



Reluctant Press

VIGNETTES

Jane Young



ILLUSTRATIONS BY C PAGANI

A 'SPECTRUM' NOVEL

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Reluctant Press TG Publishers

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Vignettes

Birthday

By Jane Young

The family of Stanley Relford including all three of his living grandparents was poor in material goods, however their wealth was in strong family values. His maternal grandmother was deceased. Stan and his parents resided in a family built house on his grandfather's farm. Stan had eighteen cousins on that side of the family. Only two were within a year and a half of Stan's age. Stan was the youngest.

When Stan was four and a half years of age he attended a birthday party for his cousin Eleanora. Nora was turning five years old. Nora's father and three grandparents were deceased.

They shared a grandfather, however Stan's living grandmother sort of adopted Nora by making things for her whenever she made something for her natural grandchildren. Nora's birthday gift consisted of a set of day-of-the-week panties. The panties were hand-embroidered by Gran. The decoration consisted of the

weekday above that was a flower in the same color thread. Opposite the weekday was the name Nora also embroidered in the same color thread.

Nora showed her new panties to everyone present. She was proud of them. She showed them lovingly to Stan and asked him if he would not like a lovely set of panties for his birthday. Stan told Nora that they were certainly pretty panties with their flowers, Nora and day name embroidered on them. Stan did not respond either positively or negatively to Nora's question, he ignored it.

Nora next moved on to Brenda, her twelve year-old sister and asked her if she thought it would be okay for her to request Gran to make a set of panties similar to her own for Stan.

Brenda answered Nora; "I don't think many boys wear panties, however I think that since you are so happy with your gift you should give Gran hugs and kisses. You can also ask her if she is going to make a set of pretty panties for Stan for his next birthday. You can tell Gran that for Stan to have pretty panties, he should have them before he gets too much older. Boys tend to play much rougher than girls do as they get older and they might not be tough enough for him by the time he is my age.

Nora went to Gran and thanked her with hugs and kisses. She then said to Gran in words beyond her years, "Gran I certainly like my panties. Last year you gave set to Sis and now to me. Are you going to give a set to Stan for his birthday?"

Gran was taken back but soon recovered and said to Nora, "Dear, why should I give panties to Stan? He is a boy."

Nora thought for a moment then said, "Well Gran they are so pretty and when Stan is older he will not be able to wear panties. Boys play rougher as the get older and girls don't play so rough, therefore by the time we are twelve years old panties are not heavy enough in construction for boys. However when boys are little it seems to me they could and should wear nice things the same as girls."

Grandmother thought for a while before answering Nora, "Well Honey, I understand what you are saying and I agree with you however I think you should ask your Aunt Dee. Additionally I think that young boys could wear satin and lace panties and vests when they are dressed in their finest clothes for special occasions. Did you know Dear that in the 1800's most better families dressed their boys and girls exactly the same until as you noted the boys got older and they would be too rough on delicate dresses and undies?"

Nora replied, "Gran, when were the 1800's? Was it long ago?"

Gran told Nora that, "the 1800's were a long time before she was born. If you want Stan to have a nice set of panties, the same as your new ones she would need to talk to Stan's mother, Auntie Dee."

Nora was sent to go to the kitchen to cut her cake and eat the first piece.

Later Gran and Dee were chatting in the kitchen when the subject of day-of-the-week panties was raised. Nora had asked Dee if would be okay for Gran to

embroider a set for Stan. The same argument was that boys played too rough when they got older and if he was to have some nice day-of-the-week panties. The two women talked about it and decided there wasn't a valid reason to prevent Stan from having a set of panties while he was this young. However when he was say ten or twelve years of age it could be awkward for a boy to accidentally discovered to be so attired by his friends. They agreed finally that the decision should be Stan's. The next thing they discussed was how to ask Stan if he wanted a set of day-of-the-week panties without making it seem like they were trying to influence the lad's decision. Dee agreed to talk to Stan and notify then notify Gran of the child's decision. If the two women thought this was the end of the discussion they had another think coming.

Nora had gone to Stan again and told him that Gran thought it a good idea to have panties while he was young enough to enjoy them. A few days later when they were home, Dee asked Stan, if he remembered Nora's birthday party. He told her he remembered the party and the cake. His mother said that she saw him talking to Nora more than once and she wondered what it was about since her party and we thought you would play games. Stan told his mother that Nora had asked him to ask Gran to make him a set of day-of-the-week panties like hers.

"And what did you tell her, Dear," asked Dee? She learned that Nora told him that her new panties were pretty and he should ask Gran to make a set for him also. Stan explained that he didn't have time to give her an answer. She disappeared to talk to someone else. Mom elicited further information from Stan explaining that he thought the idea was neat to have unique underwear for each day of the week. His Mother explained to him that it wasn't just underwear but that they were panties and if Gran made a set for him he would have to wear them until they wore out or he outgrew them because money didn't grow on trees.

He told her he understood but it was such a neat idea he would wear them as she said.

The next time Dee talked to Gran she told her that Stan had agreed to wear day-of-the-week panties until they were unserviceable. Dee also added just because the boy had said he would wear the panties Gran was under no obligation to provide them for him. Gran told Dee that she herself had assumed the decision would be positive and that she had decided that if the lad wanted them she would embroider them for his birthday.

Stan's birthday was about six months after Nora's and at his party he received a set of day-of-the-week panties from Gran. Nora was as happy as Stan was when she told him now we can each know we are wearing the same undies each day. Stan also thought it was neat to have undies to wear each day with his name and the day of the week on them plus flowers, which were the same as the flowers on Nora's panties. At Christmas Nora and Stan each got embroidered vests to match their day-of-the-week panties.

Over the next few years Stan and Nora each got panties and vests from Gran for their birthday and Christmas. Stan never asked not to wear his panties. He was used to them and when he went to gym class in middle school his mother in-

sisted he wear boys briefs so he wouldn't be made fun of by the other boys in his class. He told his mother he felt uncomfortable in boy's briefs so his mother stitched the fly closed and fit rayon panties inside the briefs and also stitched them to the inside thereof. Thus Stan finished middle school wearing his modified panty briefs on days he had gym and regular panties and vests at all other times.

From time to time over the years Stan received an occasional hand-me-down blouse or shorts set, which he wore for play clothes to supplement his meager supply of boy play clothes. He did not resent having to wear these girl clothes. In fact Stan didn't think of these clothes as anything other than they were his play clothes.

Stanley Relford was late developing and was ashamed of the fact that he appeared to be more physically like an eleven-year-old child, while he was actually a fifteen-year-old boy. He was occasionally reminded by his aunts that he looked just like his mother did at a similar age. Because he was small and delicately built a well meaning neighbor recommended to Stan's parents that they let his hair grow long enough to cover his neck, which would keep the obvious sickly child's neck warm. Family and friends thought he could regain his health. Looking back years later people realized Stan was not sickly but in reality was as strong and healthy as an ox physically. He was destined to be a smaller than average wiry person.

Stan arrived home from school one day when he was fifteen years old. His mother told him she forgot to pay gas and water bills and to get the proffered discount would he take money and bills from the kitchen table and go downtown and pay them before supper was ready. Stan changed from school to play clothes, picked up the bills and money and headed into the business district on his errand.

It took him twenty minutes to walk to the Gas Company and another few to get to the Water Works. After he paid the bills he decided to go home by a different route. He had planned to go this way ever since the new city public rest rooms opened. The kids at school told him how neat it was. The two rest rooms were under the center market square and bus transfer point. The entrance to the men and women's facility each was an arc traversing one quadrant of the perimeter of the circular square. The entrances to the men and women's facilities were about fifty feet apart where they started; however as the steps to each room descended they approached each other. When the bottom was reached they each turned under the square in parallel. Each opened into a restroom and had an attendant who provided toiletries and towels and wash clothes, etcetera for a small service fee. Between the two rest rooms there existed a common supply room with lockable doors for access from each side. Those two accesses were offset to prevent looking from one restroom into the other restroom.

Stan was impressed by the shiny new facility with urinals down one wall and booths down the opposite wall. All the booths cost a nickel save one free booth. A double row of washbasins each with an attached mirror was situated in the middle of the room. At one end sat the attendant at a table with his stash of supplies and at the other end were two elaborate washstands with shaving mirrors. This provided a place for businessmen to wash themselves, shave and put on a clean shirt for an important meeting late in the day. Stan was deeply impressed, to such an extent: he stood awestruck.

“No loitering,” the attendant called out. Stan did not hear in his wonderment. All he had ever seen were smelly rest rooms at school or at the park where the family had an occasional picnic.

The attendant walked up to Stan and grabbed him by the nape of his neck in preparation to ousting him from the facility when he realized he had a hold of hair and not a neck. He quickly assessed the situation and assumed he was holding a young girl who had borrowed her brother’s clothing to sneak into the men’s room on a dare. He held the child easily and walked him to the door of the supply room. He took an intercom phone off the hook and buzzed the ladies room attendant. He said, “Mabel, I caught one of yours here in the men’ room. I am putting her in the supply room where you can get her.” With that said, Stan quickly found himself in the supply room and the door behind him locked. The other door opened and a woman beckoned Stan into the ladies room. When he was averse to moving on her command Stan was soon grabbed and yanked into the forbidden chamber. The attendant lectured Stan on what could happen to her if some sick man discovered who she was. Stan was so agitated now that he really did need to pee and he tried to indicate that fact, but no words would come out of his mouth. A woman standing nearby witnessed and heard the even. She walked to a booth, put a nickel in the slot, opened the door and beckoned the child when she properly sized-up the situation. When the attendant released him, Stan rushed into the booth and quickly relieved himself.

When Stan reluctantly exited the booth the woman who had kept him from having an accident handed him soap and a hand towel. While Stan cleaned his hands, the unknown woman composed a note on some paper; she retrieved from her purse. She took Stan by the hand and led him out of the restroom all the time lecturing him to go home, get out of her brother’s clothes and put on a pretty dress and enjoy her girlhood. She gave Stan the note she had written to his mother explaining that her daughter had been caught while dressed as a boy, in the men’s room. She watched him put the note into a pocket and then with a final admonishment she departed.

As Stan walked home slowly he read the note created by the unknown woman. The note described the events that occurred accurately but was based on the false premise that Stan was a girl. He decided that if the content of the note were to become known, he would be teased more than usual. He carefully and deliberately tore the note into tiny pieces and stuffed some of it into one storm sewer and the remainder into another storm sewer. He didn’t want anyone to learn of the events of this strange day.

Young Adulthood

When Stan went away to college the family wasn't in very good financial standing and it was necessary to hold down expenses wherever possible. Therefore he brought his soiled clothing home every two weeks and either he or his mother did the laundry chore. Winter approached and travel was not always an easy task, if freezing rain or snow was in the offing. It would be expensive to send out laundry to be cleaned professionally and Dee wanted Stan to have enough clean stuff for an extra week now and again in case the weather soured.

Dee decided it would be prudent for Stan to have something to use in an emergency that he could rinse out in his college digs and which would dry quickly. She went to Sear's to find if they had anything practical to fill the bill. After discussing her needs with a clerk, Dee decided that nothing practical existed locally. She decided silk skiing underwear was the solution. That would be expensive and would require a trip to a specialty shop in a larger city.

A thunderbolt hit her; if silk wasn't available locally a substitute was available here at Sear's. She headed to the women's department. She looked for underwear and found what she sought. The answer to her prayers was what her mother's generation wore every winter day, rayon undervests and panties or bloomers. They were of a material, rayon, which could be rinsed daily and would quick dry overnight and could be used for endless consecutive days. This option could fill in for Stan during those periods of time when travel was impossible. She bought three-packs of vests and panties. She would have bought bloomers as the more practical option for inclement weather but she wasn't sure Stan would use them. Dee was fairly certain Stan would use the panties and vests since he wore panties and vests for a number of years with nary a peep from him. Of course he may never need to use these dainties, but insurance never hurt.

Stan packed the undies in the bottom of his suitcase where he knew they would remain hidden from any prying eyes at college. If they were discovered he intended to say they were a gift for Christmas. He hoped he never needed to use them. During his tenure at college however, nature stepped in with one of the worst winters of the last century and he made practical use of his mother's thoughtfulness. After Stan finally was able to get home that winter. Stan was surprised when his mother presented him with a three-pack of bloomers. Stan didn't bury them so deeply this time because he knew of their practical use and they would provide added warmth on cold days and nights.

Years Later

Stan mused of his past. He often wondered what would have been the consequences if he had given that unknown woman's letter to his mother? He knew he would not have gotten into trouble for the events as recorded in the unidentified woman's letter. He also knew he would have gotten into trouble for not coming directly home without taking his unscheduled detour.

Stan also was smart enough to know he would have been teased about his adventure by all his relatives and friends. Mom would have shown the letter to family and the word would have spread like wildfire. One relative would tell another and then two would know. Soon word would get to school. Both boys and girls alike would tease him unmercifully. He could hear it now, "Were you wearing pretty panties that caused the attendant to put you into the women's room?" "Are you going to switch to sewing and cooking classes?" Or, "Are you going to be joining the girls for gym? "I can't wait to see you in your gym bloomers."

Yes it would have been quite a traumatic experience for Stan. He was sure glad he tore up that note. Year's later Stan was a business traveler for a food conglomerate as a sales representative. Thus like his college days Stan always carried what politely is referred to as dainties for emergencies. He often wore nylon or rayon vests and bloomers instead of pajamas. He found them quit comfortable. Violet, Stan's wife never had a problem with this habit of her husband's since she rationalize he was less likely to seek female company when he was on the road.

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Broken Leg...Or Not?

By Jane Young

Hank and Marge Bishop were the parents of a girl, Mavis and the youngest, a son John. When the lad at the age of 13 years had an accident trying to prove he was a young man. John was pushing a wheelbarrow full of crushed rocks up a small embankment. The load was too much for his undeveloped body and it rolled back on him pinning his leg in an awkward position. John was transported to the family physician's office.

The doctor put a cast on the child's leg without the benefit of x-ray's since he had set many fractures in his nearly fifty year medical practice. The cast reached from just above his toes to his groin area.

Before the plaster cast was applied to his leg, the doctor's nurse-wife quickly removed John's clothing. When she began to redress him it was obvious to her that his boxer shorts and pants would not go on over the cast. The nurse had faced this problem many times previously. The nurse went to a handy closet and returned with a green dress, which she handed to John's mother indicating she should put it on the boy. The nurse told John and his mother this type of accident occurred about a half dozen times each year. They had yet to lose one of the boys due to any complications developing as a result of the perceived humiliation the child experiences wearing a dress home from the office.

On arrival home John was striped of the dress and put to bed immediately. The lad was naked but covered with a sheet while his Mother tried to think of what to put on the child to clothe his person. Family and friends were sure to visit to view the cast and possibly autograph it. She thought for a while then went to a storage closet and returned with a parcel, which she opened to revealing the contents. The contents of the parcel was a slip, panties and bra, each made of nylon.