The town was quiet.

Mellissa, Laura, Clara, Jason and Alice made mats and slept on the floor.

Larry and Doreen had dinner with them, because they had no food at home.

Clara looked at Laura. Clara was trying to get Laura to give Larry and Doreen enough money to catch up on mortgage.

Laura seemed as though she did not hear Clara.

Clara knew Laura heard her. She believed Laura was blocking not only her blessings but the rest of them n the household because the LORD GOD Almighty opened up the door for her Newsom to get money and she was holding the money.

Clara told Laura she loved going to the next town ad spending those few days away.

But most importantly was how the LORD GOD Almighty used that time to deliver Mellissa and Doreen.

Clara told Laura she believed the LORD GOD Almighty will do even more when she submits all of herself to HIM.

Clara tried to convince Laura she had the world’s good and she was not to shut up her bowels to the needs of those who were in the Body of CHRST.

Laura was calculating to pay off all the farm’s debts and give a one time gift to the orphanage, quit working and marry Joseph who would be in medical school.

She had not decided if she wanted one child or no child.

Mellissa worked after school and had Jason and Alice to stay with her and help her tidy up the schoolhouse.

Clara looked out the dining room window to see where Mellissa, Jason and Alice were.

Laura looked at Clara.

Clara saw the three coming out the school.

She said, “Laura I am going to say this quick because they will be here any moment.”

Laura was developing a defiant attitude because for the first time someone besides her family has touched her heart.

Normally all she did was work, but now she doesn’t have to work on the farm or be put aside by the white males on her job.

She doesn’t have to their work and her work.

She loved her profession.

The governor rescued her from that terrible office job.

She wanted to show people her ability to do great work.

Clara saw Jason and Alice running down the street and stopped to wait for Mellissa so they could cross the street.

Ida rushed to her door and unlocked it.

The two security soldiers heard the door and rushed to the front.

Ida said, “Mellissa. Step here for a minute.”

Mellissa looked at Ida and then at Jason and Alice.

She said,”Children come to me.”

Jason and Alice ran back to Melissa.

Mellissa said, “hello Ida.”

Jason looked at Ida and peeped and saw Lydia and jumped and smiled.

Ida looked down at Lydia and said, “Speak Lydia.”

Lydia looked out the door at Jason and Alice ad said, “Hey.”

Alice and Jason grinned.

Mellissa said, “Wonderful Jason and Alice what are you to say back to Lydia?”

Alice and Jason looked at Mellissa.

Jason said, “Hello Lydia.”

He looked at Mellissa and Mellissa smiled and said, “That’s right Jason and you Alice.”

Alice saw how kind Mellissa was and how happy Jason was.

She turned and looked at Lydia and said, “Hello Lydia.”

Ida looked at Lydia and smiled.

Mellissa stood in the street and watched Jason and lice play near her.

Lydia laughed at Jason and Alice.

Alice said, “Lydia can you come out to play?”

One of the security soldiers shook his head and walked around the front and said, “Pardon me.”

Ida said, “I’m sorry. I want to spend another weekend in the city. Can we go this week-end and have Clara and Laura take the children to see their parents?”

The other security soldier walked around the front of the house.

Mellissa jumped.

Jason and Alice ran to Mellissa because the security soldier was tall and thick.

He said, “We have to get that approved by Captain Chester.”

Mellissa looked at the imposing security soldiers who were no one like Marc and Joseph.

Mellissa said, “I’ll ask them.”

She grabbed Jason and Alice hands and nearly raj home.

Jason and Alice were walking fast and looked back the security soldiers who were watching them.

Clara and Laura were looking out the dining room window at Mellissa, Jason and Alice nearly running.

Clara said, “That.”

Laura looked at Clara.

Clara looked at Laura and said, “What are you going to do with Jason and Alice?”

Laura was in shocked and pointed to herself and said, “Me?”

Laura could not believe her ears. How did she get in this picture and be the care taker of the devil’s children.

GOD said, “No Laura.”

Laura looked at Clara and said, “No Laura what?”

Clara looked scared and said, “Laura I didn’t say anything.”

Laura said,”You are lying. No one is here but you and me.”

Clara said, “Laura you are scaring me.”

Laura said, “You are scaring me telling me to take care of the devil’s children.”

Clara pointed at Laura and said,”HunHun.”

Laura said, “Shut the hell up Clara.”

Mellissa was unlocking the front door.

Clara whispered and said that was GOD because you called the children out of their name and called them what the evil wants us Christians to call them and reject them so they won’t have any covering of divine protection and deliverance.”

Alice ran into the house and waved and said, “Hello miss Clara and Miss Laura.”

Laura smiled.

Clara nodded her head and smiled and said, “Good afternoon Miss Alice.”

Alice curtsey.

They all laughed.

Jason said, “Let me try.”

He bowed and said, “Good afternoon Miss Clara and Miss Laura.”

Laura and Clara clapped and grinned.

Mellissa looked at Laura and then Clara and knew they were talking about somebody.

She went into her bedroom and changed out the new dress Laura bought her to one of her everyday dresses.

Laura had set the table.

Doreen and Larry had become use to stopping by and having dinner with the five.

They enjoyed Laura cooking.

They would sit around talking or playing games or old maid cards with their neighbors.

That day Laura was very busy and nervous.

Clara did not know why.

Laura cooked an Italian dinner.

She made spaghetti and meatballs and a special bread with cheese.

Larry and Doreen were about to pass Mellissa’s house.

Larry and Doreen were looking at the dining room window.

They did not see Jason and Alice.

Larry said, “Huh.”

Doreen said, “Maybe they got tired us.”

Jason and Alice were in the kitchen where Laura was tying towels around them to keep the tomato sauce from getting on their clothes.

Clara and Mellissa were talking in the doorway of her bedroom.

Alice and Jason ran into the dining room and went to the window and did not see Larry ad Doreen.

Alice said, “Where are they?”

Someone knocked on the front door.

Clara and Mellissa turned and looked.

Laura was putting the spaghetti and meatballs in a large bowl she bought while they were away in the other city that week-end.

Laura said, “Mellissa get the door.”

Clara walked fast to the door while Laura ran to the dining room table with the large bowl of spaghetti and meatballs.

Clara ran to the door and looked out the front window curtain and saw Doreen.

She unlocked the door and saw Larry.

She looked at Doreen and said you two come in, we have a place for you.

Larry looked back at Doreen, who was puffed up.

Clara said, “What you thought we had forgotten about you?”

Larry reached back for Doreen and said,’Well yes.”

Alice and Jason ran to the front door.

Alice said, “We didn’t see you.”

Larry looked at them and said, “Hello there.”

Jason bowed and said, “Good afternoon.”

Larry bowed and looked at his watch and said, “Sir Jason it is now evening time.”

Jason said, “Thank you sir for telling me.”

Mellissa and Laura laughed.

Clara looked at Doreen and she knew Doreen was not completely delivered.

Larry point and waved his fingers and said, “What is that you two have on around your stomachs?”

Alice said, “Miss Laura put this on us so we won’t mess up our clothes.”

Doreen peeped around Larry’s shoulders and looked at the children.

Alice said, “That’s why we didn’t see you. We were in the kitchen.”

Clara said, “You thought we saw you and did not invite you for dinner.”

Larry said, “Something like that Doreen said.”

And nodded back at Doreen.

Doreen was taken by surprise and hit Larry’s shoulder and said, “What?”

Everyone laughed.

Larry held onto Doreen’s arm and they walked into the living room.

Larry said, “What is that?”

Doreen said, “Something Italian.”

Laura grinned.

Larry said, “Might I need a towel?”

Laura went into the bedroom and walked back with a towel.

Larry and Doreen had removed their coats, hats and gloves.

Laura walked into the dining room and tied the towel around Larry’s stomach.

Jason and Alice laughed out.

They all sat for dinner.

Laura said, “Larry would you say the grace this evening?”

Laura winked at Jason.

Jason laughed.

Clara was watching Doreen.

Clara felt the attack of a nervous breakdown was coming back on Doreen.

She became angry with Laura.

Clara knew the nervous breakdown attack was because Doreen had opened the door of worry to come in and take control over her life.

Larry winked at Jason and said, “God I truly thank You for sending these good people into our lives…”

Larry paused and cried.

Doreen reached over and rubbed her husband’s shoulder.

Doreen patted Larry’s shoulder.

The table was quiet.

The waited for Larry and Doreen to have that moment between a husband and a wife to comfort me another.

Mellissa teared up because she missed Ray.

She thought, “It was good to see Jake Sunday. He reminded me that Ray had some friends in this evil town.”

Laura stood and passed the large bowl to Jason.

Jason looked at Laura and said, “It’s too big for my hands.”

Laura leaned over and rubbed her nose on Jason’s nose and he laughed.

Laura stood and put spaghetti and meatballs in Jason in bowl.

She went to Alice and served her spaghetti and meatballs and passed the bowl to Mellissa.

Mellissa said, “Thank you Laura.”

Laura was still mad with Mellissa and knew everyone was listening said, “You are quit welcome Mellissa.”

Mellissa looked at Laura like there could be a hope of restoration of their friendship.

Clara shook her head for no at Mellissa.

Mellissa dropped her head and continued to eat her spaghetti.

Larry started to eat and smacked his lips.

He said, “Laura this is really good.”

Aura passed the cheese bread and it was seven slices.

Larry counted the slices and said, “You did not grow tired of us. You included a slice for me and Doreen.”

Jason looked up at Laura.

Alice looked at Larry.

Clara saw Alice staring at Larry and wondered what Alice was thinking.

Alice watched Larry all through dinner.

Mellissa watched Alice.

Mellissa said, “Ida asked if you and Laura would take the governor’s children to visit their parents on Sunday.”

Laura was holding the platter with the last piece of cheese bread which was her piece.

She held the bread the platter.

Clara said, “Yes we will. What are you doing?”

Laura mouth was opened to put a fork of spaghetti in it.

She could not think.

All she could say, “How dare Clara volunteered her to go to cold ass place.”

Mellissa pointed to herself and said, “She asked could I go with her, but the security soldiers said the captain had to approve it.”

Laura said, “Clara how can you answer when I am sitting here?”

Clara said, “I want to see Chester. Don’t you want to see Joseph? The only way we can see them is to go to them.”

Mellissa looked at Laura.

Laura sat and looked at the calculating Clara.

Laura thought, “Heifer.”

Clara said, “What are we going to do with Jason and Alice. The wagon can’t hold all of us.”

Larry looked at Doreen and said, “We can baby sit.”

Doreen said, “Larry how can you answer when I am sitting here?”

The adults laughed.

Jason and Alice watched everyone.

Laura touched Alice, because she saw how she was looking at Larry.

Laura said, “It’s a joke, but Jason and Alice it is very very cold there. We don’t won’t you two to become sick.”

Alice said, “We can go with you and I can sit up front in the wagon so the other children can sit in the wagon.”

Clara did a double take at Alice and said, “whoa that was very grown up of you Alice. You gave a very good resolution to our problem.”

Jason said. “Can we?”

Laura bit her bottom lip and said, “We have to see. Who’s going to there with the governor’s children?”

Mellssa said, “I guess the children’s grandmother.”

Laura said, “Yeah.”  
Jason looked at Laura.

Laura touched her lips and said, “Oh dear Sir Jason forgive me. I meant ‘Yes’.”

Jason laughed.

He looked at Alice who had eased out of her child and stood next to Laura.

She reached for Laura’s hand.

Laura looked at Alice and said, “What?”

Alice said, “We are not the devil’s children. I want to go to bed.”

Jason looked at Alice and said, “Why?”

Alice looked back at Larry and Jason looked at Larry.

Clara looked at Laura.

Laura tugged at Alice’s hand and Laura took Jason’s hand and said, “I apologize I called you the devil’s children because I was scared. I ask you to forgive me. I promise I will never call you that again. I will call you blessed and beautiful children of the LIVING GOD.”

Laura hugged Jason and then Alice.

Alice said, “I forgive you. I want to be good like you, Miss Mellissa and Miss Clara.”

Jason said, “I feel good in my heart.”

Laura kissed Jason on his head.

Laura said, “It is a lot of dishes. Clara and Mellissa would you wash all the dishes and put hem up, please?”

Larry was eating his piece of meatball and said, “Jason I was looking forward to beating you at Parccheesi.”  
Jason laughed and said, “I want to beat you at checkers.”

Jason looked at Laura and said, “Can I Miss Laura?”

Laura looked at a frightful Alice and said, “Tomorrow.”

Clara knew something was wrong but she could not think what it could be.

Laura took Jason ‘s hand and walked them to the head of the table.

Alice said, “I know what to do.”

Jason said, “What?”

Alice said “Good night. We are going to bed.”

Jason said, “Oh.”

Laura said, “Good night.”

Alice kissed Larry on his forehead and Doreen on her cheek.

Jason said, “No kissing.”

Everyone laughed.

Laura walked and swung Alice and Jason’s hand and they walked into the guess bedroom.

Laura put Alice’s nightgown and Jason’s pajamas on the bed.

She told them to undress and put on their night clothes and she was going to get their wash water.

Laura returned to the bedroom with the hot water.

She placed the hot water in the basin.

She sat on the bed and folded the children’s clothes and put them up.

She stood and pulled the covers back on their bed and checked the bed.

She watched Jason and Alice and when they finished she got on her knees and held Jason and Alice’s

Hands and pulled them beside her.

Laura said, “Alice I want you to pray.”

Alice said, “I don’t know how.”

Laura said, “Everyone knows how to pray. It is talking to GOD like you talk to Jason or Miss Mellissa or Miss Clara…”

Jason hollered, “… or you.”

Alice was still shaking her head for no.

Laura said, “Come on you I will help you pray. I ‘ll call the person’s name and you tell God what is wrong and to help the person and to fix the problem.”

A knock on the front door.

Laura looked at the clock, it was five forty five pm.

She wondered who it was.

She heard Larry and Clara say, “Who is that?”

Clara walked to the door.

Larry turned around to see who was at the front door.

Doreen turned around to see.

Mellissa stood from her chair and looked out the dining room window and stared.

She was shaken.

Larry said, “Mellissa?”

Doreen said, “Child what is it?”

Clara looked back at Mellissa.

Clara turned to the front door and unlocked the door.

A sentry said, “Good evening ma am. I am here to deliver a message from Commander Jake Jameson.”

Clara heart skipped a beat because she thought it was about Chester.

Laura thought it was about Joseph and dropped her head.

Alice looked at Laura.

She and walked into the living room.

Jason was scared and moved next to Laura’s touching her body.

Clara took a deep breath and said, “Commander Jake Jameson?”

The sentry said, “Yes ma am he has been reinstated for this crisis.”

Clara was mumbling trying to figure out what crisis.

Melvin and William told them earlier something was not right and to sleep on the floor.

The sentry said, “I am here to deliver a message for you and your house to take cover.”

Clara was closing the door and said, “What about Captain Chester?”

The sentry on the horse raised up and peeped over in the door at Clara. He wanted to see who it was that knew their captain.

The sentry continued to walk to his horse.

He mounted his horse.

The two security soldiers at Ida ran to the street and waved the two sentries down.

The sentries stop.

The two security soldiers said, “Are we on alert?”

The sentries looked at the security soldiers.

One of the sentries said, “Unofficially yes.”

The five soldiers across the street were well hidden and they were watching the security soldiers.

The security soldiers aid, “Thanks.”

They turned and waved their hands at he five soldiers that were across.

The sentries looked across the street and because it was getting dark they could barely see the soldiers.

One of the sentries said, “Well I need to go to that class they went to on hiding.”

The sentries readied their guns.

One of the sentries had his rifle on his horse. He had a gun on each hip a gun on his chest and a gun on his thigh and he an extra bag with ammunition on his saddle.

The other sentry said, “Do you think that is too much?”

The sentry replied, “How many times have they come after the governor and his family. They are relentless. My daddy said, they are using our money to finance this war against the governor. I want my raise in the next thirty days.”

Clara said, “Rude.”

She closed the door.

She turned around from the door and saw Alice standing behind the sofa watching her.

Clara said, “Excuse me Alice.”

Larry was finishing his spaghetti and meatball.

Doreen said, “Larry we should go and get settle in before something starts.”

Mellissa picked up the bowl with a little spaghetti and a couple of meatballs.

Larry peeped over at the bowl and held up his fork and said,”Can I get that?”

Doreen said, “Larry!”

Mellissa said, “You are welcomed to it. Why don’t you take the rest because it is not that much.”

Larry looked at Doreen and said, “I’ll be ready in a minute.”

Doreen looked at the dining room window.

Mellissa said, “Doreen if you are ready to go. Larry can take the plate and return it later.”

Laura was on her knees and leaned backwards to look in the dining room to see the plates and dishes Mellissa was talking about.

Mellissa turned and was walking through the living room and saw Laura watching her.

Mellissa thought Laura was watching to see if she gave all the food to Larry.

Laura saw Mellissa and knew what she was thinking.

Alice was standing in the living room behind the sofa.

Clara was getting the other dishes off the table.

Mellissa screamed and dropped the bowl on the floor and Laura heard her new bowl breaking.

She closed her eyes and said, “Damn.”

Jason was on his knees by Laura and said, “What’s that?”

Laura said, “My new bowl.”

Jason said, “Why Miss Mellissa drop it?”

Laura was thinking of a whole of reasons,”Ditzy, dumb. Air head, lack of common sense, stupid…”

JESUS was standing by the doorway watching Laura. HE saw Laura was allowing the devil to make her feel she was being overwhelmed. And that was bringing down her armor she had to use for this fight.

Jason crawled to the doorway and peeped into the kitchen.

Clara walked in the kitchen.

Clara knew what made Mellissa dropped he bowl.

Alice walked behind Clara.

Clara said, “Alice don’t come in the kitchen because glass is on the floor. Jason crawled back in the bedroom.”

JESUS said to Jason, “Move out the doorway.”  
Jason crawled out the doorway and sat on his heels.

Alice walked in the bedroom and sat next to Jason.

Jason said, “Why she dropped the bowl?”

Alice said, “I don’t know.”

Alice turned to Laura and watched Laura who was making herself have a headache.

Alice whispered to Jason.

Jason became scared and looked back at Laura.

He and Alice crawled fast to the bedroom door.

Clara was walking back to the dining room.

She saw Laura on the floor and rubbing her head.

Clara saw Alice whispered to Jason.

Clara said, “Alice.”

Alice jumped and looked at Clara.

Clara said, “What did you just say to Jason?”

Alice did not say anything.

Clara said, “Jason?”

Jason looked at a scared Alice and said, “She said, Laura is becoming like our momma and daddy. That’s the way it starts by your head hurts and then it grows.”

JESUS was standing and watching Laura.

Laura was feeling she would always be bound up with other people problems and not be able to live a good life for herself. She tried to pretend it did not bother her. First she had to help out with their father for two years until he died, then a year and a half later with her mother, then she had to take all of her money to send the twins through college, then she had to take all of her money to save the farm, because a lot of the time Clara was substitute teaching and barely pay her bills. She thought about all the times she should have receive a promotion but passed over for a male. Now she felt bound to Mellissa and to Jason and Alice. When was she ever to be happy.

Clara said, “Laura you frighten Jason and Alice. They say you are becoming like their mother. Now stop it and apologize to them and pray.”

JESUS said, “Laura I gave you the money from the horses saddle’s as pay for the years you worked to help everyone. I have not forgotten your labor of love. I will give you peace and you will peace and joy. I need you to help Jason and Alice. They are not the devil’s children but mine’s. You will not be burden with them. You are to be their defender for now.”

Laura exhaled.

She turned and looked at Clara, then she looked at Jason and Alice. She reached her hand to them.

They ran to her.

Jason fell into Laura’s arms and Alice slowly walked to Laura.

Laura was crying and kissed Jason.

She pulled Alice to her and said, “You better give me a kiss Alice.”

Alice grinned.

Laura said, “Babies I never want to hurt you. Forgive me. Please.”

Jason looked at Laura and did not say anything.

Laura was hurt. She ejection as Jason and Alice felt that day.

Then Jason grinned.

Laura grabbed him. They begin to wrestle on the floor.

Alice watched and finally fell onto the floor and wrestled with Laura and Jason.

Clara watched Laura, Jason and Alice she walked into the dining room.

Doreen was looking at Larry as he finished his dinner.

He said, “NO one for checkers?”

Clara said, “Not tonight. Something is happening, we are going to sleep on the floor.

Doreen stood and said, “Thanks for a good dinner. We better go home and get settled in for the night too.”

Larry said, “No dessert.”

Doreen hit him on his arm and said, “Let’s go.”

Clara was irritated with Larry and could not understand why he was being rude and not going home to his house.

Clara said, “Larry I have two pastries in the kitchen I will give them to you to take home, so we can get ready for tonight.”

Larry said, “Ok.”

Doreen looked at Clara and she saw Jason and Alice playing with Laura on the floor.

Clara walked back with the two pastries and handed them to Larry in a dish.

Clara walked to the sofa and picked up Doreen’s coat.

Doreen was trying to reach the coat before Clara.

Clara outreached Doreen and picked up her coat.

Clara saw the inside lining of Doreen’s coat that was torn and ripped and stitched together.

Clara looked back at the table and Larry was sitting and eating the pastries.

Clara walked over to Larry and took the plate from Larry.

Larry said, “That was rude.”

Clara took the dish into the kitchen and put the pieces of the pastries in a napkin.

She heard Doreen say, “Larry. No. Let’s go. Here is your coat. You don’t need to put your scarf nd gloves on. Take your hat and let’s go. NOW!!!”

Mellissa was sweeping the floor and picking up the broken bowl and her mind was not on Clara, Larry and Doreen.

She was thinking what she was going to say to Laura about the broken bowl.

Everyone heard Doreen.

Jason and Alice flipped off Laura and looked in the living room.

Laura sit up and said, “Good night.”

Clara stood behind the kitchen wall and took a dep breath and walked into the living room with the napkin.

Clara said, “Here you go. You’ll have a good evening.”

Jason and Alice yelled, “Good night.”

Mellissa was sweeping the kitchen and said, “Good night Larry and Doreen.”

Alice and Jason yelled, “Miss Mellissa good evening.”

Mellissa was so nervous about Laura’s bowl she said, “Oh pardon me Jason and Alice.”

Clara was irritated with Larry he was acting like a dog.

Doreen looked at Larry and unlocked the door and grabbed the doorknob and walked out the house.

Larry looked at Doreen.

He turned to Clara who was standing behind him to lock the door.

Clara looked at Larry and said, “What is it Larry?”

Laura was listening.

Larry said, “I am just confused. I don’t have the money to pay the mortgage and the bank is going to foreclose tomorrow and I just don’t won’t want to go home.”

Clara said, “You have to go home. Get some sleep. I get paid tomorrow. I’ll take my whole pay and catch up your mortgage. You give me the exact amount that is owe and I will pay it.”

Laura said, to herself, “You need to do something with your fat self.”

Jason said, “What is a fourclose.”

Laura raised her finger to her mouth for Jason to be quiet.

Larry said, “We owe the full amount. It is a balloon payment for nonpayment.”

Clara was stunned and could not speak.

Mellissa said, “Bye. Bye neighbors,” and she continued to clean up the kitchen.

Laura was trying to get off the floor, but she kept slipping and falling.

She did a split and Alice and Jason laughed so hard that tears start falling out of their eyes and rolling down their cheeks.

Clara closed the front door.

Clara stood in the living room with her back to the front door.

She could hear Alice and Jason laughing so hard.

She heard Mellissa in the kitchen washing dishes.

Clara said, “JESUS, YOU said in John 14:6 “I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE: no man cometh unto the FATHER but by ME. I in my small mind is thinking about that money YOU gave Laura and Newsom. I know Newsom is shot and can’t give his answer. Can you have Laura give the money, her money and Newsom’s money to get Larry and Doreen’s house out of foreclosure.”

Clara turned and locked the front door.

Mellissa was looking out the kitchen window at Larry and Doreen.

Clara walked in the bedroom and said, “Laura.”

Laura pointed for Clara to get out.

She put Alice and Jason to bed.

Jason said, “We did not pray.”

Laura thought about Clara and said to herself, “She can wait until I finish praying with her fat self”

JESUS said, “Laura.”

Laura turned around and looked at the bedroom door.

She turned around to Alice and Jason.

Laura said, “Ok on your knees.”

Jason jumped down and said, “God Laura. I want her to be my momma. Amen.”

Clara heard Jason and she tiptoed very fast across the living room and was peeping trying to see Laura’s face.

Alice said, “I want Miss Clara to be my momma.”

Clara was having a heartache. She knew Jason and Alice would go with Laura or a relative.

Mellissa saw Clara from the kitchen and stood and watched her.

Mellissa thought, “We don’t have any doctors.”

Laura smiled and kissed Alice and Jason.

She turned and saw Clara.

Laura ran to Clara and closed the bedroom door.

Mellissa walked into the kitchen’s doorway that lead to the open living room.

Mellissa’s house was really nice.

Ray did a great job designing the house and building the house.

Mellissa thought that while Laura was taking care of Clara she had to tell her about the bowl.

Mellissa rushed to the doorway and said, “Laura I broke your bowl.”

Laura said, “I will talk to you about that.”

Mellissa turned and walked in the kitchen and did not ask about Clara’s condition.

Mellissa said to herself, “What does that mean?”

She heard Jason and Alice laughing in the kitchen.

She started back washing dishes and said, “Wait. Why neither one of them said me.”

Laura said,”Clara what is wrong with you? You haven’t changed colors so you ain’t dying.”

Clara turned and walked into the living room and sat on the sofa.

Laura stood with her arms folded.

She looked at Clara and then where Clara was standing.

Laura leaned over the sofa and whispered,”You heard Alice say she wanted you for her momma. You were shocked because you thought you were going to put both of them off on me and Joseph. You fat cow.”

Clara did not say anything.

Mellissa walked into the living room with a glass of water and reached it to Clara.

Clara drank a sip of water and said, “Laura I am tired of you calling me fat.”

Mellissa was about to sit next to Clara.

Laura wanted to talk to Clara alone.

She looked at Mellissa and was thinking how to get rid of her and said, “Mellissa about the bowl.”

Mellissa lifted up her finger and walked into her bedroom and closed the door.

Clara and Laura watched Mellissa.

Clara rolled her eyes at Laura.

Laura turned and matched Clara’s eyes.

Clara said, “You are dirty. That was dirty Laura you know she wanted to come and talk to us.”

Laura said, “I can match that.”

Clara said, “What are you talking about?” Clara took a swallow of water.

Laura peeped at the bedroom door that Alice and Jason were in and she looked back at Mellissa’s bedroom.

Laura said, “I am going to save that one for later. You think I am going to give you all of my money and I know you don’t think I am going to tough a sick man’s money to give you a penny for Larry and Doreen. You don’t know why they are in this situation.”

Laura flung her arms wide open and said, “There is a town half full of empty houses that are free.”

Laura stop talking and was thinking.

Clara said, “Look at you. You greedy heifer, you just thought about getting the houses and selling them, like you got the cash from those horses.”

Laura cut her eyes at Clara and continued to think about the houses and if Newsom was well he could be her partner and manage the sale of the houses.”

Laura said, “What are you calling me for?”

Clara said, “I didn’t call you.”

Laura said,”Look Clara I am not giving one penny to Larry and Doreen. I will help them pack…”

Mellissa said, “They don’t have nothing.”

Laura said, “Have you ever been in their house? They can find one of these abandoned houses like the soldiers are doing and don’t have a mortgage and live off of their income.”

Mellissa said, “Ray did not like them.”

Laura said, “Clara you go and talk to them. Tell them no money will we give. Ask why they did not pay their mortgage and I said, they have half of a town to pick a house. That is the best option for them.”

Mellissa said, “I agree.”

Mellissa was lying across her bed flipping through a fashion magazine, so she could hear Clara and Laura.

Laura said, “Mellissa I am on my way to talk to you about my bowl.”

Mellissa yelled, “I am going to sleep now. I will talk to you in the morning.”

Laura ran to Mellissa’s door and grabbed the doorknob with her right hand and knocked with her left hand.

Clara was rolling her eyes at Laura.

Laura opened the door and Mellissa was lying on the bed and trying t reach the doorknob.

Clara was looking and saw Mellissa trying to reach the door.

Cara covered her eyes and shook her head.

Laura had opened Mellissa’s door.

Mellissa looked up at Laura and said, “Hello Laura.”

Laura said, “Mellissa, I bought that bowl and platter for you while we were in town last month. So you broke your own bowl.”

Clara still had her eyes covered and said, “Damn.”

Laura said,”Mellissa why did you break the bowl?”

Mellissa said, “I saw new stuff in the kitchen.”

Laura said, “I bought you that machine that wash clothes and an ice box. They came today while you were at work. I had them to deliver you and Jake coal. Jake brought them the people by the house while he was going to the command post. I bought you new wash cloths and towels. My parents said always leave someone in a better position than you found them.”

Clara finally uncovered her eyes.

Mellissa peeped in the living room and said, “Clara did you know about this?”

Clara said, “Some of it.”

Mellissa said, “Well Laura since you are generous did you buy me anything else.”

Clara said, “JESUS!!!”

Laura slammed Mellissa’s door and said, “You crazy bitch.”

Mellissa said, “At least you did not call me a fat bitch.”

Clara started laughing.

Laura was angry and stumping in the middle of the floor.

She walked in the room with Jason and Alice and closed the door and locked it.

Clara was hollering on the living room sofa.

Mellissa opened her bedroom door and laid on her bed and flipped through the fashion magazines Laura bought while they were in town.

Mellissa said, “Calling me crazy.”

Clara hollered.

Mellissa laugh.

Laura had placed her head on the door and had her hand on the doorknob.

She stood there for a good time. Until Mellissa and Clara laughter subsided.

Mellissa said, “Clara, I need you to help me go through my finances. God forbid if I need a dollar.”

Clara laughed until she rolled off the sofa.

Mellissa said, “You ok?”

Clara was climbing back on the sofa and said, “Yes.”

Laura started exhaling.

She said, “I know we cussed and fussed like this when were kids. I tried to be kind to Mellissa. I need something to help me. I know I can’t have Joseph until we are married.”

Laura went and laid in the be with Jason and Alice.

She fell asleep.

Clara was knocking on the door.

Laura woke and said, “What?”

Clara said, “I made them mats on the floor, bring Alice and Jason.”

Laura rolled off the bed and unlocked and opened the door.

Mellissa said, “Closed and locked.”

Clara put her finger up to Mellissa to be quiet.

Mellissa said, “Is she really that made with me?”

Clara shook her and said, “Mellissa you were terrible.”

Mellissa said, “Does being temporarily insane count for forgiveness?”

Clara moved away from the door when Laura was walking through holding Jason.

Mellissa looked at Laura.

Clara said, “Please JESUS don’t let Mellissa say nothing to Laura. I can’t stop them because I am fat.”

Laura walked through with Alice and placed her on a mat.

Laura laid down by Alice so she could be near the door.

Clara and Mellissa laid near the dining room and looked at the fashion magazines and talked for a good while and fell asleep.