

Miss Annabel and Julia

Chapter 23

“Crib Time, a Highchair and Embarrassment at the Doctor’s Office”

Fiction by Angela Bauer

For the Barclay Family in 1933 The Fourth of July was not an exciting event. Julia, Annabel and Hannah had just returned from an exhausting three-week stay in Philadelphia where Julia was the mastermind behind the re-organization of the Rogers Department Store, the first of many additions to the Barclay Group of retail stores.

Probably the best thing to happen for them on 4 July was hiring fourteen-year-old Jennifer ‘Jinny’ Hezlep as Nursery Maid.

During the trip to Philadelphia Richard’s neurotic spinster younger sister, Gertrude Anne Barclay, finally convinced herself that she had to move out of the Barclay Mansion.

That was going to receive a complete sub-basement to roof rebuilding and modernization which would take two to three years. Richard and Julia had leased the Dyckman Mansion during the rebuilding, but Gertrude was such a disruptive influence she was not invited to join them.

Gertrude did find a co-op apartment in The Dakota which she liked. She made an offer on that, was approved by the co-op board and entered a short escrow. Since her new apartment in The Dakota was larger than her suite in the Barclay Mansion, she needed furniture.

This worked out well, because Gertrude loved all of the Barclay belongings. Richard and Julia were in the department store business. Their taste was far more modern. The plan was to store the better Barclay

furniture from the public floor of their mansion, but replace most of the furniture on the upper floors. The kitchen was also going to be rebuilt and refurnished. Unfortunately even her new apartment in the Dakota did not have room for mansion-size kitchen appliances.

To get rid of Gertrude Richard paid half the cost of her new apartment. Any kitchen appliances she needed could be ordered from the Barclay Store. Gertrude was welcome to all the left over furniture from the Barclay Mansion not scheduled for re-use.

For days after the Fourth of July Gertrude and her lady's maid Maud Plummer skulked all over the Barclay Mansion deciding which pieces to take with them. By all accounts that was the most fun Gertrude had since she was a baby.

The attitude of Richard and Julia was that the more Gertrude took with her the less they needed to store.

From the Barclay Mansion a fine concert grand piano was moved to the music room of the Dyckman Mansion. This way Annabel had both classic Baldwin and Steinway pianos on which to practice. The chief piano tuner of The Philadelphia Orchestra took a Pullman up to Manhattan to adjust the touch and tuning of those pianos to bring them to their standard since Annabel would be returning as a soloist with them in the future.

Annabel accepted that she had far below average bladder control. She did not resent her diapers, but until the last few days of the Philadelphia trip Annabel did not want any kind of infantilist recreation. Then she discovered the joys of sleeping in an over-size crib!

Crib-sleeping became her latest craze. Annabel had a concert on Thursday 20 July with The Philadelphia Orchestra using a concert grand piano. On Wednesday 28 July she was to appear on a network radio program to perform one of her songs while playing her tiny piano.

So after taking a break from rehearsing for a few days in her crib and nursery, on Friday 7 July Annabel went back to work.

On the afternoon of 5 July Hannah was sure Jinny could handle Annabel's evening routine. It was not complicated because Julia wanted to give Annabel her bedtime bath, feed her a baby bottle of milk and diaper her for bed. If Annabel wanted a spanking to help her sleep, Julia would give that to her.

Jinny was surprised that Annabel did not want to leave her crib for dinner. While Jinny changed her diaper and dressed her to go downstairs to the dining room, Annabel whined that since she had a changing table and crib, she should also have a playpen and highchair.

All Jinny could say was that was outside her responsibilities, but if Annabel wanted, she would give the message to Julia and Hannah. Annabel thanked her for doing so.

After dinner Annabel wanted to use the toilet before being re-diapered. She passed a large stool and carefully wiped herself clean. Jinny complimented her. Then she put Annabel in her crib, gave her a pacifier and raised the side.

It was not clear when Julia would come to take care of Annabel. Jinny wanted to be there to deliver the message, so she quietly moved the armless chair from the nursery into the hallway. There she sat beside the door, resting against the wall, still wearing her nanny uniform.

About 10:15 P.M. Julia did arrive, changed into one of her mommy dresses. Jinny stood up: "Mrs. Barclay, Ma'am, Annabel asked if she could have a playpen and a highchair."

"Thank you, Jinny," Julia replied. "Please do not think I require me to call me 'Ma'am'. Annabel has not asked me for either of those things. They are no more crazy than her crib. When did she ask you?"

"When I was dressing her for dinner, Mrs. Barclay. May I ask a favor?" Jinny asked, looking down at her feet.

"Of course you may, Jinny," Julia responded, "What would you like?"

"Oh Mrs. Barclay, I am tired and yet restless," Jinny said. Lowering her voice she continued shyly, "Could you help me fall asleep tonight?"

"Sure thing, Jinny; just change into whatever you wear to bed, including panties, cover with a robe and meet me in the bedroom at the end of this hall on the right. It is the only one with a made-up bed," Julia replied gently, giving Jinny a kiss on her forehead as she turned to enter Annabel's room.

Jinny followed just far enough to replace the chair. Then she scampered away as fast as possible to change clothes in her own room.

Julia saw that Annabel was not sleeping although she was resting quietly. The side of the crib was lowered. Julia easily picked up her daughter and led her to the changing table. There Annabel was undressed and her damp diaper was removed.

While the bath was being drawn, Julia asked, "Annabel, did you hear Jinny say she needed help sleeping?"

"Mommy, I was not eavesdropping. It is quiet and the door was ajar," Annabel answered.

"Darling, I'm not blaming you for a second. I asked because I care about how you feel. I mean you saw me spanking Hannah after the party. She said she could not sleep," Julia said.

"Yes, Mommy, and you gave me the cane for watching. Please don't cane me this time. I really did not try to hear," Annabel said, almost crying.

“Since you have not even asked to be spanked tonight, let’s not get ahead of ourselves. Last night you slept so well in your crib I did not bother to give you a bath. You did not need my help sleeping!” Julia said sweetly.

“Well, Mommy, after my bath I would like a spanking to put me to sleep. Then you can deal with Jinny. I like her and do not want to get her in any trouble,” Annabel stated.

“Do not worry, Lambie Pie; neither of you are in trouble,” Julia said as she placed Annabel into the tub along with some bubble salts.

Within a minute of Julia returning Annabel to her crib the girl was sound asleep. The mild paddy-whacking had worked its magic.

Before leaving the nursery Julia slipped both the new Mason Pearson and a lighter hairbrush into separate pockets of her dress. Then in the very best of festive high spirits, Julia confidently strode down the hall to give Jinny a spanking. She was thinking this was just the first of many times Jinny would be over her lap.

Jinny was standing in a corner of the bedroom, her robe neatly folded on the dresser. She was holding up her nightie with her panties already lowered to her knees.

“Very good, Jinny; you are such a cooperative Young Lady,” Julia said. She took a seat on the low padded bench at the foot end of the bed.

“Come over to me, Child. I need to ask you just a few personal questions. There are no wrong answers, so please be honest. I will keep your answers confidential, just between us.”

“Yes, Mrs. Barclay,” Jinny answered shyly.

“How do your parents feel about you dating?”

“Why, Mrs. Barclay; they say I am far too young, so they have never let me date,” Jinny answered.

“I see their point. While working here it is possible you will be in situations in which strangers assume you are older than eighteen. That will not be a problem with the staff because Hannah and Nanny Parson have already made it clear you are still fourteen.

“Do your parents allow you to wear lipstick or any other cosmetics?”

“Absolutely not, Mrs. Barclay; I have never even seen my mother wearing lipstick. Very few mothers in my neighborhood wear makeup. The only girls who do are a few years older than me and are considered fast. None are friends of mine,” Jinny answered honestly.

“Jinny Darling, I only asked because you will see that when Annabel is performing she will be wearing pink lipstick, and sometimes foundation depending upon the lighting. I do not want you to feel badly about that. So

my ladies maid Edna Lyall will soon teach you how to discreetly apply makeup to yourself. Before you need to actually wear lipstick and makeup outside this house I will have explained all that to your parents.

“Beside your own uniforms, do you need additional shoes and clothing now, Jinny?”

“I have a nice dress for Church, with a hat. I have two dresses and a pair of shoes. What more could a girl want?” Jinny answered.

“Well, Jinny, if every other gal shared your view, The Barclays of Fifth Avenue would soon be out of business. Will Hannah get Annabel up in the morning?” Julia asked.

“Yes, Mrs. Barclay; in the morning I have just general duties.”

“Tomorrow at 9 A.M. Nanny Parson will take you to our store. Wear one of your dresses.

“Now, Jinny, suppose I help you sleep. Please assume the position over my lap with your head to my left side.”

Julia used the lighter hairbrush. She started with a few medium spansks spread all over. When Jinny started to cry softly Julia increased the force to just over half-strength.

Immediately Jinny began to sob louder. She squirmed, wriggled and scissor-kicked her long legs, but did not attempt to get away or prevent spansks landing. After thirty spansks, including the warm-up, Julia put the hairbrush back in her pocket.

Jinny was allowed to cry it out over the lap. “Are you ready to be helped to stand, Jinny Darling?”

“Yes, Mrs. Barclay; now I will have no trouble sleeping. Walking to my room could be a problem.”

“That is no problem, Jinny. This bed is freshly made. Sleep here. When you wake up you may go to your room to dress for the day. Have a nice breakfast. Just be ready for Nanny Parson at 9:00 A.M. Sweet Dreams!” Julia said, kissing Jinny on her forehead.

Hannah had set her alarm for 6:15 A.M. She got up, removed her diaper, took a shower and put on a nanny uniform. Before leaving her room, she applied dark pink lipstick.

Annabel’s diaper felt wet through the PlayTex rubber panties, but it was not soaked. Hannah decided to fix a baby bottle of warmed milk in the kitchen so she could feed that to the girl before removing her diaper and bathing her.

Even with the offer of the baby bottle, to Hannah it seemed Annabel took forever to wake up. When she did, she asked Hannah to feed her the bottle.

Annabel was carried to the safety rocker, so Hannah could cuddle her comfortably while feeding her the baby bottle. When that was finished Annabel thanked Hannah.

She was placed on the changing table; her nightie was removed as well as her diaper. Annabel did not whine about or resist being bathed. Hannah did so lovingly.

As they walked down stairs to breakfast Annabel said that she had asked for a playpen and a highchair. Hannah did not offer an opinion.

After breakfast Annabel requested a rain check for her morning spanking. She wanted another day in her crib. Hannah agreed, but reminded Annabel that Friday morning she needed to resume piano practice. On Monday 10 July she had appointments with both her Manhattan piano instructor and her music composition professor, both with offices in Carnegie Hall.

Annabel was left alone in her crib, with a pacifier and wearing a short sleep shirt.

The morning mail was delivered before Julia was driven to her office, a few minutes after Richard was driven separately. Both needed their cars and drivers at the store since they had separate meetings scheduled. Joel Woodhouse had his New York Carry Concealed Weapon (CCW), his issued Colt .45 ACP and his New York chauffeur's license. He would drive Annabel or staff as needed using the shooting brake.

One of the letters addressed to both Julia and Richard was from Helen Abbott, Head Mistress of the Grace/Westrige School for Girls. She explained that she was still on her summer vacation in Montreal.

Helen had seen a picture of Annabel performing in Philadelphia and offered congratulation. She wanted to have a meeting with Julia soon upon her return to Manhattan the next week. She also wanted to have a meeting with Annabel to show her around the school and provide an orientation.

Clara Parson had already told Julia that 'provide an orientation' included Miss Abbott administering a sample spanking. Spanking was the standard punishment at that school even for minor misbehavior.

Julia laughed about that: "If Miss Abbott only knew how much Annabel enjoys being spanked. My Heavens, she was smiling with glee after I caned her!"

Clara Parson stopped by the family dining room to ask if Julia had additional instructions.

"Clara, first of all, what does Miss Abbott know about Annabel's wetting?"

“When I talked to her while she showed me the school Annabel was only in diapers for bed routinely. We have not spoken since Annabel began to need day diapers as well,” Clara answered.

“That being the case, I’ll have Hannah take Annabel to Dr. Craig’s office for a check-up. She might as well go to her pediatrician in diapers. Let’s hope he will have some idea how Annabel can manage her day control enough she can attend school when the term starts,” Julia said.

“At the store, please take Jinny to the domestic uniform department first. They will have instructions. She is to have three nanny uniforms, plus two pair of appropriate service shoes.

“Next take her to the Junior Miss Department. I want Jinny to have a selection of dresses nicer than she has previously owned. If one or two of those dresses were slightly more mature than you think her mother would allow that would be ideal. I will have shared my thinking with that department head.

“Let her buy a few pair of shoes for her off-duty time, including one pair of pumps with two-inch heels. She will not be wearing those often, but she must learn to walk like a lady in heels.

“She will need a couple of hats which need not be appropriate for Sunday mass.

“Edna will meet both of you in the Junior Miss Department. Even if you must interrupt shopping for clothing, should Edna be in a hurry, let her take Jinny to the Cosmetics Department. Edna will select what she thinks is appropriate for Jinny to learn how to apply.

“Frankly I could care less what Jinny’s parents think. She is pragmatic enough to not wear makeup around her parents or people from her old neighborhood. Hannah knows to keep her mouth shut about Jinny’s makeup, dresses and shoes.

“Have fun at the store.”

By the time Hannah reached the medical office of John Dorsey Craig, MD, the only appointment available for the next two weeks was that Thursday afternoon at 2:30 P.M. Since she had never taken Annabel there, and John Merriman would not be driving, she wrote down detailed directions.

Immediately Hannah walked to the nursery to break the news about the doctor’s appointment to Annabel.

“That is not fair! I worked hard. People loved my performance. Damn it, Hannah, I am entitled to at least the rest of today as vacation!” Annabel shouted.

“Young Lady, get a hold of yourself this instant!” Hannah ordered sternly, more forcefully than she had ever spoken to Annabel.

“You are never to swear, especially when your parents or I can hear. I’m not so sure you really respect a simple spanking as punishment.

“Frankly I would prefer to take you to this appointment with your derrière unspanked. But if necessary the marks could easily include cane wheals.

“The punishment for swearing does not leave marks, so I will administer that this minute. Don’t worry, for that your diaper stays on. Are you ready, Angel?”

Before Annabel could answer she was yanked out of her crib and marched to the bathroom. Her sleep shirt was removed so she was only wearing her diaper and PlayTex panties. Hannah closed and locked the door, placing the key in her pocket.

While Annabel cowered against a wall, wide-eyed, she shyly asked, “What ya goin’ to do?”

Hannah did not answer. She unwrapped a new bar of Ivory hand soap and held it under the hot water until it softened. Then Hannah rubbed the soap until lather was formed.

“Come here, Young Lady and open your naughty mouth!” Hannah ordered. Annabel stood her ground.

“Unless you are standing next to me before I count to three, I will cane your legs. Either way your mouth will be washed out with this lovely bar of soap!

“What is it going to be? Are you ready?”

Annabel slowly toed-in so Hannah could hold her. She opened her mouth and gagged when the soap bar was pushed into it. Hannah held it in place despite Annabel’s retching. As she withdrew the soap Hannah made sure it dragged against Annabel’s teeth.

That was a favorite method of Hannah’s mother. It took forever to remove the taste of the soap from between the teeth.

Hannah considered a second dose of the soap, but felt Annabel was already close to vomiting. She had received the message to not use naughty words.

Annabel was allowed to rinse out her mouth. While being punished she did soak her diaper and was dancing around as if she needed to move her bowels. Her diaper was removed and she was placed on the toilet.

Sure enough she did move a large stool. She was allowed to clean herself before being re-diapered.

Still tasting the remains of the soap, Annabel was put back in her crib with the side raised. She was given a pacifier but no toys.

Hannah went to her room and wrote all about the incident and punishment in ‘Annabel’s Discipline Journal’.

About 10 A.M. a truck from Barclays Fifth Avenue delivered a folding playpen and a generously-wide highchair to the Dyckman Mansion. Those were carried upstairs to the nursery and left in the hall. When Hannah was told about the delivery, she brought both into the nursery while Annabel was sleeping.

The primary problem Hannah noticed was that there was nothing available to protect the carpet under the highchair. Thinking about this, she did not remember ever seeing a highchair used on a non-washable surface. They were on linoleum or wood floors. While Annabel was still asleep, Hannah carried the highchair downstairs and set it up in a seldom used part of the kitchen, where spills could easily be cleaned up.

Hannah asked Sous Chef Daisy Robinson if she could heat a bowl of Pablum for Annabel. By good luck a box of Pablum was on hand.

Next Hannah climbed the stairs. She woke Annabel with the news her highchair had arrived. Without changing the child’s diaper or sleep shirt Hannah led her down to the highchair in the kitchen. Annabel easily fit in the chair, with the tray locked in position. That way Annabel could not get out of the highchair even if she wanted to do so.

While waiting for the Pablum to cool slightly, Hannah fixed Annabel a baby bottle of cold milk. The girl started to suckle that. Hannah selected a tea spoon. She brought that to the highchair along with the bowl of warm Pablum.

“Lambie Pie, you wanted a highchair experience. What could be better than a baby bottle of milk and some lovely Pablum?”

Annabel smiled in delight, despite a lingering taste of Ivory Soap. Her smile faded quickly as the reality of tasting Pablum sank in. Clearly Annabel did not remember being fed Pablum as a baby.

After feeding Annabel three tea spoons of Pablum, Hannah gave up. She asked if Daisy could heat up a bowl of oatmeal. By the time that was warm and ready, Annabel had finished her baby bottle of milk. Hannah fixed another bottle.

Annabel liked the oatmeal much better than the Pablum. She did not resist being fed the oatmeal. She finished the bowl.

Hannah led her back upstairs, changed her diaper and put her into the playpen. Probably by then the soap taste had gone away.

Meanwhile Jinny’s shopping trip to the Barclay of Fifth Avenue store went very well. When they left the domestic service uniform department, Jinny was happy. She could not believe she would receive off-duty clothing: “Nanny Parson, I cannot afford to buy anything. There must be some mistake.”

“No Jinny Darling, Mrs. Barclay has always given people new to her service in need of some clothing what is necessary. We all want you to be happy working with us. Annabel likes you and says you diaper better than any of us. This is important to us.

“The gifts you receive here are confidential. None of us will tell your parents. So have fun. Edna wants to take you to another department. I’ll walk along with the two of you to bring you back to select dresses later.”

Jinny had occasionally stopped near cosmetics counters but she had never experienced lipstick. All that suddenly changed.

Edna introduced herself. Clearly the sales associated knew her, as both Julia’s ladies maid, but also as a respected makeup artist. Edna studied Jinny’s face.

She selected a few shades of pink. Expertly, Edna applied the palest pink, but did not like it for Jinny. Both Edna and Jinny liked the next three pinks. However the next rose pink Clara Parson did not feel appropriate for Jinny, who did not care. Edna put that sample back in its display.

While Edna and Jinny selected foundation and rouge, Clara bought a tube of the rose pink lipstick for herself.

All of Jinny’s new cosmetics were placed in a small makeup case. Then Edna departed for Julia’s office to dress her for a meeting.

There was a message waiting in the Junior Miss department from Joel Woodhouse about Annabel having the 2:30 P.M. pediatrician appointment.

In a whirlwind, all of the items Julia had mentioned for Jinny were selected. She was fitted for each dress, which would be altered and delivered to the Dyckman Mansion.

What Jinny carried with her, besides her uniforms and makeup case, was a store bag containing stockings and a garter belt to hold them in place. Jinny could not be more thrilled and could not wait to personally thank Julia that evening.

For the doctor’s appointment Annabel was given another bath and was given another baby bottle of milk while she was diapered and her PlayTex panties were pulled into place.

Temporarily Hannah left Annabel in her playpen while the diaper bag was restocked. The dress was selected by Hannah to be as short and childish as possible.

Annabel did not even glance in a mirror. She was pragmatic enough to avoid an argument she could not win.

Joel Woodhouse managed to eat his lunch between driving Clara and Jinny back to the mansion and Annabel and Hannah to Dr. Craig’s office. The directions were excellent and therefore they were early.

The office staff had a couple of the newspaper pictures of Annabel performing and being kissed by Maestro Ormandy. She gladly autographed those.

A nurse who had only met Annabel once previously had a picture from the *New York Post* showing Annabel's tear-stained face while getting spanked.

Annabel giggled, "I was a naughty girl," as she autographed that photo.

Dr. John Dorsey Craig was running slightly behind schedule that afternoon so it was close to 3:00 P.M. before Annabel was led to an examination room, closely followed by Hannah and the large diaper bag. A nurse came in the room to take the usual vital signs and up-date the medical history.

Before the nurse finished, for the first time since she was a baby, Annabel pooped her diaper with very loose stool. The stench was embarrassing, causing Annabel to cry harder than she ever had when getting spanked.

The nurse suggested cleaning and changing Annabel in that room. They would move to a clean examination room once Annabel was in a fresh diaper.

Once in the other exam room the nurse asked how often Annabel soiled her diaper.

Annabel was too embarrassed to reply. Hannah said that was the first time since Annabel returned to diapers.

Dr. Craig did have Hannah remove the diaper so he could examine the pubic region and bottom of Annabel. He could not find any obvious reason why the girl lacked bladder and bowel control. He promised to consult with colleagues and report his recommendations to Julia as soon as possible.

On the way out the nurse who witnessed the soiled diaper suggested that since the PlayTex panties were working so well over Annabel's diapers, to help improve her bladder control for school they try cotton training pants instead of a diaper during the day.

Annabel really liked being diapered, but she felt that if she objected Julia might just question if the wetting during the day was genuinely beyond control.

Even Annabel could no longer be sure. Although at first she deliberately wet when awake, since the first few days in Philadelphia she had been wetting spontaneously.

She had no clue why she soiled the diaper that afternoon. Annabel really disliked that experience, even more than having her mouth washed with soap!