

Lynn Holly Brickhouse,

“Embarrassing Parenting”

Fiction by Angela Bauer

Ages ago, September 1960, the day was too beautiful to sit in a stuffy classroom. It was warm enough to be very pleasant and the air was so clear mountains over 70 miles away were as visible as if they could be touched.

The place was Pasadena City College (PCC), before a bunch of new buildings were thrown up. In front of the main building separating it from Colorado Boulevard reflecting pools sparkled. To the west side of that building there was an area still called “The Smoking Patio” used by faculty and students alike.

Gwen Stottlemeyer had been born in Pasadena, California in 1942 nine months after Pearl Harbor. She was still living with her parents in the same house where she grew up. That was just a couple of blocks from Longfellow Elementary School on Washington Boulevard. It was, however, over two miles west and north of John Marshall Junior High on North Allen Avenue. Until June of 1960 Pasadena High School (PHS) shared the campus of the Junior College as it had done since 1901.

In turn Gwen had attended all of those schools. When she graduated from high school her grades had been excellent, but instead of leaving home for a university, Gwen decided to wait. She enrolled in PCC because the

Tournament of Roses parade Royal Court of a queen and six princesses were selected only from female PCC students.

Being a Rose Princess or even Rose Queen was mostly the dream of Gwen's mother, who had not been selected and eventually graduated from the University of Southern California. To improve Gwen's chances she had been trained by the Adrian Teen Model Agency, owned by the nephew of the famous movie costume designer at MGM during the 1930s.

The Adrian Agency actually did manage the careers of several famous models and actresses, but its primary business was selling modeling courses to hopefuls. In fact, they did find just enough work for hopefuls such as Gwen that nobody complained.

That worked out just fine for Gwen because she simply was not all that ambitious. If she was not selected in 1960 she would delay university and try again in 1961!

Since Gwen started in Kindergarten at Longfellow, she had been pals with Scott and Marlin. They had to walk past Gwen's house. Usually they would wait for her in the morning. At Marshall and PHS they remained pals. At Marshall Gwen was a member of the Girls Pep Team. At PHS she was on the Girls Drill Team of which she was very proud.

Scott and Marlin were varsity football players at both schools. They stuck around at PCC because it was a successful Junior College football team and neither had been recruited by a university. Their hope was that if they did well at PCC they would be recruited eventually by a major university.

Hanging around with them was a gal named Lynn Holly Brickhouse, who had also been born in 1942. Her father was Emerson Brickhouse, a US Air Force Colonel married to Lynn Holly's mom Yvonne. She had been a beauty contest winner and sorority belle at the University of Alabama when she married Emerson as soon as she discovered she was pregnant with Lynn Holly!

Yvonne and Lynn Holly had followed Emerson from military base to base. When he was stationed in combat zones, they would live with Yvonne's parents in Savanna, Georgia. That was where Lynn Holly graduated from high school.

She met Gwen in the lobby of the Adrian Agency when Lynn Holly signed up as a model. Back in Georgia she had made several TV commercials and been a fashion model. It was her former agent who was an old friend of William Adrian.

It was hardly a coincidence that Lynn Holly had enrolled at PCC. Once her father told the family he was being transferred to Southern California, Lynn Holly informed her agent. Not only did he highly recommend William Adrian, but added the suggestion she should do whatever was necessary to get on the Royal Court. Adrian had the reputation of turning Rose Princess and Queens into very successful models and actresses.

The first Royal Court tryout would be that afternoon. Previously all female students interested had filled out applications and turned them in at the Students Activities Office.

Gwen said something, between drags on her cigarette, about being embarrassed by a remark from her mother.

Scott then mentioned how his father had made a total fool of himself at the PCC football game the previous Saturday night.

All of a sudden Lynn Holly snuffed out her cigarette. She flipped her head causing her long blond hair to fly around.

Then in her Southern drawl she said: “I remember a time when my Mom spanked me in a store.”

Gwen’s eyes sparkled as she asked, “What is so unusual? My Mom must have smacked my hand a few times in stores when I was little.”

Scott asked, “So what happened?”

Lynn Holly seemed to be having a flash-back, as if unaware that her audience was riveted: “Mommy and I were shopping in a supermarket. I put something in our cart. Mommy smacked my hand.

“Then later I put something else in the cart, so Mommy smacked both of my hands.

“I don’t know why I could not stop putting things in the cart. We turned down another aisle. I was out of control putting things in the cart.

“Mommy stopped the cart right there. She flipped up my skirt and pulled down my panties. Then she took a hairbrush from her purse and spanked me very hard until I was crying right there in the aisle.

“People had to walk around us. The women Mommy’s age all smiled approval. That was back in Savanna.

“Worst of all, we were between the Gerber Baby Panties on one side and Pablum on the other!”

Gwen waited several seconds and then asked, “Lynn Holly, how do you remember those details? You must have been only a toddler!”

Lynn Holly seemed to return to the present and regain focus: “The weird thing is I was not a toddler. I was 15 when that happened. I’ve forgotten the other spankings in stores.”

Scott was grinning, “You have my sympathy. What can I do to make you feel better?”

Lynn Holly uncoiled from her feline posture while telling the story, leaned over and kissed Scott on his right cheek, leaving a lipstick mark: “Well if you really want to help me feel better, you could swipe the nasty old hairbrush Mommy loves to use on me.”

Gwen asked, “Do you mean ‘used to use’ on you?”

Lynn Holly laughed, “If only that was true! Mommy spanked me with that hairbrush when I came home at 2 A.M. last Sunday. At least nobody was watching and smiling.

“I squirmed all during church!”

“Lynn Holly, I feel so sorry for you!” Gwen said.

“Actually, being spanked, even with a hairbrush, is not as bad as when I was younger back in Savanna. My Mommy used to make me pick several switches when the weather was warm enough,” Lynn Holly said with a sigh, her eyes glazed over.

“Those switches are nasty and left my legs marked for days, so if I went swimming all the other kids knew I had been switched. At least hairbrush marks are covered when I am dressed.”

That afternoon both Gwen and Lynn Holly passed the first round of Rose Parade Royal Court selection, as did many other Adrian models.

Clearly the more Lynn Holly thought about ranting to Gwen, the more she wanted to talk privately. So after the selection session ended, Lynn Holly invited Gwen to follow her back to her home.

Lynn Holly pulled into the driveway. Gwen parked on the street and was surprised to see just ahead of her was a distinctive DyDee Service delivery truck. The driver was just leaving the front door. Clearly Lynn Holly knew him because she stopped to talk.

Inside Gwen asked, “Lynn Holly, did I forget you telling me you have baby siblings?”

“No, I never said I have baby siblings,” Lynn Holly said, starting to blush and stammer. “Please keep it a secret. I never entirely stopped wetting my bed. Then it got worse when I reached puberty.

“Normally I pin on my diaper for bed, but the other night, after my Mommy spanked me, she insisted on doing that.”

Sure enough there was a diaper pail and a stack of gauze diapers in Lynn Holly’s room. The ‘spanking’ hairbrush was kept on her bedside table. On a shelf below the pile of diapers she had a quilted plastic changing mat larger than any Gwen had used while babysitting toddlers.

During the month of Rose Parade Royal Court selections, Lynn Holly spent far more time on modeling jobs than her studies. Gwen did actually study, largely because she did not book many modeling jobs.

Both young women progressed through the selection process. Finally came the big moment when the seven members of the Royal Court were to be announced. Of the 25 finalists, 10 were Adrian models. All seven of the Court were Adrian models. Lynn Holly was one, but Gwen was not selected.

In those days the selection of Rose Queen from the Princesses took 10 days. Many former Rose Queens conducted a virtual Rose Court Boot Camp.

Eventually the selected Queen was the new step-daughter of a wealthy and powerful soft drink bottling company owner. One of the Princesses was the current Miss Teen USA. Another was selected as a spokes-model for an East Coast brand of beer a couple of years later when she was 21.

Always during Rose Parade events each member of the Royal Court had an assigned chaperone. All of those were married to the 7 men on the Royal Court Committee. Those chaperones would pick up their assigned Princess and drive her back home later.

Less than a week after the Queen was announced, but not yet crowned, Lynn Holly was brought home by her chaperone. That distinguished lady informed Yvonne Brickhouse that at each event Lynn Holly was more difficult to control. Earlier that day, she had left the private dressing room for the Royal Court and wandered where reporters could see her while smoking a cigarette.

The Committee realized most of the young women were 18 or older. In those days a larger percentage of the public smoked than today. However, the rule was the gals needed to turn over their cigarettes to their chaperone. Then only when they could do so discreetly were they permitted to smoke.

Yvonne was furious with Lynn Holly. She ordered her daughter to her room. Then the chaperone was invited to see how discipline was handled in that home. Lynn Holly was taken over her mother's lap and spanked very hard with the hairbrush on her bare bottom, rendering the gal a sobbing, quivering mess.

Then, with the chaperone still in the room, Yvonne diapered her daughter and put her to bed.

Still, Lynn Holly served her term as a Rose Parade Princess with distinction. For the next couple of years she mentored prospective Rose Court members.

All of the Royal Court wore long underwear hidden by their gowns on the Royal float in the Rose Parade. Lynn Holly wore gauze diapers and Gerber vinyl panties inside her long johns.

Lynn Holly never became a supermodel, but she made a very good living at that career until her mid 30's, at which point she married well.

Gwen left PCC as soon as she did not make the 1962 Royal Court. She enrolled at the University of Southern California as an English major. Upon graduation she enrolled in the USC School of Cinema and TV, where she majored in writing.

In 1987 Gwen was the only female writer on a sitcom about a handful of high school seniors who were employed by an old fashioned movie theater. One of the stories Gwen put forward was about Lynn Holly admitting being spanked in the store.

Although that episode was well received by the public and critics, the series only lasted 6 episodes before cancellation. In the series a fairly new actress named Penelope Ann Miller played "Gwen"; a somewhat better known actress named Faith Ford played "Lynn Holly". Faith Ford went on to co-star in the Candice Bergen series about a TV news show.