The security aide had his security men go throughout the city to search for the governor and his wife.

The security men at the hospital with the shooter ran back to the governor’s mansion to tell the second security leader them the shooter had disappeared from the hospital.

The second security leader said was stunned.

He and the rest of the security people just stood and looked.

The second security leader stood and walked to the window with his hands in his pockets.

He said, “Which one of you helped him to escape?”

No one said anything.

He waited a long time and turned around.

All the security men were looking at him.

He was expecting the traitor or traitors to shot him in the back.

He walked back to the security men and looked at each one.

He looked at one of his men and said, “Take their statements. Write a press release. The people have been gathered for three days waiting a word on the governor and his wife.”

The second security leader stopped and he looked around.

He began to go through the papers on his desk.

He threw the papers on his desk.

He yelled, “Where are the two security men that were shot in the arms?”

The security men who ran from the hospital looked at each other.

The second security leader.

Pointed at two security men and said, ”You stay here and you shot to kill anyone that moves.”

The security men were perplexed.

The second security leader yelled at the three security men that were at the hospital , “Come with me.”

He told his security men to follow him.

Priscilla was running down the hall.

She yelled to the second security and said, “The acting governor wants to see you.”

The second security leader said, “I don’t have time.”

He turned and he and his men began to walk down the stairs.

Priscilla yelled, “You are turning your back again on the governor.”

The second security leader stopped and walked back up the stairs and looked at Priscilla.

The treasurer was running out the governor’s office with his staff.

The treasurer said, “My staff is pressuring me to give an update on what has happened. They want me to be seen as a strong leader for the next election. I will not cut David’s throat. I need you to give me something I can give to the people. I see you are busy and I will wait until noon.”

The second security leader did not say anything, but turned and walked away with his security men.

He heard the treasurer say, “Contact the press for a noon release.”

Priscilla stood and was watching everyone.

She knew something had happen, but what she did not know.

She waited until the second security leader and his men were in the wagons and she turned to the two they left in the hallway.

Priscilla said, “Mike and Joey tell me what has happened.”

The security men stared at her.

Priscilla said, “I still have the evidence and your momma wont be happy.”

Mike said, “I won’t be blackmailed by you anymore Priscilla.”

Joey said, “Neither me.”

Priscilla said, “I’ll tell you what, if you tell me what is going on. I will give you the evidence and you can do whatever you want with it.”

Joey looked at Mike and said, “I don’t trust her. That heifer got us in so much trouble with momma and daddy.”

Mike said,”We got guns now.”

Priscilla got mad and turned to walk to the telegram office.

Mike said, “Where are you going? We have been told to shot to kill.”

Priscilla thought, “I got something. Especially if that type of order has been issued.”

Priscilla kept walking.

Joey looked and said, “Mike is she going to the telegram office?”

Mike looked and said,” Priscilla. Where you’re going?”

Joey said, “We have orders to shot to kill.”

Priscilla ran down the hall with her fists balled up and stood in Joey’s face and said, “You forgot who my husband is.”

Joey stared at Priscilla.

Mike said, “Cous. The second security leader was told that the man that shot up the room where the governor and his wife were have escaped from the hospital. They are trying to find out how he got away and who helped him.”

Joey added, “And they want to know where the two security men that were shot in the arms that were at the hospital?”

Priscilla mouth flew opened and she turned and ran to the telegram office.

One of treasurer staff men was peeping out the governor’s door.

He eased out the door and peeped over the banister to watch Priscilla ran down to the telegram office.

Joey saw him and motioned to Mike.

They pretended not to see him.

Because they knew all of this was an inside job.

Everyone in the capital knew it was an inside job. So no one trusted no one.

The treasurer’s staff man looked at Joey and Mike and started walking to them with heavy steps.

Joey whispered to Mike, “Watch this mother…”

The walked and stopped in front of Mike and said, “I am Peter Mitchell with the governor’s staff. Tell now what that secretary is doing?”

Joey popped his neck and pulled out his gun and put it to the head of Peter Mitchell.

Joey yelled to another security man and said, “Arrest him and take him and lock him up in the basement separate from the others.”

Peter Mitchell were trying to struggle away from the security man.

Mike hit Peter Mitchell hard on the head and knocked him out.

The acting governor and several members of his staff were in the hall looking.

Mike looked at them.

Joey yelled, “You’ll got something to do with the attempted assassination on our beloved governor?”

Joey pulled out his gun.

The acting governor and his staff ran back into the governor’s office and locked the door.

Mike looked at them.

Joey popped his neck again and returned to his position.

The other security man was dragging Peter Mitchell down the steps and yelled to Joey and Mike, “Next time shot to kill, like you were told to do. I got to drag his heavy ass down here and locked him up. When the undertaker could have taken him to the funeral home.”

Mike said, “Well he is right.”

Joey popped his neck and said, “Yeah but you know how the second security leader ho wants detail reports and I am not hearing that today.”

He looked at Mike and Mike turned and looked at Joey.

Joey smiled.

Mike said, “Veronica?”

Joey smiled.

Mike said, “That’s worth a pop.”

They could still hear the second guard cussing.

Priscilla ran to the telegram office and sent Bruce a message that the shooter escaped from the hospital.

Bruce received the urgent telegram.

He sat and mulled over the words.

Wes was at the cute house with the medic, that Bruce sent.

Wes had to go back in the wounds and cleaned them out.

He did not used anesthesia.

The governor and the first lady were screaming in tremendous pain.

Natalie ran out of the house she and Betsy.

The screaming of the governor and his wife was unbearable.

The military men fell to the ground and pulled out their rifles.

They did not know what to do.

Bruce was riding to the house to tell them the shooters escaped.

He heard the screaming about a quarter of a mile away.

Bruce pulled out his gun and charged to the house.

He saw Betsy and Natalie on the steps looking.

Bruce realized it was Wes working on the governor and his wife.

The medic, Bruce sent to help Wes was running around in hysterics and ran into the older driver who decided to stay and help protect the governor and his wife.

The medic and the older driver were running so hard they knocked each other to the ground.

Bruce and his two men could not stay on their horses. They dismounted and tried to keep the horses calm.

Emma, Mattie and Joshua ran to the dirt road and was looking.

Mattie went back to the campsite.

Emma and Joshua had on quilts they started walking to the campsite.

Joshua said, “Why are we walking?”

Emma and Joshua turned around and went and hitched up the horses and rode down to the cute house.

Bruce had never heard a human screamed the way the governor and the first lady were screaming.

Emma and Joshua rode in the yard.

One of Bruce’s men caught the wagon and helped them down.

Emma said, “Hey Bruce.”

Bruce said, “Hey Emma.”

Joshua went to the tent and peeped in at Wes.

Wes knew it was Joshua.

He didn’t take his eyes off what he was doing.

Wes said, “Joshua go.”

Joshua turned and walked passed the medic and the older driver struggling to get off the ground.

Joshua said, to the older driver, “Can we have fried pork chops and turnip greens with cornbread?

The older driver was breathing hard and heavy.

He was trying to get his composure back and was bent over with his hands on his knees.

Joshua stood and waited for an answer from the older driver.

The older driver could only turn his head towards Joshua.

Joshua stood and looked at the older driver until he gave Joshua an answer.

He nodded his head for yes.

Joshua said said, “Wes is almost finish.”

Bruce rubbed Joshua’s red hair.

Joshua looked at Betsy and Natalie and went into the house.

Bruce snickered.

He had never seen a precocious and astute child before,

Bruce thought, “All the hell Mattie has gone through in her life she needs Joshua to give her back her joy of living.”

Joshua went into the house and came back and said, “Aunt Betsy can I have a candy cane?”

Betsy said, “We don’t have any more.”

Bruce went into his chest pocket and walked and gave Joshua the candy cane Betsy gave him.

Joshua

examined the candy cane and recognized it as being one of Betsy’s.

Betsy looked at Joshua.

Joshua said, “Thank …you.”

Bruce snickered because he saw Joshua recognized the candy cane was Betsy and she gave it to him.

Joshua came back out the house sucking the candy cane.

He walked off the porch and went to the older driver and said, “Apple pie for dessert.”

Joshua looked at Betsy and walked into the house.

Natalie put her hands on Joshua’s back and walked in the house with him.

Bruce and his two men laughed.

Betsy and Emma did not see anything funny.

Bruce men stopped laughing when Emma and Betsy looked at them.

Betsy kissed Bruce and went into the house.

Bruce looked at his men.

They understood Bruce look. One went to the tent to check on the governor and his wife. The other one stayed with the horses.

The one who stayed with the horses and watched the other troop members sit on the ground and a few went to the brook to vomit.

Bruce looked at Emma and held out his arm.

Emma looked at Bruce.

Emma said, “You are married.”

Bruce said, “You are engaged.”

Emma took his arm.

Betsy was watching from the living room window she said, “They better not go into my tent.”

Betsy pulled the chair to the window and turned it around to watch.

She remembered when Bruce would come to visit Emma would disappear with him for hours everyday. Even Bill could not find her. He searched all of their secret hiding places.

Bruce put some more coal on Betsy and Wes fire.

Bruce said, “Look at her up there in the window,”

Emma bent over and saw Betsy in the window.

Emma said, “Everybody hates me.”

Bruce said, “I don’t know Emma. Fill in the blanks.”

Bruce sat down next to her.

Emma began to cry.

Bruce tilted his head and said, “I can’t console you like that any more.”

Emma told Bruce everything.

She told him she did not know Bill raped and viciously tried to kill Mattie, because she tried to get her away from him.

She said, “I hated Mattie for trying to split us up. Can you imagine, she knew before the rest of us.”

Bruce continued to look at his past lover when they were young.

Emma said, “When Mattie was in the hospital, she was under anesthesia or whatever, she began to tell the story and Wes was there and heard it all. He heard the terror Matte lived with for most of her life that Bill would take Joshua and run.”

Emma turned to Bruce and he said, “I can’t do it Emma.”

Emma smiled and said, “You don’t know how many times I wanted to leave and come to look for you. That would not help to resolve this mess and for the truth to come out.”

Emma looked at Bruce.

Bruce had his military face and showed no emotions.

They began to smell the fried chicken.

Emma said, “He has really helped me out since he has been here, especially since Dr. Obersteen has gone. Emma said, I told John about us.”

Bruce said, “Whoa thanks, now I got another one of you’ll men folks to look out for.”

Emma looked at him and knew he was talking about Joshua.

Bruce rubbed Emma’s back. He saw her distress.

Betsy stood and put her quilt on.

Natalie turned to see where Betsy was going.

Joshua was laying on his quilt next to the little girl’s bed.

Joshua said to Natalie, “She’s going out there with him.’

Betsy heard Joshua.

Natalie laughed.

Betsy turned and looked back at the two.

Wes sat in the tent with the governor and the first lady and wrote in their charts.

An hour later the governor started fluttering his eyes.

The medic was watching Wes, who was sitting in a very comfortable chair, Bruce had them to bring him.

Wes was very patient and sitting there writing in the governor and his wife’s charts.

The medic watched Wes and said, “You have made me determined to go and become a doctor. A surgeon at that.”

Wes said, “Welcome aboard. Medicine is great. God allows you to play Him.”

The strange man laughed.

The medic turned his head.

The new commander and the strange man saw the medic reaction.

They wondered at him.

The medic pulled his chair around and sat.

He got up and went and got several army blankets and wrapped around him and sat.

Wes eyes were glued on the governor and the first lady.

Wes said, ”God help.”

Wes only had the governor ad his wife lying on cool cotton sheets with no blankets and quilts.

He gave them IVs and the herbal therapy for pain and infections.

Wes saw the governor fluttering his eyes.

He did not know if that was good or bad.

Wes wrote in his notebook.

Emma said to Bruce, “Can I send John a telegram.?”

Bruce said,”Not on the military telegram. You write the message and I’ll pay for it and have it sent in the town.”

Emma said, “John left me some money.”

Bruce leaned back and said, “Excuse me.”

Emma laughed.

Betsy was standing on the front porch.

Bruce said, “I know that heifer is on that porch. She always tried to spoil that last moment.”

Emma looking at Betsy said, ”I know. Here she comes.”

The older driver had a platter and dishes in his hand.

He saw Betsy and said, “Leave them alone and come and help me with this,”

Betsy gasped.

The older driver said, “I mean it.”

Betsy looked at Bruce and Emma and got the dishes and walked back to the house and opened the door.

Joshua was on his mat in the bedroom he looked and saw the trays coming.

He jumped up and told the little girl. “I’ll be back after dinner.”

Joshua was sniffing the air because the smell of the fried chicken filled the air.

Natalie got up and rushed passed Joshua to the living room and reached for plate from Natalie.

Betsy was looking out the window.

The older driver closed the curtains.

Joshua said, “Why you do that?We always look aout the window while we eat.”

The older driver said, “Not today.”

He saw Betsy was still by the fireplace he said, “Move woman and sit down somewhere.”

The older driver prepared Natalie and Joshua’s plate.

Joshua and Natalie bowed their heads and Joshua said, “Bless this food God, In JESUS’ name,”

The older driver looked at Betsy and said, “Sit so I can fix your plate. At the very least move so I can have room.”

Betsy shook her head for no.

The older driver looked at her.

Natalie said, “Can I have your piece of chicken?”

The older driver looked at Betsy and said, “I haven’t seen you eat for awhile.”

Betsy sipped on some she left on the mantle.

Joshua and Natalie continued to eat.

They were enjoying their dinner.

The older driver said, “There’s plenty of fried chicken.”

Natalie and Joshua looked at each other and grinned.

The older driver said, “I killed two chickens.”

Joshua and Natalie looked.

Joshua looked at the door and he placed his meat on the plate and ran to the door and he opened the door and ran out screaming.

Emma and Bruce stood.

Wes was sitting in the hidden tent with the governor and the first lady.

He heard Joshua.

He said to the medic, “Don’t move.”

The medic looked at Wes.

Wes was thinking not another nervous breakdown.

He saw Joshua run to Emma.

He looked at the house and saw the older driver with the platter.

The older driver said, “Doc You want dinner? Your wife hasn’t eaten in days. Maybe if you sit with her she would eat.”

Wes turned and looked back at Joshua who was being hugged by Emma.

Bruce was standing.

Emma said, “Joshua what is it?”

Joshua said, “He killed them.”

Bruce looked at the older driver.

Joshua said, “He killed two chickens.”

Bruce was hearing Joshua, but his eyes were on the older driver.

Emma bent over in Joshua’s face and said, “What are you talking about? You have gone with me to the slaughter houses and to the meat markets. You know meat was once a living animal and it had to die for us to eat it. Even fish. Joshua what is the problem?”

Joshua cut his eyes at Bruce.

Bruce was watching Joshua.

Joshua did not know if he could trust Bruce.

Bruce stooped down in Joshua’s face and said, “You can trust me.”

Joshua looked at an angry Emma and said, “Why are you mad with me?”

Emma said, “Because you know where meat come from Joshua.”

Joshua looked at Bruce and said, “I think he killed the governor and his wife.”

The captain stood and looked at Joshua.

The older driver left plates for Wes and Betsy.

The older driver walked to Emma and the captain with some food.

The older driver said, “I brought you captain and Miss Emma some dinner.”

The cook from the captain’s troop entered the yard with the troop dinner.

The captain looked and said, “I always eat with my men.”

The older driver said, “I do understand.”

Joshua looked at the plates and started pulling Emma’s arm to leave.

Emma did not know what to think.

Bruce gave Emma the eye to go along with Joshua.

Emma took the plates and said, “I’m going to give Mattie dinner.”

She looked at the older driver and said, “Thank you.”

She smiled and walked to the wagon with Joshua and put the plates in the wagon and asked the man to get her some water.

She said, “Joshua your quilt.”

Joshua went in the house and retrieved his quilt.

Wes said,”Joshua?’

Joshua didn’t look at Wes but said, “I’m fine.”

As Joshua closed the door he looked at Wes.

Wes did not know what that look meant, but he knew Joshua well enough to know that was his signal something was wrong.

The soldier was ready to eat.

He saw Bruce walking back with the older driver and put his plate and fork down and he and two others soldiers went and brought back water.

Emma watched the men work on clockwork.

She looked at Bruce.

She did not like the look on his face.

But she told him everything.

Joshua walked out the house dragging his quilt.

Emma said, Joshua I know who is going to be beating quilts come this spring.”

Joshua looked at Emma.

The older driver patted Joshua on his head.

Joshua jumped in the wagon and Emma drove home.

The captain walked to the dirt road and saw when they reached their campsite.

Emma gave Mattie her plate,

Emma and Mattie ate.

Joshua told Mattie he thinks the older driver tried to kill the governor and the first lady.

Mattie looked at Emma.

Joshua looked at Emma.

Emma looked at Joshua and said, “Don’t tell anyone else Joshua. We have to be careful. The captain said the shooter has escaped the hospital and they don’t know where that one is.”

Mattie said, “There’s more than one.”

Emma said, “More than one.”

Mattie looked at Emma’s tent and said, “Maybe you should sleep in Joshua’s tent until we get your tent moved. And that will keep the fire from up there and you want be that closed to the road.”

Emma turned and looked.

Joshua was peeping and looking.

Emma said,“Your right.”

They ate in quietness.

Joshua got up and went to light the oil lamp sticks.

He stopped and looked back at Emma and Mattie.

He did not light them.

Mattie said, “Joshua why didn’t you light the sticks?”

Joshua said, “I don’t want anybody to know where we are.”

Emma stood and went to her tent and got her stuff for the night.

Joshua dressed for bed.

Mattie dressed for bed.

Mattie pulled her gun from underneath her rug and checked and got extra bullets.

Emma got the rifle that Dr. Obersteen left and check it.

Joshua looked and he was scared.

He swallowed hard.

Emma saw him.

She said, “Joshua. We have to fight.”

Emma said, “Joshua if anything happens, you knew where we told you to hide until help comes.”

Joshua shook his head and got under the cover.

He was so afraid.

He was shaking.

Emma looked at Joshua and walked to the kitchen area and hide the knives.

Mattie was looking at Emma.

She was remembering when the mob came to their house to kill them and how they had to fight to the death.

When morning came their parents were dead but the three girls survived.

When the towns people arrived they killed the remaining bad people.

An uncle of Bill was killed and one of his cousin.

Mattie thought over our land.

Emma brought Mattie a hammer and two butcher knives.

Emma took the mallet and two knives and put them under her side of Joshua’s bed out of sight.

Mattie walked over and kneeled down at Joshua’s tent and She and Emma prayed for safety and for God to resolve the assassination attempts on the governor and his wife.

Joshua lifted up his head and said, “For us to live and for them to die. In JESUS’ name.”

Mattie nor Emma told Joshua not to pray that way.

They lost their mother and father to evil men.

If they could do all over again, they would have fault more so the evil men would have died.

Mattie stood and was looking at the fire.

She said, “Let the fire die out tonight.”

Emma did not say anything.

She pulled Joshua to her and wrapped her arm around him and her other hand on the trigger of Dr. Obersteen’s rifle.

Mattie went into her tent and slept.

Late early in the morning hours.

Mattie felt the ground moved.

She lifted her head off her pillow and whistle to Emma.

Emma rolled the sleeping Joshua onto the ground and covered him with the quilts.

Mattie had moved to the back of the tent and hand one hand on the gun and had a butcher knife in the other hand.

Mattie and Emma had tied their skirts hems around their waists.

Mattie was counting she counted seventeen horses which means there are more coming.

Emma had counted seventeen horses and the fact that more were coming. She knew they came from the direction of their old town to bypass the military in the other town. She was wondering if Bruce had any idea.

Joshua woke and tried to move the cover from his head.

Emma hit him.

He laid his head and cried.

Emma rock his thigh for him to shut up.

JESUS, the angel over the city and the scribe were watching the men.

The men had spies that told them the governor was taken from the capital and headed to the new settlement.

They were telegram and told the military had a troop stationed there.

The assassins rode three days to go around the military.

Wes sat on the sofa and ate dinner.

He would offer Betsy a bite of his food and she would say no.

She laid her head on his lap.

She went to sleep.

He touched her stomach.

Wes picked up Betsy and was getting up to leave.

He thought he would be sleeping in the tent with the governor and his wife and did not want to leave Betsy alone that far away from the cute house.

Because he would not hear if she called for help.

Wes said, “Natalie.”

Natalie turned and got up.

She said, “Wes let Betsy stay here tonight. I will sleep next to the baby.”

Wes stood for minute and said, “She needs to stretch out. He needs to lay flat on the floor.”

Natalie ran and got several blankets and put them on the floor and Wes kissed Betsy and kneeled and put her on the floor and put her quilt over her.

He looked at his sleeping wife and he looked at her stomach.

He smiled and said, “I was empty handed at the end of last year and as this year has come in I have a wife and a baby on his way. If I touch her stomach she may slap.”

The strange man snickered.

Wes sat for about a half hour and moved Betsy’s hair out of her face

Wes said, “Here it goes.”

He kissed Betsy’s stomach.

She did not move. She did not hit him.

Wes said, “Thank You.”

Natalie made a pallet on the floor next to the little girl.

Wes went to check on the little girl.

He sat and wrote in the little girl’s notebook.

Natalie was about to lay down where Joshua laid for three weeks. Near the window next to the dirt road.

Natalie was still scared of Wes.

She said, “What are you writing.”

Wes looked at Natalie and thought and said, “A history of this baby in cause anyone else needs to treat someone with like wounds.”

The little girl giggle.

Natalie looked at her then at wes.

Wes bent over and kissed her on her head and said, “Good night.”

Natalie reached her arms out to Wes for a night hug.

Wes turned and blew out the oil lamp.

Natalie put her hands on her hips and said, “Will I thought since you showed affection to others.”

Wes said, “Good night Natalie.”

Natalie said, “Yeah right.”

The little girl giggle.

Natalie looked at Wes and lowered herself onto her mat.

Wes was about to close the bedroom door, Natalie said, “You can leave it open.”

Wes looked at Betsy and saw the dishes.

He did not like dishes over the house.

He got the dishes and put them on the platter.

He wrapped in his quilt and opened the door and walked to the older driver’s supply wagon.

He was not there.

Wes looked around and wondered where the older driver was.

The captain had taken his entire troop back to the command post and they would return in the morning at daybreak.

Wes looked around and he did not like it.

He walked to the tent and checked on the sleeping governor and Thelma.

The medic was gone also.

Wes was thinking, “Why did not Bruce tell me they were leaving.”

He thought, I have three critical patients, a pregnant wife and a woman with emotional problems. Where is my gun?”

Wes had the platter in his hand.

He walked out the tent with the governor and his wife.

He saw the older driver standing at his wagon working.

Wes started to ask him where he was, but he decided not to say anything.

Wes said, “The dinner was great.”

The older driver searched Wes’s face.

The driver said, “The apple pie just finished baking. You want any.”

Wes said, “No. I am going to brush. I know Joshua’s heart was set on some kind of sweet. They had enough from Christmas.”

The older driver said, “I upsetted him when I said I had killed two chickens.”

Wes mind exploded he said, “He was upset about the turkeys at Christmas.”

Wes walked away slowly to get to his tent.

The older driver watched Wes walked away, he looked back at the governor’s tent.

Wes was so afraid.

He went into the tent and got his gun and check it and looked for the extra bullets.

He did not see them.

He said, “Betsy why did you move the bullets?

Wes got his toothbrush.

He went to the bath shed and brushed his teeth.

The older driver said, “Wes how are they doing?”

Wes could not bring his mind together. He knew they all were in danger.

And he did not have a plan.

He did not know who was trying to kill the governor and his wife nor why.

Wes stood in the tent door when the older driver asked about the governor’s welfare.

The governor begin to flutter his eyes.

Wes looked at the governor and knew something was wrong.

Wes said, “I don’t discuss my patients.”

The older driver said, “I understand.”

Wes went in and touched the governor’s arm and whispered in David’s ear, “Is that man involved?’

David fluttered his eyes.

The older driver was standing outside the governor’s tent peeping in.

Wes saw David needed another IV.

Wes went about his medical chores with the governor and his wife.

He kept his back to the tent door but had put his pistol in the front of his pants.

He thought I can’t have this light off. I won’t be able to see my patients.

Wes pulled his mat from the corner and laid on it and covered up well.

He had his gun pointed underneath the covering.

Wes said, “I have two hours to sleep before they need the pain medication. This is going to be a long night.”

It was early night. Wes fell asleep and he could hear in his sleep.

He knew the older driver was talking to someone. He thought it was Bruce.

Wes could not wake up.

He heard them walk to the tent door and opened it.

Wes could not move.

They walked away from the door and walked towards the brook.

Natalie could not sleep.

She toss and turned on the floor and was in and out of broken sleep until around midnight.

She walked and looked out of all the windows.

She knew she saw a light in Wes and Betsy’s tent.

She stepped back and looked on the floor and saw Betsy.

She looked in the back and saw the light in the governor’s tent.

She stood and wondered why she was awake.

She walked over to the chest of drawer and went behind it and got the two guns left by Dr. Obersteen.

He said he fine because he was going back to the city and he could buy him more.

Betsy was coming to and sat up.

Natalie walked over and got on her knees and said, “Betsy. I think something is wrong. I saw a light in your tent.”

Betsy was still sleepy and said, “It’s probably Wes.”

Natalie said, “It’s after midnight and Wes is in the governor’s tent and all the military is gone.”

Betsy was yawning and said, “I thought they suppose to stay around the clock?”

Natalie said, “Ain’t nobody here. Here. “

The shaking Natalie reached Betsy a gun.

Betsy sat up and rested her back on the sofa.

She began to think over that horrible night they had a shot and a fire.

She knew she was not going to allow anybody to kill Wes and her little baby girl.

Betsy examined her gun and reached for Natalie’s gun.

She checked out the guns and said “Where are the bullets?”

Natalie looked around and got on her stomach and saw a box on the floor underneath the chest of drawers.

Natalie said, “Shouldn’t we give one of the guns to the older driver?”

Betsy was still sick and before she could say anything Natalie had rushed out the door and ran to the driver.

Betsy remembered the enemies who told her parents they would help them that night but were the main enemy.

Natalie was rushing back to the cute house with the older driver.

Betsy fell down on the gun and pushed the bullets in the corner of the fireplace so no one could get them.

The older driver moved the table to try to turn Betsy over to get her gun.

Natalie was bent over and looking.

She saw how rough the older driver was and how he was determined to get the gun.

Wes had just completed giving the governor and his wife their herbal pain therapy.

He heard Natalie and became angry.

He said She does not know who is involved in this plan to kill the governor and his wife.

Wes heard the older driver get up.

Wes ran out the governor’s tent and put the herbal sedative with no taste in the older driver’s whiskey

he was drinking.

Wes saw a cup of coffee and he poured some in the coffee cup.

Wes ran back to the tent and fell on the floor and pretended he was sleep.

Natalie said, “She is pregnant and asleep leave her alone.”

Betsy was thinking, who do I shoot first him or Natalie. No body on earth could be as stupid as Natalie. My husband and my baby is not going to die or be hurt because of Natalie.

Natalie pushed the older driver and said, “Leave her alone and go.”

The Betsy is thinking should I shot him in his face now. Suppose he is not a part of this but the way he is trying to get this gun. He is a part of something.

The older driver said, “I’m just trying to get the gun to keep her from getting hurt.”

Natalie said, “Maybe you tell Wes to come and get it.”

Betsy said, “I’m going to shot Natalie now.”

The older driver got up from the floor and walked passed the governor’s tent.

Wes heard something out in the brook.

The older driver slung the gun into the brook.

Wes was trying to think.

He could hear the older driver walking back on the frozen ground.

The older driver tipped over to the tent and peeped in and saw a sleep Wes.

He looked at the governor and his wife.

The older driver looked at his watch and drank some more whiskey.

He walked from the door.

Wes said, “God let the herbs do a quick job.”

Natalie was sitting on her pallet with her hands tied behind her back and her mouth bound.

Betsy told Natalie, “I have never seen a person as stupid as you. We can’t be friends anymore.”

Natalie began to scream and holler and fell back on the pallet.

Betsy cut off the oil lamps in the cute house.

She sat by the fireplace and put the bullets in her gun.

She put the box on the fireplace mantle, because the stone from the mantle would provide some protection from gun fire as she reloads.

Betsy eased the front door open and crawled to the governor’s tent and crawled to Wes.

She saw the older driver was sleep outside his wagon.

Betsy crawled on top of Wes and scared him.

He nearly yelled.

Betsy covered his mouth.

He looked at Betsy.

Betsy was looking around at the governor and his wife.

Betsy whispered in Wes ears.

Betsy later crawled back to the stairs and into the house.

Natalie was fast asleep.

Betsy locked the front door and put a chair behind the door.

Betsy tried to stand and stepped on her dress.

She stood and tied the dress hem to her waist.

She drank a cup of water to help her nerves.

She knew she would kill that night.

The strange man said,”Crack the window and lay by it so you can hear.”

Betsy looked at the window next to the fireplace.

She cracked the window open and sat next to the window so she could hear. She looked at the box of bullets and she opened her hand and counted eight bullets.

Betsy said, “God I should have given these eight to Wes.”

Betsy fell asleep with the gun in her hand.

Wes woke and gave the governor and the first lady their two hour herbal pain relief.

He laid back down.

He thought and got up and cut off the lamp in the tent.

He thought about Betsy and he crawled over to the tent door and saw the older driver asleep.

But he was moving trying to wake.

Wes was whispering, “Sleep. Sleep.”

Wes was very tired.

He covered up and fell asleep.

Betsy was asleep and thought she heard something.

She was sleep but thinking about Joshua, Emma and Mattie and the other residents.

Betsy said, “God never again.”

Betsy woke.

She heard horses in her sleep and began to count them as her father taught them to do.

Betsy eased the curtain back so she could see.

Betsy counted seventeen horses. She thought it has to be more.

William mother had taken the governor’s children to his wife’s mother and they all got in a wagon and keep moving across state line to the farm of William’s mother family.

She kept this hidden from her husband. Her father told her to always a secret place to run and hide.

They hid the wagon in the barn and they hid in the barn.

William’s mother pulled out a rifle.

The children grandmother pulled out two pistols.

Lydia started screaming.

Their grandmother slapped her and said. “Shut up you will not get us all killed.”

William mother a small hole from the back of the barn.

She went and found the hole and stuck the rifle in the hole.

She and the grandmother moved the wagon across the barn door to block any entrance.

William mother said “Children go to the loft and lay low and don’t move.”

The children’s grandmother loaded her guns and slept under the wagon with the guns and pointed them outward to her sides.