Wes held devasted Joshua for a long time.

The cook looked at the grieving Joshua being held by the tired and weak Wes.

He continued to the house.

He wrapped on the door.

Betsy finally got up and walked to the door.

She opened the door and saw Wes and Joshua in the freezing embracing outside.

The cook walked in the house and saw Dr. Obersteen bathing the little girl.

He saw her back that was only a partial back.

The Dr. Obersteen stood and closed the door.

Angelica said, “Too late he saw my back.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Sorry.”

He completed washing her and put the paste on her back and legs.

Dr. Obersteen heard Betsy say, “Thank you.”

He thought, “She needs to get her butt around here and work.”

The little girl giggled.

Dr. Obersteen said, “I did say anything out loud.”

Dr. Obersteen put the little girl on a yellow gown and he was about to put her on white socks.

Angelica pointed and said, “Yellow socks and ribbons place.”

Dr. Obersteen looked at her and said, “Angelica you like to match.”

Angelica laughed.

He stood and went to her drawers and looked in her sock drawer and saw the yellow socks.

He turned from her drawers.

She pointed.

Dr. Obersteen looked at Angelica.

Angelica said, “Ribbons and brush.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “Oh.”

Angelica laughed.

He turned to go back to the dresser.

He heard the front door opened.

The cook was leaving.

The cook nearly threw up when saw Angelica back.

He scurried pass Betsy with the tray and he could not talk but deeply inhale and exhale.

Betsy looked in the bedroom at the little girl who looked ashamed.

Dr. Obersteen stood and close the door.

Betsy moved her hair out of her face and brushed it back with her hands and plaited a long thick pony tail.

She walked over to the cook and took the tray out of his hands.

Betsy turned and nearly stumble over her pallet.

She stooped down and rolled up her pallet.

The cook was putting the food on the coffee table.

Betsy started to put her pallet behind the chairs in the living room but thought she had no one to help her anymore.

She walked to the chest of drawers and put her quilt in the chest.

The cook was flabbergasted about what he saw about the little girl’s back.

He could not talk.

Betsy knew he wanted to ask about the wound to the little girl’s back, but she did not allow him to.

She said, “Thank you,” and walked to the door.

The cook come to himself and walked out the house and looked at Joshua and Wes still embracing in the bitter cold.

The cook walked to the other cook and told him the soldiers about the little’s back was eaten off her.

One of the soldiers said, “The captain told us a very sick little girl was here and they were taking care of her.”

The cook could not function.

He went to sit by Wes’ tent, but fell off the stump.

He was on his knees and tried to light his cigarette.

He put it in the fire by Wes’ tent.

The soldiers and the other cook liked at him.

He sat on the stump and was shaking.

The soldiers and the cook saw Wes walked Joshua into the house.

Wes had the sack with Joshua’s clothes.

He handed it to Betsy and he looked at her hard.

Betsy took the sack and Joshua went and sat in her lap.

They hugged each other and cried.

Wes said, “Give him clean undies and clothes to put on.”

Wes was thinking,”Do I need to get rid of Betsy?”

Angelica said, “Wes not Momma Betsy.”

Wes was standing with his hands on his hips.

He jumped and turned and saw the bedroom door closed.

He walked and opened the door.

He saw Dr. Obersteen had washed the little girl and taken care of her medical and brushed her hair and put yellow ribbons in her hair.

Wes did a jerk of his head.

Angelica giggled.

Wes said, “John you brushed her hair and put the ribbons in?”

Dr. Obersteen was putting Angelica’s ribbons and scissors and brush back in the container.

Dr. Obersteen stood and walked to the dresser and saw her mirror and said, “Look what I found.”

He held the mirror so she could see her head.

Angelica touched her face and the many scars from the whipping the men in Betsy’s town did to her face.

Dr. Obersteen kissed her on her forehead and said, “You are as beautiful as ever.”

Angelica held her head down.

Betsy and Joshua were crying, but she was going through the sack and gave Joshua clean clothes to put on.

Joshua was standing by the fireplace putting on his clothes.

Wes and Dr. Obersteen walked in the living.

Dr. Obersteen wrapped the little girl in a blanket and he stood at the bedroom door until Joshua had on clothes.

He walked in the living room and said to Wes, “I have you to know I learned to comb, brush, shampoo children hair from the children ward for several years. I was the best shampoo doctor in the hospital.”

He kissed the little girl on her cheek and she giggled.

Wes looked at the clock.

He said, “I have twenty minutes before I need to get back.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “We.”

He was sitting with the little girl on his lap.

Dr. Obersteen looked at the tray of food and he poured some of the soup broth in a cup, he picked up a spoon to feed the little girl.

Angelica reached for the cup.

Dr, Obersteen gave her the cup,

She sipped the broth and looked at him and said, “Good.”

Wes said only a little.

She was able to reach and put the cup on the table.

Wes ate some soup and cornbread.

He said, “You’re right Angelica the soup is good.

Angelica was watching Joshua and Betsy.

Dr. Obersteen looked at Angelica and he ate the omelet and toast.

Joshua sat with his head on Betsy’s shoulder.

He and Betsy hugged.

Wes watched them.

They acted like they were thrown away.

Wes said, “Betsy are you ok?”

Betsy said, “You don’t care.”

Wes about to put a spoonful of soup in his mouth he stopped with his mouth opened and put the spoon in the bowl and got up and walked out the house to the governor’s tent.

Dr. Obersteen was about to get up and go in the bedroom with Angelica.

He and Angelica looked at Betsy and Joshua. They looked pitiful.

Dr. Obersteen looked at Angelica.

Angelica looked at Dr. Obersteen.

He peeped at the front door and said, “I’m going to give you a swallow of this coco with whipped cream. You can’t tell Wes.”

Angelica giggled.

She took a swallow of the coco with whipped cream.

Joshua said, “Hey that’s my coco with whipped cream!”

Dr. Obersteen said, “I knew that will bring you back to life.”

Dr. Obersteen was trying to reach Joshua the cup of coco with whipped cream, but Angelica was holding the cup and said, “One more swallow Joshua, Please.”

Joshua walked over and said, “That’s one swallow now give it to me.”

Wes walked back into the house and he looked at Betsy.

Betsy looked at him.

The first lady started screaming.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Come into the bedroom.”

Joshua said, “Let them go into the bedroom I want to eat.”

Wes reached his hand to Betsy and Betsy looked at his hand and stood up.

Dr. Obersteen stood up and put the little girl on the sofa with her blanket over her lap.

He put some coal on the fire and looked at Joshua and said, “Josh you will be alright. Angelica they can’t see you, but GOD does don’t eat nothing but the broth.”

He walked to the door and looked back at them.

He walked out the door.

Angelica looked at Joshua and did a double take at the door and said,”How he know I was going to eat his bread?”

Joshua was eating a bacon sandwich and said, “I don’t know just like you hear from GOD maybe he does to.”

Joshua was shaking his head and sajd, “This bacon sandwich is good, even cold.”

Angelica peeped around Joshua and said, “Put it over the fire.”

Joshua looked at Angelica and continued to eat his sandwich.

Wes said, “Did she just tell him to put his sandwich over the fire?”

Wes opened the bedroom door and walked out and looked at them.

He said, “Angelica don’t tell him to put his sandwich over the fire. Josh...”

Joshua said, “After you pulled me from the fireplace before, you thought I was listening to her?”

Joshua turned his head and looked at the fire and took a bite of his sandwich.

Angelica was staring at Wes.

Wes looked at her and at the tray and said, “I know everything on the tray and you are not to have anything but the broth.”

Angelica sat and held her cup and started crying.

Joshua was leaning over and looking at the fire and said, “Theatrics.”

Wes said, “Angelica you can’t eat solid food yet. We have to see how your body digest it.”

Angelica was crying and put the cup with the broth to her mouth and said was blowing in the cup and making a sound.

Joshua turned and said, “Let me see.”

Wes turned and walked back to the bedroom with Betsy.

He saw Betsy smiling.

He pushed the door and said, “I hope some of the smile is for me.”

Betsy said, “Wes. They kept me going. We have always fist fought and argued. I always thought it was because we all had different personalities. I did not think they were crazy. Now I don’t know if you think I am crazy.”

They heard Newsom screaming.

Wes tried to hold Betsy.

She pushed him away and said, “Go and see about your patients especially since you did not immediately say no Betsy I don’t think you are crazy.”

Wes stood up and walked to the living room door.

He looked at the tray.

Angelica and Joshua looked at the tray.

They turned their little heads and looked at Wes.

Betsy had fallen back on the little girl’s bed.

Wes walked back to the bedroom and saw Betsy’s small stomach.

He leaned over her and said, “Betsy I don’t think you are crazy. I love you.”

He kissed her lips.

Betsy did not respond.

He kissed her stomach and walked out.

The little girl said, “What are they doing? I sleep in that bed.”

JESUS was putting a book aside and looked at the little girl.

Betsy covered her mouth.

Wes looked at Betsy and said, “That’s you’ll French talking around her.”

Betsy did not get up.

Wes said, “Can you change the sheets please?”

He ran out the bedroom and out the front door.

One of the soldiers said, “She gives him hell.”

They heard wagons coming to the dirt road.

Wes turned to see.

There were two wagons of soldiers.

The soldiers stationed at the house quickly broke camp and exchanged positions with the soldiers. The lead soldiers exchange positions.

The rotation was competed in less than twenty minutes.

Wes went into the governor’s tent and washed his hands and put on his gloves and put all his instruments and bandages in his kit and walked to Newsom.

Wes patted Newsom on his shoulders and said, “This is going to hurt.”

Newsome screamed for hours.

Wes continued to work on him.

He completed working on Newsom.

Newsom whispered, “Death.”

Dr. Obersteen looked over at Newsom as he was working on the governor.

Wes changed gloves and washed his hand.

He put all his instruments for Bruce in the container.

Wes put on his gloves and walked to Bruce and put his container on Bruce’s body.

He said, “Bruce.”

Bruce said, “Death.”

Wes said, “Not quite.”

Terry said, “Is that Newsom?”

Another soldier said, “I just arrived here with you. How would I know?”

Two wagons passed the cute house taking additional blankets to the one hundred men stationed from end to end by the brook.

They were stationed in groups of five.

They had fires at every position.

The soldiers were about to freeze.

The captain over the troop of hundred was close to Frank and Glenda.

He wondered how they got that many horses to be homeless.

The wagons pulled up to him and he said, “How many blankets do you have?”

One of the drivers said “Two per soldier. The commander said the soldiers can buy or they will pay for the knitted coverings that woman sells. I heard if you put them over your ceilings it will help keep the wind out.”

The captain looked at Cate’s homesite and said, “Pass out the blankets, we will see if the men need more.”

The soldiers were angry.

They did not know the new settlement was freezing.

The soldiers stayed in their tents and did not come out.

The captain rode from one end to the other end and said, “Soldiers did you not hear the bugle?”

Most of the soldiers were standing with both blankets on them over their uniforms.

The captain turned and looked at Cate’s homesite and sent two of his soldiers to her and asked for all the knitted coverings she had.

She wrote a bill and gave it to them.

The soldiers came back with thirty knitted coverings and gave the captain the bill.

He looked at the bill and smirked.

The captain looked at his men.

One of the men said, “Captain, she had those knitted coverings all over her tent walls and it was bearable.”

The captain said, “Pass out the thirty you have to the soldiers on this end and tell them how to cover their walls. Where are they getting that coal from?”

His two men said. “We don’t know.”

The captain said, “Find out.”

The lead commander sent him to be the captain over that troop until he makes his decision about his disciplinary action.”

The lead commander told Ricky he was going to talk to Laura.

Ricky sat and stared at the commander.

The commanders stared at Ricky.

The two soldiers returned to the captain and said, “The empty campsites had coal and they used it up.”

The captain said, “When will she have some more of those knitted coverings?”

One of the soldiers said, “She was kitting some while we were there and said she could not sleep because her friends left so she will be up.”

They heard wagons on the dirt road.

The drivers saw the captain and rode to him.

One of the drivers said, “The lead commander sent these supplies to the men. He said two each until additional supplies come in.”

The captain said, “What are the supplies?”

The captain rode to the wagon.

The driver showed thermals, scarves, gloves and socks.

A soldier yelled, “They expect us to be in this iceberg for how long?”

The second wagon had additional food, cough syrup and aspirins.

The captain was freezing.

He knew he was sent to the new settlement as part of his disciplinary action.

The drivers gave out the goods and left and returned to the post.

Danny rode with Bishop’s family to the rode.

They went to their guest homesite.

They enjoyed camping out in the freezing wilderness.

They visited Bishop’s gravesite and ordered his head stone.

The lead commander told them to go by Brianna’s place, which cut an hour and fifteen minutes from their trip.

They rode through the town and saw several vacant houses and the house and land by the man that was keeping Newsom’s horses.

The older driver wife said, “Since those houses are free they should get one for the summer.”

The older driver turned and continued to talk to Bishop’s brother -in law.

Natalie moved in with Harold.

She did not have a mattress, but she had her quilt.

Harold said, “Did you tell them the baby is mine?”

Natalie said, “I lead them to believe it was William’s,”

Harold said,”Why?”

Natalie shrugged her shoulders and said, “I wanted to.”

Harold looked at her and turned and made the fire stronger.

He thought, “I really don’t want her. But she is pregnant. How do I know if she is really pregnant and I am the only one or could it be someone else’s baby.”

Harold smiled and said. “Yeah. It’s someone else’s baby. Until she proves it is mines.”

Harold and Natalie stayed in the tent and in the bed all day and most of the next day.

The captain’s soldiers checked the next day with the thirty soldiers about the effectiveness of the knitted coverings.

They said, the knitted coverings really helped them.

The soldiers went to Cate and she had five more ready.

The soldiers looked at each other and took the bill to the captain and gave him one knitted coverings and they took two each and went into their tents and put the knitted coverings over their tops and sides.

They were comfortable.

The next day several soldiers were assigned to go through Shelia’s campsite and break it down.

They did an inventory of everything there but the coal.

The soldiers carried the coal to their tents and eased it on the fires.

The soldiers saw the knitted coverings ad the quilts.

They asked the captain what to do with those items.

The captain said, “You can use them.”

The soldiers split the knitted coverings and took one each.

The other soldier took her quilt.

A wagon came and some of the men from the post sent their knitted coverings.

They brought twenty three knitted coverings.

The soldiers went into the sheds and found food.

They sneaked and got the food and cooked them rabbits and deer meat that had been preserved.

They ate the fish that was in the shed.

The lead commander would ride down once per day to check on the soldiers.

Cate’s delivery wagon came’

The soldiers let the delivery wagon in the new settlement to take Cate her yarn.

Cate put in another order for yawn.

She was crying so heavily over Mattie and Emma she stayed up three nights and knitted ten more coverings.

She fell asleep and sleep for a whole day.

The lead soldier told the lead soldier coming in that the women were not allowed at the cute house ever and the captain said, a very sick little girl was there and for them not to shoot the children. The little girl is out of her comma and be wondering around the house.

Wes and Dr. Obersteen worked for hours on the four critical patients.

Wes sat and wrote extensively in the patients’ charts.

Bruce was semi conscious and called for Emma.

Dr. Obersteen looked at Bruce and then Wes.

Wes looked at Bruce and continued to write in his chart.

Betsy had changed the little girl’s sheets and put the dirty things together.

Betsy went into the living room and they ate the food that was left.

Betsy read the bible that was in the chest of drawer.

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

Betsy put her bible back in the chest of drawers and looked around.

She saw the wheelchair behind the chest of drawers.

She put the little girl in the wheelchair and rolled her to the bedroom and helped her into the bed.

The little girl began to cry.

Joshua said, “Theatrics.”

Betsy looked at the little girl and said, “No Joshua. Go and get Wes.”

Joshua ran out the front door.

He went to the governor’s tent and poked his head in and said, “Wes.”

Wes was writing and did not look up and said, “Joshua. You know not to be in here.”

Joshua said, “Betsy said Angelica is in pain.”

Dr. Obersteen looked.

Wes put up Bruce’s chart and walked with a running Joshua back in the house.

The cooks looked.

Wes went in the house and put Betsy and Joshua out the bedroom.

Angelica screamed in pain.

The new soldiers looked around at each other.

Dr. Obersteen looked around and cleaned the spot next to Newsom and shook the quilts.

He took all the medical trash and looked around and saw the burn barrel and he set the items on fire.

The soldiers covered their noses.

Dr. Obersteen looked in the governor’s tent and walked to the house and took the tray and waked out the house.

Dr. Obersteen said, “I sure hope that swig of coco with whipped cream is not affecting her like that”.

He took the tray to the cooks.

He asked the cooks what was for dinner, they said lamb stew.

They gave him the tray with the stew and biscuits and bowls and forks.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Thanks.”

He walked back to the house and entered the front door.

He placed the tray on the table.

Joshua closed the door.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Thank you sir.”

Joshua said, “You welcome sir.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “I am going to sleep in the governor’s tent tonight. I am going to try this lamb stew.”

He took a bowl and mashed a piece of potato and a piece of carrot for Angelica.

He put some broth from each of the bowls into her bowl.

Wes walked out the bedroom carrying Angelica.

Wes said, “She wanted to say,”Good night.”

Dr. Obersteen said, “No dinner?”

Angelica shook her head for no.

Joshua and Betsy went to her and hugged and kissed her good night.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Good night sweetheart.”

She looked at Dr, Obersteen with her tears filled eyes.

Wes put her to bed.

Angelica laid on her side.

Wes put pillows to support her back.

Joshua, Betsy and Dr. Obersteen ate an early dinner.

Wes sat in the bedroom and wrote in Angelica’s notebook.

He sat and was thinking very hard.

Joshua walked in the bedroom and said,”Wes you can go. I’ll stay here with her.”

Wes said, “Thank you Joshua.”

He put up Angelica notebook and made Joshua’s pallet on the floor and he tossed some more coal on the fire.

Joshua sat in the chair and watched the yawning Angelica.

When Angelica went to sleep.

Joshua was thinking.

He heard Wes, Betsy and Dr, Obersteen in the living room talking and eating dinner.

Joshua thought and stood up and walked in the living room.

They all looked at Joshua said, “Excuse me. Since Emma and Mattie are gone, can we keep her?”

Betsy did not look at Joshua and said, “I told you before, you can’t keep nobody.”

Joshua said, “I was just saying.”

Betsy stood and looked for his sack.

Betsy stood and handed Joshua’s pajamas.

He changed into his pajamas.

Betsy took him in the bedroom and put him on the pallet.

She kissed Joshua.

She turned and kissed the sleeping Angelica.

She closed the bedroom.

She, Dr. Obersteen and Wes ate dinner.

Dr. Obersteen said, “I am going to sleep in the governor’s tent tonight. I brought a blanket to put next to my body.

Betsy said, “Where is Zachery?”

Dr. Obersteen said, “He ran yesterday and went to the post. As long as he doesn’t go into that town.”

He stood and carried the trya with all the dishes to the cooks.

Dr. Obersteen said, “Good stew.”

He went to his horse and got the blanket he bought and his toilet bag.

He went into the bath shed and dressed for bed.

He put on a pair of fur slipper boots.

He wrapped in his blanket and laid down and read an article.

After he read the article. He gave the patients all their herbal therapies.

He laid down and went to sleep

Joshua and Angelica slept.

Wes and Betsy and talked.

Wes made his pallet on the floor.

Wes dressed for bed.

Betsy dressed for bed.

They all slept.