

# Miss Annabel and Julia

## Chapter 19

### “Tiny Piano Tuning”

Fiction by Angela Bauer

*Before dawn on Thursday, 29 June 1933 it was clear and dry in Manhattan as well as Philadelphia.*

With Richard, Julia and Annabel Barclay in Philadelphia, the Park Avenue mansion staff did not need to start work as early as usual. For the past week most had visited the Dyckman Mansion. Many had worked there recently and needed to decide what of the Dyckman furnishings should be stored and which would be used by the Barclays during their stay. The handful of Barclay staff not familiar with the Dyckman Mansion was given tours so they would not get lost after the move there.

From the Barclay Mansion staff, several not already in Philadelphia were invited as guests to the Saturday evening party. That included: the butler and cook, Raymond and Rose Franklyn; Richard’s chauffeur Buddy Edwards; the chef, Jane Wilson; the sous chef, Daisy Robinson; the parlor maid, Anna Bates; the upstairs maid, Elsie Watson.

All of them had been given a new outfit for the party from the Barclay of Fifth Avenue store and custom fitted there. From the store, several executives and managers were invited. So, too, was Agnes Mayo, executive secretary to both Richard and Julia. Agnes would be wearing a lovely couture gown from the store.

Agnes needed to stay at the store until opening on Saturday. All of the Mansion staff would travel to Philadelphia in a Pullman stateroom on Friday afternoon.

As usual, Annabel woke up before 6 A.M. Her diaper was virtually dry. However, since there was no hurry getting up and her diaper would be

changed soon, she simply stayed in bed. When she needed to pee, she did so in her diaper without shame or guilt. The soft stretchy PlayTex rubber panties held in her urine.

At 6:45 A.M. it was Nanny Clara Parsons who knocked on Annabel's door. As she opened it the girl practically leapt out of bed to hug her beloved long-time nanny. "Oh, Nanny, last night Mommy told me you would be looking after me today, so Nanny Randall can have some rest. I love her, but it is so nice to spend time with you. Are you managing to have some fun on your vacation?"

"Yes, Lambie Pie, your parents have been so kind and generous. I have made several new friends here. I love having the chance to be with you.

"Of course I will take you to your music lessons. What would you like to do until then?"

"Nanny, since Daddy has been here, usually he has breakfast in my practice room with Mommy. Often Nanny Randall and I are up so early we have a small breakfast in the restaurant before the practice room opens. But today, I do not want to over-practice. I'm going to take my toy piano downstairs and practice on it instead of the grand piano.

"If you don't mind, I would prefer to skip the restaurant, so I can really eat with Daddy and Mommy. They will expect you to join them, since there is always far too much food.

"Last night Mommy suggested that I take a rain-check instead of my morning spanking. Probably I deserve spanking, but Nanny Randall and Mommy want my derrière to heal some more. Of course if you feel I deserve spanking by all means do that."

"Lambie Pie, I am not being too soft on you when I completely agree with your mother and Nanny Randall. I would only spank you today if you insisted against my advice.

"So, now that I have removed your diaper, I will start your bath while you undress. Nanny Randall has told me you are bathing yourself responsibly. That delights me.

"Just let me know when you are starting to dry yourself. I will help with your hair. During the day do you prefer a single diaper?"

"Yes, Nanny; today we will always be very close to a ladies' room. The days I wear a double diaper are when we are not sure about ladies' rooms.

"For my lessons I should wear a dress similar to the one for the party. I believe Mommy and Nanny Randall have selected that. I will keep it clean during breakfast, so with your approval I would prefer to practice this morning wearing that dress.

“Mommy did promise that if I have healed enough she will spank me tonight to help me sleep, so I accept the rain-check.”

Annabel took as short a bath as possible, so she was diapered, her hair neatly styled and dressed in time they were waiting when the practice room was unlocked at 7:15 A.M. Annabel did politely tell the second assistant manager she would only need to practice until 8:15 A.M.

Normally Annabel would sit on the carpet with her tiny piano in front of her also on the carpet. However, after it was agreed that she would play it and sing some of her songs at the party, she received a phone call from her piano instructor, Professor Sylvia Gershwin.

For the party Maestro Eugene Ormandy needed the piano to be on a table or box the appropriate height that Annabel could stand while playing it and singing. So that was how she wanted to practice. She was short enough an ordinary room service rolling table was the correct height. While waiting for the elevator on her hotel floor Annabel tried one. She asked one be sent to the practice room ahead of the meal service.

Listening to her scales, Annabel felt a few keys were not correctly tuned. She compared those to the grand piano and was sure about the miss-tuning. She left a message with the Academy of Music switchboard about needing her piano tuned.

Over the past couple of afternoons, Annabel had written three new verses of her ‘Gwendolyn and Christopher’ song. She had also carefully copied all of the verses as neatly as she could. She also copied her music neatly in ink.

Nanny Parsons had only heard the first three verses and was entertained by the entire song. She did not notice the out-of-tune keys.

Richard and Julia arrived on time at 7:30 A.M., accompanied by Sam Schwartz. He was carrying a Leica camera and took a whole roll of pictures while Annabel practiced. He told her and Richard he was using the new Kodak higher speed film because he wanted to see it developed and printed as a test before the party. He left the exposed roll of film at the concierge’s desk for pick-up by the photo store’s messenger.

Sam’s plan was to wait at the hotel until Marv Jacobs from Ace Newsreel Service arrived for another scout of the Ballroom with David Ramsey from the hotel. Sam had reached the hotel while the Barclays were at dinner Wednesday night.

Richard had left the list of Philadelphia still photographers provided by Marv with the front desk. Sam had received it and phoned as many of those photographers as answered their phones. They would meet Sam in the Ballroom as they could fit that into their schedules.

Richard and Julia were delighted that Annabel was concentrating on them. They also were pleased that she was not distracted from her music while Sam was photographing her.

Julia and Richard were driven to the Rogers' store by his temporary Pinkerton armed chauffeur. There each of them settled in for a very productive morning of meetings. That store was virtually up to Barclay standards as pushed by Julia.

Richard had originally estimated it would take a year. He had set the price he paid Lenny Rogers based upon expected losses lasting a year. The unexpected early profits would allow some experimentation in advertising, promotion and advertising for late summer, fall and holiday season in 1933.

Annabel decided to conclude her practice even before 8:15 A.M. mostly because she felt the bad keys were getting even more out of tune as she played. Up in her room she asked Nanny Parsons to undress her so she could take a nap before going to her music lessons.

Professor Gershwin returned Annabel's call about the tiny piano tuning issues. The Philadelphia's supervising piano tuner and Maestro Ormandy would meet her when she arrived to decide what to do.

Nanny Parsons felt they should arrive at the Academy of Music fifteen minutes early. She also called Helen Wood at the Rogers' store to find out if a similar toy piano was left in stock. Helen assured Clara that the manager of the toy department would find one somewhere and get it on a rush basis.

Actually it turned out to be fairly simple to re-tune Annabel's own tiny piano. While the top did not open like a normal piano, it did come off when a few screws were removed. The tuning pegs were much smaller than on a real piano, but could be adjusted with a small screw driver.

However, Maestro Ormandy felt it to be more entertaining if the tiny piano was not perfectly tuned. He suggested that if a spare could be located in time, that would be tuned to match Annabel's, so if something went wrong, the new one could be substituted in.

After the tuning issues were settled, the Maestro was very pleased with the way Annabel played and sang her songs. He complimented her on her excellent music notation and her professionalism by providing him a neat copy of the music. On the spot he decided to write an arrangement so that during Annabel's singing the orchestra would subtly start playing accompaniment.

A rehearsal would be held late on Saturday afternoon in the Ballroom to try this as yet unwritten, and copied, orchestration.

To improve the acoustics of the tiny piano, it was decided to have the staff prop department construct the support box without casters, so it

would 'couple' with the stage floor. The Prop Master came to the piano classroom and took the needed measurements.

Annabel also handed the Prop Master her tiny piano, so before the Saturday rehearsal in the Ballroom, it could be tuned to Maestro Ormandy's satisfaction. Then if another could be found, it would be tuned to match her current tiny piano.

Once Maestro Ormandy left the room, Annabel played all the exercises she had been given by Professor Gershwin.

Between that class and music notation with Professor Theodore Bernstein, Nanny Parsons took Annabel to her usual remote ladies' room for a discreet diaper change.

Professor Bernstein was very pleased with Annabel's neat notation of her music. When she told him that before the performance Maestro Ormandy was going to write an arrangement for the party orchestra, Professor Bernstein gave her a lesson in arranging and orchestration, so she could learn how to write for instruments beyond the piano. Annabel was thrilled with that lesson.

As her lesson ended, Theodore Bernstein gave her the names and addresses of a few Manhattan based composition teachers. The one he recommended the most had a studio in the Carnegie Hall building, where she would be taking piano lessons. Annabel agreed that as soon as she was accepted by a composition teacher, she would tell Professor Bernstein so he could help plan her future lessons.

Of course Theodore and his wife would be attending the party Saturday evening. Professor Gershwin was not married, so her invitation included a 'Plus-One'.

From the Academy of Music, John Merriman drove Annabel and Nanny Parsons to the Rogers' of Philadelphia Department Store. The chauffeur concierge promised to leave a message with Julia that they were in the store and going directly to the Couture Department for fittings of their party gowns.

There they ran into Hannah, who was about to leave after her own final gown fitting. She waited during Annabel and Clara's fittings. When Julia walked into the Couture Department, she invited Hannah to join them at lunch in the store's VIP dining room.

They were seated at a table for six. Richard and Sam Schwartz joined them a few minutes later. After making arrangements for the Philadelphia publicity photographers to cover the party, Sam had gone to the photo store. There he used their Leitz enlarger to make a few 8x10" prints of selected negatives he had taken of Annabel playing that morning. One he enlarged to 16x20" which was the largest paper the store had in stock.

The photo store agreed to open their darkroom on Saturday evening to develop and print the film Sam would be shooting with the Leica cameras. Messengers would carry the exposed film from the party to the photo store as Sam finished individual rolls.

As soon as he was finished taking pictures at the party, Sam would go to the photo store's darkroom to personally make some enlargements. The hired photographers were going to use the darkroom of one of them located closest to the hotel to develop and enlarge the 4x5" film they would be using.

Most of their photos would be taken early in the party, but two of the photographers would stay later to cover the concert. One of those was the same photographer who had taken pictures of Annabel previously.

When the 4x5" negatives were dried, they would be contact printed. Those proofs would be sent to the photo store, so Sam could select negatives to be enlarged for distribution to the Philadelphia newspapers and the wire services. It would be a long night for the photographers and darkroom technicians. This was exactly the kind of major photo event that Samuel Schwartz loved.

Previously the photo store had been prevented by Pennsylvania 'blue laws' from developing and printing for Richard and Sam on Sunday. There was a loophole in the blue law allowing doing darkroom work on news photographs on Sundays when the job started on Saturday and continued into Sunday. That 'loophole' is often called 'The Philadelphia Inquirer Exemption'.

Seeing the enlargements, Annabel asked if Sam and her Daddy could teach her how to use the darkroom. This absolutely thrilled Richard. He decided that a darkroom would be built near the family rooms on the second floor of the remodeled Barclay Mansion. When the time came to do remodeling of the former Rogers' Mansion in Philadelphia, space would be found for a darkroom there.

Julia and even Annabel noticed how Hannah could not take her beautiful eyes off of Sam during the lunch. Neither had even seen Hannah show so much interest in any man before.

How fortunate for Hannah that she had all day Thursday off. By happy coincidence, the only remaining duty on Sam's Thursday 'to do list' was discussing Leica cameras and Leitz enlargers with the staff of the Rogers' store retail photo department. Before the take-over that department only sold low to moderately-priced amateur cameras and no darkroom supplies.

Richard wanted to expand that photo department to include professional-quality cameras and enlargers which could be profitably sold to wealthy customers as had proven successful in Manhattan. He reasoned that many men accompanying their wives or other ladies to the store

welcomed the chance to discuss exotic cameras to pass the time. Often enough to make it profitable, they would buy expensive cameras such as Leicas.

That evening Hannah and Sam had a quiet dinner together at an out-of-the-way restaurant. That was the first of many meals Sam and Hannah would share.

Unfortunately for Richard and Julia, they still had important work to do up in their offices. Reluctantly they kissed Annabel good-bye.

Trudy Josse took a message for Annabel and Hannah that they were invited for lunch and backyard activities by Ruth and Betty Hoffstadt on Friday. There was another message from Leticia Manchester about the same event.

Annabel really wanted to concentrate on her music until the concert. Nanny Clara Parsons helped her think of the larger picture. There was a very real probability that Susan Manchester and Betty Hoffstadt could be her life-long friends. With the departure for Manhattan very early on Monday, this could be her last chance to spend time with her friends.

As long as the Barclays owned their Main Line mansion, Betty would be Annabel's neighbor who was the only person near her age in that area.

Seeing Nanny's reasoning, as well as the hairbrush she was holding, Annabel put on her best smile and assured Ruth Hoffstadt that she was looking forward to having lunch and spending time at her home on Friday.

Clara Parsons relaxed and put the hairbrush back in the diaper bag. On her own Annabel phoned Leticia Manchester to ask if she would be accompanying Susan and if they would like to ride with her to the Hoffstadt home.

It had been a productive morning and lunch time. After those phone calls Annabel asked if she could be changed so that she could take a nap.

Nanny Parsons assured her that was allowed. "Lambie Pie, would you like a soothing bubble bath?"

"Yes, Please, Nanny Parsons. I am already sleepy, so may I have another rain check this afternoon?"

Nanny Parsons smiled thinking about that evening only a few weeks before when Annabel chased Fluffy, kicked her piano and threw a tantrum. Julia had ended the tantrum by 'spanking the daylight out of Annabel'.

"Of course as far as I am concerned, you may have unlimited rain checks, until you actually do misbehave. If I decide you need to be punished, I will do so as hard as I consider necessary. I love you, as does Nanny Randall. You know your parents love you.

“Enjoy your bath. Let me know when you are ready for a nap diaper and sleep shirt.”

For over two hours Annabel slept as soundly as a real baby. She also proved her double diaper and PlayTex panties were functional, because Annabel wet like a sleeping infant!

During Thursday afternoon, Ronald Butterfield called Richard. He was taking the 6:54 P.M. Pullman that evening. He wanted to coordinate with the Bellevue-Stratford staff and Pinkerton about security for the party. He assured Richard that the Pinkerton office would obtain a Pennsylvania CCW for Buddy Edwards on Saturday for the future. During this trip Buddy would not be on duty and would not be carrying a pistol.

As time permitted on Friday or Saturday, Ron intended to survey the new Main Line mansion to correct any security problems if they existed.

Richard thanked Ron and wished him a safe trip.

After ending the conversation with Ron, Richard’s attention drifted back to ‘Love Leave’ mode. All he wanted to do was to be in bed with Julia.

The funny thing is at about the same moment Julia was sitting along at her desk, thinking about all the social events she had missed. She had gone to work for Richard’s father William R. Barclay days after graduating from Barnard in 1920. Since then she had never taken a vacation longer than a couple of days.

Although she had talked a bold romantic game with Richard the evening before they married, Julia reflected that before him she had never been in love. She had not had more than two or three dates a year. Until she began missing Richard early during her trip to Philadelphia, she had been as passionate about her work as she could have been with a lover. That afternoon she found herself watching the clock, dreaming about Richard.

There was a staff meeting still to be conducted. The key executives and managers assembled in the conference room. Lloyd Carpentier, the new General Manager of Rogers’ of Philadelphia, was scheduled to conduct the staff meeting, but both Julia and Richard were expected to participate.

Five minutes before the meeting was to start, Julia eased her way into Richard’s office and effortlessly locked the door behind her. “Daddy, I am being a really bad girl. I am not paying attention to my work.”

Richard was by then able to understand when Julia was flirting. “Well, Young Lady, such misbehavior is totally unacceptable. You will need to be severely punished. The best thing will be to send you to your room!”

“But, Daddy, my room is at the hotel! What about the meeting?”

“We will tell them that Lloyd is in charge and that we have another urgent meeting elsewhere. Or, Young Lady, do you want to admit I am sending you to your room to prepare yourself for a real spanking?”

“Oh, Daddy, please do not tell them that! Just take me to my room as soon as you can. Please?”

Julia’s Philadelphia store secretary, Helen Wood, had just begun to recognize when Julia slipped into ‘Love Leave’ mode. When she saw Julia slide into Richard’s office, Helen called Trudy at the hotel to have her alert Arthur Swift and Edna Lyall to standby to help Julia and Richard undress.

Annabel awoke from her nap refreshed and ready to dress for dinner. At the same time her parents rang to be helped to dress for dinner.

Since Annabel would be carrying the small diaper bag, Nanny Parsons only pinned her into a single diaper. Clara Parsons was enough old-school she did not approve of girls not yet past puberty wearing any form of cosmetics. Therefore as the girl sat in her living room waiting for her parents she was wearing not the slightest trace of her pink lipstick. She did not express any disappointment.

Richard and Julia hugged and kissed their daughter. “Angel, you are not completely dressed for dinner. Do you have the tube of lipstick I gave you?”

Annabel said it was in her diaper bag. “Please find it and come to me, Lambie Pie. You know how to put on lipstick, but to save time now, let me do that this time.”

Their reservations were at Bookbinder’s Seafood Restaurant, which all of them enjoyed. Richard’s Pinkerton chauffeur did the driving in Julia’s Rolls Royce so that John Merriman, Buddy Edwards and Ron Butterfield could have a discreet security discussion while their ‘protectees’ were in a safe public place.

Before the dessert, Annabel whispered to Julia that she needed her diaper changed. The only drawback to Bookbinder’s was that the ladies’ room was old-fashioned and therefore lacked a modern changing table. Annabel remembered that problem.

On this trip Julia had become skilled at diapering her cooperative daughter. They worked as a team. Thus the diaper and PlayTex rubber panties were changed quickly, without wrinkling Annabel’s dress. Julia took the opportunity to use a toilet. After hand washing, Julia reapplied her lipstick, as did Annabel.

For the drive back to the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel, Annabel rode in a jump seat so her parents could cuddle. By the time the car reached the chauffeur entrance, Annabel was sleeping. Richard easily carried her to her room.

Nanny Hannah Randall had dined with Sam Schwartz and had only changed back into her nanny mode a few minutes before the family returned to the hotel. She took the sleeping Annabel.

Without difficulty she undressed the girl, leaving her in a diaper and rubber pants. The dress was neatly hung in the closet.

Very soon Julia entered the bedroom, having been changed into one of her 'Mommy Dresses' the better to eventually give Annabel a bath. Hannah had whispered that the diaper had capacity left.

Julia started telling a story about a princess and some animals until Annabel woke up.

"Lambie Pie, you fell asleep in the car and you just woke up. Would you like a rain check? You have been a responsible and nice girl for days."

"Mommy, you are right, I did fall asleep already. But now I am wide awake. Probably all I need to get back to sleep is a paddy-whacking, but if you decide to punish me harder, I understand."

Julia removed the diaper and rubber panties. Without any enthusiasm Julia gave Annabel the fifty mildest smacks using just her hand she hoped would satisfy the girl. Then Annabel was double-diapered and pulled into clean PlayTex rubber panties. Annabel was tucked in with a hug and a kiss.

Minutes later Julia and Richard returned. But by then Annabel was sleeping with her contented, beatific smile on her face. She was kissed by both her parents and left alone to sleep.

Down the hall, Richard and Julia were walking hand-in-hand. Inside their own suite, he started to lead her to his bedroom.

Julia had other ideas. She pulled away, toward her bedroom: "Daddy, I was such a bad girl today, I did not learn my lesson before over your knee!"

"Well, Young Lady, I will just have to teach you the same lesson, even if it takes all night!"