Dr. Obersteen slept on his stomach as straight as an arrow.

He was awaken by Harold’s knocking on the door.

Natalie woke and dropped the quilt from her shoulders to her lap.

She said, “Dr. Obersteen.”

He rolled from his stomach to his back and finally sat up.

He could not tell how long he slept but he was still sleepy.

He went to the door and unlocked it and walked away, because he knew it was Harold.

Natalie said, “Dr. Obersteen!”

He turned quickly and looked outside and saw Frank, Richard and Mike.

He looked at his guns and walked out the front door and closed it behind him.

He said, “Good morning. I think.”

The day was just breaking.

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST were standing on the front porch.

Frank said, “We want our coal.”

Harold walked in the yard and looked at Mike’s wagon and walked to the front steps and looked at Richard and Frank.

Dr. Obersteen shook the sleep from him and fully woke.

Natalie tipped from the little girl and stood behind the front door.

She saw the two guns Dr. Obersteen hid under the sofa.

She shuttered at the thought of using one.

She leaned her ear against the door.

Dr. Obersteen said, “You want your coal.”

Richard said, “Don’t be smart.”

Natalie turned her head.

Dr. Obersteen said, “I am not being smart. You were here when the coal arrived and heard the same thing I heard from Wes. I do not have anything to do with what you do here. But what I do know you are trespassing.”

Richard said, “Well you don’t mind if we get our coal.”

Natalie opened the door and had the gun on her father.

Frank and Mike ran to the dirt road.

Mike jumped in his wagon and drove pass Frank who was running.

Frank was yelling for Mike to stop the wagon and pick him up but Mike drove the wagon passed Frank.

Frank ran home.

Glenda was bent over putting a log on the fire when Frank ran passed her into the tent.

Frank ran into the tent and closed the flap.

He did not call Glenda in for safety.

Glenda turned and looked at Frank as he ran into the tent to hide.

She wondered what happened and where was their coal.

She wrapped her shawl over her and began to walk down the cold road to the cute house.

Harold ducked and ran around the back of the house.

He peeped from the corner of the house to see what was going to happen. He knew there was bad blood between Natalie and Richard. Harold knew it was bad and got worst when Natalie went away to the big city to get supplies with Wes.

Harold thought, “If I would have gone Natalie would not have been crying this whole month.”

Richard stood frozen in fear.

Dr. Obersteen stood wondering why they all ran.

Then he saw the barrel of his gun come into his view as Natalie crept on the front porch.

Dr. Obersteen quickly snatched the gun from Natalie.

The little girl began to scream.

Dr. Obersteen pushed Natalie towards the front door.

Natalie turned and jumped off the porch and began to beat her father with both of her fists.

Harold was so afraid, but excited. He wanted to know why Natalie was fighting her daddy.

Dr. Obersteen heard the screaming of the little girl.

He slightly turned his head towards the front door, but kept his eyes on Natalie.

He knew the little girl was not going anywhere.

Dr. Obersteen wanted Natalie to get all the hate and bad feelings out of her for her father, so she could start healing.

Richard tried to fight Natalie back and got a few good licks, but Natalie was determined to kill him or hurt him as badly as he hurt her and her mother.

Glenda heard the little girl screaming down the dirt road and turned around and started running home.

She bent over from exhaustion and thought, “They helped me. All of them. I knew I was sick unto death. I am well. I have food. A few nice dresses and shoes.”

Glenda started running to the cute house bent over and the more she thought about who helped and they did not have to help.

She thought about the attendant, who took his money for his house and spent it on them. She thought about Frank. Who she absolutely love did not want to work but let another man provide for him.

Glenda quickly made it to the yard of the cute house.

She bent over from exhaustion and fell to her knees.

Harold came from around the back of the house and stood by the porch and watched the fight.

Dr. Obersteen, saw Glenda and did not move.

He always ran to people in need.

But Natalie was in need.

Glenda was on her hands and knees and saw movement in the dirt.

She lifted her head and saw Natalie and Richard fighting.

First she was shocked and looked at Dr. Obersteen who did not move to stop them and she saw Harold, standing and watching.

She sat on the ground and watched the fight.

The little girl was screaming.

None of the adults moved.

No one went to the little girl’s aide.

Ricard knocked Natalie on the ground.

Dr. Obersteen walked off the porch.

Frank uncovered his head and listened.

He did not hear ant gunshots.

He uncovered himself and peeped out the tent.

Frank did not see Glenda and said, “Glenda? Glenda?”

He looked at the fire and no breakfast.

No oatmeal.

He balled his fists and stumped out their homesite towards the cute little house and then turned and went back to his tent and went to sleep.

Cate was nice and cozy.

She made enough shawls to cover her tent walls.

She keep a low fire through out the night and went out and retrieved the water and logs the men would bring every few days.

She felt so much better after the pain from the penicillin shot wore off.

Harold told her about the others coming back for their portions of the supplies.

Cate did not understand why they came back. They did not want to change but to get handouts and lay around not work and steal.

Cate sat in her tent and knit shawls all day.

When Mike was in the big city the attendant said, “Do you think Cate would like a book to read?”

Mike shrugged his shoulders and said, “I don’t care.”

Mike’s conscious got the best of him.

When he was in the bookstore he bought Cate a very large book to read.

Cate read the entire several times in a month.

Cate was unaware of Natalie and Richard fight.

As she knitted she thought she heard the wind blow on her tent.

She ducked as if she was under attack and began to knit faster.

She knew something was strange about Natalie, especially all that crying when she returned from the supply trip.

Cate just could not put her hand on it.

Mike drove to his tent and tied the horses and hid in the corner of his tent.

Shelia waved to Mike as she was walking to the recovering Thomas.

Thomas did not have “T.B,” but a very bad case of bronchitis. The penicillin helped him.

Shelia wondered what happened, because Mike did not have any coal.

She continued to Thomas’s tent and lit his fire and made him tea.

She sat with him until the evening and went home and stirred her fire up.

Shelia went into her tent and thought about her five children who were in heaven with JESUS and went to sleep in peace for the first time since their deaths.

JESUS stood outside Shelia’s tent and said, “I am your peace. Keep your mind on me.”

JESUS looked over at Mike’s tent.

HE and the attendant, the angel over the new city and the scribe walked to Mike.

When Richard on Natalie, Dr. Obersteen knew the flash backs would come.

Natalie fought Richard with her life.

Glenda sat on the ground and said, “Oh God.”

She realized Ricard had sexually molested Natalie because the way she was fighting him.

Glenda looked at Richard.

Richard looked at Glenda.

Dr, Obersteen tried to pull the badly hurt Richard off Natalie.

Natalie would not turn Ricard a loose.

Dr. Obersteen struggled to get Richard from Natalie’s grip.

He thought, “God how much more.”

He stood up for a minute and bent back down with strength pulled Richard up with both of his hands.

He whispered to Richard as he walked to the end of the yard, “Don not come near her again. Your own daughter.”

Dr. Obersteen threw Richard onto the dirt road.

Natalie jumped off the ground and charged at Richard and Dr. Obersteen saw her from the corner of his eye and grabbed her.

He had to pushed Natalie on the ground and hold her there for a half hour.

Natalie was screaming.

The little girl was screaming.

Harold and Glenda were in shock.

Harold stood in the yard.

Glenda sat in the yard.

Dr. Obersteen was trying to catch his breath and soak in what happened.

He rolled off Natalie and said, “OH God. I am tired.”

Dr. Obersteen heard the little girl screaming.

He said, “Glenda rolled over here and sit on Natalie and make sure she does not move.”

Dr. Obersteen was so tired.

He stood up and looked at Harold.

Harold looked at Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Harold not today.”

Harold went and brought coal into the house and Glenda saw him.

He put coal in each fireplace.

Dr. Obersteen sat with the screaming little girl for a minute.

He got up and took the water pails outside and poured the water first in the black pot.

He saw Glenda was still sitting on a screaming Natalie.

He said, “Good Glenda. Do not let her up.”

Harold stood and looked at Glenda and Natalie.

Dr. Obersteen went bac to the brook for the water for the house.

He came back, Harold had started oatmeal and coffee.

Dr. Obersteen poured water in the basin they wash their hands and then the water pitcher and the little girl’s beautiful blue and white water basin.

He washed his hands and went to the little girl.

He sat in the chair and told the screaming little girl, “Natalie can fight.”

He rolled up his sleeves to begin the day.

The little girl quieted down.

Dr. Obersteen who was leaning over to get the herbs turned and looked at the little girl in fear.

He said, “So you can hear what is going on.”

He began by giving her the herb therapy and then he washed her and made the herb paste for her little body.

Dr. Obersteen looked at the little girl’s half eaten body and the new growth.

He looked up at the ceiling and said, “Only You can do this.”

The LORD GOD Almighty looked down.

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST walked into the bedroom.

The HOLY GHOST began to explained forgiveness to the little girl. He said, forgive yourself. The others will follow.

Dr. Obersteen patted the little girl’s shoulder and said, “I can still hear Natalie screaming. She is screaming louder than you.”

The little girl giggled.

Dr. Obersteen was amazed.

He said, “I bet you know a lot of stuff about everybody and about me. I need to go and get the guns and hide them. Once I hear Natalie calming down then I’ll let her back in the house.”

The little girl laughed.

Dr. Obersteen heart broke.

He said, “I so hate this happened to you sweet baby but I know God has a reward for you.”

JESUS and the HOLY FGHOST looked at Dr. Obersteen who stood and kissed the little girl on her head.

He said, “First the guns.”

He did not see her, but the little girl smiled.

Dr. Obersteen got the guns and hide them at the corner of the fireplace.

He decided he would sleep in the living room until Wes returned.

Dr, Obersteen stretched his back and told the little girl, “Natalie is still at it. I’m going to wash and have breakfast. You will be fine until I return, because Natalie will be all day.”

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST watched Dr. Obersteen.

JESUS said to the strange man, remove the blood clots out of his body so he will not die today. He has many wonderful years left.”

The strange man followed DR. Obersteen as he got his hot water and went to the bath shed.

Dr. Obersteen bent over the stand.

He said, “Oh God. Not today.”

The strange man removed the blood clots from his body.

The strange mand said to JESUS, “What about the damaged liver?”

The LORD GOD Almighty said, “Heal it.”

JESUS and the HOLY GHOST continued talking with the little girl.

Dr. Obersteen fell to the floor.

Harold was drinking coffee and eating his oatmeal and watching Natalie and Glenda.

He heard something but did not think on it too much.

Then he thought and leaned and looked at the bath shed.

He put down his coffee mug and bowl and walked around the back to the bath shed.

He said, “Dr. Obersteen?”

No answer.

Glenda was sitting on top of the struggling Natalie.

Her thoughts were far off to when she first met him.

She begin to search her thoughts to see where Frank had lost his humanity.

She was racking her brains.

Glenda heard Harold call Dr. Obersteen.

She looked towards the back.

Natalie begin to holler.

Glenda looked at her and thought, “She’s getting better.”

Harold rushed into the bath shed and pushed the door open because Dr. Obersteen had fallen against the door.

Harold came from the back dragging an unconscious Dr. Obersteen.

Glenda nearly jumped off Natalie.

Glenda started screaming.

Natalie was scooping her head backwards to see what Glenda was screaming about.

She saw a dead Dr. Obersteen.

She held her head and looked at Harold drag the lifeless body of Dr. Obersteen to the front porch and up the steps into the house.

Natalie could not think.

Glenda had passed out on top of Natalie.

Natalie was trying to wiggle from underneath heavy Glenda.

Natalie could not move.

Glenda was passed out and Harold could not put Dr. Obersteen on the sofa alone.

He ran to the front door and called for Glenda.

He saw Glenda was passed out.

He ran down the front steps and rolled Glenda off Natalie.

He pulled Natalie off the ground and held her arm.

Harold told Natalie, “I think he is dead. If you want to help him if he is not dead or you can ran after your dead father and kill him and let the law kill you.”

She snatched her arm away from Harold.

Glenda was sitting up on the ground and looked around.

She saw Natalie and Harold rushing into the house.

Glenda crawled until she was able to stand.

She ran into the house as Harold and Natalie were putting Dr. Obersteen lifeless body on the sofa.

Harols looked in at the little girl. He turned to Natalie, “Natalie you got to ride.”

Natalie ran and kissed the little girl and said, “Stay sleep until I get back.”

Natalie grabbed her bag and ran out the door.

She untied Dr. Obersteen’s horse and she rode hard all day.

She passed her father talking to the children’s father and she reached Betsy’s hometown late that night, but she continued to ride through out the night.

Dr. Obersteen horse seemed to know the way.

When Natalie was tired the horse keep going.

They ended up at the city hospital later that afternoon.

Natalie jumped off the horse and ran into the hospital and caused a scene because she was asking for Dr. Wes.

The staff did notknow who she was talking about.

Joshua heard a commotion and ran to the ward’s door.

He saw Natalie from the back as they were throwing her out of the hospital.

Joshua ran to Natalie and yelled, “Natalie.”

Natalie looked back.

Betsy heard the commotion from the reception where the governor and his wife were attending.

Betsy being nosey tipped to the reception door and opened it and saw Joshua.

The city hospital administrator was talking to the governor and his wife, when Betsy opened the door.

She said, “Josh?”

Joshua pointed and said, “Natalie.”

Natalie yelled as they were throwing her out, “Dr. Obersteen.”

Betsy turned to find Wes.

She ran to Wes and pulled him away from great medical conversation.

He looked at Betsy as she was pulling him out of the reception.

They looked as if they fit in.

The night before the clothier delivered a very updated shirt for Wes and a beautiful green dress and a lighter green headband for Betsy.

Nurse Watson stood at the nurse’s desk and was looking along with other staff.

Wes and Betsy were passing some other doctor’s wives.

The wife Wes and Betsy met on yesterday said to the other doctor’s wives, “She look great. I wish I saw that dress yesterday.”

The doctors’ wives laughed.

Wes smiled.

The city hospital administrator was calling Wes to introduce him to the governor and his wife.

The governor decided to make an appearance at as many receptions and parties as he could.

Wes said to Betsy, “Wait a minute Betsy and let us meet the governor and the first lady.”

Betsy did not want to disappoint Wes and stopped as the city hospital administrator walked towards them with the young governor and the first lady.

Betsy turned and walked to the door.

Wes was shocked Betsy wsbeing rude.

The city hospital administrator saw Betsy and thought she did not like the governor and did not want to meet him and his wife.

Betsy walked out the door and Wes saw Joshua standing in the hall and he frown. Not in anger but why was Joshua in the hall.

Betsy ran to Joshua and said, “Where did you see Natalie?”

Joshua pointed outside.

He and Betsy ran to Natalie they hugged Natalie.

All Natalie could say was, “Dr. Obersteen.”

Betsy said to Joshua, “You get one arm and I’ll get the other.”

They begin to walk Natalie back to the hospital but the staff would not let her in.

Betsy nodded her head to Joshua.

She said, “You go in the reception and tell Wes Dr. Obersteen needs help. Run.”

She caught Natalie as she was falling from exhaustion.

Nurse Watson was watching Joshua.

The orderlies tried to keep Joshua out of the reception.

Nurse Watson, knew something was wrong.

She ran to the reception door and told the orderlies to let the child in.

Samuel and Zachery were coming down the stairs to attend the reception and they saw the commotion with Joshua.

They ran to Joshua.

Samuel bent down and said, “Joshua what is wrong?”

Joshua was still fighting with the orderlies.

Nurse Watson opened the reception door.

The city administrator, the governor, the first lady and Wes were talking.

Joshua yelled, “Dr. Obersteen needs help.”

Everyone stopped talking and looked at Joshua as the door closed.

Nurse Watson ran back to the nurses’ station with the other nurses.

Samuel and Zachery ran a little distance from the reception door and turned and walked back.

Wes recognized the voice as Joshua and he recognized the name of Dr. Obersteen his friend.

Wes turned and looked at the door.

The first lady turned to look at the door.

The governor looked at his wife.

The city hospital administrator looked at the governor’s wife.

Wes turned and walked to the door followed by the first lady.

The governor’s aides were watching the first lady.

One of the governor’s advisors walked to him and whispered and said, “People are watching.”

The city hospital administrator watched the governor’s advisor.

He did not like him.

He met him before at the university and he was conniving and treacherous.

The governor turned to his advisor and said, “She’s a grown woman. Go and stand with the rest of the aides.”

Wes opened the door saw the orderlies fighting with him to keep him out of the reception.

Nurse Watson and the nurses were watching Dr. Ross.

Samuel and Zachery passed the nurses to go to the reception.

Nurse Watson looked at them pretending they did not know what was going on.

Wes told the orderlies, “Get your hands off of him.”

The governor walked out the reception and stood by his wife.

The city hospital administrator walked out with him and stood by Wes.

Wes stooped down to Joshua and said, “What did you say?”

Joshua pointed, “Natalie is here.”

The first lady and Wes looked outside and saw Betsy holding Natalie.

Wes grabbed Joshua and ran out the door.

Nurse Watson nearly ran into the first lady.

She was embarrassed, when the city hospital administrator and the governor looked at her.

She turned and whispered to Samuel and Zachery, “You better bring me a full report.”

The city hospital administrator heard her as well as the governor.

The first lady ran behind them.

The governor and the city hospital administration walked fast out the door with Samuel and Zachery close behind.

Betsy was sitting on the steps holding Natalie.

The first lady ran in front of Betsy and Natalie to get a good look at Natalie and to see if she was Dr. Obersteen sweetheart.

The governor looked at his wife and walked and stood next to her to watch her reaction.

Natalie had her head on Betsy’s shoulder.

Wes turned loose Joshua’s hand.

Joshua snatched from Wes and sat next to Natalie.

Wes stooped down in front of Natalie and saw a pitiful young woman.

The governor noticed Wes demeanor.

The governor looked at the city hospital administrator.

The city hospital administrator slightly nodded.

Joshua saw them but he did not care about no one but Natalie.

Wes touched Natalie’s hand and very calmly said, “Natalie why are you here?”

Wes heart was about to sink if it were the little girl or John.

He knew Natalie would never leave the little girl unless it was horrible.

Natalie, “Dr. Obersteen. I believe is dead.”

The first lady gasped.

The governor looked at his wife.

Wes could not think.

He continued to look at an exhausted Natalie.

He said, “When?”

Natalie was confused and could not tell him when.

She said, “Harold dragged him in the house.”

Betsy held Natalie by the head and rocked her.

Wes twisting his mouth he looked away for a minute.

He saw Samuel and Zachery.

He said, “Samuel look after Joshua and my family go and get my medical bag. Zachery my horse. Now.”

Samuel ran to Wes and Betsy’s room to get his medical bag.

Zachery ran the short distance to the stables and got Wes’s horse.

Wes said,” Betsy stay with Natalie until I return.”

Natalie sat up and said, “No.”

Wes looked at her and said, “You are weak and frail.”

Natalie, “The baby.”

The first lady said, “Baby?”

Wes said, “A little girl we have been healing with herbs.”

The governor said, “Herbs?”

The first lady said, “Jon Obersteen is a dear friend. I am going,”

Wes said, “No you are not.”

The first lady said, “I will not sit here and wait for bad news.”

She looked at her husband.

He smiled.

She kissed him.

She yelled to an aide, “Get me a horse now.”

The advisor walked to the governor and said,”This is not heard of.”

The city hospital administrator looked at the governor and shook his head.

The governor said to the advisor, “Your fired.”

The advisor was shocked and said, “What?”

Zachery returned with Wes horse.

Wes said, “Zachery check out Natalie’s horse. Rather Dr. Obersteen’s horse and give it food and water.”

Samuel was running back with Wes medical bag.

Wes ran inside and told Emma and Bill Natalie was there and something has happened and he was leaving.

Wes said, “No tests for Mattie until I get back.”

Nurse Watson ran in the ward with Mattie’s chart, still being nosey.

Wes looked at her and wrote in Mattie’s chart, “No tests.”

He said to Nurse Watson, “Nosey.”

She smiled and ran back to the nurse’s station to see what was happening next.

The governor told the aide bring two horses.

The first lady looked at her husband.

The horses arrived.

Wes pulled Natalie up and kissed her and said, “No fighting and no shopping.”

Wes looked at Joshua and said, “No test for your momma, until I get back.”

Bill ran out the door and said, “ I’m coming and Joshua. We will bring the wagon.”

Zachery heard and returned to the stables.

Wes, Natalie, the governor and the first lady mounted the horses and flew out of town.

The first lady and Wes lead the way.

The city hospital administrator walked to Betsy and said, “I hope the governor will be alright. I thought he was a city boy but he rode the horse like a wild man.”

He laughed, but Betsy did not.

The city hospital administrator said to Bill, “You know how to get back.”

Betsy held her head down and laughed.

The city hospital administrator looked at Betsy to see what was funny.

Bill said, “I made it here.”

The city hospital administrator said, “I want you to take them supplies. I will pay you when you return.”

He said, “Samuel, come with me.”

The city hospital administrator went to the supply area and gave the orderlies and Samuel and Zachery medical supplies. He gave them five of the quilts.

They went to the dinning hall and loaded up on food.

When Bill and Joshua saw the food they were happy. Because they had not eaten in two days.

Bill told Emma before Wes walked in they had no money. They had no food.

Bill told Emma he was taking Joshua back to the new settlement.

Two of the governor’s aides ran to Bill’s wagon to ride with them.

Bill said, “Only one because my son has to ride in front because of the supplies.

Bill said, “Samuel, while they are loading up bring our quilts.”

Samuel returned with Bill and Joshua’s quilts.

Betsy was standing holding onto Joshua.

The city hospital administrator walked next to Betsy as Joshua jumped in the front with Bill and the governor’s aide.

Emma was going thru her bag and realized Mattie only had enough herbal pain therapy for a few days.

Her heart sunk, because she knew Bill was gone.

She put everything back in her bag and locked it.

She ran out the hospital and Bill was turning the curved.

Emma knew she had to catch him.

The city hospital administrator said, “She won’t catch him.”

Betsy smiled.

Emma caught Bill and was running along side the wagon.

Joshua saw her and yelled., “Mom!.”

Bill pulled the horses to a stop.

The city hospital administrator listened but could not tell if the wagon stopped.

Emma said, “Tell Wes Mattie needs the red and green.”

Bill said, “What?”

Emma, “He knows.”

He leaned down to kiss her lips. She tiptoed to kiss him.

Joshua sighed and put his elbow on his knees.

Bill pulled off.

Betsy and the city hospital administrator and Samuel and Zachery stood on the steps of the hospital.

They saw Emma returning.

The city hospital administrator was impressed and said, “Did you catch your husband?”

Emma was tired and shock her head for yes.

She walked passed them back to the ward.

Nurse Watson watched Emma.

Emma leaned over Mattie and whispered, “I caught Bill and told him to tell Wes.”

Emma sat on her bed.

She gave Mattie the red herbal pain therapy.

Emma covered Mattie with two blankets and then the quilt.

It was getting cold.

Emma covered up in her bed and read a story to Mattie.

Betsy was escorted back to the reception by the city hospital administrator.

The attendees were ready for the update.

All the city hospital administrator said, “Again we rose to the challenge and went beyond.”

Samuel and Zachery clapped.

Samuel left to get to April’s performance, but the governor would not be there.

Zachery stopped by and told Nurse Watson everything that happened.

Nurse Watson checked on Emma and Mattie and left for the night.

Two of the governor’s aides rode their horses and followed Bill in the wagon.

Bill did not stop but drove through the night.

Wes was upset but he kept his mind on the present task.

Getting to Dr. Obersteen.

Wes and the first lady were neck and neck.

They all rode through the night.

Several times the governor had to pull Natalie’s horse before she fell off.

Wes looked back and kept on going.

They passed Betsy’s hometown late that night.

Wes and the first lady continued to ride and entered the new settlement at daybreak.

Natalie and the governor entered around noon.

Bill and Joshua and the governor’s two aides entered before dark.

The governor heard that a disaster occurred but did not know where until he entered into the new settlement.

Natalie was laid low on her horse.

But the horse knew which way to go to the cute little house.

They arrived at the cute little house.

Wes and the first had arrived.

Wes ran into the house.

Glenda and Harold jumped.

Wes said nothing.

He saw Dr. Obersteen on the sofa.

He rushed to him and began to check for his vital signs.

Harold walked in and looked at the lady.

Harold said, “We did not know what to do so I sent Natalie for you.”

Wes did not respond.

Wes sat for a minute and tried to think.

The first lady saw Dr. Obersteen.

She did not know what to think.

Wes went outside.

The first lady followed him.

She looked at Wes in his face.

Wes said, “I don’t know what to think. He’s alive.”

The first lady sighed relief.

Wes said, “Something happened to him and I don’t know what so I can’t treat him if I don’t know what.”

Wes sat on the steps.

The first lady stood.

The little girl screamed.

The first lady was hysterical she ran into Wes who was going into the house.

Wes said, “Harold.”

Harold was sitting in the chair watching the little girl.

Harold said, “She’s been quiet until you came.”

Wes said, “That is the governor’s wife. Go and make sure does not hurt herself.”

Glenda who was about to run and scream herself said. “Where is Nat?”

Harold walked out and sat on the porch.

He watched the state’s first lady run around in the yard screaming.

Wes said, “She’s coming.”

He washed his hands and examined the little girl.

He saw she had not been washed in days.

He said to Glenda, “What happened to Dr. Obersteen?”

Wes looked at the herbs on the dresser and mixed the sedative and dripped it into the little girl’s mouth.

Glenda was about to have a heart attack.

She explained everything to Wes about the fight between Natalie and Richard and how Dr. Obersteen let them fight. And how Harold found him in the bath shed and brought him into the house.

Wes said, “When?”

Glenda said, “Three days ago. I counted because I was on my cycle. Can I go?”

Wes nodded for yes.

He leaned forward in the chair and folded his hands under his chin.

He sighed.

Glenda walked out and saw the hysterical state’s first lady and she ran home to bathe and change clothes.

Harold had not eaten or washed in three days.

He saw the first lady was running in circles in the yard.

He went into the house and looked at Dr. Obersteen and got the water pails.

He went to the brook for water and emptied the water into the black pot.

Harold knew others were coming so he filled the black pot.

He lit the fire and put coal on it.

He took water inside and poured water in their basin.

The water pitcher and the little girl’s beautiful blue and white water basin.

Wes said, “Thank You.”

Wes got up and prepared the little girl’s bath.

He bathed her and gave her the herbal therapy.

He replaced her sheets.

He opened the windows to the house for fresh air to blow in.

Glenda went home and washed her body and went to bed.

The first lady was still screaming and hollering.

She had never heard anyone be in such pain.

Harold looked at her and said, “Coffee?”

Wes walked out and saw a disoriented first lady.

He discarded the little girl’s bath water.

He walked to the first lady and held her while Harold sat and drank coffee.

Wes calmed her down.

He looked at Harold.

Harold looked at him and drank his coffee.

Wes told the first lady, “You need to wash and rest.”

She replied with a cracking voice , “Not in there with John.”

Wes went into the house and came back with a water basin, soap and wash cloth.

He dipped her some hot water and carried her to the bath shed and looked around and it was clear.

She saw Dr. Obersteen things.

Wes got Dr. Obersteen things.

He closed the bath shed door.

He took Dr. Obersteen things in the house and placed them under the sofa.

Wes walked out the house and to Harold.

He got a cup of coffee.

He stood and drank the coffee looking at Harold.

Harold looked up at Wes.

Wes said, “Thank you Harold.”

Harold was surprised.

He said, “You’re welcome.”

Wes still could not put his finger on Harold’s motive. He did not know Dr. Obersteen had already addressed Harold deceit.”

Wes said, “Help me straightened up around here. The governor is on his way.”

Harold, “The governor?

Wes said, “We need to feed the horses and give them water. And have more ready for the number of people who are coming.”

Harold became anxious and started rubbing his hands on his thighs.

The two of them went to the supplies and brought out oat and hay.

They went to the brook and filled the watering trough for the horses.

The first lady had fallen asleep in the bath shed.

Wes and Harold heard her snoring.

They let her stay in the bath shed as they worked around the house.

Wes told Harold, “We won’t put our patients out the house. Help me put up my tent so the governor and first lady can rest in it.”

The house was cold.

Wes started fires in the fireplaces.

He closed the windows to warm the house.

The first lady came out the bath shed and waltzed over to Wes and Harold and she peeped in the cute house at a Dr. Obersteen.

She said, “I see you put up his tent. For me and the governor?”

Wes said, “Yes.”

He looked around and then at Harold and said, “Where is Natalie’s stuff?”

Harold looked around and said, “I don’t know.”

The first lady said, “My heart is broke over my John.”

Harold straighten up to listen.

Wes looked at Harold.

Wes went in and sat with Dr. Obersteen and examined him again.

Wes was so tired. His eyes begin to burn.

He stood up and check on the little girl.

He got his water basin, soap and wash cloth and went to the water shed and washed and shaved.

He returned to the house saw Natalie’s stuff on the porch.

He looked at Harold.

Harold said, she had it all rolled up and stuffed behind the dresser.

Wes returned everything in the house.

He came back and unrolled Natalie’s stuff and fixed her a nice mat on the porch.

Wes went inside and checked on the little girl and then he sat with Dr. Obersteen.

He was writing notes when he heard horses.

Harold had walked to the brook and the back of the house and he had his pail of coal by the front porch.

He made a very large fire and had coal for the governor and first lady and whoever else would show up.

He did not know Bill and Joshua were on their way back.

Harold was satisfied with the appearance of the cute house.

The first lady noticed it was a cute little house.

Harold heard horses.

The first lady heard horses. She jumped to her feet.

Harold turned around and from the first lady’s reaction he knew the man had to be the newly elected governor.

Thelma ran to her husband.

Harold ran and caught Natalie as she was falling off the horse.

The governor ran and helped with Natalie.

They carried her up the stairs to the mat.

Harold covered her with her quilt and a few shawls.

The governor said, “You put the shawls next to the body and then the quilt.”

Harold wanted to say something smart but decided not to.

The governor walked off the front porch to his wife.

She held onto him and cried.

Harold covered Natalie and said, “It was a pleasure, under these circumstances.”

He picked up his coal bucket and walked to Betsy’s campsite.

The governor said, “Is he alive?”

Thelma said, “I. I don’t know.”

The governor held his wife.

Then he began to look around. He said, “Whoa! Look at this scenery honey.”

Thelma said, “What? I don’t want to look at no scenery. I want John whole so I can continue my life with you.”

Wes listened to Thelma.

The governor still holding onto Thelma walked her to the back yard by the brook.

He took in the marvelous scenery.

He held Thelma for hours.

He said, “You know I love you. I left my own inauguration to follow you to see about your old boyfriend.”

David laughed.

Thelma hit him on the chest and said, “Not funny.”

They stood for hours.

They heard a wagon and turned around it was Bill who pulled into the yard.

The aide in the wagon jumped down out of the wagon and grabbed a quilt and ran to the governor and the first lady.

The two aides on the horses were armed and their protection.

The governor said, “Look at that boys.”

They all took in a beautiful glorious sunset.

The aide went to the wagon and unloaded the wagon.

The little girl began to scream.

Joshua ran into the house.

The first lady begin to run around the yard in hysterics.

The aide unloading the wagon turned around and grabbed onto the wagon screaming.

The governor was running around the yard behind his wife screaming.

The two armed security aides fell to their knees from fear.

Bill left the wagon and ran home.

Wes got up and went to the little girl

The governor and the two aides ran into the house.

Joshua was kneeling next to the little girl’s bed and holding her hand.

The governor said, “What the hell is this?”

Joshua said, “This is my friend. Don’t talk like that about her.”

The aides looked at Joshua how forceful he was with the governor.

Wes said, “Joshua go outside for a minute.”

Joshua left but rolled his eyes at the governor and his aides.

Joshua saw Natalie laid out on the front porch.

He thought she must be really tired for her not to move when the little girl screamed.

Joshua sat on the porch and put his hand under his chin.

He watched the governor’s wife and her aide run around int he yard screaming until hunger hit him.

He went to the supply wagon and got some fried chicken and apple pie and went home since he did not see his father, he figured he ran home.

Joshua put several pieces of chicken in a napkin and had the apple pie in his other hand.

He heard the front door and the two aides walked out as if they were sick.

One was wobbling and sat on the porch.

He other went around the back and threw up.

Joshua walked over, eating a chicken leg.

He looked at the aide and then he peeped in the house and saw Dr. Obersteen laid out on the sofa.

He lowered his head.

He looked at the tough guy who was on his knees from throwing up.

He looked at the governor’s wife and aide running around and screaming in the yard.

Joshua shook his head and walked out the yard.

He yelled back and said light the oil lamp sticks.

He enjoyed the fried chicken leg all the way home.

When Joshua reached home the oil lamp sticks were not lit.

Bill and Harold were sitting around the fire.

They were quiet and hunger.

Joshua sat and opened the napkin.

Bill and Harold grabbed two pieces of fried chicken.

Bill had a piece of chicken in each hand and was biting from each piece.

Joshua got up and went to their kitchen stuff and got three forks.

He, Bill and Harold dugged into the apple pie.

When Joshua finished his apple pie, he looked around at the tents.

He stood and walked to Mattie’s tent.

He pushed all her books onto the floor and crawled in the bed and slept until late morning.

Joshua was cold all through the night but he was too tired and sleepy to move.

Harold and Bill talked about the things that transpired.

Harold got up and lit the oi lamp sticks.

He put coal on the fire and wrapped his quilt around himself and sat for along time at the fire.

He eventually sleep until daybreak.

Bill laid in him and Emma’s tent and did not sleep all night.

The governor’s aide finally set up the tent and put food on the fire.

The security aides did not eat.

The first lady’s aide got him two quilts and went and covered up and laid on the porch by Natalie.

The two security aides sat by the fire and drank coffee.

Wes showed the governor the little girl’s eaten up body and how the herbs were healing her.

The governor was sick.

He sat with Thelma in their cozy tent in front of the fire.

He said, “I miss these days. The simple times.”

Thelma said, “I don’t care about no outdoors living. I want John back.”

Thelma laid down on a quilt.

David laid back on his elbow and said, “We leave tomorrow. I am the governor and we must be back for my inauguration. They are doing a lot of good here with these herbs. I wat to help them. Put your beautiful mind to work first lady.”

He leaned over and kissed Thelma.

They went to sleep.

Wes was sitting between Dr. Obersteen and the little girl.

Wes sat on the floor in the living room. He fell asleep.

Dr. Obersteen started coming to and he laid still and focus on the ceiling.

He began to become more alert.

He did not turn his head but he moved his eyes.

He could see from the oil lamp. He saw his guns, the fireplace the table.

And a man sitting on the floor.

Wes .

Dr. Obersteen tried to call Wes but he could not.

He laid there until morning and finally he had enough to utter a whisper.

Dr. Obersteen said, Wes.”

Wes was extremely tired and sleepy.

He had not slept well for nearly two weeks.

Dr. Obersteen said, “God let Wes hear me.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Wes.”

The strange man touched Wes’s shoulder and woke him.

Wes looked around because he thought he heard his name.

Dr.Obersteen was getting a little upset, he said, “Wes.”

Wes stopped and looked directly at Dr, Obersteen.

He wason his knees and ran to Dr. Obersteen.

Wes started examining him and said, “John what happened?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Blood clots.”

Wes said, “Where?”

DR. Obersteen said, “Lungs.”

Wes examined Dr. Obersteen who was still dazed.

Wes said, “John, Thelma is here and the governor.”

Dr. Obersteen said nothing but closed his eyes.

Wes said, “I’m going to let you rest but you need to see Thelma before she leaves today.”

He got up and began his day.

He examined the little girl.

Wes told her, “You just had to show out before the governor last night.

Wes got the water pails and opened the front door.

The governors two aides sat around the fire and had a quilt wrapped around them.

They watched Wes with eth pails.

He went to the brook and ran into the governor who was on his knees praying.

Wes got two pails of water and filled the black pot.

He took two pails in the cute house.

He washed the little girl and gave her the herbs.

He washed Dr. Obersteen face and combed his hair.

Harold walked to the house and spoke to the aides.

One of the aides looked at the other one and said, “Does he look familiar?”

The other aide said, “I don’t know.”

Harold took the coal in the house and started the fires.

Harold said, “Wes.”

Wes looked at Harold.

He continued, “Bill said Emma said Mattie need the red and the green. You know what she’s talking about.”

Wes said, “Yes.”

Harold said, “How is he. The doc?”

Wes said, “He’s coming back. He is conscious.”

Harold looked out the door and said, “Did you tell them?”

Wes said , “I’ll tell them when everyone is awake. I need to go and get the herbs for Emma. What are you doing?”

Harold said, “I’m finished. I‘ll feed the horses and give them water.”

Wes said, “I need for you to stay here with both of them until I go and get the herbs and come back. The governor will be leaving today and I can send this to Emma by them. I have to stay here and help Dr. Obersteen get better.”

Wes walked out the house with a pail and he passed the governor.

The governor was on his knees and he looked and saw Wes with the pail.

The governor said, “Can I come?”

Wes said, “Sure governor.”

The governor said, “David.”

Wes explained the pain therapy herbs.

He explained the mixture of herbs used to fight infections.

Wes told David what he learned the most the past couple of months was how to let the body heal as naturally as God made it without the chemicals that damage the body more. He explained the importance of herbs working with modern medicine to heal man.

Wes said, “Dr. Obersteen is conscious.”

David said, “Really. When are you going to tell everybody? Namely Thelma.”

Wes said, “I need for you governor to give these herbs to my wife. They are for her cousin. I believe she is terminally ill. The other doctors wanted to experiment on her. I told them no more tests until I come back. I gave her the herbs for pain and the herbs to stop infections and fever and they have worked.”

He said, “I was blessed to observe a procedure once and I performed it on her. That procedure cut the number of tests from thirty three to at least half. That only left mostly blood and urine tests and I was there when they were performed. I told them no tests while I am away. That allows her body to calm down and de-stress,and be strengthened. The results from that procedure I performed should be back along with the blood and urine tests. Then I will make the diagnosis.”

David, “My god.”

Wes said, “Some doctors don’t like it.”

David, “It’s cutting into their action.”

Harold came outside to feed the horses and give them water.

One of the governor’s aides said to him, “Your Harold with the Wildcats?”

Harold said, “That’s a long time ago.”

Wes and the governor were returning.

They heard the governor’s aide tell Harold he saw him at many baseball games and how great he was.

The governor listened.

Wes walked over to get some hot water to make the red and green herbs for Emma.

The governor walked over and looked at Harold.

Harold looked at the governor. He did not realize he was about his age.

Harold said, “Good morning governor.”

The governor said, “Good morning.”

Wes noticed the governor did not introduce himself to Harold by his first name, which meant the governor did not want to be personable with Harold.

The governor walked with his hands in his pocket.

He listened to the conversation.

The governor looked around.

One of the governor’s security aide said, “Sir, what are you looking for.”

He stood and begin to look around.

Thelma was exiting their tent and pinning her hair in a ball.

Wes looked at her and realized how much younger she was to Dr. Obersteen. He thought Thelma is no older than her, thinking of Natalie.

Wes said, “Good morning first lady.”

She smiled and touched Wes arm and looked at the herbs.

She walked to David and they lovingly showed passion for each other.

Wes thought he and Betsy were off the chart.

The governor finished greeting his wife.

She said. “What are you looking for?”

David said, “A way to communicate with Wes and the others.”

The aide looked around and said, “Need wire.”

The governor said, “Yes.”

He looked at Harold and said, “Do you have a baseball?”

Harold had a questioning look on his face.

Thelma leaning on the governor’s shoulder and he holding her waist.

She was looking anticipating something from her husband.

The governor said, “Harold let me see your arm. I want to see if you were or are any good.”

Wes turned and looked at Harold, because the attendant had them to buy Harold a glove and baseball.

Wes looked off and said to himself, “Right.”

The attendant sat and looked at the group and then at Wes.

Harold turned and ran out the yard.

The governor and Thelma looked.

The governor said, “Where are you going?”

Harold said, “I got one.”

The other security aide said, “I carry mine own. Come back.”

Thelma purred in her husband’s ear, “I want to see John.”

The governor looked at Wes.

Wes said, “Come.”

Wes, Thelma and the governor walked to the house.

The first lady aide was waking and sat on the pad next to Natalie.

He looked back at Natalie and turned and watched the security aide and Harold play catch.

The aide got up and got a cup of coffee.

He yawned.

The other security aide that stood and looked around was seated and drinking his coffee.

He looked at the first lady aide and said, “Go wash and cover your mouth.”

The first lady aide was about to say something, until the security aide put his hand on his gun.

The first lady aide stood and looked around and pointed to the bath shed.

The security aide said, “Yes and take soap and water.”

The other security aide that was throwing the baseball to Harold, shook his head and said, “I have told him about shooting people. You can’t shot everybody.”

Harold was so shocked and scared he missed the baseball that hit him on his nose and dropped him to his knees.

The security aide looked back at the other and shrugged his shoulders. He whispered to Harold, “You better get up before he comes and you wont get a chance to show the governor your skills. He is looking for someone to put on a board.”

Harold jumped to his feet as the security aide approached.

He looked at Harold and said, “You alright?”

Harold shook his head for yes as the other security aide shook his head for yes.

The security aide turned and looked in the face of the first lady aide. Who was rolling his eyes at the security aide.

The security aide said, “You better keep your eyes in in your head.”

He passed the first lady aide and sat down.

The security aide continued to look at the beautiful view and every now and then he would look at Harold and the other security aide and watch the first lady aide.

Natalie began to stir and the first lady looked with anticipation of greeting the woman that brought excitement to an otherwise boring reception.

Wes entered the living room followed by a nervous Thelma and governor.

Wes put the pails of herbs in the bedroom.

Dr. Obersteen was laying still.

Thelma was so nervous because of her beloved John Obersteen.

She twisted in the doorway.

Wes looked at her and passed them.

He went to Dr. Obersteen and sat on the sofa and said, “John, wake up you have visitors.”

Thelma was so upset.

She took a double take at Dr. Obersteen and then back at her husband.

Her husband slightly smiled.

Thelma looked at Wes and said,”What?”

Wes stood and invited Thelma to sit.

She was confused and holding her nervous stomach.

John heard Thelma’s voice.

He reached his hand in the air, which was their secret handshake.

Thelma flew across the room to John and sat by his side.

Wes was nosey he walked next to the governor to watch his reaction.

The governor said to Wes, “You will not get any gossip here.”

Wes sighed.

The governor laughed.

Thelma said, “John I love you.”

Wes looked at the governor who still had that slight smile on his face.

John said, “I know and I love you.”

Wes looked at the governor.

The governor said, “No gossip here Wes.”’

Thelma was holding Dr. Obersteen’s hand and looking deep into his face said, “I rode John. “

Dr. Obersteen smiled and said, “You rode.”

Wes and the governor shook their heads for yes, although Dr. Obersteen could not see them.

John said, “To see me?”

Thelma playfully tapped him on his shoulder.

John said, “Ouch.”

Wes looked to see if Dr. Obersteen was hurt.

The governor looked to make sure Dr. Obersteen was not hurt.

Thelma looked worried.

John slightly laughed.

Thelma said, “John Obersteen you scared the life out of me. But the horse riding skills you taught me were invaluable. You did not have to get sick for me to introduce you to my love.”

Thelma motioned for David.

David walked over and said,”Finally I met the legendary Dr. Obersteen. I can rest and eventually go to my grave in peace.”

He looked back at grin at Wes.

Wes shrugged his head.

Thelma flirtatiously hit David’s hand.

Thelma said, “John we wont’ every see each other again.”

John smiled.

Thelma said, “I will always love you John Obersteen.”

David said, “Me too.”

Wes watched.

Thelma said, “I always wanted my two great loves to met. Not like these of course.”

David and John shrugged.

Thelma said, “John. I am so proud of you and this great work you do. I did not care for it when we were together. But now I know the heart of truly one of the two kindest caring men on this earth.”

Wes coughed.

David grinned and looked at Wes.

He said, “This is the Thelma club.”

Wes said, “Pardon me.”

Thelma leaned and kissed John on his lips.

David kind of looked.

Wes watched David.

John said, “Bye Thelma.”

Dr. Obersteen closed his eyes.

David knew Dr. Obersteen was not sleep, but wanted his great love to leave.

David put his hands around Thelma’s shoulders and rested his chin on the top of her head.

David lifted Thelma from dr. Obersteen’s side.

Wes looked.

Thelma was sad.

Wes did not know her, but he could tell she truly loved Dr. Obersteen and David was parallel to Dr. Obersteen but short of his great strides.

David walked Thelma to Wes and said, “We leave within the hour, will the herbs be ready?”

Wes said, “Yes. I am going now to put them in bottles.”

Natalie finally was awake enough to sit on her mat.

She saw the lady and man walk out the house.

The lady was not well.

Natalie tried to peep in the window but could not see.

The first lady’s aide was watching Natalie and he said, “Mame?”

Natalie jumped and turned and saw Harold, the two security aides and the first lady’s aide looking at her.

Natalie said, “Dr. Obersteen?”

Harold said, “He’s alive.”

Natalie fell back on the mat.

The governor walked back and said, “It’s all because of you young lady.”

He reached his hand to Natalie to shake her hand.

Natalie sat up and shook his hand.

He said, “I am governor David White.”

Natalie’s mouth flew opened.

The governor smiled and sat on the porch and said, “Harold let me see that pitching arm.”

Harold and the security aide threw the ball.

Thelma emerged from the tent at the same time Wes came out the house with the herbs.

Wes looked at Natalie and said, “Are you alright?”

Natalie shook her head for yes.

Wes looked at the first lady’s aide and said “Can you give her something to eat?”

The first lady’s aide smirked.

Thelma giggle and David looked at the first lady’s aide and said to Thelma, “You want to keep him?”

Thelma sat next to David and held his arm and placed her head on his shoulders and whispered,”Yes.”

Wes was putting the herbs in a towel and he was trying to think.

David said, “Wes what do you need?”

Thelma looked up at Wes.

Thelma said, “You need a bag to put those in.”

She looked at her aide as he prepared Natalie a plate of food mostly fruits and cheese.

Wes looked at the plate the first lady aide saw Wes looking and he lowered the plate so Wes could see the food.

Wes shook his head for yes.

The first lady’s aide smile and place a napkin on Natalie’s lap and put the place on the napkin.

Natalie said, “Thank you.”

The first lady’s aide and Natalie sat and talked.

Wes saw them.

Thelma whispered in David’s ear and David turned and looked at Natalie and the first lady’s aide.

The two security aides watched Natalie and the young first lady’s aide.

Thelma went into the tent and came back with her empty bag and held t opened for Wes.

Wes very carefully place the bottles in her bag.

Thelma reached the bag to the tough security aide and said “Be very careful.”

The governor said, “Leave now and do not let us catch you.”

The security aide flew out the yard and returned.

The governor said, “Betsy…

He looked at Wes.

Wes said, “Betsy Ross city hospital doctor’s residency number 203.”

The security aide flew out the yard.

The governor said, “Play ball.”

Thelma and David watched Harold.

The governor looked at the first lady’s aide and said, “Let’s go.”

The first lady’s aide was trying to tidy up and talk to Natalie at the same time.

Thelma said, “Who’s wagon?”

Wes said, “Bill Wilson.”

Thelma looked at David.

David told Wes, “That means for me to pay him.”

David went into his pockets and pulled out a wad of money and peeled a few dollars off.

Thelma grabbed the wad and peeled a few more dollars and handed the wad back to David and said “Cheap scape.”

The first lady put her jewelry in a napkin and handed it to her aide.

David said, “What?”

Thelma looked at the horses and they both ran to their horses and jumped on.

Thelma told her aide, “Leave everything and ride back with Butler.”

The security aide looked with disdain at the thought of the first lady aide riding on his horse.

Wes laughed at the merry couple.

Thelma rode by the front door and said, “See you love.”

She waited.

Dr. Obersteen knew he would break her heart if he did not respond.

The governor rode to the door and looked.

Wes moved from the door.

Dr. Obersteen waved his hand.

Thelma thundered out the yard followed by her husband.

Wes ran to the dirt road and only saw a piece of them turn to head towards the new settlement exit.

The two aides looked at each other and the first lady’s aide sat on the horse and they left.

The first lady aide waved at Natalie.

Natalie waved and smiled.

She said to herself, “The governor called me a lady.”

Natalie smiled.

Wes and Harold walked back into the yard.

Wes walked and sat next to Natalie.

Harold watched.

Natalie tried to cover her neck by pulling her dress tight around her neck.

Wes touched Natalie’s hand and said, “Don’t. You don’t have to do that anymore. You are free.”

Natalie broke down and cried.

Wes hugged Natalie and said, “I am so sorry for not caring.”

Dr. Obersteen laid and listen.

Harold sat on the porch and was still.

Then he looked over at the wagon ad all the food.

Harold looked back at Wes and Natalie.

He looked around and got a water pail and filled it with fruit and fried pork chops and chicken and pies.

Wes waved at Harold to let him know he saw him.

Harold went to Bill and Joshua who was riding his bike down to sit with his friend.

Joshua stopped Harold and got a fried pork chop and continued to see his friend.

Joshua walked over to a crying Natalie and he looked at Wes.

Wes said, “Joshua I did not hurt Natalie. You can go in and see her.”

Joshua rolled his eyes at Wes and went in the house.

Joshua looked at Dr. Obersteen and said, “Doc are you gonna live?”

Dr. Obersteen tried to turn on his side.

Wes heard him and left a crying Natalie to go in the house.

Wes walked to the steps and went into the house.

Natalie jumped on the porch and stepped in front of Wes to get in the house.

Wes did not say anything.

Dr. Obersteen flipped on his side and said,” Yes Joshua I am going to live.”

Joshua eating his fried pork chop said looked at Wes and nodded and said, “Good because this right here don’t have any bedside manners.”

Natalie laughed.

Wes started behind Joshua but Dr. Obersteen sid, “Wes.”

Wes turned around to look at Dr. Obersteen.

Dr. Obersteen said, “He’s mad because you got his playmate pregnant. I would be mad too. It seems that this attack on my health was meant to bring closure to a lot of things, we humans thought we closed. Many people were set free and healed, because of my sickness. I just wish I was not the one. But I know now how a blood clot feels and how it moves along in the body. I have an idea how much time we have to intercept it. Wes, I believe many people will be in need of your herbs. The ones we know about.”

Joshua was telling his little friend about how Natalie rode by herself to get help for Dr. Obersteen and he whispered and said how Dr.Obersteen married girlfriend lead everyone to come and see about Dr. Obersteen.

They all smiled.

Thelma and David were gaining on the security aide.

Thelma said, “David you want to keep him?”

David said, “Nall to trigger happy.”

The security aide turned and saw Thelma and David approaching him.

David, said, “Give me that bag.”

The security aide gave David the herb bag.

Thelma continued to ride.

David stopped and looked the security aide in his eyes and said, “You are fired.”

David put the bag over his shoulder and rode hard to catch the excited Thelma.

The security aide watched the two riding hard in the open.

He yelled,”That’s why I did not vote for you.”

David pulled his horse to a stop and yelled, “That’s why I fired you.”

Thelma waited and said to David, “He did not know you can hear a rat piss on cotton.”

David watched the security aide who ride to the east.

David said, “I better not see him again.”

Thelma smooched David and kissed his lips and said, “My baby is angry.”

David said, “Thelma we won’t have this much fun again. Are willing to live with that?”

Thelma said, “Baby I want you. We can make our own fun.”

She flew and left David .

The two aides saw the security aide riding to the east.

The first lady’s security aide rested his head on the security aide and sleep all the way to the big city.

She thought, “Oh God if I would have had John’s children, they would be boring,”

They passed Betsy’s hometown.

The first lady said, “It’s after midnight you want to stop?”

The governor pulled his horse to a stop and the other aides were passing them and the first lady’s aide

Recognized the horses and finally saw the first lady and the governor and covered his eyes.

The security aide said, “Governor you want me to keep on riding or wait for you to finish your business?”

The governor did not respond.

The first lady aide was looking backwards with his mouth opened.

The security aide said, “You need to learn not to see things. But keep them in your blackmail book.”

The first lady aide looked at the security aide.

Natalie had washed and cleaned herself up.

Wes had examined the little girl and Dr. Obersteen.

Harold had given the horses oats and water.

Bill went around the back and got coal.

He looked at the food in the supply wagon and thought, this food will not last much longer.

Wes heard someone outside and looked and saw it was Bill.

Wes said, “I sent the red and green herbs to Betsy to give to Emma.”

Bill did not make any comment.

Wes said, “The governor left a money for you.”

Bill said, “For me?”

Wes said, “For using your wagon as a supply wagon. Wait I’ll get it.”

Wes walked in the yard and handed the money to Bill.

He looked in Bill’s eyes and said, “Why did you do it Bill?”

Bill did not look at Wes and did not see Joshua in the doorway said, “Because I hated her.”

Joshua said, “You hated who?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Damn.”

Bill said, “Grown folks business son. Come and get your bike and ride home. Harold has gone home for the night.”

Joshua was passing Wes.

Wes grabbed Joshua’s arm.

Joshua said, “Wes turn my arm loose.”

Wes stooped and said, “Joshua I really need you to stay with her tonight.”

Joshua leaned in Wes face and, “You never needed me to before.”

The little screamed.

Joshua ran into the house.

Wes told Bill, Tell the rest of them to come and get the prepared food. If you do not mind?”

Bill said, “I’ll tell Harold.”

Bill got his two horses and rode them home.

Wes put Joshua’s bike on the porch, because he still did not trust Frank and Mike. He figured Richard should never be seen again.

The little girl stopped screaming.

Natalie took the extra quilts and Joshua a nice mat on the floor next to the little girl.

Wes lit the oil lamp sticks and the torch by the door.

Natalie decided she would sleep on the front porch.

Wes did not understand why.

Wes went o his tent and organized it the way he wanted to.

He felt the shiver of the cold.

He lit the fire outside and kept it going all night and day.

Wes dressed for bed.

He went to the bath shed.

He went back into the house and check on everyone.

He stared at the innocent Sleeping Joshua.

The little girl’s eyes were open.

Wes looked to make sure he said, “You go to sleep to.”

She smiled and closed her eyes.

Wes turned around to leave.

Dr.Obersteen said, “She was awake?”

Wes said,”Yes.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “She’s awake a lot.”

Wes said, “That’s what’s worry me. I am going to start you on the infection herbs tomorrow. I believe that should clear up anything in your lungs.”

Dr. Obersteen, “What about Thelma?”

Wes said, “Love her.”

The little girl giggle.

Wes hurried to the door.

Dr. Obersteen in a low voice said, “Wes don’t you leave.”

Wes had closed the door and ran off the porch to his tent.

Wes peeped out his tent and closed the flap.

Wes was reading a medical article when he turned and saw the little girl walking around his tent.

Wes grabbed his gun and said, “I know I see her. I healed her. But God I swear I will shot her.”

He woke up and he tossed back and forth when he was fully awake he saw the gun in his hand.

He covered his eyes with his hands.

Wes said,”God I am scared of that child. I know she sees and understands a lot. I don’t want her out here and walking around spooking me. God I miss Betsy. I know I should not say that to you, You said it is better to marry than to burn. But I don’t think…”

Wes tried to count their expenses on his fingers and lips.

He said, “God I hear Dr. Obersteen calling me. I know he is not dying maybe Natalie will go to him.”

Wes said, “I’m so scared of that little girl.”

Wes tried to count his marriage license and maybe a cake. Maybe punch.”

He grabbed his gun because a small figure running around his tent.

The strange man flew and held Wes’ gun up in the air.

Wes was looking at his gun.

Joshua burst opened the flap and saw Wes with the gun in the air.

Joshua yelled, “You gonna shot me!”

Wes was so scared he could not talk but shook his head for yes and blew air.

Joshua said, “Move over.”

Wes said, “What?”

Joshua said, “Dr.Obersteen been calling you all night. Natalie won’t come. I’m not going to walk all the way home. And I hate you because you took my Betsy away. Now quit being a coward and go and see what Dr. Obersteen wants !!!!!so we all can sleep. And put up that gun.”

Wes looked at Joshua then at his gun. He looked at Joshua and then at his gun.

Joshua shook his head and said, “Shot me if you are bad.”

A shot woke Wes up.

He looked and saw Joshua lying next to him.

He did not see blood.

Wes crawled out of his tent and was too scared to look at the cute house.

Wes said, “God I’m going crazy. I can’t go crazy. I got someone pregnant, which you already know. I got three critical patients. I have no money to marry Betsy to make this thing right. Oh yes, forgive me for wanting to shoot Natalie, Joshua and the little girl.”

Wes covered his eyes and shook his head. He took a deep sigh and said, “God I don’t know how fix none of this. Everybody got some many problems. Each time we performed the tests on Mattie she re-lived that horrible violent rape by Bill. Deception. I thought he and Emma were the perfect couple, in their own way. That’s why he wanted to be there so he can hear what was being said. I believed he would take Joshua and run. That would kill Mattie and Betsy. I believe Betsy knows something and if she puts this together, I don’t know what will happen. I wanted Bill to decide what he was going to do tonight and leave Joshua out of it.”

Wes said, “Now I am going crazy talking about shooting children and one that is sick. I need to sleep.”

Wes crawled into his tent ad looked at the red hair boy and covered him with an extra quilt because it was getting cold. Wes turned over and put out the oil lamp and pulled the quilt up to his neck and went to sleep.