Wes bathed the little girl and put on her lavender night gown and socks.

Wes picked her up from bed and walked with her to the living room.

Emma walked in the living room to see the little walk with Wes.

The little girl grinned a big grin at Emma.

Emma touched her heart and watched the little girl walk with Wes.

The little girl walked to Emma and grabbed her waist.

The little girl was tired and breathing heavy.

Emma and Wes walked the little girl over to one of the chairs and Emma sat and Wes put the little girl in Emma’s lap.

Emma held her and hugged her.

The little girl looked over at Natalie lying on the sofa and pointed at her.

Emma looked at Natalie.

Wes walked towards the bedroom and looked at Natalie.

Emma said, “How pretty you look. I need your ribbons and bows and hairbrush.”

Wes was putting on his coat.

He picked up his quilt and the little girl water basin, he reached and got her lavender color hair ribbon and hairbrush.

Wes walked into the living room.

He looked around and said, “Where’s Joshua?”

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

The little girl whispered, “Momma Betsy.”

Emma said, “How do you know? Did JESUS tell you?”

Wes reached Emma the little girl’s ribbons and hairbrush.

Emma looked at the little girl for an answer.

Wes stood and watched the little girl.

He was so worried and thought, “She was so tired from walking ten feet, how could she live on the streets by herself?”

The little girl said,” Aunt Emma, if Joshua is not home or in here he has to be with Momma Betsy.”

Emma placed her head on the little girl’s head.

Wes looked ack at Natalie and walked out the door.

He walked off the porch and looked down at his tent and saw some dishes.

He continued to the bath shed.

The lead soldier was walking the area and looked at the spot the older driver would park his wagon.

The lead soldier said, “A word Doc Wes.”

Wes was on a time schedule.

He looked at the lead soldier.

The lead soldier looked around and said, “The prisoner is asking for you and she is in tremendous pain.”

Emma walked out the house with her clothes in her hand.

Wes said, “You left her by herself?”

Emma stopped and looked at Wes and preceded to the bath shed.

The lead soldier looked at Wes and said,”Sir.”

Wes looked at the lead soldier and said, “I am a doctor. I have critical wounded patients and I am here alone. Another doctor will be here tomorrow. Your captain enacted protocols concerning who gets medical attention.”

Mattie had tipped to the tent door to listen.

The bald soldier was sitting by Newsom.

The lead soldier said, “Sir I don’t think she’s gonna last until tomorrow and I think she wants to confess.”

The bald soldier said, “To what?”

Mattie looked over at the bald soldier and said, “Shut the hell up.”

Wes and the lead soldier was looking at the tent door.

Mattie jumped.

The bald soldier said, “That’s what you get for being nosey.”

Wes walked in the tent and looked at Mattie.

Mattie looked at Wes.

Mattie said, “Wes clear your conscious. Go and take care of her and if she confesses to anything that’s fine if she doesn’t confess to anything that is fine. Each of us makes decisions in this life for to do good or bad. And we all have to live or die with the results of those decisions.”

Mattie rubbed Wes arm and said, “Take your medical bag and your herbs and go and see about her. And give me that blue and white rose water basin.”

Wes handed Mattie the water basin.

The governor whispered, “Wes.”

The bald soldier peeped over at the governor.

Wes walked to the governor and said, “Sir?”

The governor said, “Listen to foul mouth, Go. I override everybody, but GOD.”

The bald soldier smiled at the governor’s wit.”

Mattie said, Huh and walked out the tent.

The governor said, “Tell me later. Take several credible witnesses with you leave foul mouth here.”

The bald soldier grinned.

Emma was in the bath shed,

Mattie was standing and looking around.

She noticed several of the soldiers were watching her.

Mattie thought, “They better be watching me because I am pretty with long, thick red hair.”

Emma opened the bath shed.

Mattie said, “One of the assassins’ name Charlotte…”

The lead soldier was watching Mattie and said, “Ma am.”

Mattie said, “He’s about to get on my nerves. She want to see Wes and she maybe dying.”

The lead soldier walked over to Mattie and said, “Ma am, please don’t discuss what you eavesdrop and hear.”

Emma started laughing and handed Mattie her clothes and said, “I am going to get the little girl breakfast.”

Mattie ignored the lead soldier and cleansed the bath shed and closed the door.

She took Emma’s clothes and sashayed passed the lead soldier.

He watched her until she went into the house.

Wes walked over to the bald soldier and said, “I need for you to go with me. The governor said several witnesses and not Mattie.”

Wes walked to his medical bags and checking what he had in the bag. He took the pain and sedative herb therapies.

He though, “I paper and pen.”

He took paper and clipboards and pens.

He was thinking, “I need two more witnesses.”

The older driver flew into the yard with his wife.

The lead soldier and the other soldiers looked at him.

Wes was standing and thing that he could not use Mattie, Betsy and Emma.

The older driver jumped out the wagon and said, “Half of the command headquarters is here. All of your brass is here and they brought five hundred soldiers with them even a soldier to replace your captain. They are fierce. I heard the brass said, “They are here to escort the commanders to the capital to stand trial.”

The soldiers said, “Commanders?”

The lead soldier was puzzled and looked back at the tent.

The bald soldier heard the older driver.

Wes heard him talking but ignored him.

The lead soldier looking at the older driver’s wagon nodded his head and said, “Sir, who is that?”

Wes was walking to the tent door after the bald soldier.

The bald soldier was straightening up his uniform.

He said, “It is cold as hell here.”

Wes stood in the door of the tent.

The older driver said, “That’s my wife and the other wagons are Bishop’s family.”

Some soldiers started to walk and said, “Bishop.”

The lead soldier said, “Back to your positions.”

Wes was waiting for Emma.

They heard thunder the soldiers fell back into their positions to influence the brass.

Betsy and Joshua woke and crawled to the tent door and peeped out.

Betsy looked at the cooks and the soldiers by her tent and said, “What is it?”

The cooks said the brass from headquarters.”

Betsy jumped up and put on a nice dress and her boots and brushed her hair.

Emma was part the way to the cute house. She ran into the house.

Mattie came on the front porch and Natalie and the little girl were in the window looking.

Natalie let up the window so they could hear.

Mattie ran in the house and made the bed and pushed stuff under the bed and sofa.

Emma handed Natalie the little girl’s breakfast and closed the door.

The older driver ran and pulled his wagon away from the entrance and said to Emma, “Can we camp at you’ll site?”

Emma said, “Yes.”

A troop of one hundred rode passed the cute house to secure the entrance of the new settlement all the way to the brook.

He older driver pulled his wagon away and said to Bishop’s family, “Follow me.”

The three wagons pulled out of the way of the brass.

The commanders left an additional hundred soldiers around the town’s lake area to help identify and remove the dead bodies.

Another one hundred was left to patrol the town.

The soldiers rode two by two up and down every street and alley.

The other hundred followed the commanders.

The commanders rode into the yard.

Wes said, “Emma.”

Emma looked at Wes and turned her head.

The bald soldier looked at Wes.

The lead soldier knew why Wes was calling Emma.

Emma wanted to meet the brass.

Sick Betsy got out of bed and dressed, so she could meet the brass.

Betsy wobbled to the cooks and said, “Put on your best coffee and tea.”

Betsy looked at the soldiers on the ground by her tent.

Joshua was peeping out the tent.

Betsy said, “Joshua you are not dressed, stay in the tent.”

One of the soldiers said, “Tell him to stay in the tent.”

Betsy said, “Did you not hear me just tell him to stay in the tent?”

Betsy was screaming at the soldiers.

Wes, the bald soldier and the soldiers in the yard heard Betsy screaming at the soldiers.

Betsy looked at the mirror she had on the tent wall and checked her reflection and walked to the cute house.

One soldier looked at the one who told Betsy to tell Joshua to stay in the tent and said,”Was that necessary?”

The soldier did not say anything but looked at Joshua.

Joshua said, “What you’re looking at me for?” I am a kid.”

Joshua got on his stomach and wrapped himself in a quilt and watched.

Wes thinking, “This is too much going on. I have to check and make sure everything is tidy.”

Wes stepped back in the tent everything was good.

He walked outside the tent door.

Seventeen commanders walked into the yard along with twenty more brass members.

The lead soldier did not know what to do.

Wes whispered, “You walk to them and greet them.”

The commanders stopped and looked around and spoke to Emma and Mattie.

Two of the commanders waved at Mattie.

Mattie coyly waved at them and smiled.

Wes looked and thought, “I don’t want to know what that’s about.”

He looked and saw Betsy walking.

Wes was stunned and wondered, “Where is she taking her sick self to.”

The lead soldier looked at Wes as he walked to the brass and saluted.

Wes looked at the lead soldier.

He bald soldier tried to stand and be presentable.

Betsy stopped and stared at one of the brass.

He looked at Betsy and then he did a double take and grabbed Betsy.

The bald soldier looked at Wes.

Wes was watching Emma so she could come to the tent.

The lead commander turned and saw Betsy.

He walked to Betsy and kissed her hand.

The bald soldier said, “You did not see that?”

And he turned his head.

Betsy was whispering something in his ear and pointed to Wes and showed him her ring.

The lead commander put her finger to his eye.

Betsy and the younger commander burst out in laughter.

Betsy hit at the lead commander.

The soldier by Betsy’s tent looked at the one who told her to keep Joshua in the tent and said, “Well I guess that is a court martial.”

The other soldiers looked.

One of the cooks said, “You should have known something if she got dressed that fast.”

The other cook said, “A woman don’t get dressed that fast unless she knows something. And then she comes over and tells us to put good coffee and tea on. I am gonna earn my promotion today.”

Wes said, “She’s getting another one.”

The lead commander walked to the governor’s tent with Betsy.

Wes said, “Good morning sirs.”

They said, “Good morning.”

The lead commander sort peep at the tent and he looked at the soldiers stationed around the tent.

He walked and looked around.

Betsy and the younger commander were talking he was holding her hand.

Wes walked and removed Betsy’s hand.

The younger commander and Betsy giggled.

Betsy said, “Wes my dear husband this is Andrew Bruce younger brother.”

The bald soldier looked at the younger commander.

Wes shook his hand.

He walked back to the tent door.

Bruce said, “Andy.”

Wes opened the tent and Andrew heard Bruce called him.

Betsy patted him on his back and Andrew walked into the tent and he looked around at the primitive tent and saw the governor and his beautiful wife and he saw Newsom.

He walked to Bruce.

Wes said, “Let him know you are here.”

Andrew said, “Big ass Bruce.”

Bruce smiled.

The lead commander turned and looked at the bald soldier and said, “Who are you?”

The bald soldier could not speak.

Betsy laughed.

The lead commander reached his hand to Betsy and she held his hand and they walked into the tent along with several of the other commanders.

The commanders’ saw the governor and his wife and looked at Newsom and then Bruce.

The lead commander walked and looked at Bruce he said, “Son get better.”

Betsy turned her head.

Wes stopped and looked.

Andrew flew out the tent.

He caught his breath.

Andrew saw Mattie on the porch he and the two fellows walked to Mattie.

They were talking.

Mattie introduced them to Emma as Bruce fiancé.

Andrew shook her hand and said, “Bruce spoke about this mystery woman while he was in college. I finally get a chance to meet my future sister.”

Emma stood and stared at Andrew.

Mattie patted Emma and opened the door and pushed her inside.

The commanders said, “Mattie.”

Mattie smiled.

Wes stood between the commanders and the governor.

The governor whispered,“Skip?”

Bruce father looked at the governor and walked over to the governor.

The governor was unconscious again.

The lead commander looked between the governor and his son.

Betsy stayed with Bruce for a minute and was crying.

She turned and ran out the tent.

Wes was busy standing by the governor, watching Bruce and watching how cozy Betsy was with the lead commander.

He saw when Betsy ran out the tent, but he could not follow because he had to protect his patients.

She ran to her tent and fell on her mattress.

Joshua turned out the door and laid by Betsy.

He put his head on her shoulder and patted her hand.

Andrew followed Betsy with his eyes.

He walked off the porch to Betsy’s tent.

Joshua was hugging Betsy and said, ”Don’t cry.”

Emma was in the house.

When Mattie threw Emma in the house, Natalie and the little girl turned from the window and looked at Emma.

Emma stood in front of the door and was speechless.

Natalie was holding the little girl in her lap.

Natalie said, “Emma.”

Emma was mumbling.

Natalie said, “Emma.”

She did not reply.

Natalie looked at the little girl.

The little girl looked at Emma.

Natalie turned to look in the bedroom for the herbs.

Natalie said, “Which one to put her asleep?”

The little girl looked at Natalie.

They watched Emma, but they were listening to the conversations with Mattie and the two young commanders.

Mattie told them, “I knew you would be great.”

One asked Mattie, “How did you end up here?”

Mattie said, “It’s a long story, but we moved here to help take care of a little girl that stole our hearts.”

The little girl’s eyes grew big and tears of love filled her eyes.

Natalie said, “You heard that.”

The little girl was quiet for the remainder of the day.

The other young commander said, “We heard of this city that burned for nearly two months and it was cold to restore the earth. But no one said it was freezing here.”

The other young commander said, “Mattie have you married?”

The carefree Mattie’s countenance changed.

The other commander elbowed his fellow.

They looked at Mattie.

The nosey little girl and Natalie leaned over in the window to see Mattie’s face.

They could not see Mattie’s face.

The commanders looked and saw the lead commander and the others exiting the governor’s tent. The kissed Mattie on her cheeks and walked to the other commanders.

Natalie and the little girl turned and looked at Emma and they peeped down at Betsy’s tent where Andrew walked to.

They leaned to look in Mattie’s face.

The little girl said, “We need Wes.”

Natalie pushed her and said, “You go and get him.”

The little girl looked at Natalie and crawled out of Natalie’s lap.

Natalie said to the little girl as she was crawling, “Ask him to bring more of the sedative herbs.”

Natalie heard the bedroom door close and lock.

The little girl crawled in Natalie’s chair and then over to her bed.

Natalie shrugged her shoulders and turned back to watch the excitement.

The little girl got in the bed and hurt her back and started crying.

She was able to get the pillar and put it on her back.

She said, “My family is crazy. JESUS. JESUS. JESUS.”

The little girl cried and cried.

JESUS was seated in heaven and reading over some books.

HE looked at the situation around the cute house.

HE said, “Gabriel send Wes to the house.”

Andrew walked to Betsy’s tent and said, “Knock. Knock.”

Joshua stood up and walked to the tent door.

Andrew looked and said, “You look like a friend of mine’s.”

Betsy sat up in the bed.

Betsy said, “That’s Mattie’s boy, Joshua.”

Andrew said, “Hair like your mother’s.”

Joshua was peeping at the cooks.

The cooks held up a coffee mug and pointed at Andrew.

Joshua said, “What?”

Andrew turned to look and see what was going on behind his back.

He bent down to Joshua and said, “They want you to ask me if I want coffee so they can score points with me.”

Joshua said, “I am a kid.”

Andrew burst out laughing.

He said, “Mattie’s son indeed.”

Betsy laughed and blew her nose.

Joshua ran to the cooks and said, “Coco with whipped cream.”

Joshua was jumping up and around because it was very cold.

One of the cooks said, “I’ll bring it over to your tent.”

One of the soldiers turned to the other soldier and said, “He told me he did not have any coco.”

The other soldier looked at the soldier and blinked and turned his head back to the brass.

The cooks saw the brass standing in front of the cute house.

Andrew laid on the bed next to Betsy.

Joshua ran back into the tent and saw Andrew laying next to a seated Betsy and said, “Hey that’s my spot.”

Andrew laughed and said, “Mattie all the way.”

Betsy blew her nose.

The cook had put the coco in three mugs and added the whipped cream.

The cook walked to the tent door and said, “Sir, your hot coco with whipped cream.”

Andrew said, “I did not order coco with whipped cream.”

Joshua said, “You did not but I did.”

Andrew laughed.

The cook walked in and gave them the tray.

Joshua got his coco with whipped cream and walked and sit in Wes’ chair and drink his hot coco.

Betsy looked at Joshua.

Andrew said, “Don’t fuss. He is a scamp.”

Betsy bumped Andrew and said, “I know another one.”

They laughed.

The lead soldier told the commanders of the assassin prisoner who needed medical attention and she had something to say.

Wes was going to help her, but the governor requested several witnesses.

The lead commander looked around and said pointed to two of the commanders.

So, Wes the bald soldiers and two of the commanders were going to attend to Charlotte.

Charlotte was laying out in the open on her stomach, surrounded by six soldiers.

She had no food or water for days.

She broke her hip. When she fell off her horse.

Wes said, “I can not leave the patients alone. I need to get Emma.”

The two commanders talking with Mattie said, “We are medical doctors and can stay with the patients.”

Then they heard the governor and his wife began to scream out in pain.

Wes was walking and looking around.

He saw his tent and a cook had a tray in his hand.

Wes said, “Joshua.”

The medical doctors jumped and said to Wes, “Doctor?” they pointed at the governor’s tent.

The lead commander and the other commanders jumped.

The lead commander thought of his student, the governor, how he must be in torment.

Wes was walking and mumbling and looking for Emma.

The commanders looked at the lead soldier he tried not to blink.

They looked around at the soldiers and the soldiers countenance did not change.

The commanders saw the soldiers were use to the screaming and hollering.

The lead commander thought, “My son did a good job, not as he normally do.”

Wes continued to the cute house and saw Mattie.

He looked at Mattie, who turned her head.

Wes opened the front door and Emma was standing at the front door.

He hit her with the door.

He walked and looked in Emma’s face.

He looked at Natalie, who was looking out the window.

Wes heard the little girl crying he walked to the bedroom door.

He turned the knob and it was locked.

He turned and looked back at Emma who was just standing like a statute.

Wes looked at Natalie.

He walked to the chest of drawer and got the key to the bedroom door and ran to the door and unlocked it.

He looked at the little girl and ran and held her.

Wes said, “Are you in pain?”

The little girl’s lips were trembling.

Wes put down and walked over to the pain herb.

He was going to give her a capful then he thought she has been in pain for a while.

He gave her two capfuls.

He held her and kissed her for a minute.

Wes said, “Rest I have to give the governor and his wife their herbs.”

Wes kissed the little girl on her head.

He closed the door.

He walked pass Emma and Mattie on the porch.

He went into the governor’s tent.

He washed his hands and administered their herbs and medicine.

He gave Newsom some more blood and change the bandages of Bruce and the first lady.

The two medical commanders were standing and waiting.

They heard the governor and the first lady get quiet.

The lead commander thought, “God I hope Bruce is not in that kind of pain.”

Wes walked out the tent with bloodied items and went and set them on fire.

He walked back and said, “Who are the medical doctors?”

The two young commanders stepped forward.

Wes said, “I need twelve points of blood. Get volunteers and the cooks should have sugar.”

Wes said walked in the governor’s tent and came out with the blood bags and pail and his doctor’s bag and clipboard and writing pen and gloves.

He gave the medical doctors the blood bags and left with the bald soldier, the lead soldier and the two commanders.

Wes reached Charlotte.

She was semi-conscious.

Wes began to examine her.

He gently flipped her over and saw the bruises and scars from her fall.

He completed examined her.

He touched her hip and found she had a broken hip.

She was mumbling.

The commanders said, “What she said.”

Wes said, “Water.”

Wes looked at porched lips and said, “When was the last time you gave her water?”

The soldiers did not say anything.

He commanders said, “Food?”

The soldiers did not say anything.

The bald soldier looked at the soldiers in embarrassment and shame.

The lead soldier could not say anything.

Wes stood and went to the freezing brook and soaked a washcloth with the water from the brook. brook with water.

He walked back and squeezed the water in Charlotte’s mouth.

Wes said, “Somebody go and tell the cooks to give me a bowl of oatmeal or mashed potatoes or something very soft for her to eat.”

No body moved.

The commanders looked and said, “Go get the damn food. You morons.”

The bald soldier ran to the cooks and told them, “I need oatmeal now.”

Wes sat on the freezing ground and held Charlotte.

He said, “the only reason she did not die is because of the freezing cold here.”

One of the commanders said, “Yes it is unbelievably cold. I never heard nor seen anything like this.”

The other commander said, “What are you going to do doctor?”

Wes said, “I am going to get all my patients well and leave. It is just too cold to live here.”

One of the commanders said, “Why are you here?”

Wes said, “I was on my way to the big city hospital to work as a surgeon. The fire stopped me for two months. When I was passing through this area I heard a child screaming and ran into the cute house…”

The commanders said, “It is a cute house.”

The attendant was standing in the path and listening.

Wes continued, “I vowed to stay and help the little girl while her attendant had to go home and will return in the spring. I wish we could have moved her, but then I would have the herbs and not have this additional element to help the governor.”

Charlotte repeated the, “governor”.

Wes looked at her.

The bald soldier was back with the bowl of hot cereal, which quickly became warm.

Wes reached for the bowl and said, “Thank you.”

Wes said, “The oatmeal is barely warm. Come on Charlotte and eat something.”

One commander said, “How do you know her name.”

Wes said, “In college we were the wrestling teams.”

He commanders looked at Wes.

Wes put a spoonful of the oatmeal to Charlotte’s mouth.

She ate it.

Charlotte said, “Contact the governor’s office. I work for lead security aide.”

Wes said, “Williamson?”

Charlotte took another spoonful of oatmeal.

She was being unconscious.

Wes looked at her and put her on the ground and began to attend to her with the herbs for pain.

Wes looked around and said to the commander, “They don’t move unless you tell them. I need for her to be gently carried to porch of the house.”

The commander said, “You six gently carry her to the front porch of the house.”

Wes looked around at the herbs. He pulled off his quilt and start picking the herbs for pain.

One of the commanders said, “What is he doing?”

The lead soldier said, “He uses those plants for herb healings.”

One of the commanders said, “I hope he is not using those on the governor and the captain.”

Wes heard them and walked back and handed his quilt to the bald soldier and said, “Could you please take this to the house?”

Wes said, “Sirs, the governor chose to be healed this way, as opposed to the way they were killing him in his own house. I am a surgeon. I believe in medicine but I also see the great benefits of the natural healing process.”

They walked back to the house.

They saw the soldiers standing around the porch and Mattie still standing in the cold.

Wes did not know what was wrong with Mattie.

They heard loud laughter coming from his tent.

They looked down at his tent Betsy was entertaining, Andrew, skip and several of the commanders.

The two commanders were leaving Wes to go and join them.

Wes said, “Sirs. I need a tent for her and much coverings, which we do not have. I know you know how to contact Mr. Williamson to verify her story. We could have killed her.”

The lead commander sent the twenty commanders to the post.

The commander said, “Yes, we will do so.”

The commander called the lead soldier and said, “Send two soldiers to the post to come back with her a tent and many blankets. Now.”

Wes went into the governor’s tent and saw the twelve pints of blood.

He did not see the two arrogant medical doctors.

Emma was standing holding Bruce’s hand.

Wes looked over at Newsom and then the first lady.

Wes said,” Emma.”

She looked at Wes and continue to hold Bruce’s hand.

Wes washed his hands.

He looked at the clock it was time to give the governor and the first lady their herbal therapy.

He prepared the herbal pain relief.

The bald soldier walked in.

Wes turned and looked at him.

The bald soldier stood.

Wes looked at the water.

The bald soldier washed his hands.

He sat next to Newsom.

The governor whispered, ”What happened?”

Wes said, “Governor I will tell you this time but you need to concentrate on your healing. I went out there and she was weak. The soldiers had not given her food and water for three days. She said, your security man Williamson sent her.”

The governor said, “Undercover.”

Wes was checking his vitals.

He was surprised how good his vitals were.

He said, “Governor your vitals are good.”

The governor said, “What else?”

Wes said, “Open for your herbs. I guess the military will follow up.”

The governor said, “Where’s foul mouth?”

Wes said, “I don’t know.”

The first lady began to scream.

Newsom began to scream.

The bald soldier jumped out of his chair and nearly fell.

The commanders heard Thelma and a male.

They stop laughing.

Betsy continued laughing.

The lead commander had Joshua sitting on his lap.

The commander said, “I hope that’s not Bruce.”

Betsy said, “No that’s not him.”

The commanders looked at Betsy and she slightly turned her head.

The commanders started talking.

The lead commander said, “I don’t see any paper.”

The two commanders said, “Her Charlotte Smith and she said she works with the Governor’s aide Williamson.”

The lead commander sat for a moment and said, “Where is she?”

One of the commanders said, “At the house.”

Betsy screamed, “The house.”

The other commander said, “She is on the porch, and six armed soldiers surround her.”

Betsy looked at the lead commander.

The lead commander looked at Joshua.

The lead commander said, “What’s wrong with her?”

The commander said, “The doctor said a broken hip.”

The lead commander said, “We were going to let her die from a broken hip.”

He looked at Joshua and said, “Good meeting you.”

Joshua said, “Likewise.”

Betsy took Joshua by the hand and walked him to the house.

Andrew said, “Betsy is going so she can see the woman and decide whether she or Mattie need to beat her.”

The two medical doctors laughed.

The lead commander turned his head to watch Betsy and laughed to himself.

He thought all the times Betsy got him in trouble with other women and their husbands.

He really enjoyed those years with her, as her much older lover.

His wife was dead for twelve years and he was raising Bruce and Andrew on his own.

Once he got Bruce and Andrew in college, he went back to the military and rose.

He met Betsy when he came to the college to tell him and Andrew he was going away on assignment for a year.

Betsy and Mattie were standing with Bruce.

Betsy gave Skip the eye.

She walked with him over the campus to find Andrew.

They found Andrew two hours later.

She dated Skip for her four years in college.

Andrew would date older married women for money.

He was very good looking and used his looks to get what he wanted.

He would get into fist fights with the husbands and sometimes with the women.

Betsy and Skip would go and rescue Andrew.

They would fight most of the time.

Betsy met the man she was going to married after Skip told her he was going to marry a widow woman.

The woman was from an upstanding military family.

Bruce and Andrew mother made Skip promise her he would have fun.

He truly had fun with Betsy.

He married the boring teacher and he did not miss excitement.

But he made sure over those ten years he was away on assignment and he received his biggest assignment the year before at the headquarters.

Wes casually went to the first lady and gave her the herb therapy.

He kept looking at her IV.

He changed her bandages.

He liked the way her wounds were looking.

He went over to Newsom.

The bald soldier was watching Wes and wanted him to hurry and come to Newsom.

The bald soldier covered his ears.

Wes walked over to Newsom.

He changed Newsom bandages.

He gave him blood and an IV with a lot of medicine in it.

Wes stood and watched Newsom.

Newsom began to calm down.

Wes changed his gloves and went to Bruce and pushed Emma away.

The bald soldier watched Wes.

Wes attended Bruce.

He looked at the clock and sat on the floor and wrote in their charts.

The bald soldier carried the chair to Wes.

Wes said, “I’m ok.”

The bald soldier said, “Get off the ground. I can sit on my pallet.”

He made Bruce and Newsom charts.

Wes spent over an hour writing in their charts.

Wes stood and stretched.

He looked at the patients and said very harshly to Emma, “Let’s go.”

Emma looked at Wes and walked out with Wes.

The bald soldier panic and thought,” I can’t do this.”

The cooks were preparing the commanders food.

Betsy waked to the cute house and she and Joshua stared at the woman surrounded by the soldiers.

Charlotte raised her head up and looked at Betsy and Joshua.

Wes grabbed Emma by the hand.

Mattie was standing on the porch.

Wes passed Betsy and Joshua and said, “You’ll come in this house.”

Betsy and Joshua looked at Wes how nasty he talked to them.

Betsy shook Joshua hand and they walked in the house.

Wes said, “Joshua go in the bedroom, please.”

Joshua looked around at his family and walked to the bedroom.

Joshua said, “The door is locked.”

Wes looked at the bedroom door.

He went to the chest of drawer and got the key and walked and unlocked the door.

Betsy looked because the little girl had to lock the door.

Betsy said, “Why is that bedroom door lock?”

No one said anything.

Wes walked in the living room he said, “Mattie you and Emma I want you to leave and don’t come back. Both of you need to go to mental hospitals, I have tried over these months to be quiet and see how far you go. Every time I look around you two and that one…”

Talking about Natalie.

Wes continued, “You are not good people. Natalie did you tell the little girl to leave out this house and come and get me?”

Betsy looked at her husband and then at Natalie.

Natalie just stared at Wes.

Wes said, “I can put you out of this house, if I believe the welfare of my patient is at stake. I want you gone. You can pack up anything that you have not squirreled away and I will bring it to you. You can either stay in this new settlement or leave, but you have to go. There is nothing that belongs to you in the bedroom. I checked and made sure you had nothing in the bedroom. If William comes back looking for you I’ll tell him I put you out and you know how to contact him.”

Wes walked out the house.

Betsy looked around at the three women.

Joshua was standing in the bedroom door.

The little girl was crying.

Betsy was so shocked.

She slowly walked to the little girl.

Joshua walked into the living room and looked at his mothers and Natalie.

Betsy went and sat on the little girl’s bed and patted her leg.

The little girl was crying.

Betsy looked at her.

Betsy saw the little girl’s eyes were filled with pain.

Betsy stood and walked to the dresser and picked up the red bottle.

She looked back at the little girl.

The little girl’s confidence in Betsy had been shaken.

Joshua walked back in the bedroom and closed the door and he looked at Betsy.

Betsy looked at Joshua.

Joshua said, “What am I suppose to do?”

Betsy said, “You will live with me and Wes.”

Joshua ran to Betsy and they hugged for a long time.

The little girl had her mouth opened waiting for her pain relief.

Betsy said, “Baby I am so sorry for what happened today.”

They heard the front door close.

Joshua opened the bedroom door and ran out the front door the three women loaded the wagon and was about to leave.

Joshua ran to them and yelled, “You weren’t going to say bye?”

The three women had tears filled eyes.

Betsy wrapped the little girl up and walked to the front door.

They watched as Emma, Mattie and Natalie did not say anything but left.

Andrew and the two medical doctors stood and looked.

They looked back at Betsy.

Betsy said, “Joshua, baby come back.”

Joshua fell onto the dirt road and boohooed.

Betsy said, “Andrew please.”

Andrew looked at the little boy.

He picked up the fallen child and walked him back to the cute house.

Charlotte was looking around to see and hear what was going on.

Andrew and the two commanders walked in the house.

Betsy sat and had the little girl in her lap and she put Joshua’s head on part of her lap.

Betsy told them everything that happened.

Bill raping and beating Mattie and bashing her head in with a rock and kicking her. Emma plotting to kill the whole family with Bill and all the evil things Emma did to Mattie.

Betsy said she did not exactly what happened that day for Wes to put them out. Mattie was standing out in the cold for hours and Emma was standing here in the floor for hours and then went and was holding Bruce’s hand.

Betsy continued and said, “Natalie told this baby to go out and tell Wes to come to the house.”

Andrew said, “What was wrong with that?”

Betsy looked at the little girl and said, “Can I show them?”

The little girl looked at Momma Betsy.

Betsy raised her gown and showed the little girl’s back and legs.

Both the medical doctors went out and threw up.

Andrew said, “She could not walk.”

Andrew said, “What is your name?”

Joshua said, “Angelica. No body never asked her name. Not even you Aunt Betsy. You just called her your loved one. You’re just like my mommas and Natalie Wes put out.”

Joshua ran in to the bedroom and locked the door.

Betsy jumped up with Angelica in her arms.

She kicked the bedroom door opened.

Andrew looked.

Joshua was surprised.

Betsy kissed Angelica on her head and put her in the bed.

Angelia was still crying from pain.

Wes walked to the house and saw the commanders walking from his tent.

He saw the two medical doctors sitting on the front porch.

He saw Charlotte looking at everybody.

Two soldiers were entering the campsite and stopped and had Charlotte tent and coverings.

The lead commander said put it twenty five feet from the governor’s tent.

He looked at the two commanders sitting on Wes porch.

Wes walked into the house.

Two of the other commanders rode into the campsite and gave a telegram to the lead commander from Edward Williamson, the governor security aide.

The lead commander read it and handed it to the other commanders.

He looked at Charlotte and said, “You will not be placed with the prisoners. We will take you home in a few days to be treated for the broken hip. You will have to give your testimony in court.”

Wes heard the lead commander.

Wes looked around and they were gone.

He saw Joshua crying.

He picked Joshua up and sat him in his lap.

Wes said, “Joshua I am so sorry. But I knew they had to be separated from us. Whatever happened to them that changed them, they have to work it out with God. I want you to be happy. I want you to be safe. I believe your Aunt Betsy and me can give you and Angelica a beautiful life.”

Joshua said, “How did you know her name?”

Wes said, “I asked the attendant, when she was always heavily sedated. And could not talk for herself.”

Joshua said, “Will I grow up to be crazy.”

Wes said, “Never.”

Betsy was standing with the pain herb.

Wes said, “Angelica, I did not forget about you. I know you kept locking the door to keep them out. I am sorry.”

William rode into the yard.

All the brass looked at William, he spoke and ran into the house.

William looked in the living room.

Andrew stared at William.

William said, “Is Natalie in there?”

Wes said, “No.”

William said, “Do you know where she is?”

William put his hands on his hips, in exasperation.

Betsy said, “No. But What are you going to do about Natalie and your baby?”

William said, “That is not my baby.”

Wes stood up and put Joshua in the chair.

Betsy was about to walk out and Angelica caught Betsy’s hand.

Betsy looked and said, “Oh baby. Angelica. I forgot about you that quick.”

Joshua said, “See.”

Wes looked at Joshua.

Wes said, “Betsy give her three capfuls.”

Wes and Betsy walked out the bedroom and closed the door.

Joshua said to Angelica, “They don’t want us to hear.”

Wes opened the door and said, “Joshua you are right. Children should not have to burden with adult problems that’s what caused your nervous breakdown.”

Andrew looked at Betsy and mouthed to her, “Nervous breakdown.”

Betsy nodded her head for yes.

She and Wes walked to the living room.

All the commanders mounted their horses and left.

The only ones left were the three at the house.

They were listening to the saga.

The soldiers set Charlotte’s tent fifty feet from the governor and made her pallet and gave her ten blankets which were not enough but will last for the next few days.

The bald soldier told Wes he was leaving to go back to his post.

The bald soldier left the yard.

The cooks began to prepare dinner.

The six soldiers picked her up and carried her to her tent.

William said, “My god father came to me today while I was working and told me Natalie was pregnant and said the baby was mine. If she is pregnant, the baby is that baseball player. I caught them several times coming from the back of the house, that’s why I left early. I came to spend time with her to get to know he. I was raised by godly parents. I am a God fearing gentleman.”

Wes said, “William we believe you. I put Natalie out, Emma and Mattie and told them never to come back.”

William said, “Whew. I am glad you did. Mattie and Emma need to be locked up in a mentaI hospital and now along with Natalie. I felt Natalie wants that filthy life as a vagabond and this was the best life she ever had. I believe she has always had a sexual relation with that baseball guy. They were too comfortable. It just wasn’t right. So I am glad this is over because I have to concentrate on my work. That town is nearly all witches and they are evil.”

Wes said, “When the town was on fire and Dr. Obersteen and I met in that town. We slept on the street with our guns drawn and our fingers on the triggers. I just don’t like that town.”

William said, “Where did my god parents go?”

Betsy said, “I think they are camping at our old place.”

William said, “Your old place?”

Wes said, “Yes. After we get everybody well we are leaving.”

William said, “Wes there is no doctor in none of these towns. Think how much money you can earn.”

The two young medical commanders looked at each other.

They stood and walked off the porch and was talking.

Andrew looked at them.

The young medical commanders were talking and did not the rest of Wes and William’s conversation.

Wes said, “It’s just too cold to live here.”

William said, “The governor wants a hospital here so people can have medical care. Think about it.”

William said, “I’m going to find my god parents and then I am riding back to that town. I am so glad they brought all those soldiers.”

Joshua yelled and said, “Hey William.

William yelled and said, “Hey Joshua.”

Joshua said, “How’s the governor’s children?”

Wes said, “That’s right.”

William said, “They are having a bad time Joshua. Please pray for them.”

William nodded his head at Andrew and left.

He found his god parents at Frank and Glenda old campsite.

He spent an hour with them and give them a list of vacant homes and lands in the town.

He left and rode that hour back to the town.

Andrew said, What about Bruce?”

Wes said, “What?”

Andrew said, “Bruce was going to marry Emma. Right?”

Wes said, “I believe that will work out. They need to be treated for mental sickness.”

Andrew and the two medical commanders left the house and rode into town and camped at the post.

Andrew had a long talk with his father about what happened with Wes and Betsy and Emma and Mattie and what will happen to Bruce.”

His daddy sat and listened.

He said to Andrew, “I believe your brother will make the best decision.”

Wes said, “I have no help until Dr. Obersteen come tomorrow. Betsy, I need for you to stay with the children and keep the front door locked. I have the only key to the front door. You sleep on the sofa and Joshua can sleep on a pallet out here.”

Joshua said, “I can sleep in here with Angelica.”

There was a knocked on the door.

Wes went to the door and the cooks had prepared their dinner of biscuits, fried chicken and mashed potatoes.

Wes took the tray and said. “Thank you.”

The cooks felt good, because they gave good service to the headquarters brass.

Before Wes could turn around from the door with the tray the bedroom door was opened.

Joshua was out of the bedroom and walking to the living room.

Wes put the tray down on the coffee table and walked to the bedroom and picked up the little girl Angelica who was reaching for him.

He sat her in the next chair and they said grace.

Wes gave her a little mashed potatoes and gravy.

She enjoyed her dinner.

She looked over at Joshua who was eating his chicken leg and biscuit.

Wes watched Betsy.

Betsy ate a biscuit.

Angelica clapped.

Wes and Joshua cheered for Betsy.

Wes stood and said to Angelica, “Do you want to stay in here with Joshua and Betsy or go to your bed.”

Angelica looked at Joshua and Betsy and said, “Stay.”

Wes kissed her on her head and kissed Betsy on her lips for a long time.

Joshua said, “There are kids here.”

Wes reached over to close Joshua’s eyelids.

Joshua fell back on the sofa.

Wes got the tray and dishes and put on his coat.

Wes looked at the fire and put down the tray.

He put coal on the fire in both fireplaces.

He looked at the door.

Betsy walked to the door and locked it.

Angelica said, “Window.”

Betsy checked the window and locked it.

Betsy went around the house and checked the windows.

She brought Joshua quilt to put it on the floor.

Joshua took the quilt and quilt and took it in Angelica’s bedroom.

He joined Betsy and Angelica for one of Betsy’s fantastic stories.

After Betsy told them the story they dressed for bed.

Betsy said, “Joshua I have to go and get my nightgown. They at the door and lock it when I leave and unlock it when I return.”

Joshua stood at the door and was playing with his sailboat.

He told Angelica, “Tell me when she is coming back.”

The little girl was looking at the window.

Angelica said, “Here she comes. She is running. She’s on the porch. She is knocking on the door.”

Joshua unlocks the door.

Betsy runs in the house and locks the front door.

She holds up a big apple and a spoon.

Joshua looked at the apple.

Angelica grinned.

Betsy moved Angelica from the window.

She broke the apple in half.

She gave half the apple to Joshua and she scooped out the half and gave to Angelica.

Betsy put Joshua and Angelica to bed and closed the curtains.

She checked for the guns.

She moved earlier that day.

They guns were in the new secret place, that she did not tell any of them about because she was entertaining Andrew.

She put her quilt on the floor by the window.

She thought, “We did not pray.”

Betsy walked in the bedroom Joshua and Angelica were snoring.

Betsy cut out the lights and got on her knees and prayed.

She laid on her pallet and cried.

Wes told the lead soldier, he put Natalie, Mattie and Emma out and never let them back on the property.

Wes checked on Charlotte.

He checked her vitals and gave her a large dose of the pain herb.

He went to the governor’s tent and saw the bald soldier pallet.

Wes put his quilts with the bald soldier quilts.

Wes attended the medical needs of the governor, his wife, Newsom and Bruce.

Wes wrote in all their charts.

He laid down and got nearly an hour and a half of sleep though out the night.

Wes knew he would have help in the morning when Dr. Obersteen would arrive.