William brought fresh hot water to Patrick and Brenda’s suite for Brenda and Patrick to wash for bed time.

He knew he would be asked about Eleanor’s telegram.

Brenda said, “Alright William who was the telegram from?”

Patrick said, “What did it say?”

William said, “It’s was from a lawyer for a meeting with Eleanor at ten am.”

Brenda was thinking and mumbling.

Patrick said, “Thank you William.”

Brenda said, “Good night.”

William said, “Sir and ma am.”

Brenda stopped mumbling to herself and looked at William.

Patrick reached William his glass.

Patrick saw it concerned William and said, “Yes William.”

William said, “The staff said your grandson Percy came down for lunch and Robert was setting the table in the family dining for dinner.”

Brenda said, “That’s right.”

Patrick nudge Brenda with his hand and said, “Wait a minute Bren. Continue William.”

William said, “Percy was extremely upset because there was no lunch. And scared the staff by screaming for Eleanor.”

Patrick said, “That’s it?”

Brenda said, “There’s food here.”

William said, “Mrs. Simons told Robert to make a sandwich lunch for Percy to apologize to Robert for screaming.”

Brenda nodded her head.

Patrick said, “Nall Brenda that’s not what William is saying. What is it?”

William said, “The boys were eating lunch and they told Percy he would not go back to Austria with them if Eleanor married the count.”

Brenda and Patrick were stunned.

William bowed and said, “Good night.”

William checked the first floor of the house and the front door and the side doors and went through the kitchen and looked around and went to his room with his wife.

Brenda said, “Patrick that is adultery.”

Patrick said, “I know, but we knew she was in pain when she left here. I need to find out more details.”

Brenda said, “That’s right we need to talk to her.”

Patrick said, “No. We have to be sneaky. Let’s get it from the boys.”

Brenda said, “No. They are children and will not be dragged into this mess.”

Patrick said, “They know. They are already dragged into. We have to be quiet.”

Brenda said, “She will explode if she finds out we are going behind her back and asking her children about her affairs.”

Patrick said, “It does sound bad Let’s pray Brenda. I just don’t like this. They have been back one day and my stomach is upset.”

Brenda said, “Your stomach is upset because you had two servings of pie and liquor on top of it.”

Patrick stood and looked at Brenda.

She looked at Patrick and went to the chaise and picked up their prayer pillows and put them on the floor.

They kneeled on the pillows and held hands and they payed a little bit longer that night.

Brenda and Patrick laid in the bed and held each other until they fell asleep.

The next day the week-end staff was coming to work.

William and his wife Roberta were the senior staff and stayed at the mansion.

A note was placed on the board for Percy to have lunch each day he was at home.

William updated the staff that Ms. Simons was back with Percy, Bruce and Thomas. That Bruce liked bread and wants sconces each day and Percy wants lunch each.

William said, “There’s no additional request.”

Brenda and Patrick were seated at the dining room table.

Percy ran downstairs and saw them sitting at the dining room table and kissed them on the cheeks and was about to tell the cook what he wanted until Eleanor flew down the stairs.

William and the maids jumped back.

Brenda, Patrick and Percy heard Eleanor storming down the stairs.

They all held their breaths.

Percy had his plate in his hand and trembling.

He cut his eyes and looked at the door as Eleanor walked in.

William, the maids and the cooks held their breath.

Eleanor said, “Good morning mother and father.”

They held their breaths because they did not know what Eleanor was about to do to Percy.

Bruce and Thomas ran downstairs and into the dining room.

Eleanor said calmly, “Percy do you wash your face and brush your teeth?”

Percy had a fit.

He begin to cry and shake his plate.

Eleanor said, “The food is going no where and there is more than enough food for you. You are just as bad as Michael is for lamb chops. I do not understand why it is so hard for you to know there is food for you and you will not starve.”

Percy was shaking and crying.

Eleanor braced herself and said, “Shut up boy.”

She pointed and said, “Go and wash your face and brush your teeth.”

Percy was put his plate on the table and was passing Bruce.

Bruce said, “We told you Percy don’t give us no problems.”

Patrick and Brenda sat up and listened to Bruce.

Eleanor said, “Bruce what are you talking about.”

Thomas went and kissed Patrick and Brenda.

Patrick said, “I am glad you told him about brushing his teeth.”

Brenda hit Patrick’s leg.

Patrick moved his leg.

He waited.

Eleanor ate light as usual.

She had a soft boiled egg, orange juice and black coffee.

Bruce yelled, “Scones.”

The cooks laughed and gave him a scone.

Michael said, “I want one.”

The cooks gave Michael a cone.

Eleanor heard Percy stumping down the hall.

She yelled, “Are you stumping?”

William and the maids watched everybody.

The maid whispered to William.

Patrick and Brenda looked at the maid.

William walked to Eleanor and said, “Mrs. Simons when do you want your luggage unpacked?”

Eleanor looked at William and said, “They can begin now. Thank you William.”

Percy turned with his plate and sat next to Brenda.

Eleanor looked at Percy’s full plate.

She said, “Percy what are you missing on your plate?”

The cooks looked at Eleanor.

Percy looked at his plate and then around at everyone’s else plate and said, “Nothing.”

Eleanor said, “If you ever come to the table unwashed and have a fit or stumped again. I will stump a mud hole in you and then send you to your daddy.”

Bruce looked at Percy.

Thomas said, “I told you Percy.”

Eleanor said, “You told him what?”

Brenda said, “William you all are excused.”

Patrick said, “Close the door please.”

Eleanor looked at her mother and father.

Percy looked back at the buffet.

Eleanor said, “Wait a minute.”

They servants stopped.

Eleanor said, “I am overstepping my boundary. This is too much food for us each morning. Cut it in half. May I ask that change mother and father?”

Patrick said, “Fine.”

Percy said, “What?”

Eleanor rolled her eyes at Percy.

Brenda nodded her head at the staff.

The staff walked out and went to the kitchen.

A cook and a maid were standing outside the door.

A maid, went upstairs to unpack Eleanor’s luggage.

Brenda said, “What is going on Eleanor. Don’t stall me. Tell me the full truth now.”

Patrick said, “Tell us everything now.”

Eleanor sat for a minute.

She looked at her mother and father.

She said, Two years a go I went to help Bruce get the mob out of our businesses. I taught Shirley how to do payroll and conduct business for the hospital. I left Michael as the trustee. After I helped Bruce, no thanks or anything, but bye. I came back and got the boys. I did not get off the train. We got on the ship I became very sick. I was pregnant and nearly did not live.”

Patrick and Brenda gasped.

Bruce said, “Momma was so sick.”

Thomas said, “She called daddy everyday and he wasn’t there.”

Percy said, “But the doctor came everyday and Steve and Belinda took care of us.”

Bruce said, “We had a lonely Christmas,”

Thomas said, “Ellen did a good job with a pretty Christmas tree and a full Christmas dinner.”

Bruce looked at Eleanor and said, “Momma was so sick and the doctor said the baby died.”

Elanor begin to cry.

Thomas hugged her.

Brenda and Bruce stood and walked to Eleanor and held her.

Patrick said, “So you boys are mad with your daddy because he was not with your momma?”

Percy said, “I got over that mad. But he made me again earlier this week.”

Brenda looked at Percy as she held her baby.

Patrick said, “How so?”

Thomas said, “He wouldn’t stop the train so we can get on it.”

Patrick stared at Thomas.

Brenda stared at Thomas.

Bruce said, “Yeah granddaddy. Shirley and Michael and us secretly decided to meet at the train station when we came from the ship.”

Percy said, “I sent Shirley and Michael telegrams every week to let them know how we were doing and the country we were in.”

Eleanor sat up from her mother.

She took her napkin and dried her tears.

Brenda patted Eleanor’s hand.

Bruce said, “We saw Michael jump out a buggy and then we heard Shirley yell for Michael to wait for her.”

Thomas was so excited and jumped from his chair and said, “Shirley can walk!”

Patrick mouth dropped open.

Eleanor shook her head for yes and burst out crying again.

Brenda patted Eleanor’s back.

Bruce said, “Shirley said their house was ready and they moved in it this week. Daddy said no.”

Patrick said, “What do you mean your daddy said no?”

Eleanor said, ”I ran to Shirley as she proudly stood and walked to me. It was beautiful. She was so proud of her hard work. I did see Bruce’s face as she walked to me. I believe he did not know Shirley could walk and she did not show him. Bruce became bitter. We had a very short connection before the train left. But Percy you did a wonderful job at reading the timetables. Thank you.”

Patrick reached over and patted Percy’s shoulder and said, “Well done.”

Percy grinned.

Brenda said, “What else?”

Thomas said, “The train’s whistle blew. We asked daddy to stop the train for five minutes so we could say bye to Shirley and Michael. He said no.”

Patrick was seething as he looked at Thomas.

Brenda said, “What was the problem he could not delay the train for five minutes?”

Thomas said, “That’s when I told him I don’t to see him again.”

Bruce said, “Me too.”

Percy said, “We had to run to catch our train. I was hurt when daddy did not want us anymore. He did not want us to stay at his new house. I don’t want to see him again mother. I ask you not to threaten me by saying you well send me to him. Can we work on my problems?’

Brenda cried.

Patrick looked at Brenda and said, “Why are you crying?”

Brenda said, “Percy is grown up.”

Eleanor looked at Percy and said, “Percy I was not threatening you. I really meant I would send you to your father. Maybe I need to send you to the military academy, because I am not tolerating your mean spirit.”

Percy said, “Can we work on it?”

Eleanor looked at Percy for a long time and said, “I will give a final attempt Percy. But screaming and acting up over food is not tolerable. Being unclean is not tolerable.”

Percy said, “Yes ma am.”

Eleanor said, “I told Bruce we will see.”

Brenda said, “What does that mean?”

Patrick said, “She’s going to fight him for the railroad.”

Brenda eyes grew big.

Patrick said, “He can’t win in court.”

Eleanor said, “I want Shirley and Michael…”

The boys clapped and cheered.

Patrick looked at Brenda.

Eleanor said, “ I can run the railroad from here. He can stay in Philadelphia at his grand house and run the shipping business.”

Percy said, “Shirley said daddy got a girlfriend. So he can marry her and momma you can marry the count.”

Thomas and Bruce said, “Marry the count and we can move to Austria and bring grandma and grandpa.”

The boys were so happy.

Eleanor said, “I can’t run the railroad business from Austria.”

The boys got quiet.

Patrick looked at his grandsons.

Brenda said, “Send the boys there to Bruce for the holidays.”

Eleanor gasped and said, “Not my sons.”

Brenda said, “They will be there with Shirley and Michael. You need time to heal Eleanor.”

Eleanor sat for me and said, “Bruce did the doctor say if the baby was a boy or girl?”

Bruce said, “He said a girl.”

Thomas said, “Ellen asked him and that’s what he told her. We heard him.”

Percy said, “Yeap. Ellen stayed with you momma every night. When Roderick and Sheryl finished teaching us we would be in the room with you until Ellen came in for the night. She was good.”

Brenda said, “You have to do something for them. Where are they?”

Eleanor said, “In the servants’ quarters.”

Percy perked up and said, “Can we play with the twins?”

Eleanor said, “They are babies not toys. You have to ask Steve and Belinda.”

There was a knock on the door.

Brenda turned and looked because the servants knew not to knock on the door when they are having a private conversation.

Patrick said, “Yes.”

William entered with a letter.

He said, “A letter for Mrs. Simons that requires her signature.”

Eleanor reached for the letter.

Patrick looked at Eleanor and said, “Thank you William.”

Eleanor was ready to fight.

She reached for a pen and William handed her a writing pen.

Eleanor signed for the letter.

She opened the letter and it was from Bruce.

She read it and sighed.

Bruce wants a divorce.

The boys jumped up and cheered.

Bruce said, “We’re going to Austria to the count.”

Eleanor said, “He wants you?”

Bruce and Percy was jumping and clapping each other hands. They stopped.

Percy said, “He wants who? Me?’”

Eleanor said, “Bruce wants all of his children.”

Thomas very solemn said, “I don’t care what he wants. He will not get me.”

Patrick never seen Thomas personality before.

He thought Thomas talked and acted like an old seasoned man.

Patrick laughed and leaned over and looked at Thomas very coolly stared at his grandpa.

Patrick said, “Let’s go and put the encyclopedias in the library.”

Percy said, “Shirley said daddy got my telegram from her and read that momma was really sick and called for him. She said he said nothing and she had him to give her the telegram back.”

Bruce said, “If dad wants to take us from momma. Then we need to go to Philadelphia and spend the holidays with Shirley and Michael and his girlfriend.”

Thomas turned and looked at Bruce and said, “I don’t need to go. I don’t want to see Bruce. I am sick of Michael and his lamb chops. I can’t take both Percy and Michael about this food.”

Patrick hollered.

William knocked on the door again.

Patrick said, “Come in.”

William said, “Mrs. Simons a letter.”

Eleanor looked around and said, “Is a signature required?”

William said, “No.”

Eleanor looked at the envelop and hastily opened it.

Brenda was reading he letter and looked at Patrick.

Eleanor said, “The three of you are going to spend the holidays with your father and Shirley and Michael.”

Thomas looked at Eleanor and said, “Why momma?”

Bruce said, “What did that letter say?”

Eleanor said, “This letter is from the count. He will be here next week.”

Percy said, “He took the last ship from Paris momma.”

Bruce said, “Will we be going back with him in the spring?”

Thomas looked at Eleanor and said, “You were going to send us to Bruce so you can have the count to yourself?’

Eleanor leaned in Thomas face and said, “Yes baby.”

Thomas looked at Bruce and Percy and said, “Who would have thought?”

Patrick hollered at Thomas old folks’ attitude.

Patrick looked at a bewildered Brenda.

Eleanor said, “The count will vacation with friends in New York after Christmas, until the spring then he will leave and go back to Austria.”

Percy said, “Is he bringing us beer.”

Eleanor stood and said, “Look boy you get into enough trouble without beer. O told you if I every catch any of with alcohol I would…”

All three boys said, “Stump a mud hole in us.”

Thomas said, “Eleanor.”

He touched her hand softly.

She hit Thomas om his back.

Thomas whimpered and rubbed his arm.

Patrick looked at Eleanor.

Eleanor bent down in Thomas’s face.

Bruce said, “Thomas why you do it?”

Patrick looked at Bruce.

Percy was scared he was next.

Thomas looked at Eleanor and said, “Momma.”

Eleanor stood up.

She said, “I have to think. We can pick you up and be on the train to Philadelphia and spend the night at the hotel and visit Michael and Shirley. Have your father to pick you up from the hotel and me and the count turn around and come back here the following day.”

Thomas said, “With me.”

Eleanor looked down at Thomas who was still rubbing his arm.

Percy said, “The count can sleep in my room.”

Eleanor thought.

Brenda said, “Right Missy. It’s not proper for a married woman to have a man guest.”

Patrick said, “We all need to think. Can the boy’s stay until after Thanksgiving so they can spend time with the count?” They seemed to be rather friendly with him. Then at the beginning of December let Eleanor and the count take the boys to Philadelphia to spend Christmas with their daddy, his girlfriend, Shirley and Michael. That way Bruce and the count can meet…”

He looked at Eleanor and said, “You Eleanor can meet the woman who wants your five children. And your sons can tell their daddy how wonderful the count is.”

Brenda said, “Patrick that is messy. You are asking for trouble.”

Patrick said, “He asked for trouble when he did not stop that train for his children.”

Eleanor said, Well Bruce did tell the train conductor to wait five minutes.”

Eleanor sat next to her mother and held Brenda’s hands.

She looked Brenda in her eyes and said, “I have a problem. Really problems. The business you and father…”

She looked at Patrick.

She said, “taught me how to conduct business. I really want to pass that on to Shirley. Bruce bought the hotel and the hospital. He used his money from his family and salary. I will not bother that. He can stay in Philadelphia with his girlfriend. But the problem I have to solve by myself is whether my heart can heal from all the pain I inflicted on Shirley, you, father and Bruce. Can I grow to love another and have a pure love for that person.”

Patrick looked at Brenda.

He said, “Usually Brenda and I talk things over before we make a decision. But this time I will take all the blame and say your count can stay here. But he will stay downstairs across from me and your mother.”

Brenda looked at Eleanor and said, “No more gifts.”

Thomas said, “What about Christmas?”

Brenda said, “Go to the library with your grandpa.”

Eleanor smiled.

Bruce said, “He cooks.”

Patrick said, “Really?”

Percy said, “My favorite dish is seichfieisch.”

Bruce said, “I like the count’s palatschinken.”

Patrick said, “Thomas and your favorite?”

Thomas looked at Percy and said, “It’s food. Nothing big. I’ll eat anything. Usually the apfelstrudel.”

Patrick said, “ I notice you used the German name for the food. That’s good.”

He looked at Eleanor and said, “Your favorite dish?”

Eleanor shook her head and said no.

Brenda shook Eleanor’s hands and said, “Really Eleanor?”

Eleanor said, “The food is too heavy for me. When he cook, I only eat about a fourth of the food and then we take long walks.”

Thomas said, “I like the long walks.”

Percy said, “I don’t go on the walks.”

Patrick said, “Let me guess. You are eating your mother’s food?”

Percy said, “How did you guess that grandpa.”

Patrick said, “Let me say this your grandma and I are not moving to Austria.”

Eleanor said, “Momma and daddy can I have a welcome dinner here for the count. Then we have Thanksgiving the next week. Then I take the boys to Bruce.”

Percy screamed, “Bruce?”

Patrick and Brenda looked at Percy.

Eleanor said, “I told you boy about all of this screaming.”

Percy said, “You said about food.”

Thomas said, “Oh…”

He nearly called her Eleanor.

Everyone knew that Thomas was about to call her Eleanor and not momma.

Thomas turned and looked at Patrick and said, “You ready to go to the library grandpa?”

Patrick pushed from the table and said, “Come on Thomas.”

Bruce said, “Percy let’s go and play with the twins.”

Eleanor said, “You two listen to me.”

Percy and Bruce looked at Eleanor.

She said, “Just because Steve and Belinda are our servants do not mean you have the right to play with their children like toys. You must ask the parents if you can visit with the twins. Do you understand you do not have power over people because they work for you. You have to respect other people right to their bodies. We just had a civil war to free the slaves. Maybe you need to go to the south and see the hell those people live in and died in.”

Percy and Bruce looked at Brenda and said, “Sorry grandma.”

Thomas looked at Bruce and Percy and said, “Grandma?”

Patrick said, “Come on Thomas.”

Thomas stared at Brenda.

Brenda was quiet.

Eleanor said, “Momma we have to do the guess’ list. Boys go and get dressed for the day.”

Eleanor walked out the dining room and went to the parlor and watched the boys go upstairs.

Patrick touched Brenda’s shoulders and massage them.

Brenda stood and said, “It has been a painful thirty years.”

Patrick kissed Brenda.

Eleanor was coming back to the dining room with the paper and pens.

Brenda said, “Eleanor let us dress for the day and meet in the study in fifteen minutes.”

Eleanor said, “Ok.”

Patrick and Brenda walked to their bedroom and closed the door.

Brenda said, “Patrick this is going to be a mess.”

Patrick said, “We have to intercede like we did for slavery to stop. It did not matter how long it took. Our prayers made slavery stop. That is our baby. We are going to pray for her the same way. The lost of her baby and no one there for her but servants. She knew she was pregnant before she left. She thought she could reconcile with Bruce. He closed that door. That’s where the hurt came from.”

Brenda said, “And all of that guilt. We have to watch her and make sure she does not have a nervous breakdown.”

Patrick said, “And for that bastard to tell her he would not stop her train for her to have time to say bye to his children.”

Brenda touched Patrick’s stomach and said, “You just cursed. How is God going to hear our humble prayers when you have those types of feelings.”

Patrick was putting on his clothes and said, “And you don’t?”

Brenda said, “I am not going to curse.”

Patrick sat in his chair and was putting on his boots when Thomas knocked on the door.

Patrick heard a little knock and knew it had to be Thomas.

He looked at Brenda, who stepped behind the screen to dress he said, “Come in Thomas.”

Thomas opened the door and stuck his head inside and said, “Ready grandpa?”

Patrick stood up and Thomas looked.

Patrick walked to the door and opened it.

Thomas looked at their large suite.

Patrick looked at the suite and said, “It’s nice.”

Patrick and Thomas walked to the library where they spent most of the morning and afternoon, putting up the encyclopedias and the great number of books Eleanor purchased in europe.

Percy and Bruce went to the servants’ quarters and aske Steve and Belinda if they could play with the twins.

They played with the twins for about an hour and left and went to the stables and rode their horses.

A stable hand went to William and told him that Percy and Bruce came and got the horses.

William walked in the study and told Eleanor.

Eleanor looked at William and said, “Let them go and when they come back send them to me.”

William said, “Yes m am.”

Brenda said, “What are you going to do?”

Eleanor said, “We are going to finish these guess lists and menus. Do you want Thanksgiving to be formal for the family or are you inviting others?”

Brenda said, “Family only for Thanksgiving. The week you take the boys to their father why don’t we do a sweet reception or tea and decorate the Christmas tree.”

Eleanor said, “A wonderful idea.”

Brenda said, “At least it is not a lovely idea.”

They laughed.

William escorted Percy and Bruce to Brenda and Eleanor.

Eleanor and Brenda were planning the color scheme for the count’s reception.

Eleanor looked at Percy and Bruce and said, “You are not in Austria. You ask if you could go riding. Both of you go upstairs to your rooms until dinner.”

Percy said, “No lunch?”

Eleanor stood and heled her invitation back to threw it at Percy.

Bruce took off and ran upstairs and closed and locked his door.

Percy ran upstairs and closed his door.

He peeped out his room a little later.

He closed his door.

Bruce yelled, “Get back to your room and ask one of the maids to bring you food.”

Percy ran back to his room.

Ellen came upstairs to help unpack Eleanor’s clothes.

Percy saw her and said, “Miss Ellen can you bring me something to eat.”

William told the staff Eleanor sent the boys upstairs until dinner.

Ellen went downstairs and came back with two sandwiches apple and milk.

She gave one sandwich to Bruce and one sandwich to Percy.

She continued to unpack Eleanor’s clothes.

Eleanor went upstairs and opened Bruce’s door.

He looked at her.

He was laying on his bed reading.

She looked at his plate and empty glass and closed his door.

She opened Percy’s door and he was laying at the foot of his bed with his legs up in the air.

Eleanor looked and saw his empty plate and glass.

She closed his door back.

She went to her room and saw Ellen and said, “Ellen did you give Bruce and Percy lunch?”

Ellen was sitting on the floor unpacking the last suitcase.

Ellen looked up and said, “Yes.”

Eleanor had lunch with Thomas, Patrick and Brenda.

Eleanor said, “I need a nap.”

She laid across her bed and went to sleep.

Ellen was going back downstairs and took a blanket and spread it over Eleanor and closed her door.

Steve came upstairs and told Eleanor he and Belinda were moving to Philadelphia with Ellen in a few days, when they clear everything in town and see family and friends.

Eleanor said, “We need some more maids.”

Brenda said, “Let Bruce worry about that during the holidays.”

Thomas looked at Brenda.

He and Patrick went back to the library and worked until dinner.

Thomas said, “The count’s library is twice this size and completely filled with books.

Patrick was impressed with his books and looked at Thomas and said, “Really.”

Brenda felt good they could have parties again.

She loved the planning of the functions.

She did not want her sons to leave their children there for a week without asking she and Patrick.

She was glad that Eleanor was back.