NEW ENDING OF OUT OF DARKNESS

The setting and the characters are the same, but the year is 1964. The book is the same up until the explosion. There is no explosion, making my book ending more about race (and no main characters die).

Ward and Naomi are very much in love, but rumors are floating about the Ku Klux again being active because of civil rights action and the effort to register Blacks to vote. They hear about the bombing of a Black church in Alabama which killed 4 young girls. They also heard about the 3 civil rights workers being killed in Mississippi. There has also been more activity in East Texas. The people of Egypt Town are very scared. They heard the true facts and many rumors of lynching and burning of houses. Ward’s parents were very concerned and didn’t want to bring attention to themselves.

Regrettably, Naomi and Ward decided to part—for the safety of Ward’s community & family, and for Naomi’s reputation. Naomi did return to San Antonio by herself. The twins stayed with Henry because he would not have let them go without a fight. Besides Harry had met a very nice woman who he was engaged to, and she was very loving to the children.

After a year, Naomi moved to Manzanillo, Mexico and opened a seaside taco stand. It was so successful that she turned it into a restaurant. She married a handsome Mexican businessman and had two children. The whole family worked to make her restaurant business a success and opened other restaurants throughout Mexico. They became wealthy, owning a beautiful home on the coast as well as a house in Mexico City.

Ward went to university and became a writer. He was a very successful writer and became a motivational speaker. He married and had 3 children and settled in Atlanta.

Naomi heard of Beto’s success when he also became a published author. And she heard of Cari becoming the press spokes person for the second Trump administration.

Unfortunately, Naomi’s husband died in 2018, and Ward’s wife died in 2019. After two years, their children encouraged them to start dating again. They both turned to Match.com. Neither cared about where their matches lived; they both were ready to move on. While surfing the Match site, Naomi came across Ward. After reading his profile, she was convinced this was “her” Ward so she reached out. He immediately responded.

They decided to meet in Vegas. When they met again, they realized their feelings for each other hadn’t changed. Now the public opinions of racial relations have changed radically. After a week together, they decided to marry at a chapel in Vegas. Their children were happy for them. And they are still living happily together, splitting time between Mexico and Atlanta.