The week was busy.

Jose was wondering what Nadine was up to the day before

He slept over his drunkenness.

He was up early and walking through the house and checking every room.

Jose walked out the family dining room and continued down the main hall.

He saw the mail table that was completely full and some mail was hanging on.

He turned to walk down the hall where the suites were and saw Brenda just going to their bedroom.

Jose thought, “What will Patrick say about that.”

He was by Patrick’s office.

He looked in the office and saw the children sleep on the floor.

Eleanor was stretched out on the sofa and Patrick had his head on his desk.

Jose wondered what they were doing in the office all night.

He saw all the mail on the floor.

Jose stood and counted the children. He counted them again.

Patrick did not turn his head but kept it on his desk and said, “What are you doing Jose?”

Jose was startled and jumped. He said, “Is there a child missing? I count four children.”

Patrick thought about the staff how more conscious they are of his grandchildren.

Patrick said, “Bruce. He doesn’t like the floor. No breakfast but lunch. Close the door.”

Jose walked out and closed the door.

Patrick and Brenda were in Europe for over a year and they did not require Jose to dress as a butler.

Jose chose to wear black pants and gray shirts. He found them at a discount store because the company closed and they did not need the uniforms any more. He bought ten pairs of pants and ten shirts and several bundles of socks.

Gary was with Jose.

Jose looked at Gary and said, “You need to buy you some socks.”

Gary said, “I’m saving all of me money so I can buy me and Denise a house.”

Jose turned to Gary and stared at him.

Gary swallowed and said, “Why are you looking at me like that Jose?”

Jose said, “Gary can you even think about Denise and her mind and emotions that she was a slave and treated less than an animal by white people. You are white Gary.”

Gary was frowned up and said, “Jose I want treat her like that.”

Jose looked at the manager of the discount store.

The manager looked at Gary.

Jose would have Max wash his uniform once per month.

Jose liked wearing the uniform, he doesn’t wear out his clothes and he used that money and put it in the bank to save.

He was staying in the servants’ area in the house and not the re-modeled shed.

Jose put his clothes in the wagon and he went to the bank and checked his account.

Jose checked his bank account the week Patrick and Brenda returned from Europe. He could not believe the amount of money he earned and saved,

He pushed the paper back to the clerk and said, “Check this again.”

The woman checked the balance again and it was the same amount.

Jose said, “Ma am this can’t be right.”

The clerk stood and walked to the bank manager.

The bank manager looked at Jose and walked over to him and said, “I understand you have a question about your bank account. Please come with me.”

Jose walked with the manager and the manager closed his door.

The manager verified Jose’s account and they went over each of the fifty three bank account deposits.

Jose looked at the manager, which was Brad a friend of Patrick and Brenda.

Brad smiled and said, “You did not know you saved that much?”

Jose still could not talk. He stared blanketly at Brad.

Gary watched Jose and he went to the clerk for her to check his balance.

Gary worked hard and worked six days a week from sun -up to sun- down.

The town’s people would have him working all the time.

He would put every penny in the bank.

Gary stopped working on Sunday to spend time with Denise and bathed and shaved and get ready for the week.

Gary went to the chair to wait for Jose.

He pulled off his worn boot and his socks had risen up his leg.

The toe part of his socks were completely gone.

He pulled the toe area down and folded his socks down under his toes and put his boots back on.

Gary looked up and saw Jose staring at him.

He saw Brad staring at him, along with the bank teller and all of the people in the bank.

Jose from that day had nothing to do with Gary.

Jose could not stand anyone that poor that they could not buy a couple pair of socks and running after Denise.

Jose wanted to tell Gary that once Denise get her mind straight Robert would be the one especially since Gary has not said anything to her.

Jose and Gary were walking to the wagon.

Jose could not stand Gary and said, “Gary what kind of person are you?”

Gary saw the evil thought Jose had and said, “Jose why do you feel evil towards me?”

Jose said, “I do not know why you act like a beaten animal. That you deserved to be treated as dog and kicked around and beat down and you are not to live but you are to be under others’ feet. Denise does not want you. She was born into that mind set and her mind nor her body was never hers. But the man that bought her belonged her soul. Now for whatever you saw in Denise you think she deserved to be in that mind set of worthiness and not come out of the hell she was born in.”

Gary jumped in the driver’s seat.

Jose thought, “I better get in this wagon.”

They went back to the house and got the message about Michael and Thomas.

Nadine and Monica were devasted.

Gary talked to Peter and Thomas and told them with venom what Jose said about him.

Peter and Thomas did not say anything.

Gary looked at them.

Gary said, “I am not an evil person.”

He stormed out the kitchen and passed several of the field hands that were sitting and eating fried chicken, field peas, carrots and cornbread.

They heard Gary.

One of the field hands said, “He’s from Europe and have no idea the hell Denise has gone through. “

One of the field hands looked back at the door.

They finished eating and walked around the house and the grounds.

They saw Gary walking and talking to himself.

One of the field hands walked to Gary and said, “Gary. Everyone knows you are a good man. The slavery system we fought to destroy was the worst slavery system in this current world. The flesh and bones we set free have to learn to be human and the evil intent the slave masters beat into them from slavery until now have to be destroyed out of them and the fact that they are not flesh and bones nor three fifths of a human but a God created person. I know Gary you cannot understand that because your country did not have slavery.”

Gary was listening to the former civil war soldier and said, “I understand more than you think. Even though we did not have slavery that beat people down and stripe them of all humanity. I was a child of eight and my father and mother made to work for Joseph’s parents. I was beaten and called stupid and no good and dumb. I tried to make myself happy, I worked in the stables with the horses and learned as much as they wanted to teach me. I believe that is why the count brought me to America, to be free.”

The other field hands stood and listen.

Gary said, “We did not have a slave system but we had a slave culture. I can make Denise happy.”

The field hands walked away.

One of the field hands yelled back and said, “Gary go back to the house. You need to pray to JESUS.”

Gary stood and looked after the three men that were stationed on the side of the house.

Gary knew they were the security Patrick and Brenda left and they were told to shoot to kill.

Gary turned and ran back to the house.

They heard Gary running down the path to the house.

They laughed.

One of the three former civil war soldier decided he wanted to preach. He was praying and asking God to show him where to go.

He liked one of the sales clerk at Shirley’s dress shop.

He was in town once and saw the sales clerk.

He would bathe and shave and put on his only outfit and shoes and go into town on Friday and looked in the window at her and smile.

Jose told them about the discount store.

The former civil war soldier would put all his money away but started buying him a pair of pants and a shirt and socks and boots once per month.

Patrick and Brenda started paying the field hands as security which was more money.

One of the field hands married one of the maids and left and went to his hometown to live.

She wrote to Nadine and said, “She was really happy.”

The week was busy.

Jose continued to walk through the house and check each room.

Patrick heard Jose stop at the crates for the library.

Patrick woke and stood and stretched.

He thought, “I need Dr. Woodson or any of them.”

Patrick stooped down and picked up a pile of letters and started reading each.

Eleanor woke and laid there for a long time.

Jose went and got a large sack and put the mail in the sack.

He was standing and checking each letter that it was sealed.

Jose was about to walk down the hall and take the mail to the wagon.

Eleanor thought and stood and walked out of Patrick’s office.

Patrick looked at Eleanor and said, “Good morning Eleanor.”

Eleanor mumbled.

Patrick went through the pile of mail quickly and he did not have to reply to any of that mail.

He went to the next pile.

Eleanor walked to Brenda’s office and looked in the room.

She looked back and saw Jose trying to tip pass her with the mail.

She did not say anything to Jose but let him think he was getting away.

Eleanor said, “Jose let the boys go riding today, if they want to. Tell Gary to be with them.”

Jose said, “Fine.”

Eleanor knew she and Jose have fist fought before, but Dr. Woodson talked to Eleanor well while they were in Europe about exerting her strength physically fighting.

Eleanor told Dr. Woodson she understood.

Patrick was reading the mail on his desk and he read a disturbing letter.

He frowned and put it aside.

He kept reading his mail.

Jose came back to Patrick’s office with a large sack and put the mail to be discarded in the bag.

There was not a dent in all the mail.

Patrick and Eleanor were not discourage by the great amount of mail.

They continued to read the mail.

Bruce went and washed and dressed.

He ate eggs, biscuit and strawberry preserves.

He looked at Meredith who was sitting in the family dining room looking out the window.

Bruce finished eating and ran down to Patrick’s office.

Meredith was still looking out the window.

Lorraine walked to Jose earlier and told him what happened to Meredith the day before.

Jose did not know what to do.

Bruce walked into Patrick’s office and sat next to Eleanor.

He looked at the sleeping Shirley, Percy, Thomas and Michael.

Eleanor leaned over and kissed Bruce on his temple.

Bruce said, “I’m glad you kissed me momma. I thought you forgot about me.”

Patrick looked up from his mail at Bruce.

Patrick’s eyes from Bruce to Eleanor.

Eleanor’s heart broke.

Patrick saw the pain in his daughter’s face.

Bruce kept his head straight looking at his sister and brothers.

Eleanor eyes teared up.

She took her hand and lifted his face to her face and said, “I will never forget my love for you Bruce. Why did you say that?”

Bruce looking at Eleanor said, “We have the same name and you hate him.”

Patrick knew he was talking about his daddy.

Eleanor said, “You have the same name but you are not like your daddy. No I don’t like him. But I love you. You are my strong one. So do I need to stop thinking you are my strong one?”

Bruce said, “I am strong but I want to be kissed, hugged and held like you do Thomas and Michael.”

Eleanor said, “I will Bruce.”

Bruce said, “Promise?”

Eleanor said, “I promise Bruce.” She held him and kissed him.

Percy sat up and stood and ran to the kitchen.

A telegram came through to Patrick’s office.

William and Wyonna sent a telegram that Margaret was released from the hospital with baby Earle and she and the baby were improving.

Patrick read the telegram and said, “Some good news.”

Bruce looked at Patrick and said, “What?”

Bruce was really feeling he was in a business and working.

Patrick said, “Margaret and baby Earle were released from the hospital and are improving.

Eleanor grinned and clapped.

Michael and Thomas and Shirley woke up.

Shirley said, “What?”

Bruce said, “Margaret and her baby were released from the hospital.”

Thomas looked at Bruce and said, “That’s my spot.”

Bruce said, “Not anymore. I get it back.”

Patrick looked and thought, “Crap.”

Patrick reached the telegram to Bruce and said, “Bruce take to this Jose and tell him I said for him to read it to the employees.“

He looked at Bruce and said, “Be polite Bruce.”

Bruce took the telegram and walked out the office.

Thomas and Michael ran out Patrick’s office.

Patrick stood and walked to the door and peeped out to see if Thomas and Michael were fussing with Bruce.

Michael and Thomas ran upstairs to their rooms.

Lorraine placed all the children’s clothes on their bed.

Jose saw Percy when he walked in the kitchen as he was reviewing the work schedule.

Jose stopped and saw where Nadine changed his scheduled.

Thomas was cutting his eyes at Jose.

Percy said, “May I have food?”

Jose said, “It’s cooking.”

Louis and Gary were bringing hot water into the house.

Lorraine was in her favorite bedroom sleep and heard voices and woke up.

She sat on the side of the bed and stood.

She turned around and made the bed up and stretched.

Bruce looked at Percy and said, “hey Percy.”

Percy said, “Hey Bruce.”

Jose looked back at Bruce.

Bruce reached the telegram to Jose and, “Grandpa said for you to read this to the workers.”

Percy said, “When will the food be ready?”

Jose was reading over the telegram and looked over at Thomas and said, “Thomas when will lunch be ready?”
Meredith was walking into the kitchen from the formal dining room.

Jose looked at the sullen Meredith.

Meredith walked in the kitchen and sat down.

Thomas watched Meredith.

Jose said, “Thomas.”

Thomas said, “About thirty minutes.”

Percy begin to prance and jerk and said, “Thirty minutes?”

Jose looked at Percy and said, Leave. You are not suppose to be in the kitchen anyway. By the time you wash and put on your clothes the table will be set.”

Percy begain to whine.

Bruce looked at Percy and followed him out the kitchen through the hall.

Jose said, “Percy!”

Percy stopped and said, “What?”

Jose said, “Do you want an apple?”

Percy yelled, “I don’t want no so and so apple.”

Bruce looked at Percy and ran through the house to Patrick’s office.

Jose said, “Did that boy curse me?”

He walked back into the kitchen.

Meredith said, “He did not curse you Jose.”

Jose said, “He meant to.”

Meredith said, “You know that Percy loves to eat.”

Jose looked at Meredith then back at the telegram.

Lorraine was standing at the top of the stairs and said, “Percy come and bath and dressed. The food would be ready when you go downstairs.”

There were fifteen workers in the back area.

Jose said, “People this is a telegram Mr. Stith wants to be read to you.”

He waited for everyone to listen.

Jose said, “William and Wyonna sent a telegram that Margaret and baby Earle have been released from the hospital and are improving.

Lorraine was standing on the back steps, Ruth and Monica were walking through the back hall and heard him.

Meredith went into loneliness.

Thomas was trying to finish his green salad and pull the rolls out the oven that Percy left.

Betty got the dishes and went and set the table.

Meredith picked up the tea and carried it into the family dining room.

Dan took the large amount of mail into town to the post.

He sent Felipe a telegram at the hospital about Meredith was not feeling well and did not want her family at her wedding ever.

Debra gave Felipe the telegram from Dan.

Felipe did not understand what Dan was saying.

Debra said, “who are going to Dr. Felipe’s wedding?”

Dr. Greene knew Debra was trying to figure out a way for them to go.

Hutch said, “I won’t be going.”

Dr. Ralph said, “I won’t be going.”

Dr. Parker said, “I won’t be going. I would love to see the event.”

Dr. Charles said, “I will go and see this good friend of mines marry.”

Dr. Charles patted Dr. Felipe on his shoulder.

Dr. Felipe grinned and he thought about that strange telegram from Dan.

Debra said, “Dr. Greene?”

Dr. Greene said, “I have not decided yet.”

Debra said, “You have a week.”

She turned and walked back into her office. She looked at the corner room that was Shirley’s room for years.

Dr. Greene watched Debra and laughed and said, “Debra wants to go.”

Dr. Woodson laughed.

Dr. Greene said, “Dr. Woodson are you going?”

Dr. Woodson said, “Yes. That is a week away from our patients but I know they will be well taken care of.”

Shirley was walking out Patrick’s office to go and bath.

She walked back in the office.

Patrick looked at Shirley.

Eleanor looked at Shirley.

Shirley said, “Grandpa and momma. I want to make Dr. Woodson the permanent hospital administrator. Can you send him a telegram asking if he wants it to be permanent. He gets a raise I don’t know how much yet.”

Patrick said, “Good decision Shirley. But think about the raise he would get.”

Eleanor said, Shirley you have to release the money out of your trust funds.”

Shirley said, “I know momma.”

Patrick said, “I’ll send the telegram now. I don’t like to put anything off.”

Patrick wrote the telegram and then sent it to Dr. Woodson at the hospital.

Debra received the telegram and read it and took it to Dr. Woodson.

She received Jose’s telegram to give Mabel a hundred.

Debra told Mabel and gave her the money.

Dr. Greene looked at Debra.

Shirley went upstairs and bathe.

Eleanor had a stack of charitable organizations wanting money.

She looked around and said, “This is a lot of mail. The children said Bruce sent fifteen Christmas notes and cards. “

Patrick did not say anything because he could not stand Bruce after he told him and Brenda not to visit Shirley.

Eleanor said, “Daddy I feel he is to come back. I want him dead. I don’t know what this is. After Joseph’s death I have been in such pain. I have nothing to help me.”

Eleanor stood off the sofa and ran out of Patrick’s office.

She did not see her mother standing at the door.

Brenda heard the anguish of Eleanor’s soul.

She walked to Patrick’s door and looked at him.

Patrick said, “Did you hear Eleanor?”

Brenda said, “Yes. I can’t explain. I felt something.”

Patrick said, “Brenda I hate him.”

Brenda said, “I do too.”

Brenda looked around the room.

She said, “All of that Christmas stuff can be trashed.”

Patrick said, “You don’t want to read the notes your friends sent?”

Brenda said, “No. It’s too much.”

She walked over and took all the Christmas greetings and threw them on the floor for the trash.

Felipe showed Dan’s telegram to Dr. Woodson.

Dr. Woodson did not know what the telegram meant.

Dr. Woodson sent a telegram to Patrick and asked if Meredith was well.

The telegram came in while Brenda was in the office.

Patrick read the telegram.

He said, “Brenda somebody told Felipe that Meredith was not well and Felipe said something to Dr. Woodson for him to find out.”

Brenda said, “Felipe and Meredith needs to talk. Tell him.”

Patrick said, “Margaret and baby Earle have been released out the hospital.”

Brenda smiled and said, “Rough road. I am glad they are recovering. That’s a fine boy.”

Patrick wrote the telegram and said, “Meredith does not want none of her family at her wedding because they sexually abused her and the doctors said she could never have children. The state took her and she remained in the state. I heard her. Felipe and Meredith need to talk before the wedding.”

Patrick read the telegram to Brenda.

Brenda was looking at the stack of charitable businesses.

She looked at the unopened mail and said, Patrick this is a lot of businesses asking for donations.”

Patrick said, “I know.”

Brenda said, “I know I want the Stiths Freed Men rest stop to continue and the Stith scholarship at my old school.”

Patrick said, “That Ty kept Eleanor on guard. She was so afraid she had to part with some money.”

Brenda said, “I wanted to pick at her, but she was concentrating on Thomas and Michael.”

Patrick looked at the door and said, “That’s another issue.”

Brenda looked at Patrick.

Bruce ran into Patrick’s office and saw Brenda and ran and kissed her on her cheek.

Brenda hugged Bruce.

Bruce said, “That feel good.”

Brenda grinned and looked at Bruce.

Patrick gave Brenda the eye.

Brenda smiled at Patrick.

Bruce sat next to Brenda and she picked up a stack of mail and she put it between she and Bruce.

Patrick looked at them.

They started going through the mail.

Eleanor was bathing and went to bed.

Percy, Michael and Thomas ran down the stairs to the family dining.

Shirley could bath herself.

She put on a summer dress and combed and brushed her hair loose.

Patrick sent Nathan a telegram at the Stith’s Freed Men rest stop to give him a definite day and time for helping with the children’s safety.

Ruth reign the meal bell.

Brenda said, “Bruce you go and eat. I want to finish something.”

Bruce looked at Patrick and said, “Grandpa, you coming?”

Patrick said, “No. I am going to take a hot bath and shave and go to sleep. You all are doing good with the mail. Continue until you get tired. I’ll be up by dinner. This will take about two weeks.”

Bruce stood and ran down the hall to the family dining room.

Ruth said, “Where is Mr. and Mrs. Stiths?”

Bruce said, “They are not coming.”

Shirley walked in and sat.

Bruce said the grace.

Patrick told Brenda what Bruce said.

Brenda said, “A lot is going on.”

Patrick stood and went to their bedroom.

Brenda sat in Patrick’s office and read the mail.

She threw away most of the newspapers.

The children returned to Patrick’s office and they read the mail until dinner.

Shirley said, “Grandma I need to take the dresses to the shop in the morning. I need a lot of help can you help?”

Brenda said, “We have so much to do. We all will help you tomorrow. I will have Louis and Jose come so I can get everything ready for next week. Then we work on Meredith wedding and flowers. Then we work on the mail. We rotate.”

Shirley grinned.

Brenda wrote an invitation to the fourth of July celebration.

Mag had never attended it was too painful for her.

Brenda did not want her to be lonely.

Percy said the salad was good.

Shirley said, “He creamed me some soup which was good. I ate a full cup. I want to take some with me tomorrow.”

Thomas said, “Where is momma?”

Before Brenda could answer Thomas jumped up and ran out of Patrick’s office followed by Michael.

Michael and Thomas knocked on Eleanor’s door and she did not answer, Michael opened the door and he and Thomas peeped in her bedroom and saw she was sleep.

 They walked in and closed the door.

They laid on each side of Eleanor.

Lorraine saw them and continued about her chores.

She and Meredith had nothing to do.

Lorraine was concerned that she had to do Meredith job.

She had to pick Meredith and take her home each day until Nadine and Peter get back.

Dr. Woodson was sitting in the hospital administrator’s office when the telegram from Patrick came through.

Debra saw Dr. Woodson’s name on the telegram and she was leaving for the day.

Debra said, “Dr. Woodson this telegram is foe you. It’s not finish yet.”

Dr. Woodson looked up from his chart and was puzzled with this patient.

He heard Debra and said, “Thank you.”

Debra looked at Dr. Woodson and thought, “He is just like Dr. Greene.”

Dr. Woodson played busy and he was going to wait for Patrick to reply back.

When the telegram finished Dr. Woodson went and retrieved the telegram and read it.

Dr. Felipe was returning from Ryan’s hospital where he taught the doctor’s a class.

Dr. Woodson called Felipe in the hospital administrator’s office and closed the door.

He let him read Patrick’s telegram.

Felipe sat there a while and thought.

Dr. Woodson stood and walked out.

Dr. Woodson continued his rounds.

He went to the patient that was puzzling to him and re-examined the patient.

Dr. Woodson walked out the patient’s room looking perplexed.

Felipe was walking out the hospital administrator’s office looking worried.

Nurse Rose looked at the doctors.

Hutch was walking in the door of the hospital with Dr. Charles from the class Dr. Charles taught that day.

The doctors who attended were so thrilled and delighted.

Ryan and his father were proud to host such distinguished doctors.

The word spread through the state. Hospitals were contacting Ryan and Dennis and wanted to know if the French doctors can come and teach at their hospitals.

Ryan said, “No. They have not bared expenses but want the benefits.”

Dennis said, “Nor have we. The Stiths have. Have we sent them a thank you for this great opportunity to expand our practice and treatment of our patients?”

Ryan said, “No.”

Dennis said, “Son, you want all the accolades. Help the patients first.”

Ryan was huffing.

Dennis said, “Send a thank you gift to the Stiths.”

Ryan stopped huffing and looked at his father and said, “That’s for mother to do.”

Dennis said, “Ryan you are the medical director of these fascinating medical seminars. You do it and don’t question me again.”

Ryan turned around and made a face at Dennis.

Dennis stood and looked at Ryan.

Ryan turned around and saw his father saw him make the face and he jumped.

Ryan thought quickly the time he did that with his father and his father rushed on him and beat him terribly and his mother was screaming.

She did not have anything to say to Ryan and his father for a month.

She moved to the guest house and left and went to the farmland with her sister.

Ryan and Dennis had to go and bring her home.

Both promised her they would never fight like that again.

Ryan had to exhaled because his father was looking like he wanted to jump on Ryan again.

Ryan said, “Father I apologize.”
Dennis was still looking at Ryan.

Ryan thought about his baby boy and did not want him to be disrespect and disobedient. He knew he had to set a Christian example for him.

Ryan said, “Father I don’t know what type of gift to send to Patrick and Brenda. Can you tell me please?”

Dennis heard the word ‘please’ that is what jarred him out of his rage towards Ryan.

Dennis could not think.

He said, “What do they like?’

Ryan shrugged his shoulders and said, “Money.”

Dennis laughed and said, “We won’t be able to give them that. What about to establish con tinual seminars for the doctors and name the seminars after them. The Stiths Medical Seminars.”

Ryan said, “Who pay for these?”

Dennis said, “Not them. We figure out how to raise the money to host these seminars at once or twice per year. We leave it to your mother for doing the budget and inviting the doctors. It will give her something to do and give her joy to work with money.”

Ryan said, “I’ll draft a letter to the Stiths and you review it.”

Dennis said, “Fine Ryan.”

Dennis talked to Beverly when he went home about the seminars.

Beverly was excited because she wanted to rub elbows with the super rich people in the country.

Dennis and Beverly knew about the Stiths new railroad station.

The railroad station was bringing in more money from the outset.

Patrick and Eleanor did not expect the railroad to bring in a profit for two years.

Businesses would order supplies and have the supplies to be brought to that town and from that town to Cedartown where horses and wagons would load up and take another two weeks journey down south.

Mag told Patrick the new railroad station cut the shipping of supplies from eight weeks down to four and if they could open a railroad station from Cedartown for the two hundred miles in the south the time could be cut down to two weeks, but don’t tell the businesses about the time.

Patrick thought about it.

He said, “Mag I am going to talk to Eleanor and Brenda.”

The whole family came into town early that Tuesday morning to help Eleanor and Shirley.

Gary and Louis drove the wagons with Shirley’s dresses.

Stanley drove the carriage with Eleanor and her children.

Patrick drove Brenda in their private buggy.

They had the chest with Eleanor’s jewelry in their buggy.

The manager of the jewelry shop was there early to greet Eleanor.

Stanley took the jewelry case out of the buggy and carried it to the jewelry shop.

It was just daybreak and they heard a lot of talking and they turned and saw a large group of

Blacks walking through the city and continually walking towards the railroad tracks.

Brenda swelled up.

Patrick was surprised and he stood and watched the large group of Freed men pass through the town.

Gary and Louis took arms full of dresses into Shirley’s shop.

Thomas and Michael ran to Brenda and stood and watched the black people.

They waved to the Freed men.

The black people waved back at Thomas and Michael.

The former slaves looked at this well dressed black woman and the mixed children.

Brenda knew the Freed men were looking at how she was dressed.

Brenda made that commitment that she would always be dressed like she was rich and not a slave or a poor black.

Gary was thinking about Denise.

Gary walked to the large group of Freed men.

The Freed men were reading the sign for the Stith’s Rest Stop.

He told them the Stiths Rest Stop was about a half mile out of town if they wanted to go.

Thomas and Michael ran behind Gary and spoke to the children.

Eleanor watched her sons.

She walked to Patrick and Eleanor and said, “Momma. Daddy. They have such pure hearts of goodness.”

Brenda looked back at a crying Eleanor and said, “Don’t cry Eleanor. GOD made them that way. HE needed goodness in HIS earth. HE uses people to show HIS goodness. All of the evil that those children have been through won’t take GOD’s goodness out of them nor out of HIS earth.”

Patrick said, “It’s been two years and they are still leaving out of the south.”

The jewelry store manager walked to Eleanor and said, “Ma am I need to lock the shop.”

Eleanor and Brenda turned and walked with the store manager to the shop.

The jewelry shop manager locked the door and pulled the blinds.

Patrick watched Thomas and Michael.

The Freed men decided to keep going.

Thomas and Michael stood and watched them pass through town walking closely by the railroad tracks.

Gary stood with Thomas and Michael and watched the Freed men out of town.

Patrick stood and watched Thomas and Michael.

Patrick patted them on their heads as they ran by him.

They ran back to Shirley’s dress shop.

Louis and Gary helped the children take the dresses into Shirley’s dress shop.

Patrick and Brenda were proud how Eleanor’s children were helping out.

Patrick stopped his buggy in front of the jewelry shop.

Louis and Gary emptied the wagons of Shirley and turned and went back to the house.

Stanley went to the dress shop and helped his wife.

Shirley and the children were meeting the Stanley’s wife for the first time.

They liked her.

Stanley smiled and helped them most of the morning.

The sheriff was standing watching the Freed men walk through town.

He saw Patrick and his staff watching the Freed men.

Patrick walked across and down the street he spoke to the sheriff.

Patrick got to his office and opened up the office.

Mag rode her horse and saw the office was opened.

Patrick saw her sitting on her horse looking.

He thought I should have told her.

He walked to the door and then out on the porch.

Mag saw Patrick and got off her horse.

He helped her off her horse and tied it and he gave her a big hug.

They walked inside and started their day.

Mag was doing a great job.

Mag told Patrick the new railroad station was bringing in more money from the outset.

Patrick and Eleanor projected a two year period before money would begin to flow.

Mag told Patrick, businesses would order supplies and have the supplies brought to the town and from the new town railroad station to Cedartown where the businesses would have horses and wagons would load up and take another two weeks journey down south.

Mag said the new railroad station cut the shipping of supplies from twelve weeks down to six weeks and if could open a railroad station from Cedartown for the two hundred miles into the south the time could be cut down by two more weeks, but don’t tell the business because they would hold them to that time frame.

Patrick sat and thought about what Mag said.

Mag him the receipts.

Patrick said, “Brenda is here she and Eleanor. I am going to talk to them.”

He went to Eleanor’s jewelry shop and talked to Brenda and Eleanor and told them of the success of the new railroad station.

Brenda and Eleanor were happy.

He talked to them about Mag’s suggestion of another railroad station for about two hundred miles into the south from Cedartown.

Brenda walked out of the jewelry shop.

Patrick turned and looked at Brenda as she walked out.

Eleanor watched Brenda leave.

They waited until Brenda was out of sight and then begin to talk about the possibility.

Eleanor said, “It is a shorter distance than the new railroad town. What about the terrain?”

Patrick looked back at the door and said, “Here’s your momma and Shirley. What is Shirley begging for?”

Eleanor said, “The emerald earrings surrounded by diamonds.”

Patrick whistled.

Brenda and Shirley were talking and walking to the jewelry shop.

They watched the owner put out the gold jewelry in the case in the window.

He locked the window back and walked to the door and unlocked the door for Brenda and Shirley.

The jewelry shop manager went and took the case of emerald jewelry and put it in the other window.

Shirley followed the manager and pointed to the earrings she wanted.

Shirley said, “I want those earrings.”

Shirley went to Eleanor and said, “Momma I want those earrings.”

Eleanor said, “I will not give you those earrings nor buy them for you. You have to use your money and pay for them.”

The jewelry shop manager walked to Eleanor.

Shirley said, “How much?”

Eleanor told Shirley the amount of the emerald earrings.

Shirley stood and stared at Eleanor.

She said, “Why is the mark up so high?”

Eleanor said, “I had to bring all that back and declare it.”

Shirley said, “That’s not true. I had to carry that jewelry and declare it.”

Eleanor looked at Patrick and Brenda.

Patrick and Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Shirley turned and looked at Patrick and Brenda.

The store manager looked at Patrick and Brenda.

They heard a knock on the door and turned and saw Thomas and Michael.

Patrick and Brenda turned and walked to the door.

The store manager unlocked the door and Patrick and Brenda walked out.

Eleanor was staring at Shirley.

Shirley was staring at Eleanor.

Thomas and Michael peeped at their mother.

Michael said, “I’m hungry.”

Patrick looked at his watch and he walked to the end of the shops and saw the restaurant was just opening.

Patrick walked back to Them and said, “I’ll go and get Percy and Bruce and those other two can do what they want.”

Patrick passed the jewelry shop and did not look at.

He walked down to Shirley’s dress shop and looked around and the shop was full and nice.

Stanley was passing Patrick with the trash.

Patrick said, “Stanley where’s the rest of the dresses?”

Stanley said, “In the back. Shirley did not want all of them display only a few sizes in each style.”

Patrick said, “good.”

He looked around for Percy and Bruce and said, “Percy and Bruce we are going to lunch you want to go or stay?”

Percy said, “Go.”

Bruce and Percy stood and looked over the shop and were whispering between themselves.

Stanley walked back and saw his wife looking at Percy and Bruce whispering.

Stanley said, “Mr. Stith is my wife Alice.”

Patrick looked at Stanley.

Stanley shrugged his shoulders.

Patrick walked and shook the woman’s hand.

Stanley looked at Percy and Bruce whispering.

He told his wife, “Don’t mind Percy and Bruce they whisper all the time.”

Bruce said, “I saw an ice cream shop can I have ice cream instead of lunch?”

Patrick said, “No. And come on out of here.”

Patrick walked out the drees shop and Percy and Bruce were whispering walking behind Patrick.

Stanley and his wife looked at Percy and Bruce and laughed.

Stanley looked around the shop and the other salesclerk and they were happy.

Time Percy and Bruce walked out the shop and followed Patrick several women went to the dress shop.

Percy and Bruce passed the jewelry shop and peeped in the window.

Eleanor and Shirley were still staring at each other.

The jewelry shop owner was putting out the sapphire jewelry.

Eleanor took a class in Europe about selecting the higher grade of jewelry and contracts.

She had a box of contracts made and brought back to America.

She said no financing let the banks do the financing.

Eleanor thought about they always had to go out of town and state to buy a nice piece of jewelry, she wanted luxury in town/She bought a better safe that was welded to the floor.

Patrick bought Brenda an extravagant ruby and diamond earring and necklace set that no one knew about.

Patrick told Jose to make a common dinner but and delicious dessert for dinner that day and bring in fresh flowers from the outside and filled the house.

Jose drove into town and ran to the floral shop and several dozens of roses and sweet peas and ran back to the house.

He passed Patrick, Percy and Bruce.

Patrick thought, “What is he doing?”

Percy and Bruce looked at the speeding Stith wagon stop in front of the floral shop.

Jose jump out of the wagon and went into the shop.

Brenda looked at Jose and Patrick walked to Brenda and they walked across the street to the restaurant.

Percy ordered a roast beef sandwich he could not eat all of it.

Brenda laughed at him.

Michael was enjoying his lamb chop and salad.

Brenda and Thomas help Thomas with his sandwich.

Brenda said, “Bruce eat something.”

Bruce said, “I want ice cream.”

Patrick looked t Bruce.

Brenda said, “You have to have something to coat your stomach, so you want get sick from eating something that sweet. We can go there after lunch. I need to see if I can get them to come our Fourth of July celebration.”

Bruce grabbed a fork and ate some of Michael’s salad.

They sat and looked out the window.

Patrick said, “Brenda” He nodded at the window.

Brenda looked and saw Eleanor and Shirley walking going towards the bank.

Brenda just looked at them.

They finished their lunch and were walking to the ice cream shop.

Patrick went to his office and invited Mag.

Everyone was waiting for Patrick.

Mag walked out and saw Brenda.

They hugged and Brenda said, “Mag I wrote you an invitation to come to our Fourth of July celebration. I left it in the buggy.”

Michael said, “I can run and get it grandma.”

Brenda said, “No Michael.”

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Mag looked at Brenda.

Thomas said, “I can run faster.”

Patrick said, “You two go and get it and run and catch up with us. I’ll watch out for you two.

Percy and Bruce were whispering.

Patrick was about tired of the whispering between Percy and Bruce.

Patrick started wearing his gun all the time.

Percy whispered to Bruce, “You ask him.”

Patrick heard that much.

But his eyes were on Thomas and Michael.

He watched Thomas and Michael run back to the group.

Michael and Thomas both held onto the envelope and gave it to Brenda.

Brenda smiled and said, “Thank you.”

Thomas and Michael saw the ice cream shop and ran to the ice cream shop.

Brenda gave the hand written invitation to Mag.

Mag read it and smiled.

Patrick looked at Mag as he held back her tears.

Mag put the invitation back in the envelop and grinned.

She said, “We never came because Roger had to work on the Fourth. Last year we decided if we were invited we would come, but he…”

Mag started crying loudly.

Patrick saw when Percy and Bruce jumped and stood still.

Brenda grabbed Mag around the neck and they walked away.

Thomas and Michael looked out the door and saw Brenda and Mag passing by.

Patrick looked at Michael and said, “We are coming.”

Thomas and Michael walked out the ice cream shop and looked at their grandma and Mag.

Patrick looked back at the scared Percy and Bruce and said, “Come and get the ice cream.”

Eleanor and Shirley were walking out the bank.

They stood and were looking at the crying Mag and Brenda.

Eleanor started crying.

Shirley slowly looked at Eleanor and said, “Momma why are you crying?”

Eleanor sniffed and said, “Mag’s husband died. I know what makes her sad.”

Shirley stood and looked at Eleanor.

Shirley looked around and saw Patrick going to the ice cream shop.

Shirley yelled, “Grandpa.”

Bruce stopped and looked back at Shirley.

Patrick was holding the door for the boys to go into the shop.

He said, “Look at those two so and sos on the town’s corner.”

Bruce said, “What’s wrong grandpa?’

Patrick reached in his pocket and gave Bruce five dollars to buy them ice cream.

Patrick said, “Bruce here is five dollars. Buy yall some ice cream.”

Bruce said, “I have money.”

Patrick looked at Bruce.

Bruce looked at Patrick and said, “Momma told us to always have money with us.”

Patrick gave him the five dollars and walked across the street.

Eleanor was crying and looking at Shirley.

Eleanor said, “Shirley why did call my daddy.”

Patrick heard Eleanor.

Patrick sped up a little.

He greeted people as they passed.

Shirley saw Alice and Ginger across the street and waved and called to them.

They looked up and saw Shirley.

Shirley said, “Where are you going?”

Ginger said, “To get ice cream.”

Shirley said, “Wait.”

Shirley reached to Patrick.

Patrick said, “No Shirley. Use your own money.”

Eleanor was crying and said, “You better drink milk. Because I ain’t cleaning you’re a\*\* anymore.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor.

She said, “Grandpa can I invite them to our Fourth of July celebration?”

Patrick said, “Shirley what’s wrong with you? Why did you call me like you had an emergency?”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and said, “Momma over here saw grandma and Miss Mag and started crying like she was crazy.”

Patrick looked at Shirley and said, “Go to your friends.”

Mary was leaving from the dress shop and saw her cousins and waved to them.

Then she saw Shirley and stood and waited for Shirley.

Patrick looked at Ginger and said, “You can invite them. I think your grandmother is inviting their family.”

Shirley walked to Mary and they crossed the street and walked to ice cream shop.

Patrick and Eleanor watched the teens walk to the ice cream.

Patrick turned to Eleanor and he took her arm and walked her to the jewelry shop.

He said, “Are you buying Shirley the earrings?”

Eleanor said, “No. I took off the mark ups. She is paying wholesale.”

Eleanor walked to the manager and they walked to his office and she paid for the earrings.

The store manager gave Eleanor the earrings.

Eleanor put the earrings and the sale paper in her bag.”

Eleanor said, “Heifer could have bought these earrings in Europe but she thought I was going to give them to her.”

Patrick said, “What did you do?”

He opened the door and they walked out the jewelry.

They heard Michael calling, “Momma.”

They were about to walk Shirley’s dress shop. And turned and looked at Michael and saw him Thomas, Percy and Bruce running across the street with their ice cream cones.

Eleanor said, “she has ran them out the shop.”

Patrick stood and waited for the boys.

Bruce said, “Can we go home?”

Patrick said, “Why?”

Percy said, “Shirley and her friends are loud.”

Stanley had arrived back to the dress shop but his wife was busy.

Stanley walked out the dress shop.

Patrick said, “Stanley.”

Stanley walked to Patrick.

Eleanor looked and said, “Daddy.”

Patrick looked around and saw Christopher crossing the street to reach them.

Michael and Thomas saw Christopher and ran to him.

Stanley stood still he saw Patrick going for his gun.

Stanley followed Patrick’s and Eleanor’s eyes.

Bruce and Percy saw Patrick reaching for his gun and did not move.

Christopher tried to grin at Michael and Thomas.

Stanley walked fast and went to Michael and Thomas and spoke to Christopher and grabbed the boys and walked them to the carriage and said to Patrick, “Yes sir.”

Brenda and mag were walking back.

Brenda stood and watched Christopher.

She saw Stanley go and get Thomas and Michael from the murderer.

She said, “Mag go to the office I will be down in a minute.”

Eleanor said, “Percy and Bruce go with Thomas and Michael.”

Brenda was running to her Patrick.

The sheriff was standing and looking and saw Christopher.

He knew it was trouble because the president’s agent met with him and asked him all kinds of questions.

The sheriff’s deputies saw intense the federal agent was and wanted to become a federal agent.

The sheriff was not impressed because he thought the federal agent was saying he was not doing his job.

The sheriff walked and passed a crying Mag to get to the ice cream shop to watch what was going on.

Percy and Brue were looking back.

Stanley put them in the wagon and turned the wagon around and sped out of town.

Brenda ran to Christopher before he could walk to Patrick and Eleanor.

She blocked him from going any further.

The sheriff thought, “Smart block.”

The sheriff looked at Patrick and Eleanor and saw Patrick hand was on his thigh.

He stood and watch.

He could hear the girls in the ice cream being loud and talking about boys.

Brenda looked in Christopher eyes and saw hate for his father and sister.

She grabbed him by his shoulders and caused him to look at her.

She saw hate in his eyes towards her.

Christopher turned his eyes to his mother and tried to shake his feelings and hugged her.

As he held Brenda she said, “Why Christopher?”

Christopher said, “What momma?”

He was trying to get a better look at Eleanor and Patrick. Then he saw the sheriff watching them.

Brenda said, “Your name is Christopher, Christ like. We raised you up in a Christian home and a Christian church.”

Christopher turned his mother loose and stared at her.

He turned to walk away from Brenda.

Brenda said, “You can’t hide son. Good- bye Christopher. I mean good- bye forever.”

Christopher knew Brenda was saying stop what he was doing and don’t ever come back around them again.

He knew they knew he was behind the murder attempt on Eleanor’s son, his nephews.

He knew they would never forgive him for that. He did not want their forgiveness but their money.

Christopher walked across the street to two men and they were holding his horse.

Christopher mounted his horse and looked at Patrick and Eleanor and then back at Brenda and rode away.

Christopher thought about Brenda’s calmness and it sent chills through him and he thought, “Momma would kill me without mercy.”

Brenda thought Stanley know how to use the rifle and ride at the same time.

Some people on the sidewalk slowed up to be nosey and see Brenda and her son in the middle of the street.

Patrick said, “Brenda come and go to the office so I can send Mag home.”

Brenda turned and walked out the street and caught Eleanor by her hand.

Eleanor looked back at the dust of Christopher’s horses.

The sheriff was standing and watching.

They passed the sheriff and Patrick spoke.

They heard Shirley’s loud mouth in the ice cream parlor.

Brenda said, “Go on. I will be down.”

The sheriff watched Brenda.

She walked into the ice cream shop and stood and looked at Shirley.

Mary and Alice turned around and saw Brenda.

The girls said, “Hello Mrs. Stith.”

Brenda wanted them to recognize her.

She walked to their table and said, “All of you are loud. Shirley you are loud above everybody. Shut up.”

Shirley was shocked and looked at Brenda.

Brenda said, “Ginger tell your parents I invite them to my Fourth of July celebration, we just got back and I did not have time to post invitations.”

Ginger was scared and looked at Brenda and said, “Yes ma am.”

Brenda looked hard at Shirley.

Shirley looked at Brenda.

She saw Brenda was angry.

Brenda said, “Shirley say bye to your friends and come to the office so we can go home.”

The ice cream shop manager looked at Brenda when she walked to him.

He was looking at the table of girls then back to Brenda.

The sheriff was trying to watch Christopher’s dust, Patrick and Eleanor and Brenda.

Brenda looked at the ice cream manager and said, “Do come to parties?”

The manager said, “When?’

Brenda said, “Fourth of July.”

The sheriff noticed the girls shrilling had stopped.

One of the sheriff’s deputies liked Mary and would walk to the dress shop once per day and speak to her.

Mary had decided to go to school to be a nurse.

Ginger were telling the girls about her and Daniel.

Ginger whispered to Shirley, “Is Daniel’s family invited to the Fourth?”

Shirley cut her eyes at Brenda.

She knew when Brenda get that quiet she is mad.

Shirley turned back to the three and they all snickered.

Brenda said, “Thank You.”

She turned and looked back at Shirley.

Shirley was hurriedly getting up and walked to Brenda.

Shirley walked to the door thinking Brenda was going to open the door for her.

Brenda turned and looked at Shirley and ran to the door and opened it.

Brenda said, “Shirley you have been vulgar today. I heard you holler at your grandfather like you were dying. And then you were so loud in the ice cream shop that we heard you all the way down to your dress shop. Shirley I will not tolerate that street attitude. I know Lance and Hilary, they will stop Mary, Alice and Ginger from having anything to do with you.”

Shirley was not saying anything but tried to grin.

Brenda looked at Shirley and said, “We carried you and tolerated your bad behavior when you were sick, because we did not want you to die. But GOD has healed you. You are walking and eating and your stomach is not twisted anymore. Your eyes are straightening out. I absolutely mean for you to stop Shirley. You give GOD praise for what HE has done for you.”

The sheriff as walking behind them and listened to Brenda talking to Shirley.

Brenda said, “I am not holding a door for you anymore. I am not pulling out your chair for you anymore. Whatever you want you wait until you can move and go and get it. I know there is a lot you still can’t do. But I swear you never ever better act like you did today. I know you are happy that you can get up. But if you give GOD more praise HE will heal you more.”

They heard loud horses coming.

The sheriff stopped and looked.

Brenda heart stopped because she thought it was Christopher.

They looked and saw a dozen soldiers entered town and looked around.

The sheriff wondered.

Shirley was looking and trying to see if one was Skip.

The soldiers turned and rode out of town.

Brenda looked.

The sheriff wondered.

Shirley nearly fell off the sidewalk trying to see if one of them was Skip.

Brenda looked at the stumbling Shirley and walked on to their office.

The sheriff went back to his office.

Patrick was talking to Mag about Roger.

Brenda and Shirley were walking through the door.

Eleanor looked at Shirley and said, “Look Shirley…”

Brenda walked to Patrick.

Eleanor said, “Your behavior was horrible today. You embarrassed the whole family. Your brothers ran from you today.”

Shirley started crying.

Eleanor turned her head and said, “Daddy what were you saying.”

Patrick said, “Mag do you think you may want to leave and move to the new railroad town and run the railroad there. The town is kind of small but the railroad business I believe will be growing and it will get busy.”

Mag was looking at Patrick.

Patrick said, “I know you may want to talk Josiah and Natalie.”

Brenda looked at Patrick because if Mag accept the job and leave the town that would be taking a friend away from her.

Patrick said,
Go home. We’ll lock up.”

Mag got her stuff and walked out.

Patrick and Brenda walked out with Mag.

Eleanor stood up and walked through the office and locked all windows and doors.

Patrick came back in and took all receipts and put them in his bag.

He looked around and double checked the windows and doors.

They walked out the office.

Brenda stood on the sidewalk and watch Mag ride home.

Patrick walked to Brenda and Eleanor and Shirley walked behind them.

They all got in the buggy.

Eleanor and Brenda rode in the back and Patrick and Shirley rode in front.

Shirley said, “Granddaddy.”

Patrick was turning the buggy around.

Shirley said, “Can I take us home?’

Patrick pulled the buggy around and stopped.

He got out of the buggy and helped Shirley scoot over.

He got in the seat next to her.

Eleanor looked at Brenda.

Brenda did not say anything.

Shirley sped out of town.

She sped pass the Stith Rest Stop.

The normal hour ride took them forty- five minutes.

Jose was walking through the house and putting the flowers throughout the house.

He made several beautiful bouquets for the dining table and the hallway table.

The left over flowers he put in Brenda’s study.

Ruth was looking at the dining table and she was talking to Jose.

They heard the buggy noise.

They walked to the door and saw Shirley steering the buggy.

Shirley pulled the buggy up to the front porch.

Eleanor was talking to Brenda about having the shield over the path.

Brenda said, “I like the one I saw in England.”

Patrick stepped out the buggy and reached back and pulled Brenda out the back.

The buggy was for only two not four.

Brenda had to stretch.

Jose walked out the house and helped Shirley out the buggy.

He pulled Eleanor out the back.

They passed Stanley going back to town.

Shirley was speeding and said, “We like Stanley’s wife.”

She was about to run off the road.

Patrick said, “Shirley watch what you are doing. The horses most of the time don’t need us.”

Shirley grinned and continued home.

Ruth stood and watch them get out the buggy.

They walked in the hose.

Jose rode the buggy around to the back.

Lorraine had the boys to bath and dress for dinner.

Dan made a beef pot roast with a lot of different vegetables. He made a crème brulee and set out wine and champagne.

Jose had bath water place I the other four bedrooms.

Shirley was grinning when she reached Ruth on the porch.

Ruth said, “Very good Shirley.”

Eleanor rolled he eyes at Ruth.

Ruth could not care about Eleanor. She and Eleanor have fist fought before.

They tore up Brenda’s flower gardens.

Everyone was running behind them to break them up until Eleanor and Ruth fell into the trout pond Patrick was trying to start.

Patrick yelled, “Both of you get your asses out of my trout pond.”

Robert, the butler and several male workers helped them out the pond.”

Patrick and Brenda were disgusted with Eleanor and Ruth.

Ruth was ten years older than Eleanor.

Robert were standing behind Eleanor and Ruth and they were drenched in water and standing on a rug.

Robert sent Bethany for some towels and he put them on the floor to soak up the water.

Patrick and Brenda sat on the sofa in the sitting room.

Lorraine and Meredith and Lucy were standing on the stairwell listening.

Eleanor had just had Michael and hired Meredith as his nurse.

Ruth was mopping and Eleanor continued to walk through the area. Ruth asked Eleanor what she wanted and Eleanor cursed Ruth out.

Ruth beat Eleanor with the mop.

When Patrick rode home from the railroad he saw all the workers running around the house.

He saw Brenda run out of the house and around the house and scream, “Get out of my flowers.”

Patrick thought, “Damn. Now I got to hear her fuss about those damn flowers all night.”

He got off his horse and started around the house when he saw Ruth and Eleanor emerge from around the house with dirt and flowers on their clothes and in their hair.

Patrick was shocked and stood and looked at Ruth and Eleanor boxing like two men.

Brenda had her hands on her head.

All the children nurses ran out the house and onto the back porch.

Patrick had seen many fights between men, but never between women.

Ruth and Eleanor were picking up dirt and rocks and throwing at each other until they got closed to Patrick’s trout pond.

Ruth threw the flowers on her at Eleanor.

Eleanor ran to choke Ruth.

They were both choking each other.

And stumble and fell over in the trout pond.

Patrick could not believe they were fighting like they were.

Patrick yelled, “Get their asses out of my trout pond.”

Several of the men workers ran and got them out of the trout pond.

Ruth was fighting to get a trout out of her dress.

The trout fell on the ground.

Robert was not going in the water.

They all went in the house.

Patrick and Brenda said, “You two come in the sitting room.”

Brenda said, “Robert come in here.”

Robert thought, “What the hell you want with me. You don’t need me to fire her.”

He said, “Yes ma am.”

Bethany was just hired that week and she was smiling all day at Robert.

Robert was trying to get some time to talk to Bethany.

He was thinking, “I don’t have time for that heathen Eleanor and that street boxing Ruth. I am glad Ruth whipped that crazy Eleanor’s ass. Each time she have a baby she gets worst. They need to send her somewhere.”

Robert took his time and walked in the sitting room.

Patrick said, “Close the door Robert.”

Robert closed the door.

All the servants moved closer to the sitting room.

Brenda was distraught and then she saw the water that was flooding her floor.

Brenda calmly said, “Robert get that water up.”

Robert looked and saw the water on the floor.

He opened the door and looked and saw Bethany and said, “Please bring some towels.”

Bethany ran and got some towels and ran back.

She reached the towels to Robert and touched his hand.

Robert looked at Bethany.

Patrick saw how Bethany touched Robert’s finger and thought, “This wh\*\*e just got here.”

Robert exhaled and turned and looked at Eleanor and Ruth and put the towels around them.

Eleanor knew Patrick and Brenda were going to fire Ruth.

Ruth was thinking, “Just give me my money.”

Patrick said, “What happened?”

Eleanor proudly stood straight and said, “I was walking back and forth to check on Michael. This servant starting hitting me with a mop.”

Patrick could not think. He was blank. He frowned up and just sat on the sofa.

Brenda stop patting on her hair and looked at Eleanor.

Robert just looked at Eleanor.

Brenda said, “Robert do you know what happened?”

Robert said, “No. I was downstairs.”

Brenda said, “Ruth, you have been here three years. I don’t have a problem with you nor your work. What happened?”

Ruth said, “Thursday is the day I mop and wax the upstairs.”

Brenda said, “Yes.”

Patrick turned his head and looked at Ruth.

Ruth said, “I was mopping and she kept walking through the area I was mopping. I stopped and asked her what she wanted. She cursed me out. I started beating her with the mop until it broke. We fought all the way downstairs and out the house and around in the flower garden and into the trout pond.”

Patrick and Brenda just sat and stared at both of them.

Robert was thinking about Bethany and what time she gets off.

He did not want to wait until Monday when he was back at work. Some of the other male workers would have gotten to her.

Brenda said, “Robert.”

Robert growled, “What?”

He realized what he said, when Eleanor, Patrick and Ruth looked at him.

Patrick said, “We hate to interrupt your daydreaming.”

Robert was embarrassed and turned blood red.

Ruth thought, “Yeah go and get my money for this week.”

Robert said, “I am sorry. I was deep in my thoughts.”

Brenda looked at Robert.

She said, “Robert have any of the other workers complained about Eleanor?”

Ruth finally looked Robert.

Patrick said, “What are you doing Robert? That was a yes or no answer.”

Robert said, “I was trying to count the servants who have not complained about Eleanor. Your answer is yes. Nearly everyone.”

Brenda talked with Patrick before about Eleanor’s behavior and with each child she gets worst.

Brenda thought Eleanor’s behavior was due to the young age she started having babies, that’s why Brenda made them stay with she and Patrick.

She did not want Bruce’s family to have any thing to do with her grandchildren.

Brenda said, “Eleanor you did not say that you were disrupting Ruth’s assigned job over nothing.”

Eleanor said, “Michael is not a nothing.”

Patrick yelled, “Shut up gal.”

Eleanor looked at Patrick.

Ruth was thinking who could take her home. It was her time to stay overnight. But she was fired. She had been saving her money for the past three years and staying in the same room.

Ruth only bought her shoes and underwear.

Ruth was waiting.

Robert was looking at Patrick.

Brenda said, “Eleanor you know you have no business saying anything to these workers. You don’t pay them. They are not your employees. The only ones you pay are the children nurses. Meredith was upstairs in the room with Michael. How dare you be that disrespectful to any human being and then curse them out. Your behavior has to stop. Each time you have a baby you get worst. No more children Eleanor.”

Eleanor said, “Bruce said eight.”

Patrick stood up and looked at Eleanor, “Damn that damn Bruce. All he is looking out for to see how much of money he can get per child. He is not thinking about your health and especially your mental health. No more children Eleanor or I will have you locked away.”

Ruth mouth dropped open.

Robert looked and turned his head and thought, “You dumb asses just figured this out.”

Brenda said, “Ruth go and finished what you can tonight. I am sorry for all of this.”

Ruth stood and looked at Brenda and thought, “What? I was ready to get drunk tonight.”

Ruth turned to walk out.

Brenda looked at her floor.

Robert looked at the wet floor and thought, “I sure aint gonna mop that up.”

Eleanor turned to walk out the sitting room.

Patrick said, “Eleanor you be still.”

He looked at Robert and said, “Robert what’s for dinner?”

Robert said, “Trout.”

Brenda took her eyes from Eleanor to Robert.

Patrick said, “It better be trout.”

Robert walked out the sitting room.

He looked up and saw all the employees.

He walked to the kitchen and told Jose, “Trout for dinner.”

Jose said, “You better go fishing because I am preparing fried chicken and mashed potatoes and gravy.”

Robert was frantic and said, “Don’t. I got to get some trout. Where that trout that was on Ruth.”

Jose said, “I don’t know but you got about thirty minutes before this grease get hot.”

Robert grabbed a pan ran out the house.

Lorraine and Jose hit the floor.

Nadine, Monica, Alice and Meredith were laughing so hard they could not stand up.

Patrick walked in the kitchen and stood and looked at the workers laughing.

He looked back and saw Ruth mopping the upstairs.

Patrick said, “Where is Robert?”

They could not stop laughing enough to answer Patrick.

Finally Jose said, “Trying to fish for trout.”

He fell to the floor.

Patrick wanted to laugh but said, “And he better.”

Patrick was still angry.

Patrick walked back to Brenda.

Brenda made Eleanor apologize to Ruth.

Brenda picked up Michael with all of that hair and walked down to Eleanor’s bedroom.

Meredith and Lorraine carried Michael’s bassinet to Eleanor’s bedroom.

The household servants were getting off the floor as Robert was walking back in the house.

Jose was very calm.

He was cutting the potatoes to make French fries.

He had a salad prepared.

Robert handed Jose the pan.

Jose had the potatoes in his hand and looked over in the pan and said, “What’s that?” with his mouth open.

Nadine lost it.

Jose said, “Patrick came in here looking for you Robert.”

Monica and Alice watched Robert’s arrogant attitude changed.

Robert knew Patrick did not play with none of them, but he let Brenda run the house.

Robert stood and waited a minute.

He walked out the kitchen.

They were laughing so hard.

Nadine mimicked Jose and said, “What that.”

Jose took the pan and walked to the sink and dumped out the three fish and he said, “Where’s the fish Ruth caught. It was bigger than these?”

They were all laughing.

Lorraine and Meredith heard them upstairs and ran down the backstairs and saw Ruth standing and looking at them.

Lorraine and Meredith stopped and looked at Jose and Nadine.

Ruth stood and walked out the kitchen.

The workers saw Ruth.

Ruth was an employee they knew nothing about.

They told Jose and Nadine that Ruth heard them and walked out the kitchen.

Jose cleaned the fish and fried the three trout.

A worker brought to more trout to the kitchen.

Jose could not help but laugh.

He cleaned the two trout and fried them.

Patrick told Robert to see about the floor in the sitting area.

Nadine took the fried trout to the family dining room.

Robert was walking out the sitting room.

He was looking at Nadine.

Nadine looked at Robert.

Patrick saw Nadine with the meat platter.

The table was nicely set.

Patrick said, “Nadine let me see that platter.”

Nadine lower the platter.

Patrick said, “Where is Robert?”

Robert was outside the dining room and turned and ran back to the kitchen,

Nadine said, “I don’t know.”

Patrick said, “Eleanor and Bruce will not have fish tonight, but vegetables.”

Eleanor and Bruce did not say anything.

Bruce looked at the platter and looked at Patrick Jr, John and Christopher.

He looked at Eleanor and said, “What happened today Eleanor?”

Eleanor looked at Bruce.

Nadine served them salad and fries.

She hollered and put the platter down and walked out the family dining room.

Bruce bent over and ate his salad.

Patrick Jr. looked around at the table and ate his dinner.

Nadine was walking back into the dining room and heard John.

John said, “No seconds.”

Nadine fell on the floor outside the dining room.

Nadine could not crawl but laid on the floor.

Robert saw her on the floor and walked back to the kitchen.

When Nadine was able to get up she went and told Jose what John said.

The staff hollered.

Robert was sitting at the work schedule and trying to take several days off.

Ruth just sat on her bed.

Later she laid down.

Robert said, “Nadine take the key lime pie to the dining room.”

Nadine was laughing so hard she was leaning on the counter.

Jose stood and took the pie to the family dining room.

Patrick was cutting a piece of his trout and staring at Bruce.

Jos nearly dropped the pie.

He put it down and cut a slice for John.

John said, “I need a large piece of pied to fill me up.”

Brenda said, “Jose where is Robert?”

Jose was cutting Patrick Jr a slice of pie and he could not look at Brenda and said, “I’ll get him.”

Jose stumble through the formal dining room.

Nadine looked.

Jose said, John wanted a big slice of pie to fill him up.

Robert looked at Jose.

Jose said, “Robert how did trout get to be on the menu tonight?”

Robert did not say anything.

Jose said, “Brenda wants you now. How about that.”

Jose said, “You don’t need to worry about the dishes. Eleanor has not touched her salad and fries.”

Nadine flipped out her chair on the floor.

Robert stood and walked through the house.

John had been sneaking out the house and started having children by a prostitute.

The workers knew it but no one told Patrick and Brenda.

Robert walked into the family dining room.

Brenda said, “Robert this dinner is a mess. I had the menus for the week. Don’t let this happen again.”

Robert said, “Yes ma am.”

He looked at Eleanor who was just sitting and staring into space.

He saw she had not touched her food.

Bruce had eaten his salad and fries. He was eating his pie.

Patrick Jr. and Christopher watched Robert.

They knew Robert had done something that caused that mess of a dinner.

John had four boys by the prostitute who were eight, seven, six and five.

Ruth stood on the porch and welcomed them back from town. Shirley looked at the family dining table and the flowers in the hallway and smiled.

Eleanor looked at the flowers and went to her room.

Patrick and Brenda looked at the flowers and went to their bedroom and bathed and dressed.

Brenda went to the family dining room.

Patrick took the jewel out the safe and looked at it.

He put it back in the bag and walked out his bedroom nd to the family dining room.

Shirley was walking to the dining room.

The boys were sitting at the table.

Eleanor and Brenda walked behind Shirley to the family dining room.

Patrick walked in and put the bag on a silver tray.

Ruth and Monica wanted to see what was in the bag.

They served dinner.

Patrick said, “We are going to have desert in the parlor.

Everyone got up and walked to the parlor.

Ruth brought the tray to the parlor.

Shirley sat up and said, “What’s that grandpa?”

Eleanor looked at the bag and then looked at Shirley and said, “Shut up. It’s not for you.”

Shirley looked at Eleanor and said, “Where’s my earrings?”
Eleanor said, “In my safe.”

Patrick looked at Eleanor and then Shirley.

He stood and walked over took the silver tray and put it on the table.

Brenda looked at the bag. She recognized the bag.

Patrick took Brenda’s hand and kissed it and said, “My life I should have done this a long time ago.”

Ruth and Monica stood in the room to see.

Patrick took the bag and took out the two boxes.

He gave Brenda the bigger box.

Brenda was shaking and opened the box and nearly fainted.

Shirley jumped up and ran over to Brenda and sat on the other side of Brenda.

Patrick put the necklace on Brenda.

Eleanor grinned.

The boys looked and was not impressed.

Patrick gave Brenda the smaller box.

Brenda opened the box and saw the matching earrings and cried.

Shirley was so happy for her grandma.

Ruth and Monica were happy for Brenda.

Shirley was looking at the rubies and then the diamonds.

Patrick said, “You have to wear these jewels somewhere. I have Jose putting together a ball for our thirty third fifth anniversary and for you to wear this gift.”

Brenda was crying and said, “Is this why you demanded I get two red ball gowns in Paris.”

Patrick grabbed Brenda and said, “Pretty sneaky. Huh?”

Percy unemotional said, “No.”

Patrick looked back at Percy and said, “Wait until you get married.”

Brenda said, “Our anniversary is in a month. The invitations, food and liquor.”

Eleanor said, “All that is taken care of. All you two have to do is enjoy this beautiful time.”

Brenda said,”Patrick why?” We are simple people.”

Patrick held Brenda’s hands, “Gen. When Gen nearly died. I had a GOD given treasure but I had enough to buy you an earthly treasure.”

Shirley was examining the rubies and were happy.

Eleanor looked at selfish Shirley.

Eleanor thought and said, “That’s why Shirley went and had those green dresses made so she can wear the emerald earrings.”

Percy said, “So grandpa are those passed down to our wives?”

Shirley stood up.

Brenda looked up at Shirley.

Brenda said, “Shirley sit down.”

Shirley had turned red.

Ruth and Monica looked at Shirley they thought she was about to have a heart attack.

Patrick said, “They go to your mother. Then to Shirley.”

Thomas and Michael sat up in their chairs.

Michael said, “Make sure to give those red stones to Shirley.”

Thomas said, “Momma, Shirley scared me.”

Bruce said, “Me too.”

Percy said, “Shirley would you fight us over the stones?”

Bruce said, “Us? You.”

Shirley did not say anything.

Patrick looked at Shirley.

Eleanor said, “I am going to talk to Shirley.”

Michael said, “Talk to her. What chains on her.”

Eleanor tried to laugh but when she looked at her four sons they were not laughing. They were actually scared of Shirley.

Eleanor could not understand why.

Eleanor said, “Shirley you are ruining our evening. Apologize to everybody.”

Michael said, “I don’t want an apology. Just keep the red stones from me. I’ll be safe from Shirley.”

Thomas said, “Me too.”

Bruce was scared. He stood and ran out the room.

Michael and Thomas ran out after them.

Percy said, “I am not afraid of you Shirley. Momma what about Star?”

Eleanor looked perplexed and said, “What Star?”

Percy said, “My friend. That I will marry.”

Eleanor said, “Percy you are just a kid.”

Percy started counting on his fingers and held them up to Eleanor and said, “I am the same age you were when you had that.”

Eleanor said, “You’ll won’t be going back to the military academy this fall.”

Percy looked at Eleanor and stood and walked out the parlor and ran to his room.

Shirley went to her room and to bed.

Eleanor said, “Sorry momma and daddy. I ruined your perfect evening.”

Patrick and Brenda looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor walked out the room.

Monica and Ruth cleaned the room and the family dining room and went into the kitchen and told everyone about Brenda’s necklace and earrings.

Patrick and Brenda stayed in the parlor and drank champagne.