair with his head held over and snoring.

The doctor picked up his medical bag and his hat.

He was walking to the door to leave and saw the many servants talking about how big tree is.

He walked out the door.

The servant ran out the door and gave him a large amount money.

The doctor protested.

The servant said, “You earned it. You endured an hour with them.”

The doctor was standing with the money in his hand.

The doctor turned to walk.

Eleanor’s mother said, “Doctor we will take you home. Please get in. It will be dark soon.”

Eleanor’s mother looked at John.

He jumped in the back with his brothers.

The doctor got in front with her mother.

Eleanor said, “Doctor, I must see this tree. My husband is a very sensible and balance person. So is Henry our neighbor.”

They drove to the park.

Her three sons jumped out the buggy and ran to the tree.

The doctor helped her out of the buggy.

Eleanor’s mother and the doctor walked to the tree and their eyes continued to go upward.

Her sons were laughing.

John said, “I’m going next.”

The doctor looked at John and he said, “I don’t know why I have never seen this gigantic tree.”

The boys yelled, “It’s call Goliath.”

Eleanor’s mother had fainted and was on the ground.

The doctor brought her to.

Her three were standing around her and the doctor had her head in his lap.

Eleanor’s mother sat on the ground and said, “I want to kill her.”

The doctor said, “You don’t mean that, please try to stand.”

Christopher, said, “I’ll drive home.”

The doctor walked her back to the buggy.

Christopher was sitting in the driver’s seat.

Eleanor’s mother took the horses whip and gave Christopher a good hit.

He jumped out the buggy into the back seat and sat on something and said, “What’s this?”

The doctor put the mother in her seat and whispered, “That’s is pretty hard.”

The mother said, “Do you see how big that ten year old is? I use to teach school and I know how to defend myself. That’s the reason Eleanor is so rough. She had to learn to fight them early.”

The mother said, “Christopher that s Eleanor’s birthday present from her father. Hold it and don’t damage it.”

John said, “What is it?”

Their mother said, “I don’t know.”

John said, “So how do you know it can break?”

Their mother said, “Please, I have a headache and I really don’t want to show my true colors in front of the doctor.”

Patrick Jr, said, “He saw them already.”

She pulled back in front of their house.

The doctor sat and looked.

John jumped out the buggy and said, “Christopher.”

Patrick Jr. said, “Doctor she forgot you were in the buggy. Have dinner with us. I’ll drive you home.”

The doctor turned and looked Patrick Jr.

They both laughed.

Her husband came to the door with socks on.

He looked at the buggy and walked out and reached his hand out to shake his hand he said, “Come in and have dinner…”

Patrick SR belched and both the doctor and Patrick Jr.( sitting in the back of the buggy) fanned.

Patrick SR said, “I am sorry. We will take you home.”

He looked and another buggy pulled in front of the house.

Patrick Sr. looked and said, “Aunt Beverly! I can’t let her see me like this.”

He ran into the house.

Patrick Jr. jumped out the buggy and ran to her buggy and helped her out.

They embraced.

The doctor looked at her.

He thought, “She’s attractive. She looks like their mother. They must be sisters.”

Eleanor’s mother walked to the door looking for Patrick, JR.

She saw the buggy and watched Patrick JR run to the buggy and helped a woman out.

Eleanor watched and was so shocked to see the woman.

She had a big eye and opened mouth and hands clapping her face moment.

She ran from the porch and the lady ran to her.

They both embraced and hugged for a long time.

The servant was sent earlier to station to pick her up.

Patrick Sr washed his face and combed his hair and brushed his teeth.

He put on a clean shirt, tie and coat and a pair of shoes.

He walked out the house and hugged the woman.

The servant took the luggage out the buggy.

Patrick Sr walked to the buggy with the doctor.

Patrick Jr. walked with his father to the buggy and extended his hand for the doctor to come and have dinner.

Patrick Sr said to the servant, “I need for you to carry the doctor home.”

The servant just stared at Patrick Sr.

Patrick Jr walked behind his father and watched the servant.

He saw the servant was angry.

Patrick Jr wondered why, because it was his job.

While they stood and talked outside, Patrick Sr. pulled his wife’s skirt and she looked at the doctor and said, “Beverly this our doctor.”

Beverly looked at her sister Brenda and said, “Oh.”

Beverly reached and spoke the doctor’s hand.

He said, “I am Alfred Williamson.”

She said, “Beverly Smith.”

They all walked in the house.

The servant pulled the horses and buggies close to the house and carried Beverly’s three pieces of luggage in the house.

Beverly was escorted upstairs by Brenda.

Brenda had her hand on her sister’s back.

She carried her to a bedroom by the children’s bedroom.

Brenda said, “I am putting you over here with your niece and nephews because they rarely see you. I rarely see you.”

Beverly looked around the room and smiled and said, “You have really settled in this life?”

Brenda looked at her sister and knew she was jealousy, “Beverly, don’t be jealous…”

Beverly was about to deny she was jealous. She looked in Brenda’s eyes and sat next to her sister and said, “A little.”

Brenda said, “No.”

Beverly said, “A lot. You have every girl’s dream. A husband, children and smart children at that, a very beautiful home and furnishings and servants,”

Beverly fell out on the bed as the servant was walking in with her three pieces of luggage.

Brenda laughed.

Everyone had gathered in the dining room.

They were waiting for Brenda and Beverly.

Who was upstairs laughing and talking.

Patrick Sr turned to John and said, “Go and get your mother ad your aunt.”

John was ready to eat.

He stomped all the way through the house and up the stairs.

Eleanor was seated by the doctor.

When Brenda and Beverly walked in the dining room, Beverly said, “Hello everyone.”

Everyone spoke.

Brenda walked over to Eleanor moved the birthday girl to a seat next to her father.

The doctor looked at Eleanor who turned her back to her father.

Beverly sat next to the doctor.

They smiled.

Everyone was seated.

They enjoyed Eleanor’s favorite dinner, turkey and stuffing.

The doctor asked Beverly, “What profession are you. You have such a caring spirit?”

Beverly took a sip of white wine and said, “I have no profession. I married out of school. I was a housewife and my husband was in the military. He was in a battle nearly ten years ago. He came home and I took care of him until he passed. Since then I paint and garden.”

Beverly took a sip of white wine and stared in space.

The doctor looked at her and tried to think of what to say.

The grandmother and the grandfather listened to their conversation.

The doctor said, “I am sorry. I am retired military. Twelve years ago. I decided to practice medicine, because of what I saw on the battlefield.”

Beverly turned to him and smiled and said, “How long did it take to complete your medical degree?”

The doctor said, “The medical degree was three years. I chose to be a surgeon, that was an additional three years of apprenticeship. I have been practicing medicine for six years.”

One of the pregnant women walked to Beverly and kissed at her and picked up the bottle of white wine.

The doctor yelled, “Put it down!”

She put the bottle of white wine down and rolled her eyes at the doctor and walked back to her husband, Gerald and their four boys.

Brenda was about to take a bite and had her mouth open.

Patrick Sr was about to drink another sip of white wine. He put his wine glass on table.

The grandfather said, “He needs to come more often. She better not be pregnant again because the way the doctor hollered at her.”

The grandmother exhaled said, “Doctor you are welcome to Eleanor’s birthday party tomorrow at three pm.”

Beverly smiled and turned to look at Eleanor.

She jumped.

Her three nephews laughed.

Brenda said, “I’ll you about it later.”

Beverly was so shock.

Eleanor waved at her aunt.

The doctor saw Beverly was taken aback.

He touched Beverly’s arm and said, “I examined her. She only has a broken nose. A fall from a tree.”

The three nephews said, “We will show you the tree tomorrow.

Christopher said, “Yeah.”

Owen and his wife and three girls stood from the table and said, “Mom, Dad we need to leave a bit early tonight but will come to Eleanor’s birthday party tomorrow afternoon.”

They walked and kissed his parents’ foreheads and said, “Good night” and left.

Owen was going to gamble.

He was taking his family home and leaving their buggy his values and he had a change of clothes for the street he changed into.

His wife, Victoria, begged him not to go but stay home. She said, “They beat you badly you have so many bruises. Stay home please.”

His little daughters said, “Daddy stay with us.”

She tried to stand in front of the door to keep him from leaving, but he pushed her aside and exited the house and walked down the street.

She laid on the floor and cried.

Her daughters came and sit with her and cried.

A servant was peeping from the kitchen and turned and nodded her head at a man in the kitchen. That man turned and walked out the backdoor once he peeped out. To make sure all was clear.

Victoria and her here daughters fell asleep on the floor.

They slept on the floor all night and most of the next morning.

The servants came to work and wondered why the backdoor was not locked.

They put the groceries down and hung their coats and put on their aprons.

The servants stared their work for that day.

When they moved to the front of the house they saw Victoria and her three daughters and probably a fourth girl sleeping by the front door.

They ran to her and woke her.

Victoria woke being her same nasty self.

She did not greet the female servants but said, “Hot water for me and my daughters and clothes for the party and wrap my daughters’ gift to Eleanor.”

The servants looked at each other.

They pulled off their aprons, put on their coats and picked up heir bags of groceries and walked out the house.

Victoria walked in the kitchen to tell the servants to be sure to press her daughters’ ribbons.

She looked for something to eat and nothing was in the house.

Her middle daughter walked in the kitchen with her doll and said, “I’m hungry.”

Victoria did not look around and said, “My daughter said she was hungry do pancakes.”

Victoria was reaching for a coffee cup and realized she did not smell coffee.

She looked around the kitchen and then went upstairs to search for the servants.

The middle girl started screaming and stomping and said, “I’m hungry.”

She had long blond hair like her mother and two sisters.

Victoria saw there was no husband and no servants.

No help.

She did not know what to do.

She became sick.

They laid around until nearly time for Eleanor’s party.

She loaded the buggy and drove over to the grandparent’s grand house and walked in the house with their nightgowns and said to the servants and nodded her head and said, “Go and get their clothes and bathe these girls and get them dressed for his party and start me a hot bath.”

Victoria did not see Brenda and Beverly only the servants, doing the last minute decorations.

Beverly looked at Brenda.

Brenda walked around the corner.

The grandfather and the grandmother were sitting and eating left over turkey and stuffing in the dining room.

The grandfather said, “This is not her damn house and she doesn’t pay not one cent to nobody here. I am sick of her. She has to go.”

Brenda said, “Victoria who are talking to in that damn nasty tone. I rule the domestic part of this house. That means all the people who work here. You don’t pay nothing here.”

Victoria said, “Neither do you.”

Brenda said, “Your husband has his house. This is not your house. I live here.”

Brenda pointed her finger and said, “Get out of my house!!”

Gerald walked in and said, “Brenda this is all of our house.”

Victoria folded her arms and grinned.

Gerald’s wife grinned and smirked at Brenda.

Beverly walked out the room and stood next to Brenda.

The grandfather and the grandmother rushed out the dining room.

The grandfather said, “What did you just say to her?”

Gerald said, “Who?”

The grandfather said, “What did you just say to Brenda?”

Gerald said, “This house is all of ours house.”

Patrick Sr. was dressing and listening to the argument.

Ethan walked in the house with his wife and their two children.

Ethan said, “Mom, Dad I wanted to talk to you about this house and about Patrick Sr and Brenda staying here.”

Victoria smirked.

Mary looked at her husband.

She said, “Ethan.”

Ethan said, Hush I am taking care of this. I believe we should move in here with our children.”

The servants were standing in the area near the kitchen listening.

Ethan said, “Beverly excused yourself.”

Beverly said, “What?”

Rodney heard the argument before he entered the house.

He said, “I have talked to Barbara and we want to move in this house with our five children.”

The servants said, “Hell no. Not the monsters.”

Rodney yelled and said, “You are servants you do as you are told.”

The grandmother looked at Rodney.

Paul and Yvonne walked in he house and said, “We want to move in here with our one year.”

Patrick opened a safe.

Ethan said, “Beverly I told you to leave this conversation.”

Brenda whispered, “Stay.”

Beverly stood and looked at all of them and their wives and children.

The grandmother stepped around the dining room and said, “Patrick we have not heard from you.”

The three sons were standing on the rail upstairs.

Eleanor was dressing and heard all the fussing.

Gerald said, “Go to your rooms.”

Brenda said, “My children don’t move, because the only male that tell you what to do is father number one then your grandfather number two.”

Beverly just laughed.

Patrick closed his safe in his bedroom wall and walked out his bedroom.

He stood on the stairwell and said, “Victoria why are you and your daughters have on your nightgowns at two pm in the afternoon?”

Victoria said, “I don’t have to answer that.”

Patrick Sr said, “Where is your husband?”

Victoria said, “I speak for him.”

Patrick Sr said, “You speak for him on what?”

Gerald said, “Patrick leave her alone and talk to us.”

Patrick said, “I will.”

His mother looked at all of them and she looked at Patrick Sr.

Patrick Sr walked down to his brothers and their wives.

Ethan said, “Let’s go in the dining room and close the door. Not you Brenda,”

Patrick said, “Where are you with your wives and children?”

Patrick said, “What has to be said, “Will be said out in the open for all to hear. You all hate Brenda and Beverly because they are colored. You have disrespected my wife and children for the last time.”

Gerald said, “What are you saying Patrick Sr.?”

Patrick walked to them and showed everyone the full paid mortgage. It showed the money from his bank account he used to pay the house off with. ‘Gerald said, “So you built this house to put her and your kids in?”

Patrick said, “Consider yourselves uninvited to the birthday party.”

The butler opened the front door and they carried all their children out.

Patrick walked over to Victoria and he yelled, “Get your whore ass out of my house and never come back to this house as the lady of this house said.”

Victoria saw the hate in Patrick Sr’s eyes.

She looked at the grandmother and the grandfather and ran to them and said, “Please let me stay.”

They shook their heads for no.

The grandmother said, “This is Brenda’s house. She has already told you to leave. You have a house. Go home.”

Victoria said, “No one is there but me and the children.”

The grandfather said, “Where is your servants?”

Victoria said, “I guess…They quit this morning.”

The doctor knocked on the door.

The butler opened the door.

The doctor stepped in and he looked around at the children on the stairwell, the servants standing by the kitchen, Beverly (who caused him to smile), the grandparents and Patrick Sr. who had papers in his hands and walking back upstirs.

The butler opened the door and Victoria rolled her eyes at him.

Patrick Sr gave the driver the day off, when he took the doctor home last night.

The children started arriving for Eleanor’s birthday party.

Henry brought the decanter back and had purchased a new bottle form the state liquor store.

He brought the decanter and the bottle and showed it to the grandmother. He put it back on the table.

The doctor knew a family fight took place.

Brenda went upstairs and comb and brushed Eleanor’s hair and put her ribbons and bows in it.

The party was very successful.

The children had a great time.

They went to church that Sunday and none of the rest of them were there.

Patrick Sr had a great weekend.

The grandfather left the next day when his driver came and picked him up.

Something was wrong with his wagon.

He telegrammed for them to come and pick him up.

He met with his lawyers and redid his will. He divided everything equally between his wife and his six sons.

Patrick told his father and his mother they can continue to live with he, Brenda and their four children.

They found Owen body before the father left the lawyers office.

He went and identified Owen and arrange the burial service.

Owen’s service was that Wednesday.

The grandmother hired three servants to go and help Victoria for three months.

The grandmother told Victoria whatever money would be divided into seven and she would have Owen’s portion to live off.

The grandfather sold the coal mines and divided the sell into seven portions.

Patrick Sr used his portion from the sell of the coal mines and bought his brothers out of the family shipping business shipping business.

He did not want to have anything to do with his brothers.

Brenda and Patrick Sr sent his mother and father to France.

They stayed in France for a year.

When they returned, Alfred and Beverly were getting married in a week.

Brenda and Patrick Sr paid for the summer garden wedding.

Alfred delivered their only child in the winter.

They stand in Alfred’s office for a time.

But Brenda and Patrick Sr offered to buy them a nice home.

Alfred and Beverly said, “They did not want them to buy them anything else because they had gone beyond their expectations.

Alfred and Beverly found a nice two bedroom house and lived there until they died.

Their son sold their beautiful house with it’s spectacular flower gardens.

He was in the military and travelled a lot.

The grandmother died three years after their return from France.

The grandfather died two years after his wife’s passing.