

Miss Annabel and Julia

Chapter 18

“Follow Spots and Newsreels”

Fiction by Angela Bauer

The time was 10:45 P.M. on Tuesday, 27 June 1933. Before Julia Scott Barclay left her bedroom carrying her heaviest hairbrush, she used the phone to talk to her daughter Annabel’s younger nanny, Hannah Randall. So, even if Hannah had been sound asleep, she would not have admitted it to her employer.

“Miss Randall, although I had hoped to either not spank my daughter before bed, or at least only spank her to help her sleep, the fact is she was totally incorrigible after we reached her room. I had not expected such rudeness, especially since Annabel was so polite while we were eating.

“I had to soundly punish her, with many hard smacks from her new hairbrush on her bare bottom. That was well marked when I diapered her.

“Normally, if the spankings were just to please Annabel, we would avoid adding more bruises. However, this time hang any bruises.

“Please teach her a very strict lesson when she wakes up. Use your judgment about spanking her after her bath while she is still wet. Had I thought of that I would have done so tonight.

“She is still allowed to go to the Zoo and after you spank her she will no longer be *In Disgrace*.

“Minutes before we went to dinner, I spoke to Ruth Hofstadt and also to Leticia Manchester. Violet will pack a nap outfit for Betty as well as her pacifier and hairbrush. Wednesday’s naps will be at the Manchester home, since Ruth wants Betty away from their home until at least 3 P.M. I know you always have a hairbrush for Annabel in her diaper bag and I assume a nap outfit as well.

“My husband and I will have our breakfast in the piano practice room at 7:30 A.M. Sorry to have disturbed you now, but I was concerned Annabel’s morning spanking would be administered before we talked tomorrow.

“I do hope you had some fun tonight.”

“Thank you, Mrs. Barclay. It is my pleasure to provide you, your good husband and especially Annabel the very best service possible. Never hesitate to call upon me at any hour when you need to communicate. This is the career I chose for myself.

“And, Ma’am; a very good night to you as well as your husband!”

Wednesday, 28 June 1933 at dawn broke as one of those days dreamed of in picture postcards. It was a day for visiting parks and zoos.

Annabel had slept without waking from shortly after her post-spanking diapers being pinned on her until 6 A.M. Of course she did sleep on her tummy. Since she had not used the toilet just before her spanking, and she had not peed during her bath, she had more than dampened her diaper.

Sure, not all nine-year-old girls wet while sleeping and fewer still are routinely diapered at that age. Annabel was much happier diapered than wetting her bed or clothing. She was not embarrassed when people found out about her diapers and her new PlayTex rubber pants.

She was not the least concerned that her diaper was wet due to shame. However, she needed it removed so she could be cleaned immediately to avoid dreaded diaper rash.

Despite the early hour, Annabel walked through the living room of her suite in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel to the bedroom of Hannah. She knocked with authority, because it was Hannah’s duty to change the wet diaper.

Hannah had her alarm clock set to 6:15 A.M. so was almost ready to get up anyway. As she put on a robe and answered her door, she remembered the instructions from Julia to give Annabel another hard wallop with a hairbrush although her derriere would already be badly bruised.

Carrying out that order went contrary to all of Hannah’s principles, but when you are a professional nanny, orders from your employer are orders. Ignore a direct order and you might as well resign your position.

“Nanny Randall, I am sorry I slept so soundly I wet my diaper. Also, Mommy told me I must request that you give me a really first-class wallop with my hairbrush, not just a paddy-whacking with my ‘Girls’ Spanker’. I admit last night I was rude to Mommy and I lied to her. I was a very, very bad girl!”

“Lambie Pie, perhaps you did misbehave, but that does not mean you were or are a bad girl. You did naughty things, for which I will punish you.

“Now I will remove your diaper, clean you extra well and then completely dry you. After that, it is my sad duty to spank you very hard, harder than I have ever needed to spank you. But then, you will have a nice warm bubble bath. As far as I am concerned, as soon as I finish your spanking, you will no longer be *In Disgrace*.

“Shall we get your spanking behind us? Pardon my pun, Annabel.”

Seeing those horrid bruises, Hannah wanted to throw up, but she managed to carry out her stern duty. Somehow at least she avoided bursting any of Annabel’s blisters, so despite being marked, she was not bleeding. Had Hannah seen a hint of bleeding she would have concluded the spanking, even at the risk of her career.

Without requiring Annabel to stand in a corner, Hannah put her in her warm bubble bath immediately after the spanking ended. While Annabel bathed herself, Hannah returned briefly to her bedroom to put on a nice day dress, not a stereotypical ‘Nanny Uniform’.

Annabel had towel-dried herself when Hannah returned to her bathroom. “Nanny, I listened to your reasoning yesterday, but I still want a large changing table for Manhattan like the one in our new home here. I do not believe trying to keep my wetting a secret from the girls at school is the best approach.

“I think I should only be discreet about all that, not try to make it a major top secret. If some visitors understand the reason for a changing table, at least they cannot tease me because I did not keep it a secret.”

There was time enough for a light breakfast before 7:15 A.M. when the practice room would open. Nobody had reserved it at 8:15 so Annabel decided to take her sweet time. If she rehearsed until later, so be it. She wanted to spend time eating and talking while her parents were still in the room.

Julia noticed that Annabel was not squirming on the piano bench, nor even using the padded stool. Julia beckoned Hannah to the door.

“Miss Randall, did you follow my instructions? Did you give my daughter an exceptionally hard spanking this morning?”

“Yes, Ma’am, Mrs. Barclay; I have no idea how that girl can think about sitting. Nobody ever punished me that hard, not my father with his belt, the Mother Superior with her strap or Nanny Parsons with the cane. I could never sit that composed and still after any spanking.”

“Neither could I, Miss Randall; this is why I double checked. Next time Annabel is so incorrigible, neither of us will spank her. That might be the punishment communicating with her.”

Room service brought the breakfast buffet. Richard was delighted Annabel stopped rehearsing and sat next to him to dig into the food as if she had not consumed a lot of good food at dinner.

Richard and Julia reluctantly left their breakfast and Annabel to go back to their rooms to have their clothing and grooming perfected for the business day. They hit the office on the double and were responsible, productive executives by 8:20 A.M.

Annabel continued to practice until 8:45 A.M. when John Merriman used the house phone to say he was parked at the hotel, had filled the gas tank of the Rolls and was eating his breakfast.

That was when Annabel and Hannah left the practice room, went upstairs to their suite and perfected their outfits. Annabel spoke to Susan who was bringing her Kodak Brownie camera, with film her parents had provided. Annabel was bringing her own Brownie and a lot of film, which they could share.

Wearing a fresh diaper and PlayTex panties, Annabel held the right hand of Hannah in her left, while Hannah carried the large diaper bag in her left hand. Over Annabel's right shoulder was her gadget bag with the film and her Brownie.

On time they picked up Susan and Leticia Manchester, who were outside waiting. Susan's father had bought her a gadget bag, which fortunately was different than Annabel's. That and the diaper bag were stowed in the trunk.

Before the Rolls reached the Hoffstadt mansion on The Main Line, at a traffic light John handed Annabel a package. "Your father wants you to give this Brownie to Betty with compliments of your parents. Apparently it already has a sticker with her name upon it, so there will be no mix-ups."

Actually, Richard had phoned Ruth Hoffstadt to be sure accepting the camera as a gift would not create drama. Only after getting that clear did Richard hand the package to John.

When the Rolls Royce parked in the Hoffstadt driveway, Hannah got out and walked to the front door so she could escort Betty, and carry her diaper bag, to the car. Annabel and Susan were already sitting on the two jump seats, so Betty would sit like an adult on the back seat between Leticia and Hannah.

As John started the car, Annabel presented Betty with her new Brownie, which was already loaded with a roll of film. Betty was very happy, especially since she had never received a lot of gifts. She hugged and kissed Annabel as best she could, leaning forward from the back seat.

The drive between The Main Line and the Philadelphia Zoo did not take long. Since the first time Annabel went to the Zoo with Susan, Julia

had made a major donation, becoming a Sustaining Patron. Therefore when John parked the Rolls near the main entrance, Miss Claudia Jean Thomas, a staff tour guide, was waiting for them.

She had an old-fashioned four wheel baby carriage similar to the one used by William Hoffstadt. She explained that pushing such things as diaper and gadget bags was easier than carrying them. Hannah and Leticia took turns pushing the baby carriage.

Claudia had never escorted a group in which three children were carrying cameras. In addition to seeing all the major animals from the public perspective, Claudia took them behind the scenes when it was safe to do so.

There was a female rhinoceros, which had been born at the Zoo, who craved having special VIP visitors scratch her behind her ears. The girls could not believe how soft she was there. Up close the skin of a rhino is much more delicate and fascinating that it appears at a distance.

Annabel and Susan knew that was also true of elephants. During their last Zoo visit when they rode an elephant they could pet her.

In the back of the Primate Building, the first animal Claudia introduced to the group was a fairly young Hoffman's Two-Fingered Sloth. He is one of the slowest moving animals, usually hanging upside down high in trees. Until he was mature enough to join a group of other Hoffman's sloths, he was living in his own enclosure with a sturdy tree limb only four feet off the ground, which was covered by a thick layer of cedar chips.

He seemed to recognize Claudia as a trusted friend, slowly reaching out to her with his left arm. She gave him a big slice of banana, which he began to eat delicately, smiling as sloths do when contented. He enjoyed being petted by everyone in the group. Unfortunately his enclosure was in deep shade, which Claudia explained was because he disliked full sunlight. There was not enough light the girls could take his picture.

Most of the primates were taking advantage of the gorgeous day by using the outdoor portion of their enclosures.

One of the Red-Faced Uakari monkeys preferred to stay inside. Like the sloth, these rare monkeys live in trees in South America. Sometimes sloth and uakari even share the same tree. Although most of their bodies have long wooly hair, the faces of the red uakari are hairless and resemble humans. Quite possibly it is the uakari which is the basis of the 'shrunken-head' legend'.

This particular fellow seemed curious. Probably he recognized Claudia. Certainly he wanted the attention of the visitors. There was more than enough light all of the girls could take photos of him.

In the back-stage enclosure next to the uakari there was a mature male DeBrazza's Guenon. They come from central tropical Africa. Claudia explained that many consider the DeBrazza's the most attractive of the Guenon genus of monkeys. Their basic body hair is greenish, to better blend in with the leaves of trees where they live. Male DeBrazza's have some orange hair just above their faces and the hair on the top of their heads looks like a crew cut. Mature male DeBrazza's have a fine white mustache.

Fortunately the sunlight was strong, so all the girls took several photos.

After seeing the back stage of the Primate House, Claudia led the group through the public side of other buildings because all of those animals were out enjoying the sun. Having been leisurely walking around the Zoo for nearly two hours, Hannah suggested that the group stop at a ladies' room.

Betty was squirming and did not resist having her diaper and PlayTex panties changed by Hannah.

Susan wanted to see more animals, but Leticia insisted on changing her anyway. Her diaper was more than damp and in the heat the urine was turning stale. Leticia cleaned her daughter very carefully, dried her with a fresh diaper and used a generous amount of baby powder on the fresh diaper.

With the younger two girls in dry diapers, it was finally Annabel's turn, the moment she had been waiting for, when she could casually reveal her bruised and marked derrière. Fortunately Claudia was waiting outside and there were no other women or girls in the room.

Betty and Susan gasped as Annabel's diaper was removed. Hannah deliberately did so while Annabel was standing, since normally she would be reclining on the changing surface, with her derrière hidden.

Susan was bold enough to ask about the marks. Annabel hung her head, feigning being ashamed. Hannah said that Annabel had been a very naughty girl so was spanked by her mother. "Annabel knows the rule: when she is spanked at night for being very naughty, she gets a second spanking in the morning. That is what I did to her this morning."

After seeing and photographing more animals, the group stopped at the Zoo's restaurant. A staff photographer took several pictures, including each of the girls using her camera to photograph: the other two; Susan and her mother; Hannah between Annabel and Betty; and the entire group, including Claudia Thomas.

At the end of lunch Claudia bid the group goodbye. On their way to the Rolls, Hannah returned the baby buggy, which had proven very useful.

They stopped at the photo store, to turn in the film exposed that day. Several enlargements of Leica photos taken by Richard were ready. Annabel took those with her.

From the photo store they all headed to the Manchester's home where all the girls would take their naps. Betty noticed that Susan's changing table was the same as William's.

The advantage of the girls walking so much that morning was that none needed any 'special' help falling asleep once changed into dry diapers and their nap outfits.

In the kitchen Leticia reached into her purse and brought out a pack of cigarettes. "Hannah, I have been dying for one all day. Would you like one?"

"No thank you, Mrs. Manchester. When I started high school many of my pals smoked. I tried it and didn't like it.

"But I can tell that Mrs. Barclay has started smoking. The only servant still on the Barclay staff from before the recent wedding is Nanny Parsons, my mentor. Nanny had only met Miss Julia Scott for the first time the evening before the wedding, so she does not know if Miss Scott used to smoke."

"Hannah, I do blame myself as much as Ruth Hoffstadt for getting Julia hooked on cigarettes again. During that Sunday brunch, while you were looking after the girls and the men were talking to each other, her older pal Martha Pryor kidded Julia about how much she used to smoke in the office until a few months ago. That was when Julia resumed smoking."

Annabel and Betty woke up first. Leticia decided to let Susan continue sleeping. The girls were changed back into their regular day clothes quietly. Goodbyes were said. No plans were set for Friday morning.

Leticia and Hannah did not want to discuss the big party at the hotel Saturday evening. For sure Ruth and Gene Hoffstadt were invited, but they were unsure about Betty.

Susan would be attending. She had a new ankle-length formal dress, her first that long, as well as Mary Janes with one inch heels. Susan was thrilled.

But considering the way Ruth infantilized Betty, Leticia and Hannah just assumed Betty would not be attending the big party at the hotel.

During the drive to the Hoffstadt mansion, nothing was said about the party. As soon as Annabel and Hannah had walked Betty to her front door and then returned to the Rolls, all they talked about was the party!

At the store, on Wednesday afternoon, Julia received a call from Professor Sylvia Gershwin of the Academy of Music, requesting that

Annabel bring her tiny piano with her for her Thursday lesson. “Mrs. Barclay, Maestro Ormandy has heard about the charming way Annabel plays that piano and sings her own songs. However, he has not actually heard her do so.

“How would you and your husband feel about including, during Annabel’s performance at the party, after she plays the longer piece on the grand piano, she sings and plays a few verses of her children’s song? Both Maestros Stokowski and Ormandy think her song will delight the audience.”

“Professor, if Annabel likes the idea, I assure you my husband Richard and I grant our blessing. I will talk to Annabel about this tonight before she goes to bed. Tomorrow morning one of us will leave a message for you at the Academy of Music. She will bring her piano with her for her lesson.”

“Mrs. Barclay, just so you understand, at the party Maestro Ormandy would have a microphone brought on stage along with her tiny piano, to ensure all of the audience can hear it as well as Annabel singing. Tomorrow he thinks it would be best if she rehearse using a microphone. Is that acceptable to you?”

“Professor, Mr. Barclay and I leave all that to you and Maestro Ormandy.”

As soon as Sylvia was off the line, Julia asked her secretary Helen Wood to get Richard on the phone.

“Darling, Annabel’s piano professor just called me. Maestro Ormandy wants Annabel to not only play the formal piece, he wants her to play her toy piano and sing some of the own songs.

“I told her I thought you would approve, but the final decision is up to Annabel. Was that all right with you, Richard?”

“Julia, I think performing her own song could be very good for Annabel. Perhaps we should go a step further?”

“There is interest from reporters to cover the party. My own thought is to invite some reporters from the Philadelphia newspapers, as well as the wire services. Who knows if any will attend?”

“But I think we must control all the photos. The only way to do so is to hire our own photographers. I propose we ask Sam Schwartz to come down as soon as he can, to personally take candid pictures without flash and to also select local photographers we all can trust. There must be a darkroom where enough prints can be made to supply the newspapers.”

“Richard, I agree completely. Since the entire party will be photographed and we will not be suggesting what the reporters write, nobody will accuse us of exploiting Annabel. I also agree this will be marvelous for her own confidence.

“Maestro Ormandy as already decided to have a microphone on stage when Annabel is playing her toy piano. That could be connected to a newsreel sound camera, as well as the public address system in the room. This way we will have film of Annabel in action.”

“Julia, I will call Barclay’s Store and have Sam start researching where we can hire such a newsreel crew. There might be one already here in Philadelphia.”

Indeed Richard did reach Sam at the Manhattan store. Agnes Mayo explained to Sam’s boss why he needed to travel to Philadelphia. She also had a Pullman reservation made and charged to the Barclay account. Then she ordered a cash expense account advance be made.

Sam had good friends working for all of the newsreel production companies. Sure enough there was a ‘freelance’ firm, Ace Newsreels of Philadelphia, which sold what they could to the major newsreel firms, but primarily they did publicity filming for paid clients. They had a new Wall 35mm direct sound on film single-system camera, so they could make the film of Annabel’s performance. Sam told the owner of Ace, Marvin Jacobs, to contact Richard right away.

Before Sam left the Barclay’s of Fifth Avenue store, with the approval of Richard, he signed for two new Leica II cameras, one with a slightly wide angle lens and the other with a medium telephoto. He also took all the Leica cassettes in stock and two one hundred foot rolls of Kodak’s fastest 35mm film.

He took a cab to his apartment, where he packed rapidly, including two clean suits and a tuxedo. Because Sam had paid the taxi to wait, he had plenty of time to catch his train to Philadelphia. He knew a room had been reserved for him at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel.

Marv Jacobs did call Richard Barclay immediately. They decided to meet at the hotel with the Assistant Manager David Ramsey at 4:30 P.M.

Richard told Julia that Sam Schwartz would be arriving that night with more Leicas and that it looked like Ace Newsreel could handle the event. Julia concluded she had done all she could at the Rogers’ store. Meeting Marv Jacobs was as good an excuse as any to leave her office early and a chance to ride with Richard if only a few blocks.

Before leaving the store Julia called Annabel to ask her to dinner. Of course neither Annabel nor Hannah was in their suite, so it was Trudy Josse who answered their phone. She assured Julia that both Hannah and Annabel would be informed about dinner that evening.

David Ramsey was very proud that the Grand Ballroom of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel had been constantly improved since the hotel was built. As the most prestigious venue for functions in Philadelphia often covered by the press and newsreels, the amount of electricity for

movie lighting had been increased greatly, along with air conditioning to deal with the heat of those lights.

Above the high ceiling there was a series of catwalks, from which additional lighting fixtures could be hung and aimed through removable panels. The hotel engineering department had already planned to increase the intensity of the ballroom lighting for the party.

Existing in each corner of the ballroom twelve feet below the ceiling were what from the floor appeared to be decorative boxes. In fact those were positions for arc follow-spotlights. On the wall opposite the stage of the ballroom there was a gallery twenty feet below the ceiling. Centered on the stage there was a pair of Simplex 35mm sound projectors with arc lights. On either side of the projection booth there were positions for two arc follow spotlights.

David and Marv concluded that since the newsreel would not show the audience in detail, there was no reason to make the ballroom uncomfortably bright. The rear follow spots would provide enough light to separate Annabel, Maestro Ormandy and the musicians from the background. The six front follow spots would provide more than enough light for the filming, with enough to spare that if one of the arc spots needed to change carbon rods during the performance, it would not be a problem.

Sixteen feet above the main floor of the ballroom (twelve feet above the stage) on either side there were rooms large enough for newsreel and still cameras. Since solo pianos are traditionally placed on stage such that the pianist is facing the audience right, it would be in that room Marv would set up the primary Wall sound camera. In the audience left room Marv would have a second 35mm Mitchell NC camera running at sound speed.

Over the years as amplifiers, loud speakers and microphones came into use the ballroom had been wired to take advantage. Up in the gallery beyond the projection room and a follow spot position, one of the most sophisticated sound mixing consoles in the USA was installed. From there, besides serving the loudspeakers, line level audio was available at both newsreel camera positions.

Julia, Richard, David Ramsey and Marvin Jacobs were all satisfied about preparations for the newsreel filming. Once David returned to his assistant manager's office, Marv mentioned that by phone from Manhattan Sam had requested a list of available discreet and trusted publicity photographers. Knowing Sam was arriving that evening, Marv turned over the list to Richard.

The meetings concluded; there was still at least an hour before Julia and Richard needed to dress for dinner. They briefly looked into the

practice room to see Annabel in action. Then they went up to their suite. There they did what newlyweds have done for ages.

When the deadline to start dressing for dinner with Annabel arrived, both Arthur Swift and Edna Lyall firmly knocked on Julia's bedroom door.

By then Hannah had undressed Annabel, removed her diaper and drawn her bath. After she felt clean, Annabel started to towel-dry herself. Hannah only assisted drying her hair enough she could style it for dinner. After Annabel was diapered for dinner, Hannah helped her into an age-appropriate dress. It had been worn twice already on the trip, but in those days Annabel was not the focus of press or paparazzi attention. Blogs such as Tom & Lorenzo were decades in the future!

As a finishing touch, Hannah supervised as Annabel applied a light coat of her favorite pink lipstick. That was placed in a pocket of the smaller diaper bag, which Annabel would carry in lieu of a purse, just in case. Fully dressed, she used the time to quietly run scales on her tiny piano in the living room of her suite.

Shortly Richard and Julia arrived to escort their beloved daughter to what proved to be a marvelous meal in a restaurant twenty minutes from the hotel. In the interval before dessert, Julia took Annabel to the ladies' room. The diaper was not an issue. Julia wanted to re-apply her own lipstick and put on more powder. Annabel gave her lips a fresh application which was much more than a hint.

Upon their return to the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Julia took Annabel to her own suite. Hannah removed the girl's shoes, hose and dress, but left her diaper in place.

Julia walked down the hall to her suite, where her lady's maid Edna was waiting to change her into a 'Mommy's dress'. Wearing that, Julia returned to Annabel's room. "Lambie Pie, what do you want to do? Shall I start by removing your diaper?"

"Yes, Please, Mommy. I had so much fun at the Zoo with Susan and even Betty. Piano practice went well. Then it was a very good dinner. I am so excited I really need help going to sleep."

With Annabel's diaper removed, Julia was concerned about the mass of bruises.

"Unfortunately, Angel, your derriere is so damaged the most I can do to help you sleep is to give you a light hand spanking. My mother used to call those 'a lick and a promise'."

Julia took her usual place on the side of Annabel's bed. She crawled over the waiting lap. The spanking only consisted of twenty-five mild spans spread away from the worst bruises. Annabel did not even weep.

She was hugged and kissed, then her night double diaper was pinned on snugly and her PlayTex rubber panties were pulled into place.

“Lambie Pie, I am afraid in the morning you will need another ‘rain-check’ from Nanny Parsons. She will be with you all day tomorrow so Nanny Randall can have some time off and get her party gown fitted. After your lessons, Nanny Parson will bring you to the store for the final fitting of your gown. I will be taking both of you to lunch. Tomorrow night we will see if you want help sleeping. Sweet dreams, Lambie Pie!”