The twenty five soldiers from the brook reported to the small town to assist in removing the dead assassins.

The captain was in the house with Ida and the governor’s children.

Ida was trying, very unsuccessfully to calm the governor’s children.

She said to the captain, “Sir, can you excuse me.”

The captain and his arrogant soldiers stood in the house.

Two of his arrogant soldiers were watching out the door.

The captain stood and looked around Ida’s house, it was nice on the inside as it was on the outside.

The captain and his arrogant soldiers heard Ida said, “They are removing the bodies of the men who tried to kill you. You should be thankful.”

The children said nothing.

Ida said hollered, “Stop looking out the damn window!!!”

Ida slammed the children’s door.

She walked into the hall and fell against the wall and cried and slid down the wall onto the floor.

The captain and his six arrogant soldiers turned and saw Ida.

They did not know what to do, because the governor’s children were just that children.

A couple of the soldiers were walking to Ida.

The captain held up his hand.

He said, “Let her have her time. We all have been stretched to the limit. We are trained to resolve the emotions in our way.”

Then Newsom ran down the street.

The captain took a deep breathe.

He saw the figure from the corner of his eyes and he knew it was Newsom from his statue, after he told him to walk back to the post.

Newsom yelled to Marc, “Where is the captain?”

Marc stared at Newsom.

Joseph was bent over a dead body at the corner of the Ida’s house.

He lifted his head and looked around the corner at an excited Newsom.

Marc did not reply, because he was still trying to count his money in his head.

The captain bit his lip and walked towards the door.

He pointed at Ida.

Two of his arrogant soldiers stayed in the house but walked to the door so they could hear.

The captain walked to the bent over Newsom.

He looked at Marc and Joseph who did not say anything.

Newsom was trying to catch his breath.

The twenty five soldiers rode to the end of the street.

The captain held up his hand.

The twenty five soldiers stopped on a dime.

They all knew to look out for loose horses and to go into the saddle and look for the money.

The children sat in the window all day and watched everything on the street.

It was exciting to them.

Their two friends, Johnny and Sarah, rode the new horses home.

Their mother walked in front of them holding the bridles of the horses.

When they got to the witches house the horses began to buck.

The children cried.

Marc heard them and ran down the street.

Clara and the little children ran out the house into the street.

Brianna was yelling, “JESUS!!!”

The strange man calmed the horses down and Marc took over.

Johnny grabbed Marc’s neck and held him tightly.

Brianna looked at the banker and his wife in the window.

Clara looked at the house. She thought I haven’t walked down the remainder of this street.

Brianna was so afraid for her children, she stared at the evil banker and his wife.

They walked out their house and his wife was rubbing and twisting her hands.

Marc walked and went back to Ida.

Brianna yelled, “JESUS is King!!!!”

The two foot soldiers ran out the house and told her to go home.

They saw the banker’s wife rubbing and twisting her hands, like she was really casting spells.

Brianna and her children walked home.

Brianna was so afraid of the evil banker and his wife.

He tried to take her house and land, after her husband left.

She knew the house and property was not mortgage by the bank.

For days she cried.

All she could think, “She and her five children would be on the street without a roof over their heads.

A thought came to her to pray.

She thought, “Why God has not answered any of my prayers I ever prayed. But I will serve Him because only through JESUS can one get to heaven.”

Brianna fell asleep.

She had a dream of a letter box under a place inside the house of the roof.

Knocking on her door woke her.

She was curled on her ragged sofa and wandered about the spot. She thought it was merely a dream.

Raymond was knocked again on her front door.

He walked away and was in his wagon,

She thought, “Oh god someone is at my door.”
She jumped up and ran to the door and peeped and saw Raymond pulling away.

She unlocked the door and ran after him and called him.

Raymond heard her and turned his horses around.

He came back and stopped and said, “Brianna I heard Dave is taking your house tomorrow.”

Brianna started crying.

Raymond got out his wagon and walked to her and hugged her.

Brianna said, “This house and land is not owned by his bank.”

Raymond said, “Brianna you have to think right now. You have to stop crying and start thinking. Where is the paper that shows Dave does not own this house and land?”

Raymond personally did not like Brianna.

She was a woman without a brain to him.

That’s why he loved Mellissa because she could think and analysis a situation and find a remedy.

She expected everyone to help her and that she did not have to do anything for herself.

Raymond was more than willing to help anybody especially those who wanted help, not those who did not want to lift a fork to their mouth to feed themselves and Brianna was one of those.

Briana eleven year old daughter and twelve year old son came to school and told Mellissa the bank was going to put them out.

Mellissa told Raymond.

Raymond was a very good carpenter. He was working on building a bath house with Jake.

He waited a couple of days.

Mellissa cooked him a nice dinner.

Raymond walked in the house and saw the table with his favorite food.

He knew Mellissa wanted to talk to him about Brianna.

He washed and put on a clean shirt.

He did not speak. He sat at the head of the table and bowed his head.

Mellissa sat next to him and reached for his hand.

Ray did not give her his hand.

Mellissa took Ray’s hand and she said grace.

Raymond shook his head.

Mellissa looked at her wonderful husband who she met at the state university.

He was studying architecture and she was studying to be a teacher.

Mellissa was the only child of wonderful mother and father. They died from a fire at their home when she was at school.

Her father’s sister walked all the way from her house to the school and told the teacher what happened.

Aunt Janice took Mellissa as her child.

It was the two of them.

Aunt Janice had a small house but a large field. She would harvest such a large crop of vegetables that she and Mellissa had a wonderful Christmas.

Janice would always take Mellissa during the summer to visit her friend.

They would stay with him for a month.

He would fill his wagon with goodies and he would drive them to some of their mutual friends in different parts of the state and to his relatives.

Before Mellissa finished college her beloved Janice died.

Clara, Laura and their entire family went to Janices funeral and burial in their family private cemetery.

Ray was by Mellissa’s side.

They married when she finished college.

Ray was away out of state working.

They married that summer.

Clara’s family had adopted Mellissa and Ray.

Clara’s mother sewed Mellissa’s beautiful wedding dress and veil, she made the bridesmaid dresses for Clara, Laura, Tina, Gabrielle and Rosa and the two flower girl’s dresses for the twins.

Since Clara’s family partially farmed, they held the wedding in their church, but the reception was held at the beautiful farm.

Clara’s family gave Mellissa and Ray enough household goods to help them for a while.

When Clara and Ray was going to their wagon, Clara’s father called them.

They walked back to Clara’s parent.

Her father went into his wallet and reached them some bills.

Mellissa eyes bucked and she grinned and said,”Whew.”

Clara’s father said, “We are both teachers. We know how hard it can be first getting started, we had some help.”

He looked at their mother and she looked into his eyes and smiled.

Mellissa ad Ray smiled.

Ray held Mellissa.

Ray said, “Hey dad can we have a few more bills.”

Mellissa pulled Ray and said to Clara’s parents, “No. Come on Ray.”

They kissed Clara’s parents and went to the wagon.

Clara’s father slipped a few bills in Ray’s extended hand as he kissed Clara’s mother and ran to their wagon.

Clara’s mother looked at Mellissa and said, “Doesn’t she looked lovely.”

Clara’s father said, “Did you sew that honey?”

Clara’s mother said, “Yes.”

Clara’s father kissed her on her head and hugged her.

They waved at Mellissa and Ray.

That was the last time Mellissa and Ray saw Clara’s mother and father.

Mellissa moved from one town to the next following Ray’s work.

Their final move was to that town because it was closer to Ray’s new job.

Ray could come home once per month, as opposed to every two or three months.

They enjoyed their visits.

They would go to the brook and fish and cook their catch.

They would ride their horses to the lake area.

Ray sat on the sofa, reading his bible by the light of the fireplace.

Ray was always cold but Mellissa did not care about the fires in the fireplaces.

Ray sat and stared straight in front of him.

Mellissa was laying on the sofa and reading.

She looked at Ray.

Ray sensed she was looking at him.

He turned and looked at her and reached over and picked Mellissa up and sat her on his lap.

Mellissa thought,”Well it is not another woman.”

Ray hugged and rocked Mellissa.

Mellissa thought, “If he lost his job, I make enough for us to live.”

When Ray begin to cry, Mellissa pushed him off her and held his head in her hands and looked into his eyes.

She saw pain in his eyes.

Mellissa said, “Ray tell me.”

She kissed him.

He looked and said, “Me, I can’t give you children.”

Mellissa was about to start asking questions.

Ray said, “Please Me. Let me.”

He put his hand up, “I checked with the doctor’s in every city I went to. All the doctors said the same thing.”

Me was counting on having a big family or not but at least three children.

Ray was vehemently crying and said, “If you want to leave me. I understand. It’s nobody left of my family but me and nobody from your family but you. Our families would die out. And I don’t want to adopt.”

Mellissa stood from Ray’s lap and took his hand and pulled him to their bedroom.

Ray was happy when he left a few days later.

He had confidence in their marriage.

Mellissa told him she would never leave him.

But he left her.

Ray told Brianna,”Let’s walk.”

Brianna sat on her steps and Ray stood.

He looked and never saw the beautiful scene of how her house reflected towards the lake area.

Ray said, “Think Brianna. Dave is not playing with you.”

Brianna started to cry again.

Ray very harshly said, “If you don’t stop crying I will walk away and never come back.”

Brianna thought Ray was going to pet her and take her problem away.

She saw another side of him, she did not like.

Ray stared at Brianna.

Brianna finally said, “I don’t know anything James never told me nothing.”

Ray said, “Where is James?”

Brianna said, “I don’t know?”

Ray said, “You don’t know how to reach him in case you or children needed him?”

Brianna said, “No.”

Ray stared at her and said thought,”Idiot.”

Brianna saw Ray’s eyes and that he did not care for her.

Brianna sat and stared at Ray.

Then the dream she just had came to her.

She did not know whether to tell Ray or not.

She said, “I had this dream while you were knocking on the door.”

Ray looked at her and said, “Why did you say that. Am I to ask you what the dream was or are you going to tell me the dream?”

While Brianna was thinking, Ray walked away.

She jumped and ran after him.

She said, “It was a bout a letter box under the roof.”

Ray said, “The roof where?”

Brianna was thinking.

Ray said, “Where?”

Ray started walking around looking at the roof.

Brianna was walking behind Ray.

Ray said, “I don’t see anything Brianna.”

Brianna said, “It’s in the house.”

Ray did not look at her and said, “Where in the house?”

Brianna started walking towards the house and pointed to the house.

Ray walked behind her and he looked at the ceiling and said, “Is there a door behind one of these walls?”

Brianna said, “Yeah that’s where this place is.”

Ray said, “Where?”

She looked at Ray and pointed at the wall in the kitchen.

Ray reaped the wallpaper off.

Brianna said, “That’s expensive wallpaper.”

Ray said, “Fifteen years ago.”

He saw the door and pried tit open.

He looked and saw the letter box and gave it to Brianna.

Brianna just stood and looked at the letter box.

Ray took the letter box out of Brianna hands and went through the letter box and found her full paid mortgage from another bank.

Ray said, “Let’s take this to Dave.”

Brianna said, “Dave will come tomorrow. I can give it to him then.”

Ray handed her the paper.

Something hit him.

He said, “Give me that paper and come and get in the wagon.

She got in his wagon and they drove to the bank.

Ray walked in the bank before Brianna.

Dave’s wife walked over to Ray and said, “What business do you have with this bank Ray?”

As she stared Brianna down.

Brianna was trying to hide behind Ray.

Ray sensed Brianna hiding behind him.

Ray said very sternly, “Get Dave out here.”

Jessica said, “I said you don’t have nothing to do with this bank.”

Ray said, “Nor does she. I said Jessica get Dave out here.”

Jessica looked and turned and walked in Dave’s office.

A few minutes later Dave walked out and looked at Ray.

Jessica was standing behind Ray staring at Ray then Brianna.

Ray said, “Dave what is that you supposed to be doing? You don’t speak a word but think you can summon someone by you looking at them like a fool. Brianna’s house is full paid by another bank. Your bank doesn’t own a mortgage on her house and her land.”

Dave reached for the paper.

Ray said, “Since you don’t use language to communicate I will show you her full paid mortgage with another bank.”

Ray reached the papers to Dave.

Jessica was reading the paper and looked back at Ray.

Dave said, “Brianna let me look over this paper and I’ll get back to you tomorrow,”

Brianna said, “Ok.”

Dave and Jessica smiled.

Ray snatched the paper out of Dave’s hand.

Brianna said, “Ray give him the paper.”

Ray turned to Brianna and said, “If you give him your only copy of your full paid mortgage. He will destroy this document and kick you out of your full paid.”

Brianna snatched the paper out of Ray’s hand and reached it to Dave.

Dave and Jessica grinned.

Ray partially pulled out a piece of paper out his vest.

Dave and Jessica looked at Ray.

Brianna turned to Ray and said, “We can leave now.”

Ray opened the door for Brianna and looked back at Dave and Jessica.

They were red and about to explode in hate.

Brianna was walking to get in Ray’s wagon.

She looked at Ray to help her in his wagon.

Ray did not help her in the wagon.

He drove her home and did not saw anything all the way to her home.

Ray said, “Get out Brianna. I never want to see you ever again. I don’t know what that was back there. Those people will kill me for helping you. For you to snatch your document out of my hand in front of them to belittle me. That’s show you got enough sense to know right from wrong. I believe you are a part of this great evil. You will pay for what you have done against me and my wife today. Whatever this is that’s why your husband left you and his five children to never return. I swear you will pay. I swear.”

Ray never saw Mellissa again.

But Ray could not understand how Ray’s wagon crushed his chest.

Brianna continued to walk home with her children.

She repeatedly said Zechariah 3:2, “And the LORD said unto satan, the LORD rebuke thee, O satan.”

Her children stopped crying and was quiet until they got home.

She helped her children down from the horses.

The other children ran out the house and were excited about the two new horses Johnny and Sarah told them how they got the horses and about how the evil people tried to make the horses hurt them.

The two oldest boy and girl said, “Mother we have horses can we leave and go and find father?”

The mother turned her head and said, “No.”

The oldest son, “Why. We have a way to leave this evil town. Why do you want to stay with evil unless you are evil?”

Brianna did not say anything her children stayed away from here.

From that day her children stayed their distance from her.

The little boy and the little girl sat in the window and watched the soldiers all day.

Alice turned and looked for Clara.

Clara was sitting on the sofa thinking and saw Alice looking around the house she said, “Precious Alice are you looking for me?”

Alice and Jason begin to laugh.

Jason said, “You did not call us precious this morning when you realized you had to fight our father and our mother and their friends. And it is a lot of them. You don’t even know.”

Laura and Mellissa were in the kitchen.

They had finally changed into dresses.

Laura started writing her reports to William.

Mellissa was reading a first grader book and enjoying it.

Laura watched Mellissa and that disturbed Laura how Mellissa could read and math and recognize situations that were occurring.

The little girl was turned around in the dinning room chair and nodding her head for yes.

Clara said,”What is your question Alice?”

Jason jumped out of his chair and said, “That soldier is running and hollering.”

Alice turned around to the window to see.

Clara raised up on the sofa to see.

The little girl said, “That’s Newsom.”

Laura heard, “Newsom.”

Clara ran to the window and lifted it so she could hear.

The captain stood in front of Newsom.

Newsom caught his breathe and pointed back up the street.

The captain waited.

His arrogant soldiers waited, the twenty five soldiers waited, Marc and Joseph waited.

William and his campsite saw Newsom but did not know what was happening because no body was at Danny’s campsite.

The third n command and the other two soldiers were at the lake area.

The older driver saw Newsome running and ready his battery gun.

William snugged up to the gun.

He older driver said, “Move.”

William took two steps away.

Laura looked back at the kitchen door to make sure it was locked since she ran out earlier that day.

She looked at Mellissa sitting so nicely and reading.

She did not trust her.

Laura stood in the kitchen doorway and watched.

Newsom said, “More.”

The captain said, “Where?”

Newsom said, “The building in front of Danny’s campsite.”

The captain said, “How did you see them.”

Newsome said, “Because I was walking back to the post, Sir.”

Marc turned his head because he knew Newsom would be court martial.

Bruce stood in Newsom’s face and said, “You better be right.”

The captain threw a signal for the twenty five to surround the streets that lead to the building.

Clara said, “Laura there’s trouble.”

Laura said, “Mellissa, Alice and Jason come and lay on the floor from the window.”

Mellissa went into the living room and laid on her back with her book.

Jason laid next to her and Alice leaned over and Mellissa started from the beginning and read the book.

Clara watched Mellissa.

Laura said, “I don’t understand it.

Laura and Clara looked out the window.

The captain turned and said, “We will go on foot. You come Newsom.”

His four arrogant soldiers walked with him.

They pulled out both guns.

Marc and Joseph loaded their guns.

Larry was laughing and singing as he was feeding the horses an giving them water.

He walked over to Mellissa and Clara and Laura yelled, “Run Larry.”

Larry looked and saw the twenty five soldiers lining up between the main street and spreading out down the next two streets.

Larry ran home and double checked his locked gate and ran into the house.

He and Doreen laid on the floor in their bedroom.

Clara and Laura slowly started lowering themselves to the floor.

The two arrogant captain’s soldiers went and picked Ida from the floor and put her in the room with the Governor’s children.

They said all of you get on the floor.

The children started crying again along with Ida.

Ida wrapped her arms over the children.

One of the arrogant soldier’s pulled out his guns.

He did not want to pull them out around the governor’s children. He went into the kitchen and looked out the window.

The other arrogant captain’s soldier looked back at the children’s room and stayed in the living room and pulled out both of his guns.

The little girl was sitting in her bed eating the applesauce Wes was feeding her.

She started kicking and screaming.

Natalie was sitting looking out the window.

Betsy and Emma and Mattie were sitting in the Living room.

Joshua was outside with the older driver.

They heard the little girl screaming.

They ran in the house.

The soldiers stopped and looked.

Wes put down her food and stood up and pulled her out of bed.

Wes said, “What is it?”

She started screaming, “Bruce.”

Joshua and the older driver opened the door at that second.

Emma fell to her knees.

The older driver said, “Not in JESUS’name.”

He walked over to Emma and was trying to pick her up. But she was heavy and he could not pick her up.

Betsy, Joshua and Mattie had to pick her up.

Natalie said to the little girl, “Pray for Bruce.”

The little girl became calm and Wes wiped her face with a washcloth.

Joshua said,”JESUS You are GOD and YOU brought me back from being crazy. I know YOU can do all things. I could not think or pray for myself. I need my mother to be happy. She deserves to be happy. My father will die this week…”

The older driver pulled Joshua by the neck.

Joshua said, “Make her happy and let Bruce live and no more good people be killed by these evil and bad people. JESUS I ask YOU. Please help Bruce and his soldiers and put an end to this forever.”

The little girl was still crying but saying, “JESUS, JESU, JESUS!!!”

The older driver said, “Amen!!”

He said, “I just thought my wife and Bishop’s family may come through that this week. Lord have mercy.”

Joshua said, “They can come by the brook.”

The older driver was rubbing Emma’s shoulder.

Mattie was staring off.

Betsy heart stopped and she began breathing heavy.

Wes walked in the living room holding the little girl.

The older driver did not say anything out but thought, “Look at that damn nosey ass Wes. He even knows when her breathing change.”

The older driver said, “Wes get ready to help Bruce.”

Wes looked at the older driver.

The little girl looked Wes in his eyes .

Wes looked at her.

Natalie reached for the little girl.

Wes said, “No.”

He turned and handed the little girl to Betsy.

Wes put on his coat.

Natalie stepped back and looked at Wes and said, “What’s the difference Wes said?”

Wes scolded Natalie, “Not you.”

Wes walked out the door.

Matie said, “Natalie???”

Everyone looked at Natalie.

Natalie sulkily went and flopped on the sofa with her mouth poked out.

The little girl said, “She’s having a baby.”

Betsy stood up and carried the little girl into the bedroom.

Joshua said,”Here I come.”

Betsy was about to call Joshua.

When Joshua walked in the bedroom, Betsy closed the door.

Wes forgot the pain medication and came back to get it.

He saw Betsy close the bedroom door and he saw Natalie crying.

The older driver was sitting with his mouth open and being in shock he carelessly patted Emma on her shoulder.

Mattie was staring at Natalie.

Betsy walked and sat next to Natalie.

Wes looked at them and went into the bedroom.

He knew they put Joshua and the little girl in the bedroom to talk about adult conversations.

Joshua said, “Wes.”

Wes looked at Joshua, he had learned from Joshua and the little girl not to dismiss them just because they were children.

Wes did not care how busy and messed up his day is he always stopped for the children.

Wes turned and looked at the nervous Joshua.

He closed the bedroom door.

The little girl sat in her bed.

Wes looked at her and he knew she had something to do with why she and Joshua were in the bedroom.

The little girl moved her hands in a “Idon’t know.”

Wes sat and pulled Joshua to him.

Joshua hugged Wes’s neck and cried very heavily.

Betsy heard Joshua and she stood and walked to the bedroom.

Joshua said, “Dr. Obersteen is gone. Bill is going to die this week because he tried to kill the governor. Now Bruce. You gonna have your children. I don’t have a friend. Even though Dr. Obersteen was going to send me away. But he was a man. Now I don’t have a man in my life.”

The little girl was sitting in the bed and began to cry.

Wes put Joshua in his lap and held him.

The little girl held her arms out for Betsy.

Betsy sat on her bed and held her.

Betsy said to the little girl, “You hurt for Joshua?”

Wes looked at the little girl and Betsy.

The little girl shook her head for yes.

They sat in silence and held the children.

Mattie went and sat with Natalie and put one arm around her shoulder and held her hand.

The older driver was still patting Emma on her shoulder.

Emma removed his hand and got out the chair and onto her knees.

The older driver said, “We all need to get on our knees.”

He went and slowly lowered himself on his knees.

The whole house was quiet.

After about an hour Joshua said, “Who will bury Bill?”

Wes said, “I don’t know Joshua.”

Joshua said, “Can he be buried back by Thomas. So if I ever want to visit his grave I would know where to go.”

Joshua began to cry.

Wes held him and said, “You will always be my son. My boy.”

Betsy touched Wes arm.

The little girl held her head up and looked at the crying Joshua.

Wes looked at the little girl and said, “What did you do?”

Betsy looked at the little girl.

The little girl looked at Betsy and then Wes and buried her head in Betsy’s chest.

Joshua said, “She said Natalie is having a baby.”

Wes was so stunned he looked at Joshua for a long minute.

The little girl was peeping around Betsy to see Wes’s reaction.

Betsy looked down at her.

Wes slowly turned his head to look at the little girl.

The little girl leaned into Betsy’s chest.

Wes said, “How did you know that?”

The little girl covered her face with her hands.

She was peeping at Wes through her hands.

Joshua said, “Wes, is that theatrics?”

Betsy looked at Joshua.

Wes looked at Joshua and said, “Yes.”

The little girl said, “I want to sleep.”

Betsy was about to put her in the bed.

Wes said, “No”

Joshua said, “Every time you do something you want to sleep. I got problems and I can’t sleep!!”

Joshua burst out screaming.

Betsy began rubbing Joshua’s leg.

The little girl peeped over at Joshua and said, “Joshua JESUS said he heard your prayer for Bruce and HE will not let Bruce die, but he will be shot.”

Joshua began kicking his legs.

Betsy said, “Baby.”

She lifted the little girl head up and looked in her eyes and said, “I truly love you.”

The little girl saw the love of GOD in Betsy’s eyes for her. She could feel the love of GOD in Betsy’s heart, that’s why she always laid her head on Betsy’s chest.

Betsy, “What is GOD doing to do about you being nosey?”

JESUS was looking at them and grinned. HE continued to write in Bruce’s book.

The little shrugged her shoulders.

Betsy kissed her on her forehead and put the little girl into the bed and covered her up.

Betsy said, “What do you dream about. Pretty dresses, summer fun, riding bikes?”

Wes looked at the little girl.

The little had started lying on her side.

She yawned and said, “No I be in my prayer room praying with JESUS. I need to go there now so I can be with JESUS about Joshua. JESUS already said Bruce won’t die.”

Betsy stood straight up and walked out the bedroom.

JESUS looked at Betsy.

HE was closing Bruce’s book and putting it up.

JESUS stood and walked out his room and across the hall and opened the door.

The little girl was already there on her knees and praying for Joshua.

JESUS walked to her and kneeled beside her.

JESUS was listening to what the little girl was praying.

HE would whisper to her what to pray about.

HE said,”Pain.”

JESUS would give her the scriptures.

The HOLY GHOST would explain the scriptures to her and how those particular scriptures were effective for that prayer.

JESUS said, “Fear. Joshua is afraid he will grow to be evil like his father Bill.”

JESUS whispered the scriptures to the little girl.

The little girl and JESUS continued their prayer for Joshua.

Betsy told them what the little girl said about her prayer room with JESUS.

The older driver listened and said, “That’s why the dogs were to eat her up. To stop those Godly prayers from a pure heart.”

Emma did not move she stayed on her knees and continued to pray for Bruce and his men wherever they were.

The older driver looked at Natalie.

He stood and walked to the front door and opened it.

He said, “Wes I need to take your wagon to the post. My wagon is a supply wagon.”

Wes said, “Fine.”

Joshua was lying in Wes arms.

Wes looked at Joshua and continued to hold him.

The older driver went to Wes’ wagon and cleared it out and put one of his quilts in it. He knew if he put two quilts and they were ruined she would fuss.

The soldiers watched the older driver.

He left the house and pulled out the yard. He prayed the whole hour to the post.

Wes looked at Joshua and said, “Who told you about Bill?”

Joshua pointed to the sleeping little girl.

Wes looked at his little princess.

He had more dreams about her walking out the house and walking the dirt road and not looking back. At first when he started having the dreams, the little girl would be in the yard and looking back at the cute house. Then later dreams she would walk out the house onto the dirt road and look back at the cute house. His late dreams she has walked out the house without hesitation and walk straight to the dirt road and did not look. She had her bag on her back with the seal of the KING.

She had Betsy’ bread plate and knife.

In his dreams he could hear the little girl whistle was she walked down the dirt road.

Then her whistling began to get lighter and lighter as she traveled down the dirt road.

In all the dreams Wes was standing back by the governor’s tent.

When Wes first started having the dreams, he would run after the little girl and carry her back to the house. Then he would run behind her to the dirt road and carry her back to the house. But now he stand and watch her leave. Each dream she slightly looked back because she knew Wes was watching her.

Wes over the six months knew the little girl was special to GOD and he and Betsy had done what GOD wanted them to do for the little girl and the little girl had done what GOD wanted to do for Betsy and Wes.

Wes could not grasped where the little girl’s family was and how she would be safe in this evil world.

His heart ached for her daily.

Joshua was rolling his sailboat over Wes’s chest and shoulders.

Wes said, “Do you want to take a nap or play with your toys?”

Joshua said, “Play.”

Wes sat Joshua in the chair and rubbed his hair.

Wes got the herbal pain therapy and went to the governor’s tent.

He prepared his surgery tools and counted his IVs.

He was trying to think if he had enough pain relief herbs.

He stuck his head out the tent and asked the soldiers in the yard, “Sir, Have they finished cleaning the bodies from the brook, because I have to get whatever herbs are left.”

One of the soldiers said, “It want be today. But I will check and definitely let you know.”

Wes was counting he days and the dosages on his finger.

The soldiers looked at Wes.

Wes attended to the governor and the first lady.

Wes was very tired and he took a two hour nap.

Mattie and Betsy prepared dinner.

Emma was on her knees crying out to God.

Betsy told Natalie, “I have an insurance policy on Bill. If he is executed, you can have the money from that policy once all the fees are taken...”

Mattie did not say anything.

She was waiting until they were notified that Bill was dead so she could cash in her policy.

Betsy looked at Mattie.

Mattie sat and held Natalie hand and did not offer a penny.

Betsy continued, “If you budget, I believe the money would last you at least a year maybe two. I will help as much as possible. I was going to tell you all Wes has decided it is too cold here and he has no money. He will stay until the governor and his wife…”

Betsy paused and exhaled.

Betsy looked at Emma and said, “…Maybe Bruce. But Wes has sent a telegram to Dr. Obersteen for a position at the big city hospital. We will be moving to the big city once everything is taken care here.”

Natalie turned her head towards the wall and begin to cry.

All she could think is she is alone.

Joshua tipped to the door so he could listen. The little girl showed Joshua how to tip to listen.

He had not heard Mattie say what she and he would do.

All what Joshua knew was that Dr. Obersteen said, he was going to boarding school, but since he and Emma have broken up. He is out the picture. Bruce is too poor to send him anywhere.

So Joshua stood and listened.

Betsy said, “Remember the attendant left this house to me and you Natalie. Maybe he will decide to let us have it, if so you can have it. Wes said he wants to come and fish during the summer, he and Dr. Obersteen.”

Natalie said, “It’s too cold here. I don’t want to be here alone with a baby. That’s if I have it. And I sure will not have my father ever coming near me and my baby.”

Natalie thought, “Betsy how did you get that policy on Bill?”

Mattie said, “A insurance company in our town.”

Natalie said, “So you have a life insurance policy too but you did not offer that money to me?”

Mattie said, “Right. I have not decided what Joshua and I are going to do or where we will move to. It is too cold here and I don’t ever want to live here again. I have sent a letter to the state to reinstate my teaching license, since I am better. I do not know where that will take me and Joshua, so I have to whatever amount of money to live on.”

Betsy said, “Natalie we have been talking about you and the baby…”

Mattie cut Betsy off.

Betsy stared at Mattie with a disapproving look.

Mattie looked at Natalie and said, “Who is the father?”

Betsy peeped around Mattie, because she could not think of who the father could be.

Natalie began to cry again.

Mattie jumped from the sofa and said, “It better not be none of this filth from the new settlement.”

Natalie did not respond quickly.

Betsy stood up and said, “Let me get Wes.”

Mattie said, “Why?’

Betsy said, “So he can get rid of it. And if any of this trash in this new settlement is the father it is an IT!! .We don’t need to plague society with no more of this trash.”

Mattie looked at Betsy like she was a lunatic and said, “Betsy shut up!! And sit down have you lost your mind. You have to remember this baby is part of Natalie!!!. You don’t know anything about Wes but what he did to you...”

Betsy shook her head and grinned with her tongue sticking out.

Mattie continued, “… You don’t know nothing about him nor his family.”

Joshua stepped in the living and said, “Like me.”

Mattie angry from yelling at Betsy caught her breath and said, “Joshua what are you talking about?”

Joshua said, “You’ll don’t care about me. I prayed about Bill being executed this week and none of you ask me how I knew. None of you ask me about how I felt. None of thought about what I said, that I was a child and killing people. Hello Family!!!”

Betsy said, “Joshua I can’t think right now. Just go and sit down and wait a minute.”

Betsy turned back to yell at Mattie.

Natalie stopped crying and said, “Joshua come here.”

Joshua walked to Natalie.

Betsy and Mattie were arguing about Mattie calling Betsy a lunatic.

Natalie sat Joshua on her lap and said, “Wes don’t think I am big enough to carry a baby...”

Mattie held her head down, she could only think about the terrible way life had treated Natalie.

JESUS was holding the little girl ‘s hand and they stood and watched her family.

The little girl was looking up in JESUS’ face she wanted to see how HE was looking at her family.

JESUS looked down at the little girl and all she could see was the same love she always saw in HIS eyes.

Natalie said, “Joshua I heard you last week when you said, ‘you killed people’. “

Mattie and Betsy shut up.

They all heard snoring.

Emma was on her knees praying and fell asleep and was snoring.

Betsy pointed at Emma and said,”I don’t ever want her to pray for me.”

The little girl snickered.

JESUS looked at the little girl and said, “Why do you laugh?”

The little girl said, “Momma Betsy is funny.”

JESUS smiled at the little girl.

The little girl said, “YOU made her funny.”

JESUS said, “Yes I did. Sometimes people need to have something funny. Watch.”

Mattie laughed.

She and Betsy stopped arguing.

Emma got off her knees and sat in the chair.

Emma said, “I heard you heifer.”

Natalie and Joshua laughed.

Wes walked in the front door and looked at all of them.

Wes said, “You three are so loud. That two dozens soldiers want you to shut up. The soldiers came and got me out of the governor’s tent to listen to you three. I could hear you from the governor’s tent, but I was busy and would talk to you later. Bruce said, you all are rough.The governor and his wife stopped screaming from pain because you out screamed them.”

Mattie pointed at Betsy and said, “That’s your husband.”

Betsy caught Mattie’s finger.

Betsy looked at Wes and said, “Wes you stop and get out of here.”

Wes said, “I was in the governor’s tent trying to give them their herb therapy and get my surgical instruments ready for Bruce…”

Emma started wailing.

Wes did not look at Emma.

Joshua turned and looked at Emma.

Wes opened the front door and the soldiers were looking in the house.

Betsy peeped out the window.

Natalie and Joshua looked around Wes out the door.

Wes closed the door.

He leaned back and peeped at the sleeping little girl.

Joshua said, “Wes what you think she and JESUS are saying about us?”

Wes said, “I don’t know Joshua. Betsy I am not getting rid of an it?”

He raised his eyebrows at Betsy.

Mattie said to Betsy, “He did hear you.”

Betsy hit Mattie on her arm.

Wes said, “Mattie what I do with my wife is my business. French or no French.”

Mattie rolled her eyes at Wes.

Wes looked at Natalie and said, “You did not tell them William is your baby’s father.”

Mattie looked at Natalie.

Betsy looked around Mattie at Natalie.

They were trying to think who was William.

Wes waited because he knew it was coming.

The little girl was still holding JESUS’ hand.

She looked up at JESUS.

HE looked down at her.

Natalie looked at Wes.

Mattie was moving her mouth to recalling all the men for the past several months.

Mattie and Betsy came to the same conclusion at the same time.

Betsy said, “You talking about that boy…”

Rubbing her cheek said,”… with the pimples. That works with the first lady?”

Mattie said, “I didn’t think he knew what to get up and do.”

Betsy fell into Mattie and laughed.

Wes was shocked at Mattie’s foul mouth.

He just stood.

Emma just sat and listened.

Joshua looked at Natalie.

Betsy and Mattie were screaming with laughter.

Joshua stood in the floor and said, “All of you stop.”

Everyone stopped and looked at Joshua.

Natalie turned her head and began to cry.

Mattie said, “Ole girl shut up. I will give some of my execution policy. Not all of it.”

Betsy held onto Mattie and they screamed.

Joshua turned and looked at Wes.

Wes just stood.

There was a knock on the front door.

Mattie looked and said, “I know damn well they better not be saying anything.”

Betsy fell on the floor laughing and hitting on the living room table.

Wes looked at his wife and Joshua and stepped out the front door and closed it.

One of he soldiers said, “Besides them being loud. One of the assassins is alive. He could not move because he may have broken his back or hip.”

Wes said, “I don’t care I will not treat him. You have to either take him to the capital or to the big city…”

Wes pointed to the governor’s tent and said,”… I will not treat a person who tried to kill my patient. Bruce told me he has a protocol in place. Follow it.”

The soldier was trying to think of the protocol and why it was not shared in training that week.

He turned and walked back to the brook and told the other soldiers what Wes said.

The assassin said, “Yeah that’s Wes for you.”

The soldiers turned at the woman.

Wes went back into the house.

Everyone turned and looked at Wes.

Joshua looked at Wes and said, “Now since every one is here. Just because one parent is evil or bad that doesn’t make the child evil or bad.”

Emma looked at Joshua and cried.

Mattie touched her heart and Betsy stood.

Joshua said, “Natalie I know what you are thinking. Because your father was bad and all the bad things he did to you will you do bad things to your baby and if none of us are around to watch and make sure you don’t. They don’t care. Because my daddy raped my mother and beaten her to death and hurt her everyday and led assassins here to help kill people. I am so scared I will grow up and be like him. I already killed people. “

The little girl was sitting up in the bed and said, “Joshua.”

Wes looked back at her.

The little girl reached for Wes.

Wes said, “Go to sleep.”

The little girl said, “Momma Betsy!”

Betsy passed Wes and looked at him.

Joshua said, “I’m talking my beloved Betsy walks away. And get her that gets everybody in trouble.”

Wes looked at Betsy as she carries the little girl to the living room.

Betsy kissed Joshua on his head and went and sat with the little girl at the window next to Emma.

The little girl looked at Emma.

Emma looked at the little girl.

The little girl leaned towards Emma.

Everybody said “stop”.

JESUS smiled.

The little girl moved her hands and said, “What?”

Joshua turned to Wes and said, “Did the soldiers say anything bad about me?”

Wes shook his head for no.

Joshua pointed to the little girl.

Wes looked at the little girl.

She looked at Wes and sat back in Betsy’s lap.

Wes said, “What do you be being up in the wee hours of the morning looking out the windows at the soldiers?”

The little girl sat up in Betsy’s lap and put her hands on her hips and said,”Tell them praying for them.”

The little girl batted her eyes at Wes.

JESUS smiled and continued to write.

Wes looked at her and said, “I told you before the only person who gets away with that is Momma Betsy.”

They all laughed.

Betsy grabbed the little girl by her head and kissed her.

Joshua said, “What about me?”

Joshua turned to walk away.

Wes caught Joshua and picked him up.

He looked at the little girl and said, “I have to talk to JESUS about you.”

The little girl said, “HE said you already have and HE showed you me leaving with my back bag and the symbol of the LIVING GOD on it.”

Wes went limp and Joshua slipped out of his arms and Wes fell to the floor.

Emma just sat and looked.

Betsy said, “Wes?”

Mattie skipped around the fireplace and said, “Oh shucks.”

Mattie sat by Natalie on the sofa.

Natalie sat and tried to sit back on the sofa to be invisible.

The little girl said, “Joshua. JESUS said HE did not let you kill anybody. You wounded the men. HE said you are good and will grow up to be a very powerful man that will help many people.”

The reached across and touched Emma.

Emma looked at the little girl.

The little girl tried to touch Emma’s stomach.

Emma said, “Ain’t no baby in there only lumps from Momma Betsy.”

Wes started getting his composure back.

He looked at Emma and then Betsy.

Betsy said, “I stumped your ass for a very good reason. You’re telling everything else. You tell that. God did not give you a baby with Bill because with all of that bad blood between the two of you, you would have hashed an ‘it’.”

Wes was shocked and continued sitting on the floor.

Joshua said, “Little girl so you said JESUS said I am good?”

The little girl said, “Yes.”

The little girl was reaching to Emma.

Emma was slouching in the chair with her arms folded.

She looked at the little girl who tried to whisper something to her.

Emma looked at the little girl and did not respond.

JESUS looked at Emma.

Emma turned from the little girl and looked at Mattie.

Mattie was trying to think when did the fight occur between Emma and Betsy, since Emma and Bill did not have any children.

Emma said, “Mattie, when Joshua was eighteen months old. I told Bill we would not let him go with you any more. I had the papers over you and Joshua. I could take you to court and take Joshua from you. Betsy came into the house to get Joshua. Bill was holding him. And I told Betsy Joshua was not going that weekend. Betsy did not understand why I would be mean and nasty to you. I still hated you for trying to break me and Bill up even after me and Bruce. Betsy and I got into a fist fight.”

Wes was sitting on the floor listening.

A soldier walked into the house to say something to Wes, he stopped and listened.

Mattie looked at the soldier who did not knock. She thought I have to tell about him.

Joshua sat and looked at Emma.

Emma continued, “Bill did not stop us. He was holding Joshua. Betsy really beat me. After she got through beating me. She stumped me in my stomach area over and over again. She said, “I hope this keeps your evil ass from every having any children. See how it feels when someone takes your child away from you. Betsy kept stomping me. She turned to Bill and said, “You give me that baby now.” Bill handed her Joshua. I was pulling myself by the kitchen cabinets handles and I saw the butcher knife. Bill saw me get the butcher knife and he did not try to stop me. I got up and run and to stab Betsy. She was getting Joshua’s bag. She turned and saw me. She kicked me so hard in my stomach that the butcher knife dropped to the floor and I fell backwards against the kitchen cabinets onto the floor.”

The soldier stood and listened. It sounded like a fight he and his brother had in the back yard where grabbed a rock and hit his brother so hard that he died.

He joined the military to keep from going to jail.

He was banned by his family and friends.

Wes looked at Joshua.

Joshua stared at Emma.

Emma looked at Mattie and said, “Forgive me Mattie.”

Emma turned in the chair and looked at Betsy and said, “Forgive me.”

She turned and looked at Joshua and said, “Of all the people on the earth, you Joshua gave me strength everyday. You got into trouble all the time, you kept me on my toes. You made me alert. Joshua you could analyze situations and know exactly what to do or what to say. You made my miserable life bearable. I wanted to tell Mattie the truth.”

Emma started crying.

Joshua stood and walked over to Mattie and said, “I am sorry for how my father treated you and how Cousin Emma treated you and me. I want you to find a good Christian man and let him help you to forget all the bad things they did to you, like Wes is helping my beloved Betsy to live better.”

Joshua passed Natalie, who touched his back to help him pass her.

Joshua walked to his beloved Betsy.

Betsy was crying and the little girl looked at Joshua.

Joshua looked at the little girl and said, “You know what I’m about to say to your Momma Betsy?”

The little girl said, “No and JESUS did not tell me.”

Joshua looked at the little girl.

He grabbed Betsy’s face and held her face with his two hands and stared in her eyes.

He kissed her on her cheek.

The little girl grinned and clapped her hands.

She held her cheek for Joshua to kiss her cheek, because Joshua would hold her hand but he never kissed her.

Joshua kissed the little girl on her cheek.

Wes looked at Joshua and the little girl and he could see why Betsy loved her.

Wes thought, “I could be happy being their father.”

A thought came to him and said, “Is this not the problem they are facing now. Taking someone else child for your selfishness.”

Wes shifted his eyes and thought,”That was bizarre.”

He looked at Joshua walked to Emma.

Emma was emotionless and slouched in the chair

Joshua walked and stood in front of Emma he took her hands. He kissed her cheek.

Joshua, “Emma you were my momma for all of my life. You treated my real mother really, really bad.

Now you want to let the truth be told, because all of us are hurt and we all want a better life. I was kinda liking forward to a spoiled life with Dr. Obersteen…”

Natalie was bent over on the sofa and started clapping and laughing.

Joshua said, “Emma even though you hated my mother. You never hated me. You would sit on my bed and look out the window at night. You would follow me to school or down to the creek or to area me and my friends would shoot marbles. I would hear you fussing with Bill that he better make sure I did not miss one meal and I better always have what I wanted for Christmas and a big birthday party with my friends. My biggest friend was you. I forgive you Emma for what you did against me. Mattie and Betsy have to forgive you. I want you to be happy.”

Mattie was looking and she looked straight ahead.

Betsy had her chin on the top of the little girl’s head looking into space.

Joshua and Emma hugged.

Wes looked at the soldier.

The soldier said, “Wes she said her name is Charlotte.”

Betsy put the little girl down in her chair.

Betsy started looking around.

Mattie was so upset and said, “Emma I need time to forgive you. You do not know how bad and miserable you made my life by only allowing me to have a part of my son. I have to ask God for the many times I wanted to kill you and Bill. God kept me until this day. When I forgive you I want to forgive you in full so I can live and be happy with my son. I cannot let you steal anymore of my life and joy.”

Betsy was peeping out the window.

The little girl said to Betsy, “Who you looking for Momma Betsy?”

Betsy said, “You a nap?’

The little girl closed her eyes.

Natalie was looking.

Natalie said, “Betsy said what are you looking for?”

Betsy looked at Wes.

Wes stood up.

He looked at the soldier and said, “Where is Charlotte?”

The soldier said, “I told you assassin’s back or hip was broken.”

Joshua and Emma looked at Wes.

Mattie said, “Wes!”

Natalie said, “Huh.”

Betsy and the little girl had their mouths opened and they looked at each other.

Wes stood and stared at the Soldier.

He could never think of Charlotte in any capacity but his fan.

Wes wrestled in college.

Charlotte was on the female wrestling team.

He would help her with her different techniques.

Wes could not move.