The train pulled into the station.

Everyone de-boarded the train.

Mag was the manger over the train station in the new city.

She moved to the city with Josiah and Natalie.

Patrick hired Natalie to help Mag at the train station.

Josiah convinced the governor to have a school placed in the new city.

The governor took a train ride to the new city and looked around.

He thought it was a beautiful city.

He wanted to know the status of the local government.

He was told there was no local government because the mayor, his wife and three men were arrested for trying to kill Shirley, Thomas and Michael.

The governor remembered about the attack on Patrick’s family.

He asked what was the outcome of the case.

They informed the governor, the mayor and his wife were given twenty-five years in prison, their family was ran out of town.

The three men that attempted to kill the children were given death.

The three men tried to cut a deal and gave Patrick Jr and Christopher’s name.

The judge told them Patrick Jr and Christopher Stith were dead.

He sentenced them to death by hanging.

The governor was satisfied.

He did not want the mob to get a strong hold in his state amongst good businesses.

The governor took over the city until the people decided on the type of government and hold elections.

The governor loved the huge lake that was full of trout, bass and other fish.

He wanted the people to have access to the lake and the area around the lake.

Josiah and Natalie walked with the governor.

Josiah showed the governor where he wanted to place the school.

He wanted the school far away from the lake so the children would not go there.

The governor said, “What is the name of the school?”

Josiah said, “I humbly request for the school to be named after my father Roger Smith School.”

Mag looked at Josiah.

Natalie smiled and looked at Josiah.

The governor knew Mag and Roger were personal friends of Patrick and Brenda.

The governor said, “Fine. But I want my name on that lake.”

Everyone laughed and clapped.

Mag’s eyes filled with tears.

The governor said, “I did not know this city was here. On the map yes, this is a jewel. I would not mind having a small cabin here to go fishing in that beautiful lake.”

Everybody laughed.

Mag walked to the area Josiah wanted a house built and she sat by the creek and cried.

Mag said, “Roger you will be honored here.”

She felt Roger sitting next to her.

Mag said, “You were truly a marvelous man. You were here with me. Hiding me and healing me when I was tortured and rescued from death by you and George. No one ever knew. But somehow God honored you. I know you and George are with JESUS now. I pray that this physical hell is over. God is the only one who will deliver us from this mental hell.”

Mag sat out by the creek for a long time.

She felt Roger’s presence and stayed there until his presence faded.

The governor had to camp until the next day when the train stopped to go back to Cedartown.

The governor then had to ride his carriage to the capitol.

The governor said to Mag, “I need to talk to your boss about opening a line to the capitol.”

Mag grinned.

Josiah stood between Natalie and Mag as they bid farewell to the governor.

All the city residents ran to the train and waved the governor bye.

The governor waved back and said to his aides, “Get the military to have a small camp out by the lake.”

One of his aides said, “I had to keep my hands on both guns all night.”

Another aide said, “I did not sleep at all.”

Another aide said, “I’m glad your wife was not here governor.”

The governor looked at the man and said, “Why. I know she would have fought me to go fishing. She is an expert fisher. I meet her at a fishing party. I never knew a woman that can fish like that. This will be a good retirement place.”

The aide said, “Your wife would have grabbed her rifle and went hunting.”

They all laughed.

The governor and his aides stood on the train’s platform and looked at the beautiful city.

He told his aides, “Get builders to come here and build the school and my retirement cabin out of my salary. These people desired to have a chance at a better life.”

The governor and his aides saw some men hiding in the bushes.

The governor said, “We have all of these unemployed civil war soldiers, it has been three years. We need to help them get jobs and bring them back into the community.”

The governor sat on the platform of the train and begin to work on a budget to establish a state police force of the former soldiers who were mentally stable and wanting to be trained and work in the state.

The governor telegrammed Patrick.

Patrick met the governor at the train station they rode together and talked for hours.

The governor told Patrick he wanted a state police department and he wanted to develop that city.

The governor said, “They have nothing. But the people are happy. The mob is trying to move in. They may have settled there. I will meet with the commander of the military headquarters and see if he can spare a troop of at least a hundred soldiers to be at the back of the city.”

Patrick said, “That would push the mob closer to us.”

The governor said, “Right. That is the area I want the state police headquarters to be. I need you to get busy and build a rail station from the capitol to the area of the state police. If we can’t run the mob out of our state let’s put them in the open so we can control them.”

Patrick said, “The engineers are extending our tracks two hundred in the south.”

The governor was shocked and said, “How is that going?”

Patrick said, “Surprising well. Their trains are still off and we can freight their cargo to re-build.”

The governor said, “And make a fortune in the meanwhile.”

Patrick said, “Yes sir.”

The governor laughed.

Patrick stopped his buggy at the city line to the capitol.

The governor and Patrick shook hands.

The governor stepped out the buggy and went to his carriage and rode into the capitol.

Patrick sat and watched the governor and his aides.

He turned his buggy around and put one gun on the seat and sped up a little and made the hour trip to their house back in forty-five minutes.

He talked to Brenda and said, “The rail to the south is self-supported. Thomas is retiring and he and Lisa will move to Boston with their children. We have Tim and Eric that can run the south line. Marvin and Michael can run the main line. The Philadelphia to the capitol line is easy. I am amazed no one else did it. Chambers and Tyler can run that line three days a week.”

Brenda was sitting and listening to the excited Patrick.

Patrick said, “Brenda do you know the amount of money we are talking about. Not only that the governor want to stomp out the mob in these areas that are not control.”

Brenda said, “Where is Mag staying in the city?”

Patrick said, “She, Josiah and Natalie stay with a family there. The governor was so excited about a beautiful lake full of trout and bass.”

Brenda said, “I hate that place and never want to go back.”

Patrick said, “I know but we have to establish a support system there. And a building for Mag and Natalie so they won’t be in the cold.”

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “What Brenda?”

Brenda said, “Nadine’s nephew who graduated from college he is not working.”

Patrick said, “I don’t understand how someone can go to college and graduate and can’t find a job.”

Brenda said, “Let’s help him.”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “Brenda. He has no experience.”

Brenda said, “You just said.”

Patrick said, “I know.”

Brenda said, “Let’s give him a small chore like building the cover for Mag and Natalie by winter.”

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Brenda smiled at Patrick.

Patrick exhaled.

Brenda said, “Let’s pray about.”

Patrick did not want to pray about. He did not want to go with no one without any work experience with his money.”

Patrick said, “Brenda if he fails the money come out of your part.”

Brenda stopped grinning and smiling at Patrick and saw he was serious.

She said, “Is that the answer you got from God?”

Patrick said, “No. That’s business.”

Brenda said, “Fine. If he does well I will select who I want to build anything from now on.”

Patrick said, “I did not say that.”

Brenda said, “I did.”

Brenda rang for Jose and Jose was at the liquor table and heard the bell Brenda bought and was getting attached to.

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “Do you need to go to Ryan for a complete physical?”

Brenda looked at Patrick.

The annoyed Jose walked to Patrick’s office and looked at Brenda and said, “Ma am.”

Patrick looked at Jose.

Brenda looked at Jose and said, “Jose tell Nadine to come here.”

Jose looked at Brenda and walked away.

He stopped at the liquor table and poured a full glass of Eleanor’s sherry.

He continued to the kitchen.

Patrick said, “He was annoyed with you and that bell.”

Brenda said, “For him to hear the bell he was at my liquor table.”

Jose went into the kitchen and saw Nadine talking to Peter and said, “Brenda wants you Nadine. She’s in Patrick’s office.”

Nadine said, “What she want?”

Jose looked at Nadine and said, “The hell if I know.”

Peter looked at Jose for cursing his wife.

Jose could not stand Peter and Nadine.

Jose turned the glass of sherry up.

Nadine walked through the house and walked to Patrick’s office and knocked on the door.

Patrick looked at Nadine and said, “Hi Nadine come in and close the door.”

Brenda said, “Nadine is your nephew working yet?”

Nadine looked puzzled and said, “My nephew?”

Patrick looked at Brenda and twisted his mouth and went back to the papers he had on his desk.

Brenda said, “Nadine, how many nephews do you have that graduated from college with a degree in engineering and architecture? I am not in the mood to be bothered with your non-sense today or for that matter anymore forever.”

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Nadine was acted stupid and said, “I guess he is at home.”

Brenda said, “Patrick give me a piece of paper and pen.”

Patrick handed Brenda a piece of paper and pencil.

Brenda walked to Nadine and said, “Put his address on this piece of paper and his full name.”

Nadine wrote her nephew’s name and address on the paper.

Brenda said, “Bye Nadine.”

Brenda wrote a note for her nephew to meet her at Patrick’s on Tuesday at ten am.”

Jose put his money under his mattress.

He counted ten thousand dollars.

He could quit and never work anywhere ever.

He started looking for a nice house.

He wanted to be near the Stith’s house in case he wanted to continue to work for a few years. His mind went to the woman he thought he wanted to marry. He shook his head.

Peter watched Jose.

Jose took Shirley and the boys the day before out looking for a site to build the new hospital.

Shirley wanted it close to the new military headquarters.

They were lost and rode through several neighborhoods to get back to the area of the military headquarters.

Jose saw a very nice neighborhood and that area was about thirty minutes from the house.

Jose remembered where it was and spent the whole day with Shirley and the boys.

The children agreed on a piece of land to build the hospital.

Jose had his back to them and looking across the street at the nice neighborhood.

The children were excited when they returned.

They ran through the house and found Patrick sitting in Brenda’s study talking.

They told Patrick and Brenda about the piece of land across from the new military headquarters.

Patrick and Brenda and went and saw the land and agreed it was a good area to build a hospital. It would be center of their town by the military headquarters.

Patrick and Brenda knew Shirley wanted a reason to be near that military headquarters.

Patrick and Brenda stopped at Robert and Bethany’s place and had coffee.

Robert and Bethany told them they would attend their anniversary ball the next Friday.

Patrick and Brenda stopped at the realtor and bought the land.

They went home and the next day buried Patrick Jr and Christopher.

The following day they went into town and registered the purchase of all of the land with the clerk.

The clerk said, “You know a man came in here yesterday and wanted to know who bought this piece of land. I told him I did not know nothing about it and if I did I could not tell him. He was angry and stormed out of here. He wasn’t from here.”

Patrick and Brenda looked at the clerk.

Brenda and Patrick were at the bank moving money around, when the realtor walked in to cash Brenda’s check.

The bank manager was moving the money from the children’s trust fund to establish an account they set up for the hospital.

The bank manager smiled because they needed a hospital in their town.

The one builder in the town was very prosperous but Brenda and Patrick wanted to start building the hospital as soon as possible not in two years per Mr. Gibson.

Patrick and Brenda put the building of the hospital in prayer before the LORD GOD Almighty.

Brenda told the bank manager to cash the check from the hospital account.

The bank manager cashed the realtor check.

The realtor was talking to Patrick and Brenda and said, “Yesterday a man came to me to purchase the land. I told him it was already sold. He was angry. The mob.”

Patrick and Brenda looked at the realtor.

The bank manager brought the money and gave it to the realtor.

The realtor wired the owner their part for the sale of the land and put the other part in his account.

Brenda and Patrick talked on the way home.

Patrick said, “The mob.”

There was a shotgun on the floor of their buggy and Brenda‘s gun was on her side and Patrick wore his holster.

Brenda said, “So Patrick Jr and Christopher died so the other person can take control of this town and other cities.”

Patrick said, “I hope somewhere they accepted JESUS the Christ as Savior.”

Brenda turned her head slowly and looked at Patrick.

Patrick felt Brenda looking at him and he did not look at her.

He said, “It’s a father hope. I know we raised them up in the church. I don’t know we lost them.”

Brenda said, “I don’t know either Patrick. They had money. They did not need to work ever and they could have left all of their children a lot of money. What could they have done with all of that money?”

Patrick sat for a while and exhaled and said, “They financed the civil war.”

Brenda looked at Patrick with a question mark and said, “The south?”

Patrick smirked at Brenda and said, “Yes Brenda. Where is your thinking cap?”

Brenda said, “So who is now behind the mob?”

Patrick said, “I don’t know. Maybe he was the one who acted between our sons and the south. Two are dead and one is in prison for twenty years where I hope he will die.”

Brenda said, “Our own children tried to take over our business and home to take all of the money from the businesses and give it to the south?”

Patrick said, “I believe so.”

Brenda said, “I am glad they are dead. I prayed to GOD and asked HIM to put a permanent end to the attempted killing of these children.”

Patrick said, “It was hard but HE did put an end to it. Wherever Patrick Jr and Christopher are for eternity they worked to get there.”

Brenda said, “Does Leon have any suspect of who the inside traitor was?”

Patrick said, “Leon said one of the three wounded men wanted to cut a deal instead of being hanged. He will go next week to the hearing with the judge and the military commanders.”

Brenda said, “Interesting.”

Brenda smiled as they passed the Stith Rest stop for the freed men.

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “They don’t know how hard a victory that was.”

Brenda said, “Patrick, I enjoyed Europe. We did not have enough time. I wondered why Suzy said they stayed three years.”

Patrick said, “It was nice. Brenda do you know we spent a lot of our money. Nearly down to the line. But when the city railroad opened and with the contracts with the military and the merchants we got all of that money back plus two hundred percent.”

Brenda grinned.

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “I believe because we treat our workers as equals GOD granted us to get our money back. Look how smooth the tracks are coming for the south line. How quickly the engineers said, the rail station will be up in Pennsylvania. The governor wants us to build two tracks here.”

Brenda said, “I have been thinking about that more and more.”

Patrick said, “What did Nadine say her nephew said.

Brenda said, “I sent him a message we want to talk to him Tuesday at ten am in your office in town.”

Patrick said, “Why in town at my office? You said you will decide this.”

Brenda said, “I need to check on the last minute things for Friday. Patrick, I love you and Eleanor. I am so excited. The ball room is coming together. They swept and mopped and put the dance floor and the platform for the bands. The tables and chairs are up. The portraits of Shirley and Percy are hanged.”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “I forgot about those portraits.”

Patrick was still thinking.

Brenda knew his mind was on a lot of things.

She was also thinking.

They have to come to town Sunday afternoon to get Eleanor and Mabel.

She said, “Patrick what happened to all of the horses? And did the attackers have money on them?”

Patrick said, “The military said they let people take the horses and the military took a hundred, Jessie and his sons took a hundred and said thank you to us.”

Brenda grinned and said, “He held on until his change came.”

She leaned over and Patrick instinctively knew she wanted a kiss.

He kissed Brenda and said, “Louis is gone, Stanley has quit and Gary is hiding.”

Brenda laughed and said, “We don’t want his money that is his money GOD gave to him for helping us.”

Patrick said, “I know. Brenda you see those two men in front of us.”

Brenda said, “I will die. I will not live in fear.”

Brenda took out her gun from her waist and put it on her lap.

Patrick sped pass the two men and two others were riding fast from their left.

Brenda picked up the shotgun and checked it and cocked it.

The two men from the left saw Brenda cocked the shotgun and pointed it at them.

They pulled back.

Other people were riding going to town and saw the men.

The men split and the people rode to the sheriff and reported the four men.

The sheriff was constantly getting report about new men in the town.

His two deputies and he were accepted in the new program to become federal agents.

He was taking the job and had to find replacements by the fall.

He went to the commander over the new military headquarters and asked for names of qualified men.

The commander gave the sheriff a list of ten soldiers that were leaving that could be good.

The sheriff wanted to talk to someone in the military that knew the men.

The sheriff met with Leon.

Three of the soldiers Leon immediately dismissed.

Two of the soldiers Leon did not trust.

Leon asked the other security men did they know the other five and they said no.

But several of the security men wanted the job.

Leon told them to talk to the sheriff.

Leon was still trying to find out who was the person in the Stith’s house that worked for the mob. He was not talking and saying anything to the security men.

The sheriff asked Leon would he become the sheriff.

Leon had his money from the attackers.

He was a partner in the horse business with the other security men.

He planned on disappearing forever.

Leon told the sheriff he was working on the case and did not want to stop.

Brenda and Patrick made it home and told everyone what happened.

Jose looked at Patrick and Brenda.

He was determined to live.

He was not going to let the mob make him a man live in fear.

He would be going in and out in the daytime and the nighttime.

The people of the town started carrying rifles and guns everywhere.

They carried guns and rifles in the fields to work on their crops.

The people of the town started watching the way the men ride.

Brenda and Patrick went back in town on Sunday to get Eleanor and Mabel.

They saw Junior talking to Mabel.

Patrick said to Brenda, “That can’t be good.”

Brenda said, “We will see, Mabel is coming to our ball.”

Patrick was shocked and said, “What?”

Brenda laughed.

They walked to Eleanor.

Ty caught Eleanor before she fell.

Patrick looked at Eleanor.

Brenda talked to Ty and told him she was happy to see his family.

She knew all of them but the young ones.

She told him she received a letter from the college thanking them for establishing the Stith scholarship.

Ty told Brenda was leaving to go back to school and Junior.

Brenda was shocked and said, “Junior!”

Junior turned around from Mabel and looked at Brenda and said, “Ma am.”

Patrick was putting Eleanor in the carriage.

Brenda said, “I thought you would be working on the railroad. What are you in school for?”

Junior said, “Like Ty to be a doctor.”

Patrick laughed.

He thought about how silly Junior was.

Brenda said, “In two years we will have a hospital here.”

Junior said, “I’ll be here. I want to be near Skip.”

Patrick looked at Junior.

Brenda ran to Junior and said, “Who is Skip?”

Junior kissed Mabel’s hand and she walked to the carriage.

Patrick walked to Junior because he wanted to know who Skip was too.

Junior said, “Skip is my brother. He and his wife Mary adopted me from the orphanage when I was ten.”

Brenda said, “Wife.”

Patrick looked dismayed.

Junior said, “Mary died. She died over seven years ago. She was fun.”

Junior started grinning and shaking his head.

Brenda said, “Junior how did Mary die?”

Junior said, “Mary and my mother were friends. My father never came around. My mother died when I was five. There was no family and the state put me in an orphanage. It was bad because I am black. Mary kept searching for me until she found me. It took her three more years before the state would let her have me. But she had to be married. She met Skip at her parent’s church service. He was joining the military and leaving and she asked him would he marry her to get me. Skip said yes. They got me. I stayed with Mary until she died from a sickness. Skip came back for Mary’s funeral. I stayed with Mary’s family, who treated me well. I never saw Skip again until recently. He’s my friend.”

Patrick said, “How old is Skip?”

Brenda said, “Is that why you want to be a doctor?”  
Junior said, “I am going to be a doctor. Yes.”

Junior said, “Eighteen and ten years. He has been in the military for ten years so he is twenty eight.”

Brenda said, “Who is Skips family?”

Junior said, “I really don’t know. I know he is a good man. He loved Mary, not like that but because she was a good Christian woman who wanted to help her friend’s only family, me.”

Thomas came and called Ty and Junior and waved at Patrick and Brenda.

Ty said, “Take care. And thank you all.”

Junior waved at Mabel.

He bowed to Brenda and Patrick and ran for the train.

Brenda laughed.

Patrick grinned and said, “Silly.”

Patrick put his left arm around Brenda’s shoulder and waved at their friends.

Brenda whisper, “Mabel?”

Patrick said, “Huh.”

They walked slowly to the carriage.

Patrick said, “We know a little more about Skip.”

Brenda said, “Yeap. He’s only ten years older than Shirley and he does not seem to want her money.”

They rode home.

Mabel went to the re-modeled supply shed which she liked.

She had her dress and shoes with her. Long with hair accessories.

Eleanor went into the house with her excited children.

She hugged and kissed them and went to her bedroom and slept until dinner.

Thomas and Michael ran into Eleanor’s room and played on her bed and on the floor.

Patrick tried to get them put of the room and they continued to play.

Brenda laughed and said, “I am going to sit in my garden and enjoyed it. Until Stephanie have her wedding in it. Heifer.”

Patrick laughed.

He walked down the stairs and got him a whiskey and walked out the front door with Brenda.

Jose brough them lemonade.

Patrick looked at the lemonade and kept drinking his whiskey.

Brenda took her lemonade and they walked out the front door and sat in the garden and talked to dinner.

They enjoyed that Sunday in the garden.

Brenda liked poultry.

She had Jose to have a turkey dinner with cranberries and gravy.

It was a good dinner and good conversation.

Thomas wanted peach shortcake.

Peter bake the cake and made plenty of whipped cream.

The children loved the peach cake.

Peter talked to Nadine and told her she had to grow and stop acting as if she did not have any sense.

He told her he did not like the fact when Brenda asked about her nephew she acted like she could not comprehend what Brenda was asking her.

Peter said, “You are pushing yourself out of a job. No one else will tolerate you. You know Brenda and Patrick would not hurt him but help him. I am disappointed with you again Nadine.”

Nadine walked into their bedroom and slammed the door.

Peter sat on the back porch and drank some whiskey he got from the house.

Peter said, “The day I quit working there I have to save my money to buy a small bottle of this. I see why Robert and Alice always worked.”

The sheriff told the commander of the military headquarters.

The sheriff told the commander of the new military headquarters he believed they were former soldiers because they are military trained, like all the men that were killed in the attack on the Stiths.

The word went through town and to the governor all the attackers were former civil war soldiers.

The troops were informed about the attackers.

The troops were shocked.

The commander said, “Now we have to re-build our honor throughout this state. The President and all of congress have been informed of the soldiers in the attack. More troops will come to help weed out the mob and the confederate soldiers from our ranks. I am giving you the chance to leave alive now.”

All the commanders were standing behind the head commander.

The next morning seventy-three soldiers were gone.

The commander had their identification and handed it over to the commander and his troop who were there in hiding with specific instructions to kill all of the traitors and find out who in the south was behind this.

The commander walked out of the head commander’s office before daybreak.

He had spies throughout the town and they followed the traitors.

They caught the traitors and brought them to the central location the commander told them to bring them to.

They caught twenty-seven of the traitors.

The rest resisted arrest and were killed and buried in a big hole.

Their identification was matched.

The commander used the train to transport them to Washington D.C.

Skip’s troop was entering the town and they saw the troop and the commander with the soldiers they were familiar with bound on the ground.

The troop stopped.

The commander’s troop pulled the rifles on the troop.

Robert knew it was serious.

Robert dismounted his horse and held his hands up.

The commander walked to Robert with his gun on him followed by three of his men.

Robert said, “Dad what is this?”

The commander said, “The attackers at the Stith’s house were all our military men.”

Robert said, “What?”

The commander said, “Your commander spoke to the headquarters yesterday evening and told them for the mob and the confederates to leave.”

Robert said, “Confederates?”

Robert’s troop was listening and they heard the word ‘confederates’

The commander said, “Forty six were killed today and buried in a gun battle. The remainder is being taken to Washington D.C. to be interrogated and tried. Be careful son the mob is strong here.”

Robert said, “Good seeing you dad.”

The commander said, “You too son.”

The commander turned to walk away.

Robert said, “I am getting married the first Saturday in September at the Stiths. My wife is Stephanie. She is a nurse like mom.”

The commander said, “I’ll tell your mother.”

One of the prisoners said to another, “They are giving us information.”

The other prisoner said, “Why do you think they are talking in front of us? Who are we going to tell? We will be dead.”

The other soldiers looked at the one who said information was being spoken in front of them.

They knew they would be killed.

Half the troop got on the train.

Half the troop rode with the commander on horseback.

The commander from the new headquarters sent soldiers to get the commander’s troop horses and bring them to the headquarters.

Robert watched his dad ride away.

He remembered all the times he watched his daddy ride away out of his sight.

He and his brother would cry all the time when he left.

His mother would comfort them all the time telling them their father was doing something great for this country.

Robert followed his father.

Curtis did not.

He wanted to be married and have children that he would be there all the time for his children.

Robert thought about Curtis who would finish medical college in a year.

His dad looked back and waved at Robert like he did for all of those years.

Robert waved at his dad.

Robert looked at the train pulling out and the large number of soldiers surrounding the prisoners.

The headquarters commander contacted the sheriff and told him to take six names off the list.

Five of the names were the names Leon told the sheriff not to hire.

Robert walked back to his troop and told them the commander was his dad whom he had not seen in three years.

He told them of the headquarters and the traitors and the attackers with the mob were all soldiers.

Jake said, “That means we can’t wear our uniforms off base.”

They rode to the command headquarters.

The commander had Robert’s troop to ride with him to meet the governor.

The troop was riding to the military headquarters on that Tuesday as Brenda and Patrick were riding into town.

Mabel was riding into town with Gary in a separate wagon to get all the flowers Eleanor ordered.

Brenda looked at the troop to see if she could spot Skip.

Patrick stopped the buggy so the troop could pass.

They would stop anyway because how the military was riding.

The citizens on both sides pf the street stopped so the military could pass.

Jake and Skip passed Brenda and Patrick.

Patrick and Brenda smiled.

Patrick said, “Grandson-in-law.”

Brenda said, “Is that a real term?”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “We have made plenty of things real in our lifetimes.”

Brenda laughed all the way to the office.

Patrick said, “Eleanor think Skip is after Shirley because of her money. GOD has to help Eleanor.”

Patrick was helping Brenda out of the buggy and she looked and saw Gary and Mabel going to the flower shop.

She and Patrick went into the office and checked the telegrams.

Mag said would there on Thursday and Josiah and Natalie wane to come.

Patrick said, “Tell Mag that’s fine. Eleanor is going to have a fit if they don’ wear ball attire. But I don’t expect many to. But for them to be there is good.”

Brenda grinned and kissed Patrick.

Brenda checked the coal supply and said, “Patrick this coal supply is low.”

Patrick walked to Brenda and looked at the coal supply.

He said, “Brenda, you are right. Send my brother John a telegram and ask him why the supply is low and then contact our secondary suppliers and have more coal sent for the railroads. We have more rail stations that will be up before the holidays.”

Brenda sent the telegram to John.

Steve walked in the office when Patrick was walking back to his desk.

Brenda looked at Steve,

Steve walked in the office and said, “Good morning.”

Brenda looked up from the telegram machine and said, “Good morning Steve.”

Patrick pointed to a chair and said, “Good morning. Mrs. Stith will be with you in a minute.”

Brenda finished the telegram and called Steve to her desk and said, “Bring that chair.”

Steve brought the chair and sat in front of Brenda’s desk.

Brenda said, “Steve are you currently working?”

Steve said, “No ma am.”

Brenda said, “Why?”

Steve said, “There’s nothing here. Mr. Gibson he was full staff.”

Patrick blinked.

Brenda was very calculating.

She said, “What are you going to do?”

Steve held his head down and said, “I am going to have leave and Alicia has to stop school to be a nurse to take care of Emilou. If you have space for her can she work for you?”

Patrick shook his head.

Brenda said, “No Alicia will not work for me. She will continue to go to school to be a nurse and take care of Emilou as long as you don’t give her sugar.”

Patrick laughed. Because Emilou was all on top of the tables, rolling over the grass, beating the boy’s drums. The ice cream vendor refused to give her any more ice cream. They ran her from the fireworks. She ran to Patrick and wanted him to beat the people up. Brenda and Gail hollered so loud at Emilou that they cried. Patrick just looked at her. He did not know what to say.

Steve looked at Brenda.

Brenda said, “Did you bring your degrees?”

Steve said, “Yes ma am.”

Brenda said, “Let me see them.”

Steve looked down and forgot them and said, “Ma am they are outside in my saddle. May I go and get them?”

Brenda said, “Sure.”

Steve jumped up and ran to his horse to get his degrees out his saddle.

Patrick said, “Brenda you can’t tell no one not to give their child sugar.”

Brenda said, “That girl even had Dr. Woodson on pins and needles. You know he does not move.”

Patrick started laughing.

Steve walked back in the office and looked at Patrick who was sitting sideways looking at some papers.

Brenda was looking at the telegram machine.

Steve walked to Brenda and said, “Ma am.”

He reached his degrees to Brenda.

Brenda looked over the degrees and said, “Steve sit down.”

Patrick watched Brenda.

Brenda said, “Steve I will try you out on a small project first. If you are successful they I will try you out on other projects. The first project is to build a covering at one of our rail stops for our workers.”

Steve said, “Yes m am.”

Brenda said, “It’s at the city. It takes a day to get there and back. There is no place to sleep so you have to take your things to camp out.”

Steve sat and looked at Brenda.

Patrick looked at Steve and Brenda.

Brenda said, “You can take the train tomorrow and get there by Thursday and take your time and survey, draw or whatever you do.”

Steve stared at Brenda.

Patrick looked at Steve because he thought it was a wonderful opportunity for Steve.

Brenda said, “Do you accept this opportunity or not?’

Patrick was watching Steve.

Steve looked at Patrick and then back at Brenda.

Patrick said, “What is it Steve?”

Steve said, “I won’t be back by Friday.”

Patrick said, “No. Why?”

Steve was nervous and said, “I promise Alice I would take her to Shirley’s ball Friday.”

Brenda was angry with Shirley because she was constantly telling people it was her ball.

Brenda stood up and threw down Steve’s degrees.

Steve jumped and stood.

Patrick looked at Steve.

Brenda said, “It is not Shirley’s ball.”

Brenda pointed to Patrick and said, “It is Mr. Stith’s and my thirty fifth wedding anniversary ball.”

Steve was moving back towards the door and said, “Yes ma am.”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “Brenda you are just as spoiled as Shirley.”

Steve looked at Patrick and said, “Yes sir.”

Patrick looked at Steve.

Brenda looked at Steve.

Patrick said, “The train leave at nine on Monday be on that train and get off at the next stop with Mag and she will show you around.”

Steve grabbed the chair he was sitting in and put it back by the door and he tipped to Brenda’s desk and snatched his degrees and ran backwards out the door and closed it.

Patrick said, “Brenda you are acting as crazy as Nadine. That boy thinks you are crazy.”

Brenda said, “I am sorry. But that…”

Patrick said, “Brenda don’t curse Shirley. You know GOD told us about the power of life and death is in our tongue and if we say anything that is not in HIS word that amounts to a curse against the very people we are praying to HIM for.”

Brenda did not say anything but sat in her chair and folded her arms.

Every few minutes she would say, “Huh.”

Patrick would look up from his books at Brenda.

He was thinking. “I wished she would have stayed home. And she is talking about coming here everyday.”

Brenda said, “Huh.”

Patrick said, “GOD do something.”

Brenda looked and saw Gen and Gail walking from Shirley’s dress shop.

She looked and said, “Patrick I see Gen and Gail. I’m going to catch them. Give me a few dollars.”

Patrick jumped up and was going into his pockets.

Brenda picked up her bag and looked and said, “I got something.”

Patrick was reaching Brenda all the money he had.

Brenda said, “I don’t need that. I love you. Bye.”

She ran oy the door and yelled, “Hey.”

Gen and Gail stopped.

Brenda ran pass the sheriff and said, “Good morning.”

The sheriff looked at Brenda and said, “Morning.”

Patrick was standing and watching Brenda run to Gen and Gail.

He could hear them all the way to his office.

He said, “She talking about Shirley. She ain’t no better. Just listen to that.”

Patrick sat and said, “Thank YOU so much GOD for getting her out of here with all of that huh, hum over there it was getting on my nerves.”

A telegram was coming in.

Patrick walked over and read the telegram.

His brother John said his coal supply was low.

Patrick rolled his eyes and he sat and sent telegrams to a dozen coal suppliers.

They all responded they would send the coal.

Patrick thought, “I better get this coal first and then tell John I don’t need his coal.”

There was a knock on the door and Patrick looked up and it was Ben and Bryson.

Patrick laughed and waved for them to enter.

He saw they had on guns, especially Bryson.

The sheriff passed by the office again.

Patrick looked at the sheriff.

Ben and Bryson looked back at the sheriff.

Bryson said, “You want lunch?”

Patrick said, “Yes. I am so glad Brenda saw Gen and Gail. She was getting on my nerves.”

Ben said, “Gen and I just started back being husband and wife since the argument we had two weeks ago.’

Bryson looked at Ben and said, “You know Gail has been mad since the Fourth of July about the chickens.”

Patrick and Ben said, “What?”

Bryson said, “I told her I was going to the your anniversary ball and may come back with another wife. Then she decided last night to perform her wifey duties.”

Patrick hollered.

The sheriff walked back and knocked on Patrick’s door.

Patrick said, “Come in.”

The sheriff walked in and said, “Afternoon.”

Patrick said, “How can I help you sheriff?”

The sheriff said, “Mr. Stith I have some of your goods in storage that Josephine had. When can you come and get them?”

Patrick saw Gary driving the wagon out of town with Mabel and said, “Probably not until tomorrow.”

The sheriff said, “That’s fine.”

The sheriff looked at Bryson and tilted his hat and said, “Governor.”

Bryson nodded his head at the sheriff.

The sheriff had just closed the door back that Bryson said, “Let me tell what she did.”

The sheriff shook his head and thought, “They’re in there talking about their wives I bet their wives aren’t talking about them.”

Gen, Gail and Brenda were in the restaurant whispering.

The sheriff walked in to get lunch.

He looked and saw the three women whispering.

The manager looked at the sheriff and looked at the table of women and said, “I’m glad I ‘m not married to one of them.”

The sheriff looked at the manager and ordered his lunch and said, “I’ll be back later to pick it up.”

The sheriff had a funny feeling.

Patrick, Ben and Bryson were walking out the office to go and get lunch.

They saw the sheriff standing and looking weird.

Bryson approached the sheriff and said, “Sheriff are you alright?”

Patrick started looking around.

Ben said, “What is it?”

They started looking around.

A man rode into town and passed them.

He looked straight at the four men.

Patrick said, “The head of the mob.”

Ben looked at the man and said, “Quite bold.”

Bryson said, “I know him.”

The sheriff said, “Me and my deputies have jobs as federal agents, we are leaving the middle of September for a year of training. I need a strong sheriff and even stronger deputies. This man means business. He came in town by himself and he made sure he rode down the main business street.”

Bryson said, “I’m going back to practicing medicine.”

Patrick said, “Bry you said you know him.”

Bryson said, “I remember him from campaigning. I’ll find out as much as I can about him. I need to see if anyone else remember him.”

Ben said, “Huh.”

They all turned and walked to the restaurant and heard their wives and they continued to the next restaurant.

The sheriff was holding the door opened for them. The men heard their wives and casually kept on walking.”

The sheriff snickered.

He went into the restaurant and paid for his lunch and walked back to the jail.

He sat and prayed and ate his lunch.

He wondered where the man was going.

He knew a few people down that street.

The sheriff thought, “After lunch I will walk down there and see if that horse is still there and if anyone saw the man and where he went to.”

Patrick, Bryson and Ben had a light lunch.

They walked out the restaurant and saw the women walking out the restaurant.

Gen saw the men and said, “Look at them.”

Brenda and Gen looked back and saw the men, who were looking at them.

The sheriff was coming back from his walk down the street.

He shook his head at married couple.

Several of the neighbors said they saw the man ride pass them.

One neighbor said, “I was on my knees by my fence planting some petunias. I got this evil feeling and stayed low by the fence. I peeped and saw him ride a little farther down and stop. He looked around I ducked down. He walked to the green house and stood on the porch and knocked once. Someone came to the door and opened it just wide enough for him to step inside. He stayed about fifteen minutes and left. I had ran in the house and watched for him out of the window. I waited him for him to leave.”

Another neighbor he was boarding up his house so he could move with his on in another state. He told the sheriff, “I have seen that man before. I can’t tell you where. I know he is evil. You have to go behind him to get him. You can’t do a face to face with him, because he will defeat you. He won’t expect you to come behind him.”

The sheriff walked away form the neighbor and stood and looked at the green house. He saw the curtain move.

He walked to the green house and knocked on the door.

A man came to the door and opened the door slightly.

The sheriff got a bad feeling and said, “A man came to this house about an hour ago. Who was he?”

The man said, “No one came to this house.”

The sheriff said, “What Did he want?”

The man said, “No man came to this house.”

The sheriff looked in the crack of the house he could. He saw an uniform.

The sheriff could not identify the uniform.

He said, “If he comes back tell him I want to see him.”

the man said, “No man came to this house.”

The sheriff looked at the man and said, “What is your name. I don’t remember this house being for sale. Where did you come from and when did you move in this house?”

Several neighbors were coming back from their fields in their wagons and waved and spoke to the sheriff.

The man slammed and locked the door.

The neighbors looked at the sheriff.

The sheriff knocked on the door again and the man did not come to the door.

The sheriff screamed, “You better not be a squatter!”

No one knew the military had a gun fight earlier that morning and killed forty- six of the men and put the others on the train.

Gen walked to Ben and spoke to Patrick.

They stood for a minute and talked and they left and walked to their buggy and left.

Gail walked to Bryson.

He and Patrick were walking to she and Brenda.

Bryson, said, “Hey Brenda. We need to talk about those letters Patrick got from Europe.”

Brenda looked in surprise that Patrick told Bryson.

Gail said, “What letters?”

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “I told Bryson and Gen, because I thought they may have come across this type of situation.”

Bryson looked at Gail and said., “I received blackmail letters from someone in Europe. I don’t know who. I know they want money.”

Gail said, “I can guarantee they won’t get a dime.”

Brenda laughed.

Gail looked at Brenda and said, “That settles that. I am going to enjoy this life.”

Brenda was laughing even harder at Gail’s attitude.

The sheriff saw them standing and talking.

He walked to them and said, “Excuse me. Can I ask a question?”

They all looked at the sheriff.

The sheriff said, “Mr. Stith does your employees wear uniforms?”

Patrick said, “The house workers.”

Brenda said, “And the security and general workers.”

The sheriff looked at Brenda and said, ‘How many workers do you have?”

And he snickered.

Brenda said, “We have at one hundred workers. I run the house. So I am a woman of business sheriff.”

The sheriff said, “I apologize. That’s a lot of people. Do know if any of your workers live down that street?”

Brenda looked back at the street.

Gail and Bryson peeped down the street.

Brenda said, “I do not know if any of my workers live down that street.”

Patrick said, “Sheriff you got something to say?”

The sheriff said, “That man went to the green house and stepped inside for fifteen minutes. I walked to the house when I saw the curtain move. A man came to the door and said no one came to his house and I saw a uniform on a chair.”

Brenda said, “A male or female uniform?”

The sheriff said, “I only saw the top part.”

Brenda said, “Which was?”

The sheriff said, “It was…”

The clerk from the telegram office ran to the sheriff and screamed and waved a telegram for the sheriff.

The turned and reached for the telegram.

The sheriff read the telegram.

He stared and said, “That’s why he rode into town today.”

Bryson reached for the telegram.

The sheriff looked at Bryson and said, “I can’t.”

Bryson said, “Read your protocol I read whatever I want.”

The sheriff handed the telegram to Bryson and Gail was peeping.

Bryson said, “A gunfight with forty- six traitors and all were killed. The remainder twenty-seven were placed on your train and shipped to Washington DC.”

Bryson looked at the sheriff, “You are right. He was told by someone his men were dead and capture. Whoever is in that greenhouse knew about this gunfight that you just found out about. We did not see him pass by this street.”

The sheriff said, “Nor did I.”

Brenda said, “What color was the uniform, sheriff?”

He snickered because Brenda was getting back at him for calling her a twit.

He said, “The piece I saw was gray in black.”

Brenda said, “Did you see the color of the buttons?”

The sheriff said, “No ma am.”

Brenda said, “If the buttons are pewter, then it could be the upstairs maid.”

The sheriff stared at Brenda and finally said, “You have that many rooms?”

Brenda said, “One day I will give you a tour sheriff before you leave for your new job.”

Brenda started to walk away.

The sheriff said, “How you know about that?”

Brenda said, “I have a hundred pairs of ears.”

Bryson and Gail laughed and reached the sheriff the telegram.

They walked to their wagon.

Patrick was out done by Brenda’s answer to the sheriff.

He tried to smile at the sheriff.

He and the sheriff walked down the sidewalk.

Brenda walked in the office and begin to pack up.

Patrick walked in the office and told Brenda about the telegram from John and that he sent and got positive responses from the twelve coal suppliers.

Brenda stood at her desk and stared into space.

Patrick saw Brenda.

He continued to work and get everything done so he won’t come back until next week.

Patrick checked all the windows and doors.

He double checked and made sure there was nothing in the safe.

He felt they were looking for something.

Patrick walked to Brenda and looked around and got her bag and papers.

He touched her elbow and they walked to the buggy.

Patrick put Brenda in the buggy and then his saddle bag and the letter pouch.

He cut off the telegram machine.

He got in the buggy and turned the buggy around and went home.

Brenda said, “So he rode into town and looked at you.”

Patrick looked at Brenda because he knew over the years GOD would give her visions.

He said, “Yes.”

Brenda said, “That land between this town and the city, where the governor wants to put the state police department, I want to develop. I’ll use my portion of the money and have Steve build it. Those police want their families with them.”

Patrick said, “Big project.”

Brenda turned her head and looked at Patrick,

She said, “I want to help clear land so the mob won’t be able to hide. I want to add more income to the children’s trust funds.”

Patrick said, “Brenda they have plenty. They have more than you, me and Eleanor. You know how she loves money.”

Brenda was still in her vision mode.

The sheriff went to the clerk’s office to search for the green house.

The owners moved to another state and had not put the house up for sale or rent.

The sheriff wrote down the information.

He sent a telegram to the owners if they gave anyone permission to live in their house.

The sheriff walked back to his office and prayed for help.

The commander and the troop were at the capitol.

Jake said to Skip, “You know how long will we be here?”

Skip said, “No.”

Jake looked at Skip and said, “I don’t want you to miss the ball.”

Skip was thinking about it to.

Jake said, “You don’t have a ball suit so you have to wear your ceremony uniform.”

Skip was thinking.

Mabel was decorating the tables all day Wednesday.

She and Monica, Alicia, Vivienne spent all Thursday making garland and centerpieces for the hallways.

Mabel had enough flowers to make decorations for the grand staircase.

The security man that was to take pictures walked in the house and took pictures of the flowers.

Lorraine was standing at the top of the stairs and looked at him and said, “Tell the rest of them to bathe.”

Brenda was in her study and heard Lorraine and closed her eyes.

Brenda took all of her papers and put them in her safe and locked the safe.

She cleared everything from her study.

She walked in Patrick’s office and looked around.

Patrick looked at Brenda.

She said, “It took all of us nearly two months to go through all of this mail.”

Patrick told Jose to have an early buffet dinner for Thursday night.

Patrick was putting up his last telegram when they heard noise at the front door.

Brenda turned and walked out Patrick’s office.

Patrick put up all his papers and the letters from Europe in his safe and locked it.

He walked fast behind Brenda.

He caught up with her.

He looked and saw Shirley and Michael staying at the top of the stairs looking at the door.

Eleanor walked out her room and stood in the center of the staircase.

Jose opened the door.

Beverly and Alfred stepped in and Ellen and Captain Moss and Dr. Charles.

Brenda was so excited.

Thomas ran down the stairs to his grandma.

Michael ran down the staircase and was standing a little behind Patrick.

Patrick’s heart breaks every day for Thomas and Michael because they had to be delivered by GOD.

He and Brenda pray for their beautiful spirits to be returned to them.

Thomas was holding onto Brenda she was holding onto him and Beverly looked at Thomas and kissed him.

Alfred looked at Thomas and peeped at Michael hiding behind Patrick.

Patrick winked at Alfred.

Patrick took Michael by his hands and walked him to their guests.

Everyone spoke.

Brenda said, “You are welcomed to stay here.”

They all laughed.

Patrick said, “This was my surprise to you Brenda. They will stay here through the week-end.”

Dr. Charles was peeping.

Brenda said, “Charles?”

Charles smiled and said, “I’m here to see Eleanor.”

Patrick coughed.

Dr. Charles said and “Vivienne.”

Brenda said, “What?”

Lose locked the front door and said, “Dinner will be served in the family dinner room in about an hour.”

Brenda said, “Jose we have to add more plates and food.”

Jose said, “Mr. Stith have done so.”

Brenda said, “Have you thought about where our guests will sleep?”

Jose said, “Yes ma am.”

Brenda said, “I’ll take them.”

Jose said, “The bedroom doors are opened.”

Dr. Charles said, “I’ll speak with Eleanor and you two after dinner.”

Patrick looked at Dr. Charles.

Brenda turned her head and smirked a small smile.

Her heart hurt for Eleanor.

She knew Patrick has lost all patience with Eleanor and he was holding on to help Thomas and Michael get through the beatings and drowning to kill them.

Percy and Bruce walked down the stairs and hugged every one and spoke.

Eleanor was helping Shirley walked down the staircase.

Dr. Charles looked at Shirley.

He stood and hugged she and Eleanor.

Michael was still holding on to Patrick.

Thomas was still holding onto Brenda.

Eleanor was sad as she looked at her two babies.

Dr. Charles looked at Eleanor and said, “You and your family believe in God. I am sure He will help them.”

Shirley walked to the sitting room and sat.

Dr. Charles looked at her and said, “Shirley what did you do?”

Shirley tried to smile but was crying and said, “I was walking a lot and stepping on rocks. I didn’t know the rocks were there.”

Dr. Charles said, “I will give you therapy tonight and wrap you in heat. And check on you in the morning. Don’t do anything but lay straight.”

He looked at Shirley.

Eleanor walked to Shirley and sat next tom her and held her.

Dr. Charles walked to his room and unpacked. He brought his military uniform.

He looked at the flowers.

Eleanor said, “Charles, I will make Vivienne a corsage for you to give it to her.”

Dr. Charles pointed and said, “You saw me?”

Eleanor said, “Yes.”

Everyone was settled and Brenda and Beverly sat in the hallway and talked.

Captain Moss said, “Mr. Stith. I mean Patrick you have a beautiful house.”

Patrick said, “Thank you and thank both of you for being friends and for coming to help us celebrate this mile stone in our lives.”

Gary and one of the dish washers took the seafood, that Ellen and Captain Moss brough as a gift to Patrick and Brenda around the back and set it on the back porch.

Patrick and Captain Moss and Ellen were talking in the hall when Jose walked to the hall to call them to dinner.

Ellen was looking at Thomas and Michael.

They were sitting on the floor by Brenda.

Patrick looked at Ellen.

Ellen looked at Patrick and said, “I hate that happened to them. My babies did not deserve that. The animals were caught?”

Patrick said, “Yes, but Patrick Jr. and Christopher were behind it.”

Ellen nearly fainted Captain Moss and Patrick caught her.

Brenda looked up.

Beverly watched Ellen.

Alfred was standing in Dr. Charles’s door talking to him.

Brenda said, “Oh God we got to doctors in the house.”

Alfred looked back at Brenda.

Beverly smiled and she and Brenda continued to hold hands and talked.

Thomas looked up and saw Jose calling for dinner.

Thomas said, “Grandma, Jose is calling for dinner.”

Michael was laying on the floor.

He looked and saw Jose.

He did not move until Brenda moved.

Thomas stood and he held onto Brenda.

Beverly reached for Michael’s hand he walked to Brenda.

Dr. Charles and Alfred saw him.

Dr. Charles said, “Michael and Thomas are you ready for the ball?”

Michael looked at Dr. Charles and said, “Yes.”

Thomas looked at Dr. Charles and said, “We are wearing our uniforms like yours.”

Thomas saw Dr. Charles uniform on his bed.

Dr. Charles said, “It feels good wearing a uniform doesn’t it?’

Thomas said, “Yeah.”

He turned Brenda’s waist loose and walked to Dr. Charles and talked about the different emblems and how they had to earn the patches at school.

Michael was listening and talking to them but holding onto Brenda’s hands.

Alfred and Beverly were holding hands walking with Brenda and Michael.

Patrick, Ellen and Dr. Moss continued to the family dining room.

Eleanor helped Shirley walk to the family dinner room.

Dr. Charles looked at Shirley.

Patrick looked at Shirley.

Everyone made it to the dining room.

Dr. Charles walked to Shirley and manipulated her neck.

Shirley cried and said, “Thank you. Much better.”

Eleanor was standing and was happy.

Thomas had cooked a southern style dinner buffet. He cooked turnip greens, succotash, fried corn, fried chicken, pulled pork, fried catfish and breads.

They had tea and lemonade.

Dr. Charles asked Jose what was the succotash.

Jose explain what was in the succotash.

Dr. Charles put a little on his plate and tasted it.

He liked it and put his plate down.

Eleanor walked to Shirley and said, “Shirley what do you want?’

Dr. Charles turned and looked at Eleanor and said, “I’m making her a plate.”

Michael pass Dr. Charles with a lamb chop, succotash and a biscuit.

Thomas looked at Michael’s plate and looked at the breads and said, “Michael where did you get the biscuit?”

Michael was holding his plate with both hands.

Dr. Charles looked and said, “Thomas here.”

He reached the fork and gave Thomas a biscuit.

Vivienne walked in the room and Dr. Charles looked at her.

Eleanor and Patrick saw Dr. Charles looking at Vivienne.

She was always quiet.

She walked in the dining room and looked around.

She was going to the ball and would be staying overnight.

The ones not going to the ball would work through the ball.

Dr. Charles made Shirley a plate of turnip greens, succotash and fried chicken.

Dr. Charles put Shirley’s plate in front of her.

Shirley said, “Can I have catfish.”

Dr. Charles was looking at Vivienne.

Eleanor said, “Here.”

She took the piece of chicken and gave Shirley a small catfish.

Thomas mad sure he fried small catfish and put the rest in the trout pond.

Patrick said, “Where did the catfish come from?”

Jose was glad Patrick asked the question.

He said, “I’ll go and get Thomas.”

Captain Moss said it looks good.

Patrick said, “Captain Moss would you say the grace?”

Captain Moss, “I want Michael.”

Michael as eating his lamb chop and said, “Huh?’

Everybody laughed.

Michael said, “God bless us all and let grandma and grandpa have fun tomorrow with their friends. Help me and Thomas stop being scared. Amen.”

Thomas said, “Amen and amen.”

Shirley said, “Me too. You forgot.”

Eleanor rubbed Michael’s and Thomas heads and looked at Shirley and said, “I haven’t forgotten Shirley.”

Dr. Charles was looking at Michael and Thomas.

He turned and looked at Shirley.

Brenda said, “Shirley we saw Skip earlier this week.”

Shirley tried to smile.

She said, “I don’t know if he will be able to make it.”

Patrick was eating his catfish and said, “It’s good catfish.”

Brenda looked at Patrick’s catfish,

Patrick said, “Brenda don’t. It is plenty of food over there.”

Everybody laughed.

Beverly said, “I am a catfish expert. This fried corn is delicious.”

Jose walked in the kitchen and told Thomas, who was sitting and reading, that Patrick wanted him.

Thomas looked at Jose.

He did not want the response Jose gave Nadine.

Nadine looked at Jose.

Peter looked at Thomas.

Thomas put his book down and stood and walked through the formal dining room.

He walked in the family dining room and looked at Vivienne and Samantha to get an idea of what Patrick wanted.

Samantha and Vivienne showed no emotions.

Brenda looked at the women’s uniforms. The uniforms were plain gray.

The children’s nurses wore blue uniforms.

Patrick looked up and saw a nervous Thomas.

Thomas was looking at the food to see if anything was wrong.

Jose had tipped back into the family dining room and stood in the corner so he could hear and see Thomas face.

Patrick said, “Thomas the food is excellent.”

Jose turned up his nose.

Patrick and Eleanor saw Jose.

Patrick said, “Where did you get the catfish?”

Thomas said, “I had a week at the lake and caught about a hundred.”

Patrick looked.

He said, “Where you put the catfish?”

Thomas said, “I brought most of them here and put in your trout pond as an anniversary gift.”

Brenda just sat and looked at Thomas.

Patrick said, “Thank you.”

Brenda grinned.

Thomas was about to walk out the dining room.

Captain Moss pointed and said, “The four of us brought you and Brenda something similar.”

Ellen started laughing.

Thomas was sitting next to her and said, ”What?”

Michael peeped around Eleanor and looked at Thomas then at Ellen.

Ellen leaned and whispered to Thomas it is a surprise for your grandma and grandpa.”

Thomas was walking out the dining room.

Everyone was talking about how good the food was.

Thomas nodded his head.

Jose rolled his eyes.

The family finished dining.

Thomas leaned to Ellen and said, “I want to see what you’ll got my grandma and grandpa.”

Patrick said, “Ok Thomas.”

Patrick put his napkin on the table.

Brenda and Beverly shared a small catfish and was trying ti finish eating before they went to see the gift.

Jose knew it was some type of fish.

Dr. Charles looked at Eleanor’s plate and said, “This pulled pork is delicious.”

Patrick nodded his head in agreement.

Dr. Charles said, “Eleanor, the food is delicious. You need to eat a bit more at each meal.”

Michael looked up in Eleanor’s face and said, “I can feed you momma.”

Eleanor kissed Michael and said, “Momma thank you and love you but I can feed myself.”

Thomas said, “Me too momma.”

Eleanor kissed Thomas and held his face and said, “Thank you I can feed myself.”

Samantha and Vivienne looked at Michael.

Patrick thought, “GOD all of this is pitiful.”

Brenda said, “Here I come.”

She ate the last bit of catfish.

Michael and Thomas jumped up and ran to the family dining room door.

Ellen and Eleanor walked out.

Dr. Charles helped Shirley walk out.

Everyone was laughing.

They walked through the billiards room and up the back hallway and went through the backdoor.

Jose told Gary to come and help with the container.

Gary and Jose opened the container and it was full of crabs.

Brenda started laughing

Michael jumped back and ran to Eleanor.

Eleanor laughed and said, “Michael they are a seafood and you are bigger than they.”

Thomas was holding Eleanor’s hand and looked up at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked in Thomas’ eyes and said, “You too.”

Patrick was laughing and holding onto Brenda.

He looked at Captain Moss and said, “How did you get this many?”

Captain Moss said, “Al and I went out on the boat.”

Michael said, “You caught these?”

Michael made a step and peeped at the crabs.

Thomas walked and kneeled down and looked at the long ones and said, “Lobsters!”

Captain and Ellen started laughing.

Ellen said, “I wondered if you would see them Thomas.”

Brenda said, “Oh my GOD you caught them too?”

Captain Moss said, “Yes the only thing we did not catch was shrimp.”

Michael eased from Eleanor and went and kneeled next to Thomas.

Thomas said, “Michael, the long ones are good with butter. Ellen use to cook these for us in Paris.”

Michael sat on the porch and talked to Thomas.

Michael said, “I’ll stick with my lamb chops.”

Shirley leaned on Eleanor.

Eleanor turned and was holding Shirley to take her to her room.

Patrick said, “Can we have these Saturday?”

Captain Moss said, “Sure, they should still be alive.”

Jose was standing by the backdoor and said, “Damn.”

He held the door opened for Shirley and Eleanor.

Dr. Charles was watching Thomas and Michael.

He turned and walked in the house after Eleanor and Shirley.

Dr. Charles said, “Take Shirley to her room.”

Vivienne was bringing the dinner cart to the kitchen.

She and Samantha were cleaning the family dining room.

A security man was sitting in the backyard by the items from the storage area.

Bruce and Percy ran pass Eleanor and Shirley upstairs to their rooms.

Bruce laid on his back and was reading a book.

Percy sat in the hall outside of Bruce’s room and played a game.

Bruce sat up on his bed and said, “Percy we did not eat dessert.”

Percy said, “What’s for dessert?”

Bruce said, “I don’t know but I am going to find out.”

Percy said, “Go and find out and holler back here and tell me.”

Dr. Charles heard Bruce and Percy talking. He thought their conversation was funny.

Peter mad ice cream for dessert.

Bruce yelled up the stairs, “Ice cream.”

Percy jumped up and ran downstairs.

Peter had given Michael, Thomas and Brenda some ice cream.

He gave Percy and Bruce some ice cream.

Patrick, Brenda, Al, Beverly and Captain Moss went in the house.

The boys stayed outdoors with Ellen.

Ellen looked at the security man and said, “You want something? There is plenty of food left. I could not eat it all.”

Captain Moss heard Ellen and grinned at his delightful wife.

He said to them, “I thought at first she was putting on but as I watched Ellen she is delightful. She makes me happy.”

Brenda smiled.

They walked through the billiards room.

Alfred and Beverly stopped.

Patrick said you want to play.

They all played billiards for hours.

Dr. Charles worked on Shirley’s back and legs.

She was in a lot of pain.

Eleanor had Gary to help her with the hot water.

Gary saw Denise coming in the yard.

He stopped and watched Denise.

Eleanor looked at Denise and said, “Gary please.”

Gary turned and walked in the house.

The security man turned and looked backwards to see who Gary was looking at. He saw Denise and turned around.

Michael said to the security man, “He likes her.”

The security leaned forward and said, “Really.”

Ellen said, “Little boys in grown people’s business is a no no.”

Ellen looked at the security man and said, “Sorry.”

She smiled.

Vivienne and Samantha put the leftovers in the worker’s dining room.

Samantha made her a plate of fried catfish, turnip greens and fried corn was about to sit next to the container of crab.

She looked at the security man and said, “You want this plate. I haven’t touched it.”

The security heard some of the security guards coming in the backyard.

He said, “Yes.”

Samantha reached him the plate and said to Ellen, “These little fish got Jose cussing.”

Ellen laughed and laughed.

Thomas looked back at Ellen and laughed.

Michael said, “She has a funny laughed.”

Samantha stood and was looking at the crabs and said, “There’s some lobsters in there.”

Thomas said, “Those are mines.”

Samantha said, “I heard that man said they were your grandma and grandpa.”

Samantha walked in the house and came back with a larger catfish, succotash and turnips.

The security man said, “Ma am you got a mighty big catfish.”

Ellen looked at the security man.

Samantha said, “I know only large ones were left. Do you want some of this?”

The security man said, “Yes ma am.”

He stood up and walked to Samantha.

Samantha gave her over half of her catfish.

She looked and said, “I wonder if Meredith ate for today?”

Michael looked over at the re-modeled supply shed and said, “I don’t know.”

Samantha stood and went in the house and made Meredith a small plate of food and a glass of lemonade and walked out the house.

The security man said, “You did not bring me lemonade.”

Samantha turned to go and get him some lemonade and she said, “You go and get it. I have to see about Meredith.”

Ellen said, “I haven’t seen Meredith in years. Let me walk with you.”

Michael said me too.”

Thomas jumped up and they ran off the porch with Samantha nd Ellen.

Bruce sat and was eating his ice cream and looking at the lobsters.

He said, “Thomas thinks he is going to eat these lobsters I am eating at least one.”

Percy sat down and looked at the remodeled supply shed as the four were walking to see Meredith.

Then Thomas and Michael started running and playing the yard.

When Samantha and Ellen reached the shed and knocked on the door, Michael and Thomas ran to the door.

Denise and Mabel were laughing and talking.

Denise came to the door and opened it.

Samantha said, “Hello.”

Michael sad, “We brought Meredith some dinner.”

Ellen looked at Michael.

Denise opened the screen door Jose had put on so they could open the house and get fresh air.

Samantha went in followed by Michael and Thomas and Ellen was last,

Meredith was laying on her bed.

Samantha knocked on her door.

Meredith looked and said, “Hey.”

Samantha said, “Meredith here is some food. You better eat it. And you have lemonade to help settle your stomach.”

Michael and Thomas looked at each other and ran out the shed and ran into the house.

The security man said, “Bring me some lemonade back.”

Thomas and Michael ran upstairs to Eleanor’s room.

Eleanor heard them calling her.

She jumped from Shirley’s bed and ran to the door and opened it.

Thomas and Michael looked at her and then they heard Shirley crying.

Thomas was scared and backed up against the wall.

Eleanor stepped out Shirley’s room and walked to Thomas and Michael.

She held both of them.

Michael said, “Can we give Meredith some of that ginger ale you got to help her stomach?”

Eleanor said, “Yes. Each of you carry a bottle to her.”

She watched as Thomas ran down the stairs.

Michael said, “It hurts but she will be ok. They need to use hot rocks.”

Thomas said, “That’s right.”

Dr. Charles had finished with Shirley and put hot towels on her back.

He looked towards the back stairs where Thomas and Michael were carrying on their conversations.

He looked at Eleanor and said, “Your neck is unaligned Eleanor.”

Eleanor looked at Dr. Charles.

Dr. Charles said, “Felipe asked me to check on Meredith. Take me to her.”

Thomas and Michael ran to the storage area and it was a ballroom.

They looked and walked to Jose who was sitting going over his schedule.

Jose looked at them and said, “What?”

Thomas said, “Ginger ale?”

Jose pointed and said, “Out there under the tent.”

He heard Dr. Charles and Eleanor talking.

Eleanor saw Thomas and Michael standing and looking at Jose.

She said, “What’s wrong?”

Thomas said, “No ginger ale.”

Eleanor said, “All things are outside under the tent. It should be easy to get to. Come on.”

They walked to the tent and found the ginger ale.

Eleanor gave them two bottles to give to Meredith.

Dr. Charles, Eleanor, Michael and Thomas walked to the remodeled supply shed.

Eleanor told Dr. Charles Meredith was staying in the supply shed.

Dr. Charles stared at Eleanor.

Eleanor knocked on the door.

Denise came to the door and opened it.

Dr. Charles held the door.

Mabel spoke.

Eleanor said, “This is Dr. Charles. He is here to check on Meredith.”

Dr. Charles looked around the re-modeled supply shed and he was very impressed.

Eleanor said, “You really did not think it was a regular supply shed?”

Dr. Charles could not lie and said, “Well yes.”

They laughed.

Meredith was finally sitting up.

Samantha was sitting on her bed.

Ellen was sitting at her vanity looking in the mirror trying on her lip colors for the ball.

Michael walked in and reached Meredith a bottle of ginger ale.

Meredith looked at Michael and said, “I love you.”

Michael said, “I know.”

Eleanor was so embarrassed she turned her head.

Dr. Charles grinned.

Thomas walked over to Ellen and said, “Ellen what are you doing?”

Ellen said, “Trying to see which color looked best on me.”

Thomas said, “They all do.”

Eleanor turned her head again.

Dr. Charles was sso tickled that this titan of industry was embarrassed by her children.

He said, “Hi Meredith, Felipe told me to check on you.”

He said, “How much did you eat?”

Samantha showed Dr. Charles the plate.

Dr. Charles exhaled.

He said, “I need to examine Meredith. All of you can leave. Ellen was still trying on the lip colors.”

Dr. Charles said, “Ellen you too.”

Ellen looked at Dr. Charles and said, “I nearly decided.”

Dr. Charles looked at Ellen.

He was not sociable as the other doctors.

Michael said, “I’ll check on you tomorrow Meredith.”

Meredith said, “Ok.”

He and Thomas ran and gave her a kiss on each cheek.

Dr. Charles saw them doing it before.

Eleanor was walking to the door and said to Denise and Mabel, “Ladies I ‘ll see you at the ball.”

Denise and Mabel laughed.

Samantha, Ellen, Thomas and Michael followed Eleanor.

Dr. Charles looked around at the supply shed and said, “Very nice.”

Dr. Charles checked Meredith and made her eat while he was in there.

He took the plate and glass and utensils back to the house.

Meredith opened a ginger ale and drank some.

Her ball dress was hanging up on the closet door and she had her shoes on the floor.

Gary found some rocks and were heating them.

Dr. Charles frowned up and said, “What are you doing?”

Gary said, “Heating rocks for you to put on Shirley’s back.”

Dr. Charles said, “I will not.”

Gary said, “You don’t put the rocks directly on her back. You put them on the wet blankets and the heat continues for several hours. You may not have to change them but every five hours. You can go and sleep and wake up.”

The security man at the tent stood up when he heard Dr. Charles and Gary fussing.

Samantha was talking to Thomas and Michael.

The security man said, “Ma am.”

Eleanor, Ellen and Samantha looked him.

He said, “I’m waiting on my lemonade.”

Eleanor said, “I know he is not talking to me.  
She continued in the house.

Samantha said, “Are you really expecting me to wait on you hand and foot?”

The security man said, “Yes.”

Eleanor said, “Percy, Bruce, Thomas and Michael come in the house you don’t need to hear anything he is saying.”

Bruce wanted to hear.

Percy said, “Ok momma.”

He kept sitting and listening with Bruce.

Ellen looked at the security man.

The security smiled at Samantha.

Ellen walked in the house and poured him a glass of lemonade and carried back to the security man.

She sat on the porch and said, “Samantha sit with me and tell me how yall sewed your dresses.

Dr. Charles and Gary walked in the house with a bucket of hot rocks.

Dr. Charles tried the hot rocks on top of Shirley’s blankets.

Shirley said, “That feels good.”

Dr. Charles said, “Thank Gary.”

Shirley said, “Thank you Gary.”

Gary said, “You are welcome.”

Gary checked on the hot water supply before he left.

Eleanor looked and said, “Wash up for all f you. Go and get the pails and full them with water. You know what, take the pails to the empty room next to the hot water room. Use that room to bath and wash up.”

Percy said, “Good idea momma.”

They ran and go their nigh shirts.

They washed up and put on their nightshirts.

The boys continued to run and play in the hallway.

Shirley said, “Momma please.”

Eleanor wake to the boys and said, “Shirley is trying to sleep play quietly.”

Michael and Thomas jerked their heads.

Michael said, “How I do that?”

Eleanor laughed.

She said, “Michael go and get a book or puzzles or paint.”

They sat in the hallway and talked.

Eleanor, Dr. Charles, Patrick and Eleanor walked into Brenda’s study.

Dr. Charles had Eleanor’s test results.

He closed Brenda’s study door.

He went over the test results.

He said, “What all of that mean Eleanor is what we told you in the hospital. When you lost your baby all types of poisons went through your body. I just don’t see how you lived. Your heart is not badly damage, we can work on that. You are not blind or crippled or mentally affected.”

Patrick coughed.

Brenda said, “It’s call prayer.”

Dr. Charles stared at Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at Dr. Charles as a scared child.

He said, “Eleanor I am going to adjust you now so I can go to bed.”

Dr. Charles adjusted Eleanor’s neck and shoulders and sent her to bed, Patrick and Brenda were standing in the sitting room against the wall and raised their hands.

Dr. Charles said, “Come on.”

He adjusted Patrick.

Dr. Charles adjusted Brenda.

They knew it would hurt for about eight hours but afterwards they would be fine.

Beverly, Al and Captain Moss were still playing billiards and drinking whiskey.

Al said, “This bottle of whiskey got gone quickly.

Captain Moss said, “The butler did it.”

Beverly laughed and said, “Move it from the door.”

Dr. Charles went to bed.

Gary went to bed.

Samantha showed Ellen her dress.

The security man said, “Ou we how pretty.”

Samantha stomped and took the dress back in the house.

Ellen leaned back and looked in the house and turned to the security man and said, “You better apologize to her if you want to date her.”

The security man said, “I was just having fun.”

Ellen stared at him.

Samantha did not come back outside.

Ellen waited and stood up and looked at the security man and walked in the house.

She went to the billiards room and played billiards.

They all had a good time.

Dr. Charles slept and woke up five hours later and went upstairs and checked on Shirley the rocks were just getting cold.

He thought, “This could work.”

Dr. Charles put the hot rocks on Shirley’s blanket.

He started timing it.

He went downstairs and slept until the morning.

Meredith laid down and went to sleep until the next morning.

Jose locked up the house.

He went to sleep.

Peter and Nadine left for home. They would return and work that evening.

Peter had to put the finishing touches on the anniversary cake and punch.

Patrick, Brenda, Alfred, Beverly and Captain Moss and Ellen walked to their bedrooms.