

Miss Annabel and Julia

Chapter 13

“A Massive Hangover and A Shooting Brake”

Fiction by Angela Bauer

‘It’s always sunny in Philadelphia’ is a popular slogan of their Chamber of Commerce, but hardly literally true. However, at dawn on Saturday, 24 June 1933, it was clear, sunny, warm and yet without oppressive humidity.

Perhaps because on Friday evening Annabel Elizabeth Barclay had confined her beverage to Shirley Temples, she woke in a virtually dry diaper all filled with energy and ambition. According to her clock it was an hour before she was allowed to play the piano in the downstairs practice room at The Bellevue-Stratford Hotel.

At least having her diaper changed was not a priority. She was getting used to wearing pinned gauze diapers again, after not being allowed diapers for over five years.

This time back in diapers, Annabel was comforted by the new PlayTex stretchy molded rubber panties. Not only did those hold in the pee, somehow they simply made the entire diaper experience more comfortable.

Annabel tried reading quietly in her bedroom, but that did not help her piano rehearsal. She was too alert to fall back to sleep. Finally she summoned the courage to knock on the bedroom door of her Temporary Nanny Hannah Randall, which was part of the same suite.

For the second early morning in a row it was actually Hannah’s roommate, Edna Lyall, who answered the knock. Edna was the respected Lady’s Maid to Annabel’s ‘Mommy’ Julia Barclay. Edna had not been at the restaurant party Friday night, thrown to welcome Richard back for the weekend.

Of course, as soon as Edna was sure Julia was dressed and down in the restaurant, she put on her most alluring cocktail dress and hurried across the street to another restaurant where a man she had known well for several years was taking her to drinks and dinner. After a hurried meal, Edna was his dessert in his own hotel room on another floor of the Bellevue-Stratford.

Fortunately for Edna, she did not need to be entirely sober to undress her Lady after a party and dress her for bed. Even at less than total sobriety, Edna could apply the rose lipstick Julia was learning to crave for bed.

The trouble was that Hannah was not fit to function as a Nanny that dawn. She had consumed far too many Champaign cocktails during the party. At only barely seventeen, Hannah was not an experienced drinker. She had been caught by her supervisor, Nanny Parsons, who punished Hannah with twelve strokes from slender supple English rattan canes. Not only was her *derrière* throbbing, she had a major hangover.

Hannah had the presence of mind to politely ask if Annabel's diaper was soaked. When told it was dry, Hannah asked Annabel to have a seat on the living room sofa. Then she used her room phone to reach Nanny Parson's guest room.

Without a word of reproach, very quickly Clara Parsons reached Annabel's suite. Since Clara was on vacation, she had not packed a nanny dress. Annabel did not care. She hugged and kissed her beloved long-time Nanny Parsons.

In Annabel's bedroom, Clara removed her night dress and dry diaper, with the PlayTex panties. At the girl's request Clara put her over her lap and gave her more than a friendly paddy-whacking with the leather 'Girls' Spanker' paddle.

While cuddling and comforting Annabel with her left hand Clara started a bath using just her right hand.

Annabel assured Clara that she could shut off the water and bathe herself safely. Once she was finished, Nanny Parsons helped her towel dry.

Given the choice, Annabel asked to be double diapered, since she intended to practice on the piano for the entire allotted hour without interruption for such nonsense as using a toilet.

However, since her rehearsal hour had not started, before her diaper Annabel productively used the toilet. She passed a significant, but soft, stool. That was a great sign, meaning she need not worry about messing a diaper that day!

Together with Clara, Annabel selected a simple full skirt hemmed just below her knees and a white blouse with a Peter Pan collar, with white knee socks and black flat polished Mary Janes.

They left a note under the hall door to Richard and Julia's suite, saying they were having breakfast in the least formal hotel restaurant and then would be in the practice room when it opened at 7:15 A.M. Since it was Annabel who wrote the note, if her Daddy and Mommy assumed it was Hannah escorting her, so much the better.

What kind of irresponsible parents would provide Champaign cocktails to a wee bonny lass of seventeen?

Once Julia read the note she called Edna to dress her for breakfast and ordered room service in the practice room at 7:30 A.M. for Richard and her, plus Annabel and Hannah.

Richard was as charmed listening to Annabel run her scales and exercises as playing from scores. Honestly he could not believe how recently Annabel had been a spoiled-rotten out of control brat.

He blamed his younger sister Gertrude for the spoiling and credited his new wife Julia with bringing out Annabel's 'Better Angels' using a hairbrush as needed!

Wanting to hear as much of Annabel's piano playing, Richard had his valet, Arthur Swift, dress him for the office.

Julia was wearing a more sultry and alluring breakfast ensemble than she wore when Richard was in Manhattan. So she needed to excuse herself from Annabel before 8:00 A.M.

She was upset and miffed that Hannah was not escorting Annabel. She wanted significant quality conversation time with Clara, which could not happen while Annabel was playing the piano.

Acting upon gut instinct, Julia detoured to Hannah's bedroom before going to her own room. As she suspected, Hannah was in bed with a giant hangover. Julia knew, because when she was seventeen, as America entered The Great War, she sometimes got drunk with gal pals from Barnard and guys willing to pay for the drinks three years before Prohibition.

Still, Julia had a duty to try to save Hannah from herself. "Young Lady, just look at you! I am well beyond disappointed in your misbehavior. It never occurred to me I needed to provide the waiters and bartenders at the party with a list of those too irresponsible to be served alcohol!"

"Perhaps if the law permitted, it would help you to remember to be responsible in the future if I gave you a spanking. That cannot happen because you are an employee and we are not allowed to thrash employees

these days! Also, I am running late for the office and a spanking delayed is not effective!”

“My sincere apologies, Mrs. Barclay. I will never do anything like this again. As for me being spanked, Nanny Parsons gave me a double six of the best with canes before my bedtime last night. I will be sore until Sunday mass, according to Nanny.”

“And well you should feel the punishment. However, Hannah, I still have full faith in you. So here is what is going to happen. As far as anyone else needs to know, Annabel missed Nanny Parson and is spending time with her this morning.

“You need to order some food and a lot of black coffee from room service. Then take a long cold shower, fix your hair, put on a touch of lipstick and appear with Annabel and Nanny for lunch at the store with my husband and me.

“From there all of us from the mansion will be having a tour of the home we are purchasing on The Main Line. Annabel is my top priority, so I hope for suggestions and advice from you and Nanny about the selection of her bedroom in this home.

“We have no firm dinner plans tonight. Certainly Annabel will be eating with us, so she might need a nap this afternoon. I am giving you another chance to participate in an event at which alcohol is served while you remain responsible and sober. Perhaps you can ask a bartender to make you a Shirley Temple without the coloring.

“Get through tonight’s events sober, and your career with us is secure. Disappoint me again and you have no future as my employee! I believe in your future. If not, you would have been packed and on a train for Manhattan already.”

“Thank you so much Mrs. Barclay. I will do my best to be your reliable employee. And if it would help, I will gladly sign a permission form so you can wallop me when you see fit,” Hannah gushed with emotion.

“Hannah, you will find that most problems cannot be solved by force and wallopings! Only you can control your self-discipline.

“Now you continue sleeping it off, while I ask Edna Lyall to rush my transformation from adoring Mommy to tough as nails department store executive.”

Just then Hannah turned in her bed, giving Julia a clear shot at her bottom. Julia gave it a moderate smack, which caused Hannah to recoil in pain.

“Clearly, Young Lady, Nanny Parsons knows how to use a cane!”

Annabel stopped practicing on the hotel piano just before 8:15 A.M. She had reserved the hour from 9:15 to 10:15 A.M., but felt it best to not linger even quietly in the room. Annabel intended to study music notation until she could return to the piano.

“Nanny Parsons, may I borrow my daughter? Could you call my wife in her room to say I am having a milk shake with our daughter in the restaurant. She can find me when she is ready to leave for the store. Then, Nanny, you are most welcome to join us,” Richard said charmingly.

Annabel was luxuriating in so much positive attention from her father. It did not matter that she dislikes malts and shakes. Drinking one was a way to spend time with her Daddy.

Julia was absolutely stunning when she walked into the restaurant and to the table where Richard, Annabel and Clara all were sipping ice cream shakes. “I hate to break up this party, but we do have a department store to run. I blame Annabel as a menace to industrial efficiency. She is the only one who could entice Richard Barclay away from improving efficiency at his store!”

Julia kissed both Annabel and Clara, as she took Richard’s arm and urged him to the chauffeur waiting area.

While she went to her office, Richard was given a second tour of the store and warehouse. He was impressed by improvements since his first tour a week before. The displays were up to date and the early Saturday customers were clearly responding to those improved displays, which looked similar to those in the Fifth Avenue store.

The warehouse had been cleaned up, removing distracting mess.

At 11:00 A.M. Julia, Richard and all the key management staff crowded into the largest meeting room in the building.

Richard started by telling everyone that Leonard Rogers had become his friend when they were kids bored at a Retail Association convention where they had been dragged by their fathers, who were close friends given the distance between their stores.

“Several months ago Mr. Rogers approached me with a business proposal. He told me that he had inherited the family business without inheriting an interest in the retail trade. He asked me to buy him out. He was willing to accept a lower payment in exchange for my promise I would retain as many loyal Rogers’ employees as possible.

“In my turn, I assigned my Executive Secretary and honestly the functional General Manager, the Miss Julia Scott that was, now my talented wife Julia Barclay. All of you have come to know her these past two weeks.

“I did not travel by train here to reduce the number of executives, managers and sales associates. That has never been my style because I hire specialists to do that.

“Seriously, as Mrs. Barclay has told you, only those shockingly incompetent to do their jobs and those foolish enough to steal from this firm either have or soon will be terminated permanently. Unfortunately fools will remain fools and thieves keep trying to steal.

“I completely share the opinion that everyone who is honest can improve skills. Every day we should become better at anticipating the needs of our customers. Those of us who negotiate with vendors must learn to anticipate customers’ needs six months or a year in advance. It is not easy but it can be done.

“Mrs. Barclay, do you have more to tell us?”

“My new friends here in Philadelphia, there is not a lot I can add. My husband and I have made an offer on a home here in Philadelphia. We have a tour scheduled for just after lunch.

“As tempting as it is to move here permanently, I mean The Main Line is different from Manhattan, the headquarters of Barclay’s of Fifth Avenue is in fact Fifth Avenue. We will remain a part of your lovely city in person as well as in spirit.

“Next Saturday evening, 1 July, my husband and I are hosting a gathering of many Rogers’ executives, managers and associates. We all will be joined by some civic and cultural leaders of Philadelphia. The event venue is the Grand Ballroom of the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel. The time will be communicated during the week.

“We will share some good food, some good beverages, some excellent dance music and friendship.

“Now, please let us all get back to work! We have customers to serve and orders to take!”

Back at the hotel, Arthur Swift introduced Samuel Schwartz to Nanny Parsons, Temporary Nanny Randall and Annabel. “Mr. Schwartz was the photo expert for our late employer, Mr. Peter Dyckman.

“Mr. Barclay has hired Mr. Schwartz as a specialist for the store, but also as Mr. Barclay’s personal photo assistant.”

Sam started explaining himself and his mission: “Annabel, your father has found a renewed interest in photography as a result of the excellent photos you have been taking. I want you to know that if you have questions about anything related to photography, please feel free to ask me.”

During the train trip to Philadelphia on Friday, Richard apologized to Clara and Arthur, because he needed to learn how to operate his new Leica camera.

With the ease of an experienced professional photographer, Sam started by teaching Richard the correct and most effective way to load the Leica. Revolutionary to the Leica System were metal cassettes loaded with 35mm film. Eventually film would be sold factory loaded into disposable cassettes. In June 1933, Leica users had to buy their 35mm film in 100 foot long rolls. They needed either a dry darkroom or a changing bag to wind the film from the long roll to the tiny spools in the cassettes. Once the cassettes were loaded in the dark, they in turn could be loaded into the Leica in daylight.

Richard had used two cassettes Sam had loaded while at the store for practice loading the Leica and taking pictures out the Pullman windows. When the train stopped at stations, Richard took some close-up pictures of Clara and Arthur in the stateroom. All of that film had been left at Annabel's favorite photo shop during the Friday drive from the train station to the hotel. Those pictures would be sent by the photo shops messenger to the concierge at the hotel Saturday afternoon.

During the last hour of the trip Sam gave Richard a 100 foot roll of scrap film already ruined by exposure to daylight. Richard practiced loading that into cassettes in the light using a cunning device. Then Sam brought out a changing bag so Richard could gain confidence loading cassettes without seeing what he was doing. Richard proved to have a natural talent for loading the cassettes. Before the train reached Philadelphia Richard had loaded four cassettes for real, with new film. He felt very proud of himself.

Richard used the rangefinder to focus his Leica and then the viewfinder to frame the image, as his photographer instincts returned to him. He felt he had taken some interesting pictures of Arthur and Clara as they talked on the train when it was stopped at a station.

Depending on the amount of light inside the Rogers' mansion, Richard intended to take many pictures. Outside light would not be a problem.

Richard hoped that when Annabel saw him using the Leica she would be inspired to take her own photos. Outside she had more than enough light for her Brownie.

On Saturday before making the trip to the Rogers' mansion, Annabel showed Sam the photos she had taken during the past week. He was not exaggerating his enthusiasm for her talent. Not all of the pictures were ideally exposed, because the Brownie had no exposure controls. If it was aimed at a subject in normal daylight there was enough exposure. If the

subject was in the shade, the film was under exposed which occasionally added to the charm of the final print.

Listening to Sam, Annabel understood the difference between shade and full sunlight. She knew that knowledge would make her a better photographer, and that made her very happy!

Knowing in the Rolls Royce there was only room for three adults on the rear seat and two people on the jump seats, John Merriman ordered two additional towne cars from a limousine service recommended by the chauffeur concierge of the hotel. Being suspicious John asked the opinion of the Pinkerton office. They knew no negative information about that limousine firm.

Julia did not want to favor either Clara or Hannah. She reasoned that the drive from the hotel to The Main Line on a Saturday afternoon was only twenty minutes. Annabel could not soak a diaper that quickly. Besides by then Julia was taking great pride in the effective diapering of her daughter.

So, Hannah and Clara shared one of the towne cars. Sam, Edna, Arthur and Trudy Josse shared the other towne car. There being no privacy window separating the driver from the passengers in a towne car, Clara and Hannah needed to be circumspect in their conversation.

John Merriman was leading a caravan of the towne cars. As they pulled up in front of the Rogers' mansion, Julia recognized the classic pre-war Rolls Royce belonging to her older friend Martha Pryor. To Julia that seemed most peculiar.

There was no need for a representative of the real estate broker to provide keys. Lenny Rogers, with Martha hanging from his arm, opened the door in greeting.

Site unseen, Julia and Richard were willing to buy the property at the price quoted by the broker. Their own real estate experts and appraiser considered that asking price as very fair to the buyer.

Inside the mansion, Lenny said that since it was his friends who were interested enough to buy an option, he decided to reduce the price to less than half of the listing. Richard signed the documents on the spot.

Yes, there was hanky-panky going on. Martha and Lenny had spent Friday night at the mansion. They claimed in separate bedrooms, which might have been true part of the night.

Lenny had rounded up some of his long-time staff, so they would be first in line for any jobs Julia could offer. She did not intend to employ a significant year-around staff in Philadelphia. Her plan was to bring most of the staff with them from the Manhattan mansion, leaving just a minimum staff at the mansion when the family was in Philadelphia. Basically Julia felt the permanent Philadelphia staff would be a married

couple. The wife would maintain the interior of the home, while her husband would take care of the exterior and provide security at night. A couple, Nancy and Robert Ellet, who had worked for Lenny as a parlor maid and gardener were very much interested in that job.

The master bedroom suite was obvious on the second floor in the quietest part to the rear of the house. There were twin bathrooms, each with a tub and shower combination. There was a short passageway connecting the two bedroom mini suites. There was a lot of closet space. Julia recognized one of Martha's favorite new dresses hanging in a closet. Richard had a change of clothing hanging in his closet. The beds were made with clean sheets.

The last time the mansion needed a nursery was when Lenny's daughter was an infant. He separated from his wife when their girl was a year-old, eight years ago. The nursery room had a connecting door to a room which served as the Nanny's own bedroom and office, with a full bathroom connecting to both rooms. Both the office and the nursery were fully furnished. The nursery was larger than average, with a modern oversized Scandinavian style changing table over cabinets, a normal-size crib (but with enough space for a much larger crib), a play pen, rocker and a closet in addition to chest of drawers.

On the far side of the nursery and off the Nanny Room, there were bedrooms with connecting bathrooms. One of those had no furniture and was painted for a girl of nine or ten with drapes popular twenty-five years before. The bedroom closer to the Nanny room was furnished for a girl of about five.

In addition, there were nine other bedrooms, most with at least a shared bathroom. On the third floor there were enough double bedrooms to house a staff of 22, plus three bedrooms in the garage for chauffeurs.

The garage could hold four limousines easily. What it contained was a classic 'shooting brake' which was similar to a 1950's 'woodie' station wagon. In Manhattan, Richard needed a third vehicle during the construction period, to move staff from house to house. Lenny offered to sell it to Richard for one hundred dollars.

It happened that Lenny's former Philadelphia chauffeur, Joel Woodhouse, was looking for steady employment. He held a Pennsylvania chauffeur license and an ordinary New York driver's license. John Merriman had talked to Joel and recommended hiring him, feeling there was no reason Joel should have difficulty obtaining a New York chauffeur's license. In private, John assured Richard he would have Pinkerton double check Joel's background and sound him out about doubling as a bodyguard. By Monday afternoon Pinkerton would have a complete report.

The kitchen was in the basement directly under the grand dining room which was on the first floor. It was almost as large as the current kitchen in the Barclay Mansion and as up-to-date as the owner of a department store selling appliances could desire. The kitchen had two dumb waiters: one for the family dining room and a larger one for the formal dining room. Those were the old-fashioned kind with rope and pulleys, but they were in excellent condition.

The Grand Dining room had a table which could comfortably seat 36 people, with a generous amount of service around them. There was a smaller family dining room with seating for eight at the table. With the combination of a morning room, a billiards room, a study, a library and the reception hall, there was more than enough room for 36 guests to be comfortable and entertained before and after dinner.

All told, there was china service for fifty guests plus another service for twelve in the family dining room. None of the silverware was antique, but it was of respectable quality. There was a shortage of crystal stemware and tumblers, but the Rogers' store carried glass and crystal ware.

The living room had a less than twenty-year-old Baldwin concert grand piano, which Annabel said was in fine repair and well tuned.

In the basement there was storage for food, wine and spirits. There was a servants' hall, a laundry and offices/bedrooms for the cook, butler and housekeeper. Beyond the laundry where was a mechanical room with a gas furnace/boiler.

Lenny made it clear none of his family heirlooms had been in this mansion since his birth. His hated about to be ex wife took enough furniture to set up her own home, including the furniture for the daughter's future room.

Lenny said his reduced asking price included every piece of furniture and equipment in the mansion, including all the service ware and linens.

Annabel's only request was to replace the normal crib with a larger one. "Could it be like Susan's? That would be so much fun!"

Hannah just rolled her eyes, hardly surprised Annabel did not care about the other potential bedrooms for her.

During the following week, as soon as Pinkerton gave the good word, Joel Woodhouse would drive the shooting brake to Manhattan, where Ron Butterfield would have the vehicle registered in New York and obtain a New York CCW for Joel.

It was also decided that John Merriman would retain his Pennsylvania CCW, routinely carrying a Colt .45 pistol registered to the Manhattan store. He would carry the Pinkerton pistol with him back to Manhattan, and return it to the Pinkerton office there.

Sam Schwartz helped Richard take a couple of 36 exposure rolls of pictures with the Leica of the Rogers' mansion and contents.

Lenny and Martha announced they wanted to host a catered dinner that night to celebrate the sale of the mansion. Joel would drive the shooting brake which could seat five passengers, so one of the town cars was sent back to its garage.

Sam managed to leave all the film taken by him and Richard on Saturday at the photo store before they closed. But due to the Blue Laws, they would not be developed and printed until lunchtime on Monday.

While riding back to the hotel to change for the dinner party, Richard and Julia decided he would stay in Philadelphia all week, so as to drive home with her a week from Sunday. Only if absolutely necessary would Richard take the express Pullman to Manhattan on Tuesday and would take the 10:05 A.M. Express Pullman back to Philadelphia on Thursday morning.

Unfortunately Sam Schwartz needed to take a train back to Manhattan Sunday afternoon, since he was needed in the store's Retail Photo Department.

Before Annabel rode back to the hotel with Nanny Parsons and Hannah, by now free of her hangover, she asked to use a toilet. Hannah removed the girl's diaper. Annabel passed a significant amount of stool as well as pee. Her diaper was not very wet, but was sweaty. After she was finished on the toilet and had wiped herself, Hannah used the nursery's changing table to pin Annabel into a fresh diaper.

The dinner was a lot of fun. Lenny played the piano and sang a nonsense song he had written when he was in prep school and studying Portuguese. The day he had met Annabel, when she sang a verse of her 'Gwendolyn and Christopher' song, he had sung his song in Portuguese to her. He explained he wrote it in that language because it was harder, and sang it to her because she had freckles.

In fact, Annabel only had faint freckles, so the remark made even less sense than his song.

As a warm-up to Lenny, Annabel played a short piece recently written by Maestro Leopold Stokowski to much applause. The hold-out was Martha Pryor, who had yet to succumb to the new, improved Annabel charms.

During the trip back to the hotel, again with Clara and Hannah, Annabel fell asleep. She needed to be carried to her bed, where Nanny Parsons delicately removed the child's dress and diaper. She was pinned into a fresh diaper and dressed in a nightie without waking up. Hannah wrote a cute 'Rain Check' which was placed beneath the hairbrush and 'Girl's Spanker' on Annabel's bedside table.

In their suite, Saturday night Julia ventured to Richard's bed. Her spanking was foreplay not that either needed additional arousal. They spooned until well after dawn on Sunday morning.

Richard was very happy he did not need to catch an early Pullman back to Manhattan.