

Miss Annabel and Julia

Chapter 09

“Lust vs. ‘Love-Leave’”

Fiction by Angela Bauer

Julia Scott Barclay had spent most of Tuesday, 20 June 1933, in a series of meetings and presentations with vendors to Rogers of Philadelphia and Barclay's of Fifth Avenue as part of Barclay's buying Rogers in a friendly take-over.

She was scheduled to host a dinner for most of those vendors and key senior staff of Rogers at Bookbinders Seafood Restaurant, which was considered quite informal. Therefore the dinner was set to start at 7:30 P.M. so all invited had the option of changing from appropriate office clothing to less formal outfits.

About 5:30 P.M., a half-hour before the meetings were to end at the Rogers store, Julia excused herself, telling the meeting that she wanted to hear her daughter playing the piano at the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. Then she would change for dinner and join all of them at Bookbinders.

To put it mildly, hearing Annabel Barclay at age nine playing George Gershwin's *Rhapsody In Blue* on a small grand piano in a private hotel room thrilled Julia. She was so proud of Annabel, and told her so with gusto.

While Annabel continued to play for her own pleasure, Julia went up to her suite. There her lady's maid Edna Lyall helped her remove her office clothes. Julia took the warm bath Edna had already drawn. She was then dried off; her hair re-styled less formally for the dinner; and dressed in an outfit frankly too swank for the occasion.

Julia had deliberately asked Edna to have that particular dress ready, because Julia wanted to announce to the vendors and staff that while she might for some occasions still be known by her maiden name 'Julia Scott'

she was in fact 'Mrs. Richard Barclay' and a partner in the Barclay group of businesses. As the wife of the owner, she was entitled to use Barclay's inventory as her personal closet.

As a finishing touch, Julia sat down at a movie studio style makeup table, complete with lamps surrounding the 30" x 45" mirror.

Edna Lyall had been a professional makeup artist in the New York City film business until the combination of The Great Depression and film work running away to Hollywood caused her to switch careers, becoming a respected lady's maid. To Edna that combined her three favorite activities: fashion styling; hair styling; makeup styling.

Miss Lyall only grudgingly used the honorary title of 'Mrs. Lyall' because that was the convention then. In those days Lady's Maids, Housekeepers and Cooks always were called 'Mrs.' even when never married.

Actually in 1918 Edna had married well-respected cameraman Harold G. Rossom who was several years her senior. He was handsome and tall, with a career waiting in Hollywood. Later he was nominated for five Oscars, including 'The Wizard of Oz' and he invented the 'Obie' light to reduce shadows under the eyes of performers. That was named for actress Merle Oberon, who had especially deep-set eyes. Briefly Rossom was married to actress Jean Harlow, as a favor to his bosses at MGM.

Edna was thrilled at the chance to move to Hollywood, until she learned about her husband's reputation for romancing actresses. Edna's own career was going very well in New York, so she divorced Rossom. She had always used her maiden name, and certainly never thought of herself as 'Mrs. Harold G. Rossom'!

To be sure, Edna was a character. But, with a brush in her hand, she could apply lipstick as perfectly as any of the Westmore Brothers. She served as Julia's lady's maid until her retirement in 1953.

Julia instructed her chauffeur (and secret bodyguard) John Merriman to be one of the last autos to arrive at Bookbinders that evening. She decided that was a time to make an 'entrance'. Her classic Rolls Royce was polished to the perfection as a result of Merriman's skills.

Julia was a sensation. For the first time in her life she felt sure she deserved to be the 'Belle of the Ball'. With the one stroke she won the respect of her employees and the admiration of her vendors, who realized she had an eye for fashion.

All good parties must come to an end. Julia believed in 'getting off the stage' while the audience wanted more. By 9:45 P.M., while those invited to the party were still drinking and having fun, Julia was in her Rolls headed back to the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel.

Several times during that Tuesday Julia had promised Annabel quality mother/daughter time. Bonding with her daughter was the reason Annabel was accompanying Julia on this trip. One of their rituals was that Julia, and not Hannah the Nanny, would dress Annabel and tuck her into bed. An unusual part of the ritual was that Annabel craved a really hard spanking before bed to help her sleep. Also, Annabel wanted the diapers she needed to stay dry in bed.

Consequently, the second Julia reached her suite, she asked Edna to undress her; remove most of her makeup, and applying just a hint of rose lipstick; re-style her hair to a stereotypical 'Mommy' look. Julia was then re-dressed in a conservative nightie, bedroom slippers and a stylish modest robe.

That was how Julia walked the few feet down the hall separating her suite from Annabel's.

Once it became 9:15 P.M., which was Annabel's usual vacation bedtime, her Nanny Hannah Randall had undressed her, given her a bath and diapered her for bed.

However, although obediently in bed, Annabel was fully awake. She had faith Julia would return to 'officially' prepare her for bed. That would start with removing her diaper; giving her bare bottom a sound spanking; and then re-diapering her in a fresh diaper and pair of PlayTex stretchy rubber baby panties.

Julia varied the ritual slightly that night. After she un-diapered Annabel, she sat her on her lap.

"Lambie Pie, do you remember the evening we met? I was thinking about that a lot during and after hearing how beautifully you played '*Rhapsody In Blue*' today on a real piano. That was sensational!

"But the first thing you did to me when we met was viciously kick the toy piano you had demanded from your Daddy that day. I had gone to considerable trouble finding that replacement because your first toy piano was a Christmas 1932 seasonal promotional item.

"I admit I was resentful about you kicking the tiny piano. Then at dinner your Daddy put me in charge of re-organizing his family life.

"Remember how I spanked you? Then after you calmed down and before I went home, I repaired the leg your kick broke off that piano.

"A couple of days later, the morning after my wedding to your Daddy, I had to give you another spanking, a 'first-class walloping'. When we talked later we sang a song. You played your tiny piano very well.

"I have always loved the joyous music you play on both your tiny piano and the concert grand in the ballroom of our home.

“Miss Randall told me you carried your tiny piano to your music lessons and impressed your instructors while playing that. When you have the time please play your tiny piano for me, just not this late!

“You asked for a walloping as reward for playing so well, and I promised to give it to you tonight. Please get off my lap and fetch me your ‘Girls’ Spanker’!”

“You mean this one, Mommy” Annabel said with a massive grin on her adorable face, holding out the small leather paddle.

Without being told she handed the paddle to her Mommy and assumed the classic position of shame by crawling over Julia’s lap as she sat on the side of the bed so Annabel’s head was to Julia’s left side.

Julia gave Annabel’s hair a couple of loving caresses with her free left hand. Then without warning or any conversation, Julia began applying that ‘Girls’ Spanker’ with vigor to the child’s tender, delicate derriere.

Annabel dissolved into sobs, without any protest or pleas for mercy. If Julia could have had her way, the spanking would have only consisted of a dozen smacks.

However, to qualify as a ‘friendly paddy-whacking’ a spanking needed to be fifty smacks, some really hard. A ‘first-class walloping’ needed to be over one hundred swats, almost all very hard.

For nearly two minutes Julia spanked Annabel hard and as fast as she could. She lost count, but felt sure by the time she was too exhausted to apply another swat, that Annabel would consider this a true ‘first-class walloping’.

She only continued quietly sobbing for a minute after Julia dropped the leather paddle. Annabel then sat up to smother her Mommy with kisses and embrace her with hugs.

The final part of the ritual was for Julia to pin on a triple gauze night diaper snugly around Annabel and pull on her PlayTex rubber panties.

With a final kiss on Annabel’s forehead, the bedtime ritual was completed. Julia saw the beatific contented smile on her daughter’s face as she turned off all but a dim night light and closed the bedroom door.

Walking back along the hall to her own suite, Julia was weeping softly: On the one hand, she loved her step-daughter and did not want to spank her, even in fun; On the other hand, Julia craved being spanked very hard by her husband, Richard Barclay. But Julia’s next spanking would need to wait until that Friday, three long days away!

Wednesday, 21 June 1933, was especially nice in both Philadelphia and Manhattan. For the first time since Richard had gotten serious about the department store business, he wanted to be with his wife and daughter, not stuck in management meetings.

He knew that Tuesday evening Julia had hosted a party for vendors and the top executives and buyers at Rogers' department store. Although she was too modest to brag about that, Richard was vicariously thrilled.

Ever since his executive secretary, Agnes Mayo, had arrived at the office, she had taken thirty messages for him, all in praise of that party in Philadelphia.

Richard also was sad that he did not hear Annabel playing the piano so well. It had been six years since the bitter divorce from her mother, his first wife Jessica.

Until Richard realized he had been in love with his former secretary, Julia Scott, since the divorce and finally asked her to marry him, he felt his only contact with his daughter was while she was throwing tantrums.

Julia had reached Annabel on many levels. In less than a month his daughter was a charming adorable little lady, but all Richard could do was hear about all that over the phone.

An assistant of his architect Walter Lockridge left a message that some preliminary sketches and illustrations had been made so Julia could understand the scope of the renovations to Barclay Mansion. Those would be finished and messengered to him as early on Friday as possible.

There being nothing else Richard could do the speed the renovation project, or finalize the deal to buy the Rogers' family mansion from Lenny Rogers, Richard buckled down to managing his department store. He did his best to cast aside lustful, randy thoughts about making love to Julia.

Since he divorced Jessica, Richard had no lustful thoughts about anyone or anything. Shrinks might term that mindset as 'asexual'. Since he spontaneously married Julia, his distraction lusting for her had caused some of his employees to think, "*Richard is on 'love-leave' and needs to also focus on business!*"

On both the rest of Wednesday and part of Thursday, Richard was his former focused, effective Chief Executive Officer. But, when he got out of bed Friday morning, his mind was totally lost to dreaming of Julia.

A hot towel and expert close shave by his valet, Arthur Swift, only woke Richard; they did nothing to improve his concentration on business. By the time he arrived at his office, the 'Renovation' art work from Walter Lockridge had been delivered. Richard opened the portfolio containing that art and realized he was less than useless, at the moment, to his business.

He walked out of his own office to the desk of Agnes Mayo. He asked her to have someone change his reservation for the next available express Pullman to Philadelphia.

Thinking ahead, Agnes phoned the mansion so that Arthur Swift and Nanny Parsons would be ready to meet Richard at Pennsylvania Station when the moment came.

Julia only dared hope that Richard would be with her for a late supper. In fact in a race against the clock, Richard, Arthur and Clara Parsons were in their Pullman stateroom when the express train left on time at 10:05 A.M.

Unless there was a delay on the tracks, Richard would be holding Julia during a late lunch! Of course it still being Wednesday morning, Richard Barclay was projecting himself into the future.

As Julia did get herself out of bed early on the beautiful Wednesday morning, instead of basking in the glory of her party, the first she had thrown since marrying Richard, she was thinking about Annabel.

The girl had been so excited Monday because she made friends with a local girl named Susan. Annabel was taking Susan and her mother to the zoo, as soon as John Merriman returned to the hotel after taking Julia to the Rogers' store.

Julia was thinking, trying to remember the last time she had gone to a zoo. The Barclay Mansion was just a couple of blocks east of Central Park with its zoo. Julia's excuse was she had only been married to Richard Barclay a month. But her own apartment was in Greenwich Village, perhaps fifteen minutes by bus or taxi from the Central Park Zoo.

Her lady's maid Edna knocked on Julia's bedroom door to say that Annabel was seated in the living room ready to start breakfast. Julia put on a robe to join her daughter, greeting her with a kiss. Clearly the fact that Tuesday evening ended with Julia giving Annabel a 'first-class wallop' which the girl wanted caused no resentment.

Annabel said that she had quietly practiced piano playing on the toy in her room. On the way to pick up Susan and Mrs. Leticia Manchester, she was stopping at the photo store to pick-up reprints from Monday. She showed Julia the first set of prints.

Annabel's pictures of Susan in a park were good and also showed Annabel was having fun. Once breakfast was over, and Annabel had returned to her own suite, Edna asked Julia what she wanted to wear to the office, adding everyone would be waiting to offer congratulations for the party.

Suddenly Julia thought back to her school days. When the day was so beautiful, she would dream of going anywhere else to have an adventure. The time she did skip school, she was caught. Her mother spanked her with the hairbrush and her beloved Daddy gave her the belt.

Nevertheless, Julia dialed the office at Rogers' Department Store. She lied that she was not feeling well, so would do her best to come in to the

office after lunch. Hanging up, Julia wondered what she should wear to take her daughter to the zoo.

“Mrs. Lyall, there is a change of plans. Annabel and I are going to the zoo with her new little friend. Pick me something appropriate for a zoo. I want to fit in. You always are right about such things.”

“I do what I can to be of service to you, Mrs. Barclay. Your bath is ready now. By the time you are finished I will have a different ensemble ready on your bed,” *Miss* Edna Lyall replied.

Meanwhile, in the adjacent suite, Annabel was being towel dried by her Nanny Hannah Randall. Once dry, Annabel crawled over her lap for her morning spanking. Hannah saw the marks from the ‘first-class walloping’ the previous night, and only hit the girl as lightly as she dared using the ‘Girls’ Spanker’.

Annabel’s night diaper had been nearly soaked. Julia was getting very good diapering her daughter. “Lambie Pie, will you want to start the day in a diaper?” Hannah asked.

“Nanny, is the sky blue and is the sun shining? As long as the choice is mine, please diaper me. I think this is going to be a very wet day!”

“Annabel,” Hannah said as she snugged that diaper, “I’ll add some extras to your diaper bag, just to be sure. When I saw Mr. Merriman as he stopped in the hall, I reminded him we need to go to the photo store.”

“Thank you, Nanny. You are so smart.”

They were nearly ready to leave. Had Mr. Merriman phoned from the store to say he was returning to the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, they would already be headed for the auto entrance.

Unexpectedly there was a knock at the door of their suite. Julia was wearing a new summer dress and a large hat. She was only wearing rose lipstick, no other makeup, and her heels were shorter than usual for her. “Darlings, may I join you at the zoo? If there is limited room, I can ride up front next to Mr. Merriman!”

Speaking of John Merriman, Pinkerton reported that, although his instincts were good to be cautious, they could find nothing suspicious about the Manchester family. Leticia was on faculty at Bryn Mawr. Still, John believed in being ever vigilant.

At the photo store, Julia asked if they could make 8x10” enlargements of a couple of the photos by lunch on Friday. They assured her that would be their pleasure.

The second she saw Susan and Leticia standing on the front stoop of their home, Julia knew she would like them. She got out of the Rolls Royce along with Annabel and Hannah, to greet the Manchesters and introduce herself.

Hannah was smiling. Despite all the talk on Monday, she noticed that Leticia was carrying a much-used diaper bag instead of a purse. Mr. Merriman put that in the trunk beside Annabel's diaper bag.

Seconds later, they were off on their zoo adventure!

By the way, all three women easily fit on the rear bench seat in the Rolls Royce. Annabel and Susan rode in the rear-facing jump seats.

As always when he was on bodyguard duty, on the front seat John Merriman rode alone!