

Miss Annabel and Julia

Chapter 11

“Gershwin, Bernstein, Stokowski and Ormandy,
Too!”

Fiction by Angela Bauer

On Wednesday, 21 June 1933, Julia Scott Barclay had lied to the office she was re-organizing to spend the morning with Annabel and one of her friends at The Philadelphia Zoo. While back at The Bellevue-Stratford Hotel being re-dressed for the afternoon and evening at her office, she had an epiphany.

Julia and Richard should become supporters of culture in Philadelphia. She tasked her confidential secretary Trudy Josse with finding the details how they could become members of the Zoo and Orchestra. Julia wanted a pair of decent seats for the 1933-34 season of the Philadelphia Orchestra's performances at The Music Academy and two sets of pairs, one better than the other, for all of the Orchestra's Manhattan performances.

Her idea was to use one pair in Manhattan so Annabel could hear very good orchestral music conducted by Leopold Stokowski close to home. The other pair would be used by customers and employees of Barclay's Manhattan store. They would be selected in various ways, one goal being better understanding of Philadelphia.

Trudy or another secretary in Manhattan (perhaps Janet Shaw?) would research if and when the New York Philharmonic performed in Philadelphia. One or two pair of those tickets would be used to promote goodwill with customers and employees of Rogers' Department store. When Annabel was not in Philadelphia at times the Philadelphia Orchestra was playing at home, her tickets would be available for employees wanting to use them. Some equitable policy would need to be

implemented so selection of ticket recipients appeared to everyone to be fair.

By setting a hectic pace at the office, Julia was back at the hotel by 7:00 P.M. to take Annabel to dinner at a fine restaurant. That went very well. Annabel was a polite young lady who followed all rules of restaurant etiquette.

After their meal, John Merriman drove them back to the hotel. Edna Lyall, Julia's lady's maid undressed her and re-dressed her for bed. In her robe, Julia walked to Annabel's suite

There Julia undressed and bathed her beloved step-daughter, by now almost officially Julia's daughter by adoption.

Dry following her bath, Annabel asked for a spanking to help her sleep: "Mommy, I needed a nap after the zoo, but I could not sleep. I asked Nanny for a spanking, which had to happen in the living room. Susan sneaked in and I had to wait until she was put back to bed. Then when I was getting spanked, Miss Shaw and Mrs. Lyall walked in. That was too funny for words!

"Mommy, I am only telling you because I begged Nanny to use the hairbrush and I might be bruised."

Julia gave her far less than enough smacks with the 'Girls' Spanker' to constitute a 'friendly paddy-whacking' but that was enough to satisfy Annabel.

She thanked Julia for her spanking, kissing and hugging her. Then Julia snuggled and pinned triple night diapers on Annabel, which she covered with PlayTex rubber panties. After Annabel was re-diapered, Julia helped her dress herself for bed.

With several tender kisses to Annabel's cheeks and forehead, Julia tucked her daughter into bed.

Julia returned to her suite and to her bed. Only within the privacy of her locked bedroom did she let her emotional guard down.

Despite believing it was in Annabel's long-term best interest to spank her for punishment and also to allow her to ask to be spanked under one pretext or another, doing so upset Julia.

The first two times she had spanked Annabel, Julia was justified being outraged by the child's misbehavior. As the second and harder spanking ended, Julia concluded that, for unknown reasons, Annabel wanted to be spanked.

When Julia lived at home with her parents, she never wanted to be spanked, or scolded. So, she did not understand how Annabel was thinking.

Julia missed having Richard near her, especially the romantic and sexual bedroom activities.

All these factors combined within Julia, who wept herself to sleep.

In Manhattan, on the morning of Thursday, 22 June 1933 it was drizzling when Richard Barclay woke up and took a shower. As he was drying off, his valet Arthur Swift was ready to give him a close shave.

By way of conversation, Richard mentioned that the deal to lease the Dyckman Mansion was done. They could start planning the temporary move there immediately. Being polite, he asked for Arthur's inside view about this move.

Arthur Swift answered: "Mr. Barclay, your mention of Annabel's promise as a photographer started me thinking about my late employer, God Rest His Soul. Right up until his unexpected death Mr. Dyckman was still passionate about photography, although he no longer could see very well.

"Last fall, he was so excited to buy one of the first of the new Leica cameras produced. It was shipped from the factory in Germany. Then the week before he died he received a companion Leitz enlarger with what Mr. Dyckman called a 'revolutionary' Leitz Elmar lens.

"A technician from Matthews Photographic Supply helped set up that enlarger in Mr. Dyckman's personal darkroom. He was so proud of that room, although for the last several months he could only sit or stand there, running his hands around the sinks.

"We had a fellow on the staff who assisted him in the darkroom and when he was taking pictures, carrying the heavy equipment and keeping the darkroom neat as a pin. That fellow did not live with us, nor did he eat in the servants' hall like most of us. Mr. Franklyn had known that man in the Army.

"Strange how our minds go back to such memories. Sorry to ramble on, Mr. Barclay."

Freshly shaved, and without even a nick during the Leica/Leitz discourse, Richard sincerely thanked Arthur: "That is most interesting information, Mr. Swift. Would you be so kind as to ask Mr. Franklyn to spare me a moment of his time in my study as soon as I am dressed and he is available?"

On the spot Richard had decided to buy one of the new Leica cameras. He wanted to meet Mr. Dyckman's photo assistant and hire him as needed to provide advice. Also he wanted to visit the Dyckman Mansion, mostly to inspect that darkroom.

Richard had loved photography during preparatory school and as an under-graduate at Harvard, where he was a member of the Photography Society.

Mr. Franklyn, the former Dyckman and current Barclay butler, told Richard that the photo assistant, Samuel Schwartz, was a marvelous person. But he had not yet found a steady job since the death of Peter Dyckman.

“Mr. Franklyn, please do what you must to contact Mr. Schwartz. We can always use an experienced photographer at the store, either in our advertising department or as a sales associate. If possible ask Mr. Schwartz to meet me for lunch at my store office.”

That lunch time, Richard met Samuel Schwartz and agreed he was an outstanding person. They were driven by Buddy Edwards to look at the Dyckman darkroom. A representative from the Dyckman attorneys met them with keys. Sam led the way directly to the darkroom.

“Mr. Barclay, for its size you will not find a better equipped darkroom in Manhattan. It was the pride of Mr. Dyckman’s life. That big enlarger is one of the first made in the Bronx by the firm Caesar & Salzmann. It can handle negatives from 2¼x3¼” all the way to 8x10”. Many a happy evening Mr. Dyckman would make enlargements until dawn, then put in a long day at his office.

“The Leitz enlarger is the small one on the bench over there. Because of Mr. Dyckman’s failing sight, I used some of my own 35mm negatives I had taken using his Leica to test it. The results were amazing. I made him a 16x20” print from a 4x5 negative and another 16x20” print from a Leica 35mm negative of the same building across the street. The quality is nearly equal, but the Leica weighs so much less!”

“Mr. Schwartz, you have convinced me. As soon as we move in here, I want you to teach me and my daughter Annabel about modern photography. I confess the last time I was in a darkroom was at Harvard before America was in the war. This could be something Annabel and I can do together.

“Meanwhile, please join me for lunch. I am sorry this will need to be in my office at the store. If you have an interest and are available, I want to hire you today. There is a job in our advertising department, but seeing your enthusiasm you might enjoy selling photo equipment in our store. That department might not be as large as Matthews, but you will be surprised how many wealthy amateurs buy expensive cameras from us. We are dealers for Leitz/Leica as well as Rolleiflex. We could add enlargers and darkroom supplies.”

At the office, Richard asked Agnes Mayo to have the heads of Advertising Photography and the Retail Photo Department come to his office as soon as possible. He introduced Sam to Agnes.

Sam decided to give selling a try. His first order was to select a Leica II with all available interchangeable lenses and accessories for Richard. Although the sale was to an in-house account, Sam was credited with the

same commission as if a customer had paid for all that equipment. That amounted to more than Sam had been paid for a week working for Peter Dyckman! Sam was having the best day of his life!

When Sam brought the gadget bag full of the new Leica II and accessories to his office, Richard realized he had no idea how to use it. So he asked if Mr. Schwartz would care to join him on the Friday trip to Philadelphia. "Of course you will be paid for your time and have an expense account."

Once Sam agreed, Richard asked him to pack a suitcase for the weekend and bring it with him to the store Friday morning. "Mr. Schwartz, we have a reservation on a late afternoon Pullman, but I hope to get away much earlier." Then he asked Agnes Mayo to explain to the head of the retail photo department he was borrowing Sam on Friday. Also, Sam needed to be added to the Pullman ticket and would need a room at the Bellevue-Stratford.

Having found the Dyckman darkroom and bought his Leica, Richard was very happy. He devoted himself entirely to tedious store business until late. His consolation was that while at the store he was able to have a lovely phone conversation with Julia at her secret office in the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel.

He praised her for thinking of joining the Philadelphia Zoo and Orchestra. He knew that would be a big help making society friends there. He said he would take an earlier than the scheduled Pullman on Friday. He asked her to give Annabel several kisses from him.

That Thursday morning Annabel woke up on her own. She knocked on the door of her nanny, Hannah Randall, asking for a dry diaper and to be dressed so she could rehearse her piano exercises in that private hotel practice room, the better to be ready for her lessons.

"Nanny, since I want to rehearse as long as possible, could we skip my morning spanking today, just this once? Unless, of course, I am in trouble; Mommy did give me almost a walloping last night. I am still feeling the sting."

"Yes, Lambie Pie, I will be glad to give you a rain check on your morning spanking!" Hannah told her with a smile, as she hugged the child.

When Annabel was diapered and dressed, Hannah escorted her down to the piano practice room. From there she used a hotel house phone to inform Julia where to find Annabel. She also arranged for Julia's room service breakfast with Annabel to be served in the practice room instead of Annabel's suite.

Julia was wearing a nice, but simple summer housedress under a raincoat when she joined her daughter for breakfast. She was so happy hearing Annabel even playing exercises, she was beaming.

When the waiter arrived with the food, seconds after Julia entered the room, Annabel did stop playing and walked over to kiss Julia and eat her grapefruit. Once she returned to the piano, Julia asked Hannah about the lesson schedule at the Philadelphia Academy of Music.

Hannah said that as far as she knew, Professor Sylvia Gershwin would teach Annabel piano and sight reading from 10:00 to 10:50 A.M. From 11:00 to 11:50 A.M. she would study the composing and notation of music with Professor Theodore Bernstein.

“Miss Randall, more than anything I want to meet those professors and also to hear Annabel playing in an actual, historic music classroom.

“Please ask Mr. Merriman to meet me at the store after he drops you off. He will drive me to see you both at the Academy. Then we will improvise. If I can clear the lunch time, I will take as many of you as care to have lunch with me. If I cannot get out of meetings, then Mr. Merriman will be waiting to take you to lunch.

“While I am here with Annabel, could you communicate with Mr. Merriman? It is possible he needs to make arrangement so he can leave you two alone at the Academy. But neither of us is supposed to know that.”

Julia luxuriated slowly savoring her breakfast, listening to Annabel play her music for the ‘Gwendolyn and Christopher’ songs.

When the girl got hungry, she left the piano and sat with Julia at the room service cart.

Hannah returned to the practice room and whispered in Julia’s ear, “Mr. Merriman understands your schedule and by the time you leave he will have all the arrangements in place.”

“Mommy, if you will excuse me, I should practice some more.”

Julia and Annabel embraced and kissed. Then while the girl returned to the piano, her mother went back to her suite: to be bathed; have her hair styled; have her makeup applied; and finally dressed by Edna Lyall, Julia’s lady’s maid.

By 8:15 A.M. Julia was conducting a senior staff meeting at the Rogers of Philadelphia department store, now wholly owned by Barclay’s of Fifth Avenue. She asked her secretary to clear enough time that Julia could have a meeting with top officials of the Philadelphia Academy of Music. What Julia did not mention was her primary reason for that meeting was to hear Annabel playing on a really grand piano in front of many talented musicians.

Helen Woods, a long-time executive secretary with the Rogers’ store, was serving as Julia’s official secretary. Once the transition was completed and Julia left for Manhattan, Helen would become the executive secretary for the new General Manager, Lloyd Carpentier.

Lloyd had been a class ahead of Richard Barclay at both Harvard and the Harvard Graduate School of Business. Lloyd started his career in the Barclay Banking Division. Following the death of his father in 1927, it was Richard who recruited Lloyd to help him run the Fifth Avenue store.

What Julia could sense during Lloyd's first week in Philadelphia was that he had the tact to finesse the transition and convince the long-term Rogers' executives and managers the advantages of Barclay's standard operating procedures.

If any executives or managers objected to Julia leaving for the Academy of Music, they were pragmatic enough to not express such an opinion in public.

Julia arrived at the Academy just early enough she could sign the papers and turn over a substantial check so The Richard Barclays were significant contributing members of The Philadelphia Orchestra.

The Assistant Managing Director of the Academy for Membership walked with Julia to the practice/instruction room of Professor Sylvia Gershwin. Annabel had by then finished her exercises. In the remaining time Sylvania asked the girl to sight-read the first movement of a concerto for piano by Music Director Leopold Stokowski.

As they were about to enter the room, the Assistant Manager tugged at her sleeve, holding Julia back. Leaning close to whisper to Julia, she said, "That is Maestro Stokowski. I've never known him to listen to any student here. We should wait here until he enters the room."

For the next five minutes all three of them listened from the hallway as Annabel played from a score a piece of orchestral music she had never before heard performed. From the smile of his face, the Maestro approved of her interpretation.

When Annabel stopped playing The Maestro was applauding as he entered, closely followed by Julia and the assistant manager. She saw Maestro Stokowski walk up to Annabel, introduce himself and kiss both of her cheeks.

Julia was so proud she would gladly have died and gone to Heaven seeing that event. Seconds later she was introduced to the Maestro and Professor Gershwin. Already seated in the back of the room were several First Chairs and an Assistant Conductor of the Philadelphia Orchestra. They had applauded.

Seeing her mother, Annabel excused herself to run to her for an embrace and kisses. "Mommy, did I make many mistakes?"

Julia whispered back, "Maestro Stokowski was listening from the hall. He wrote that music which had not yet been performed. He acted totally enthralled. I confess that I do not play or read music, so what would I know about mistakes? I am as proud of you as I love you, Lambie Pie."

While the adults talked and introduced themselves, Hannah discreetly led Annabel to a distant ladies' room for a much needed diaper change.

As they approached Professor Theodore Bernstein's music composition studio, there were several men they had not met standing around Theodore's desk. He introduced them as arrangers and orchestrators for all of the orchestras within the Academy. Besides the Philadelphia Orchestra, those were from the opera and ballet companies.

Professor Bernstein explained that he had been telling those men about Annabel's 'Gwendolyn and Christopher' song. They needed to attend a staff meeting, so they begged Annabel to play and sing a couple of the verses. They especially enjoyed the bridge "I don't want to go to bed; I'm having too much fun!"

While those professional composers were introducing themselves to Annabel, she introduced Julia to Theodore, "Professor, this is my mother, Julia Scott Barclay. She is the one who puts up with me playing with one hand and writing down notation with the other."

After accepting a kiss on the back of her right hand from Theodore, Julia asked if anyone was free to join her for lunch with Annabel. Only Theodore and an assistant conductor named Eugene Ormandy were available and gladly accepted the invitation. Maestro Ormandy said that Professor Gershwin had mentioned to him she would be there for the lunch.

Julia thereupon tasked Eugene Ormandy to: select a restaurant; make the reservation in her name; and organize transportation. "My auto is small, so it only seats three adults on the back seat and two people on jump seats."

Maestro Ormandy claimed to be charmed to be asked to organize, which he did magnificently. That was the start of a friendship with Julia and Annabel which lasted beyond his 1980 retirement. He became the Conductor and later added the title Musical Director of the Philadelphia Orchestra three years later. As they got to know each other better, Julia learned Eugene was only one year older. By 1936 Annabel was calling him her 'Uncle Eugene from Philadelphia'.

While Theodore Bernstein and Annabel were discussing notation, Julia slipped out of the room to phone Helen Wood at the store. Helen had been tipped off by Hannah that the lunch was being planned. She had already canceled the rest of Julia's calendar until 3 P.M.

Julia told Helen, "I just met a charming assistant conductor named Ormandy. He said he had the time, so I put him in charge of making the lunch reservations."

Helen nearly fainted, "Mrs. Barclay, didn't you know every woman with a pulse over the age of six has a crush on Eugene Ormandy? In our city he is bigger than Clark Gable!"

“Helen, just between us gals, I will be careful. If he wants a shopping trip, you will be his guide!”

“Julia, be still my fluttering heart!” Helen answered.

Back in the room, Theodore was slowly playing the piano as Annabel sat at the desk practicing notation. To Julia that seemed similar to Pitman-Gregg shorthand, at least in principle. And playing the piano was not so different than touch typing. Maybe Annabel was ready for typing and shorthand lessons?

Annabel continued to impress and charm everyone attending the lunch. Needless to say, the luncheon was a huge success.

Those who needed to do so returned safely to the Academy of Music.

Julia rode in the Rolls driven by John Merriman back to the hotel with Annabel, Hannah and the diaper bag. Julia asked Merriman to wait a few minutes so she could freshen up before driving to the store.

Edna Lyall fixed Julia’s hair and re-applied her makeup. Looking as she had done when she slipped out of her office, Julia strode into her office in triumph.

Back at the hotel, Annabel had done her best to remain strong and confident while Julia could see her. The second her mother parted ways and entered her own suite, Annabel virtually collapsed. Nanny Hannah Randall scooped her up and carried her to her bed.

“Lambie Pie, I need to undress you and at least re-diaper you for a nap. May I give you another rain check just this once?”

Groggy and exhausted as she was, Annabel answered weakly: “I am sure I really need a good spanking to ensure I stay asleep. I hope you don’t mind?”

“As you wish, Young Lady; will it be the hairbrush or the ‘Girls’ Spanker?”

“Oh, the ‘Girls’ Spanker’ Please, Nanny Randall.”

Once Annabel’s diaper and PlayTex panties were removed, she was nude. Over Hannah’s lap the girl received slightly more than a ‘friendly paddy-whacking’. It was hard enough Annabel sobbed. She was asleep seconds after being re-diapered and dressed in a thin nightie.

All of the photos taken by Susan Manchester and Annabel on Wednesday were delivered by the photo store’s messenger to the Bellevue-Stratford’s concierge. In turn he had them sent to Annabel’s suite by a bellman.

Speaking of photos, at the Academy Annabel did not even attempt to take pictures. Flashbulbs were not in common use and besides she could not carry her tiny piano and her gadget bag.

The second Julia presented herself at the membership office, the Publicity Director ordered their contract photographer to cover all of Julia's activities. He was in time to take some informal candid shots without flash in the hall showing Maestro Stokowski listening from the hallway with Julia in the picture.

He used flash powder to take several posed pictures of various introductions, including Annabel meeting the Maestro and one of her at the piano with Sylvia Gershwin standing next to her. The photographer had not been invited to the luncheon, which might have been a good thing.

Upon Julia's return to the office following the Academy luncheon, Julia knew she absolutely needed to work until 8 P.M. All the managers and executive knew that Richard Barclay would be at the store before it opened to customers on Saturday morning. Most assumed that would be when those laid-off or fired would receive the bad news. Thus morale was low.

Of course that was nonsense. Richard had never personally told an employee that he or she was leaving the company. No, by the time Richard joined the Barclay Store, he had staff to break bad news. Today they are called 'Human Resources' and sometimes 'Out-Placement Specialists'.

Back when Julia was first serving as General Manager while still titled Executive Secretary, at least half the time she would summon those being fired into an office close to the employees' entrance. With her would be the two largest Pinkerton Special Operatives available that day. She deliberately did not use the regular Barclay's plain clothes security because they sometimes had a working relationship with store employees.

'Out-Placing' unnecessary employees was not pleasant for Julia, but she realized even in the best of times retaining thieves or deadwood ultimately sapped morale. She got to be where she was because she could put aside her emotions and do unpleasant tasks with a brave face.

Thursday afternoon was about building morale and a spirit of teamwork.

Annabel did not wake from her nap for three hours. By then her diaper was soaked to the point some urine squeezed past her PlayTex panties. That woke her and embarrassed her. She called out, "Nanny, oh No!"

From the day they had checked into the Bellevue-Stratford, Hannah Randall had talked Housekeeping into leaving two sets of spare sheets for Annabel's bed. Hannah reasoned that it would minimize the embarrassment if she personally changed wet sheets. Had she still been the Nursery Maid back in Manhattan, she would have been tasked to change wet sheets.

First Annabel's soaked diaper and nightie were removed and she was placed into a warm bath. While she was bathing herself, Hannah expertly stripped her bed. Then she started with a dry rubber sheet over which she layered fresh sheets.

By the time Annabel had been dried off after her bath, all evidence of a wet bed had been removed. It was as if the leaking was just a bad dream.

Julia decided to eat at the store along with the transition team who worked late. She phoned Annabel to promise she would be back at the hotel in time to put her to bed.

Annabel asked Hannah to dress her for dinner. Together they ate in the best restaurant within the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. Following their early dinner Annabel got in a productive hour of piano practice. For exercise they walked laps within the hotel. Maybe Annabel noticed a well-dressed large man walking several paces behind them. Hannah was sure that was a Pinkerton filling-in for Mr. Merriman who was waiting at the store to drive Julia.

By the time Julia did get home to her suite and had been changed into her 'Mommy' bedtime outfit and makeup by Edna, Annabel was getting sleepy.

Still when she hugged and kissed her Mommy, she said, "May I have a good, old-fashioned Paddy-Whacking? Please Mommy."

By the time Annabel's tears stopped flowing and Julia had pinned her into a dry triple diaper with PlayTex panties, both were ready for bed.

Friday was the morning Susan Manchester and her mother Leticia had promised an adventure. Annabel dreamed about that as she drifted off to sleep.

Julia dreamed, in her own bed, about seeing Richard. And, of course, being over his lap!

And, reminding Richard why she needed very much to be across his lap!