

1 Season One: *Forbidden Diary*
2 Episode One: *On Pins and Needles in Baguio*

3
4
5 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE
6

7	Narrator	Jeannie Anne Sioson
8	Radio Voice	Chuck Fresh
9	Natalie Crouter	Sevil Delin
10	Jerry Crouter	Mark Oliver
11	Ted English	Troy Hudson
12	Millie English	Melba King
13	Fred (Bedie) Crouter	Luka Aslan Nas
14	June Crouter	Claire Oliver
15	Joesphine Perigrin	Halley DeVestern
16	Nida	Jeannie Anne Sioson

17
18
19 [Cold Open]

20
21 Narrator It is November 1941, and tension in the Philippines is as thick as a
22 muggy summer day in Manila.

23
24 The islands are a Commonwealth of the United States on the
25 brink of becoming an independent nation.¹ The US military has
26 been downsizing its presence so the Philippine Army could take
27 over.² But the discord between America and Japan has caused an
28 abrupt U-turn.
29

¹ The Tydings-McDuffie Act set 7-4-1946 as the Philippine Independence date; see <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Tydings-McDuffie-Act> and <https://www.philippine-history.org/timeline.htm>. Note: reliable internet sources will be used for commonly-known historical information.

² "The date for Philippine Independence and US military withdrawal was approaching, resulting in a reduction in funds from the US military to directly support the expansion of the Philippine Commonwealth Army." https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Military_history_of_the_Philippines_during_World_War_II. See also Morton, Lewis, *Fall of the Philippines*, pp. 10.

30 Last summer FDR cut diplomatic ties with Japan and placed an
31 embargo on oil, steel, and other critical commodities.³ The
32 Philippine Army is now under the newly-created US Army Forces
33 in the Far East. Its commander, General Douglas MacArthur, is
34 returning soldiers to active duty and positioning his armies.⁴

35
36 Nine hundred miles from Japan, in the town of Baguio, nestled in
37 the mountains on the Philippine island of Luzon, Jerry and Natalie
38 Crouter wait and watch along with everyone else, wondering
39 what's going to happen next.

40
41 Announcer And now, Episode One.

42
43

44 **[SCENE ONE]**

45
46

[TAIL END OF BIG BAND MUSIC OR NEWS PLAYING ON THE RADIO]

47
48

Radio Voice This concludes another broadcasting day from KZRH Manila.⁵

49
50

[RADIO SIGN OFF AND SOUND OF A RADIO BEING TURNED OFF]

51
52

Jerry [YAWN] I've had enough for one day. Mind if I turn off my light
Natalie?

53
54

Natalie No. You go ahead.... Jerry?

55
56
57

Jerry What?

58
59

Natalie I am sorry about that scene at bridge today.⁶

³ <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/pearl-harbor>; <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/united-states-freezes-japanese-assets>;

https://worldhistory.hcps.org/pages/pdf/u5lf_sr_japantimeline.pdf
⁴ <https://www.ibiblio.org/hyperwar/USA/USA-P-PI/USA-P-PI-2.html>.

⁵ 10kW KZRH Manila was at sea level and Baguio 4800 ft, so it wouldn't have reached. Natalie mentions listening to the radio but no call letters. <https://manilabroadcasting.com.ph/history/> and <https://asj.upd.edu.ph/mediabox/archive/ASJ-06-01-1968/lent-philippine-radio-history-problems.pdf>

60 Jerry You shouldn't let Ted English⁷ bait you, Natalie.
61
62 Natalie No, but that condescending little smirk of his just frosts me.
63
64 Jerry Ah, Ted's a horse's ass.
65
66 Natalie Well...I don't know how Millie puts up with him.
67
68 Jerry His fuse was shorter than usual today.
69
70 Natalie I'll say. I think that I'll stay up a little longer.
71
72 Jerry Don't stay up too late writing in that diary of yours.
73
74 Natalie I won't.
75
76 [SOUND OF A LIGHT SWITCH TURNING OFF]
77
78 Jerry Night.
79
80 Natalie Night Jerry.
81
82
83 [DIARY READING ONE]
84
85 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
86
87 Natalie November 28, 1941, Baguio, the Philippines. What a day it has
88 been! Jerry shuts his eyes, and he is fast asleep—but not me.
89
90 Ted English and I had a terrible run-in at bridge today, and
91 everyone stopped to hear the fireworks. Ted just kept baiting me.
92 And, well, I certainly was not going to let him get away with it.
93

⁶ Crouter, Natalie, [Forbiddn Diaries, pp. 1, November 28, 1941 diary entry](#). This setup and the vignette that follows are based on and imagined from a brief mention in Natalie's diary about a dinner at "Bev's and Jo's."

⁷ Ted and Millie English are fictitious characters.

94 Bridge started out all fine and well. I wore my navy blue suit and
95 fox fur⁸ because the weather's been chilly⁹—a rare event in the
96 Philippines, even up here in Baguio at 4800 feet.¹⁰
97 Everyone looked very smart. The Bridge Club's decorating
98 committee had the Swiss Chalet room at the country club¹¹
99 looking Christmasy. The card tables were covered with matching
100 tablecloths edged in swags of holly that the committee cross-
101 stitched a few summers ago. And, a fire crackled in the Club's
102 huge, lava-stone fireplace, which doesn't happen very often. You
103 know, after almost 15 years in the Philippines, I think that it's the
104 only time when I truly miss Boston.¹²

105
106 Anyway, we had five tables of bridge going—ten couples, of
107 course. Jerry and I paired with Ted and Millie English, and
108 everything was going fine until the second round of bridge. That is
109 when Ted started in....

110
111

112 [SCENE TWO]

113

114 [CARDS SHUFFLING; 1940S IN THE BACKGROUND; ICE TINKLING IN HIGHBALL GLASSES]

115

116 Ted Is it my turn this time?

117

118 Millie Yes Ted.

119

120 Ted Okay. One heart¹³

121

⁸ [FD](#), pp. 21, 311, 371, 517. Natalie owned furs and was fashion conscious for a woman of her time and class. She talks about wearing a girdle ([FD](#) pp. 341) and make-up in camp ([FD](#) pp. 358).

⁹ <https://weatherspark.com/m/135196/11/Average-Weather-in-November-in-Baguio-Philippines>. High 70s-mid-50s, but cold for people who live in warm climates.

¹⁰ https://elevation.maplogs.com/poi/baguio_benguet_philippines.100959.html.

¹¹ In her [December 7, 1941](#) entry, Natalie writes about going to a caddy house at Camp Hay, so I'm assuming that the golf course was part of a country club. The description here is created using my memories of my grandparents' and parents' bridge games and years of visiting military bases.

¹² [FD](#), pp. xiii-ix, 499. Natalie met her husband in 1925 and married him two years later. Natalie writes [February 3, 1945](#) that it's her 18-year anniversary. Also, I want the statement about missing Boston to show her strong attachment to the Philippines.

¹³ I'm using the bidding example (1 H, P, 2 C, 2 D, 3 C, 3 D, 4 H, P, P,P) <https://www.dummies.com/games/card-games/bridge/sample-bidding-sequence-bridge/>.

122 Natalie Pass
123
124 Millie Two clubs
125
126 Ted So what do you guys think's gonna happen?
127
128 Jerry Two diamonds. Oh, I don't know Ted; I left my crystal ball back in
129 the States.
130
131 Ted Natalie, you don't think the Japanese are going to try to invade
132 the Philippines do you?
133
134 Natalie Well, I certainly do not think that it will continue to be business as
135 usual around here.
136
137 Ted You really think so, Natalie?
138
139 Natalie I do. And frankly, I think something is going to happen sooner
140 than later.
141
142 Ted How do you know that?
143
144 Natalie For starters, the soldiers from Cavite *and* Clark Field weren't at
145 Army-Navy game last Sunday.¹⁴
146
147 Ted Well, there's proof positive.
148
149 Natalie I think it *is* significant. Something must be up because the Red
150 Cross has been asking volunteers for more medical supplies lately.
151 We've been working around the clock sewing hospital gowns and
152 surgical coats—sheets and arm slings as well.¹⁵
153
154 Millie Ted. It's your bid.
155

¹⁴ [November 28, 1941 diary entry](#). Natalie mentions navy boys, so they would most likely be stationed at Cavite in Manila.

¹⁵ [FD](#), pp. 2, 4, and 7. This is my assumption that the Red Cross has increased their requests when Natalie writes about preparing for "what might happen." Pages 4 and 7 describe the things that they made.

156 Ted Three clubs. I don't see any movement from the Filipinos in that
157 direction.
158
159 Natalie What direction? Volunteering for the Red Cross?
160
161 Ted No. Making preparations to leave.
162
163 Natalie Where would they go?
164
165 Jerry The Igorots'll just head back up into the mountains.¹⁶ It's your
166 turn Natalie.
167
168 Natalie Ummmm... three diamonds.
169
170 Ted What'll the rest of the Filipinos do?
171
172 Natalie I have no idea Ted.
173
174 Millie Four hearts. Jerry?
175
176 Jerry Pass.
177
178 Natalie Well...anyway, the Red Cross is telling *everyone* to prepare for the
179 worst.¹⁷
180
181 Ted The Red Cross is always telling people to prepare for the worst.
182
183 Natalie Are you and Millie stocking up on canned goods and water?¹⁸
184
185 Jerry Natalie wants to start filling up the bath tub.¹⁹
186

¹⁶ [FD](#), pp. 4. Lots of differing opinions about whether Igorot is a derogatory name. In 1958 a controversial bill was defeated to ban the name; see <https://www.igorotage.com/blog/p/bwQ2Z/igorot-word-origin>. It's used widely on the internet and in books, including *Forbidden Diary*.

¹⁷ I used to work as a volunteer for the Red Cross, "be prepared" is the party line. In [FD](#) pp. 4 Natalie writes about having stocked up four months of rice and canned goods.

¹⁸ On [December 12, 1941](#) Natalie wrote about having stocked up four months of rice and canned goods.

¹⁹ On [December 13, 1941](#) Natalie wrote about filling the bathtub with water in case of service interruptions.

187 Ted Don't open the spigots because we're not going to be invaded by
188 Japan. MacArthur's not gonna let it happen.
189
190 Natalie I don't think MacArthur will let it happen either. But that isn't
191 going to stop the Japanese from giving it a try.
192
193 Ted Give me one good reason why they would.
194
195 Natalie I can give you two: Japan seems to be in the habit of invading
196 countries, and we are only 900 miles from Tokyo.²⁰
197
198 Ted That's not exactly a stone's throw. *And*, you may recall, America's
199 not at war with anyone.²¹
200
201 Natalie Not yet.
202
203 Ted Do you *really* want a war Natalie?
204
205 Natalie I am not saying that Ted.
206
207 Ted Cuz FDR's sure bucking for another one in Europe,²² and now
208 you're pushing for one in the Pacific.
209
210 Natalie I most certainly am not! Jerry?
211
212 Jerry You don't need my help. I'm more worried about Ted.
213
214 Natalie Not funny Jerry. I am *just* saying, Ted, that Japan will probably *try*
215 to invade the Philippines.
216

²⁰ The Japanese respectively invaded north and south French Indochina in 1940 and 1941; see [Japanese invasion of French Indochina - Wikipedia](#) and http://microworks.net/pacific/road_to_war/route_south.htm.

²¹ America didn't enter WWII until after Pearl Harbor; see <https://www.historyonthenet.com/when-did-america-enter-ww2>.

²² Basic US history here. Congress passed Lend-Lease March 1941; see <https://www.britannica.com/topic/lend-lease>. Prior to Pearl Harbor most Americans did not want to get into another war in Europe after WWI, so "Ted English" is expressing a common attitude for the time; see [A Timeline of U.S. Anti-War Movements - HISTORY](#).

217 Ted Then you may as well say that America's going to war because if
218 Japan tries to invade the Philippines, there'll be a war.
219
220 Natalie That doesn't necessarily follow.
221
222 Ted It sure does. If you think war's so inevitable, who do you think
223 America should fight—Japan or Germany? Let's take a vote.
224
225 Jerry, Millie, Natalie No!
226
227 Millie Oh, for corn sake Ted!
228
229 Ted How about a war in Europe and the Pacific!!!?
230
231 Jerry Settle down Ted. Nobody wants a war.
232
233 Ted If you ask me....
234
235 Millie And we're not. It's *your* turn Ted.
236
237 Ted If you *ask me*...if we all stay calm and don't poke up a hornet's
238 nest,²³ we'll be fine!! The Japanese are too busy to bother with
239 the Philippines right now, and by the time they are, they won't
240 want to because MacArthur'll have built up our Armies.²⁴
241
242 Natalie That might have been true before FDR....
243
244 Jerry Natalieeeee
245

²³ I originally used "kick a hornet's nest" and wondered if this expression would have been used in 1941. On [pp. 342](#), Natalie uses "poke up a hornet's nest," so I went with that.

²⁴ "While the diplomats continued discussing the matter [oil embargo], General MacArthur again proposed that the U.S. Army cancel War Plan ORANGE [U.S. plan for war against Japan] and commit itself to an ambitious program of building a bastion of American power in the Philippines. Chief of Staff George C. Marshall finally approved plans to give top priority to reinforcing and equipping MacArthur's command, a program that MacArthur estimated could be in place by April 1942." See <https://history.army.mil/brochures/pi/PI.htm> and [Morton, Chapter II](#). See also, John W. Whitman, *Battan: Our Last Ditch*, pp. 21.

246 Natalie We can't *all* stick our heads in the sand, Jerry. FDR poked Ted's
 247 hornet's nest this summer when he cut diplomatic ties with
 248 Japan.²⁵
 249
 250 Ted He also placed an oil embargo. Japan gets all of their oil from us.²⁶
 251 How are they gonna invade the Philippines without oil?
 252
 253 Natalie They invaded French Indochina; why stop there? The Dutch East
 254 Indies has plenty of oil.²⁷
 255
 256 Ted Unlikely. And even if it were, it'd take 'em at least a year.²⁸
 257 Besides, if your attack is so eminent, why isn't the State
 258 Department telling us to go back to the mainland?²⁹
 259
 260 Natalie Then why is the Army shipping military dependents home?³⁰
 261
 262 Ted Boy, you really are spoiling for a war.
 263
 264 Natalie No. I am just stating the facts.
 265
 266 Ted I can tell you one thing, having lived in Baguio 30 plus years: If we
 267 Americans jump ship and go home—FOR NO GOOD REASON—the
 268 Filipinos'll see it as disloyalty.³¹ And they'd be right.
 269
 270 Natalie Well, I have to agree with you on that, but it's *not* going to stop
 271 the Japanese.
 272

²⁵ July 26, 1941 FDR froze all Japanese assets in America and began an oil embargo. See <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/united-states-freezes-japanese-assets>.

²⁶ Ibid. Actually it was more like 88% with England and the Dutch East Indies cutting off oil as well, but the character is upset and prone to exaggeration.

²⁷ Royal Dutch Shell got its oil from the Indonesian colony, but Japan was already making inroads in 1941 to obtain oil from the Dutch. See <https://history.army.mil/brochures/pi/PI.htm>. It's likely that Natalie knew this because Jerry ran a Shell gas station; see *FD*, pp. xv.

²⁸ Speculation but not unfounded seeing as Japan was busy invading multiple countries in 1941, and they didn't capture the Dutch colony until March 1942; see [Japanese occupation of the Dutch East Indies | Military Wiki | Fandom](#). Plus Ted English would be factoring into the equation MacArthur's promise to get the military up to snuff by April 1942; see footnote 24.

²⁹ *FD*, pp. xvii.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

273 Millie Are you two finished? Because we haven't even gotten to the play
 274 yet. Who bid last?
 275
 276 Jerry I did. It was a Pass.
 277
 278 Millie Then it's your turn Ted, *Ted*, TED!
 279
 280 Ted Give me a cotton pickin' minute Millie. Okay. Pass. Happy now?
 281
 282 Millie Not really. Natalie dear?
 283
 284 Natalie I'm a pass. It looks like you got the final contract Millie.³²
 285
 286 [FADE OUT]
 287
 288
 289 [DIARY READING TWO]
 290
 291 [SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]
 292
 293 Natalie You could hear a pin drop when Ted started in on a war with
 294 Japan and Germany. Everyone in the room kept their noses in
 295 their cards while glancing sideways at us. Even the bartender
 296 stopped mixing drinks. But frankly, I don't care: we were saying
 297 what everyone else in that room has been thinking.
 298
 299 I *suppose* Jerry's probably right about Ted being nervous.
 300 Everyone is on pins and needles these days. But, honestly! The
 301 people you have to put up with just to fill a bridge table!
 302
 303 [PAUSE; THEN MORE WRITING SOUNDS]
 304
 305 Natalie 3:30 AM, November 30, 1941, Baguio, the Philippines. We heard
 306 a noise coming from the kitchen about an hour ago and thought
 307 that Pippy had knocked over her water bowl again. There have

³² "The last bid (the one followed by three passes) is called the final contract." See <https://www.dummies.com/games/card-games/bridge/starting-a-bridge-game-dealing-and-bidding/>.

308 been thefts recently, so we got up and checked, but nothing had
309 been disturbed.

310
311 The kids slept through it and Jerry is back in bed, but here I am at
312 the kitchen table. What do you do with 3:30 AM and wide awake?
313 It isn't just a thump in the night that has me jangled.

314
315 Two weeks ago, while we were out gardening, Jerry rattled me to
316 no end with his comment about burying our valuables in the back
317 yard.³³

318
319

320 **[SCENE THREE]**

321
322

 [SOUND OF SHOVELING DIRT]

323
324

Natalie You cannot be serious Jerry. In the ground, as in buried treasure?

325
326

Jerry I'm not *saying* we have to do it Natalie. I'm just making the
327 suggestion.

328
329

Natalie Why not put the silver and jewelry in a safety deposit box?

330
331

Jerry The first thing the Japanese'll do is take over the banks.³⁴ People
332 are doing it.

333
334

Natalie Who?

335
336

Jerry The Carlises for one.³⁵

³³ This is an imagined conversation to foreshadow the storyline and highlight the theme and title of this episode: On Pins and Needles in Baguio. The Crouters may have heard about neighbors hiding their valuables in this way, but they never did it themselves. I'm not sure how common this was, but it seems highly probable. I got this from the stories a Lithuanian neighbor told me about her family hurriedly burying the family silver before the German occupation. I used silver instead of Natalie's ivory because it is more commonly known as valuable.

³⁴ See <https://www.ozatwar.com/ozatwar/japmoney.htm>, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japanese_invasion_money#The_Philippines. In her [December 13, 1941](#) entry Natalie wrote, "I packed up most of my valuable jewels for the deposit box at the bank."

³⁵ Fictitious names.

337 Natalie That is just crazy. I know the Japanese are going to *try* to invade,
338 but MacArthur won't that let happen.
339
340 Jerry I won't tell Ted you said that.
341
342 Natalie I never said that Japan was going to *invade* us; my point was that
343 they're going to *try*.
344
345 [SOUND OF CLIPPING HEDGE]
346
347 Natalie Seriously Jerry, how bad do you really think this is going to get?
348
349 Jerry I don't know. But if for some reason—and I seriously doubt it....
350 But if we have to evacuate....
351
352 Natalie Then why are we stockpiling food just to leave it behind?
353
354 Jerry It can't hurt to prepare for all scenarios. Listen. Have you thought
355 any more about going back to Boston with the kids?³⁶
356
357 Natalie Not without you! We agreed that we won't break up the family.
358
359 Jerry This won't last forever.
360
361 Natalie Then how long—six months, a year, two years? This is our home.
362 Baguio and the Philippines are all the kids know.
363
364 Jerry Well, it's probably not a good time to travel anyway.³⁷
365
366 Natalie Oh Jerry, every day we're losing more control over our lives!
367
368 Jerry I know honey.³⁸ But thank God that we *have* valuables to bury.³⁹
369

³⁶ [FD, pp. xvii.](#)

³⁷ It probably was safe because military dependents were leaving. The sentence is Jerry's way of getting off the subject since Natalie won't budge about staying in the Philippines.

³⁸ [FD, pp. 391.](#) Natalie writes that Jerry calls her honey.

³⁹ [FD, pp. xvi.](#)

370 Natalie That is true. I still remember when you gave me a bad time about
371 wasting our gold stock money on bobbles and trinkets.
372
373 Jerry I'll never doubt you again my dear. They may save our lives.
374
375 Natalie That's not making me feel any better! What do you mean by that?
376
377 Jerry Just that if we can't get out in time, we can buy things with them.
378
379 Natalie Oh swell. Should I start sewing grandmother's diamond ring into
380 my petticoat?⁴⁰
381
382 Jerry It's never going to come to that. Look, the worst that's gonna
383 happen is your stuff'll get a little dirty.
384
385 Natalie Or we forget where we buried it.
386
387 Jerry Exactly. Look at it as insurance with no premiums. Honey, no
388 matter what happens, we're all gonna to be fine. This is just in
389 case.
390
391 Natalie Well, no matter what we do, I'd better ask Nida to sew some bags
392 for the sterling and
393
394 [FADE OUT]
395
396
397 [DIARY READING THREE]
398
399 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
400
401 Natalie December 1, 1941. Baguio, the Philippines. It seems as if all of the
402 children in Baguio have become little magnets lately, picking up
403 on the fears we adults are trying to hide from them. June now
404 wants to help at the Red Cross, and Bedie's asking to be tucked in

⁴⁰ In the [February 24, 1942](#) entry Natalie wrote about some of her jewelry.

405 every night. I read two stories this evening, but Bedie wanted to
406 hear more.⁴¹

407

408

409 **[SCENE FOUR]**

410

411 [SOUND OF A BOOK CLOSING]

412

413 Natalie The end.

414

415 Bedie Tell me another story mommy.⁴²

416

417 Natalie It is getting late Bedie, and you have school tomorrow.

418

419 [SOUND OF A DOOR OPENING]

420

421 Natalie Not you too, June!

422

423 June I can't sleep mummie.⁴³

424

425 Natalie Oh, okay. Crawl under the covers with your brother and me.

426 [APPROPRIATE SOUNDS]

427

428 June Tell us the story about how you and daddy met. Please mummie.

429

430 Bedie Pleeease.

431

432 Natalie Well...your daddy grew up in Colorado and came to the

433 Philippines after WWI.⁴⁴

434

435 Bedie Daddy was in the Army.

⁴¹ This is a fictitious set-up for vignette that follows which is based background information in the *FD* Introduction.

⁴² [FD, pp. 119](#). Natalie wrote what Bedie calls her mommy.

⁴³ [FD, pp. 406](#). Natalie write what June calls her.

⁴⁴ [FD, pp. xiv](#). Says he was discharged in 1918. However, Fred Couter wrote in a 2/21/2021 email that his dad went to Russia to Vladivostok. See. <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/forgotten-doughboys-who-died-fighting-russian-civil-war-180971470/>. I also have a copy of the ship's manifest show Jerry going to Vladivostok 1/5/1920 from San Francisco at ../Documents/Stories to Voice/Forbidden Diary/Reference/Jerry 1920 Ship Manifest SS Thomas.jpg

436 Natalie He was.
437
438 Bedie Did he get hurt?
439
440 Natalie No sweetie. When he returned home, his ship stopped in the
441 Philippines. And, he liked it so much that he decided to stay.⁴⁵
442
443 Bedie Then what did he do?
444
445 Natalie Well first, he worked for the Sugar Planter's Association.⁴⁶
446
447 June And that's when you met daddy.
448
449 Natalie Yes. Your grandfather used to take me on trips all over the world.
450 And on one of the trips, we travelled to the Philippines.
451
452 Bedie But grandpa got very, very sick in Manila.
453
454 Natalie Yes he did. So we had to stay until he got better. And *that* is when
455 we met daddy who helped us.
456
457 June But you didn't get married.
458
459 Natalie No, not then. After grandpa and I left, your daddy and I wrote to
460 each other for two years.⁴⁷ We were married in Tientsin, China.⁴⁸
461
462 Bedie Then what happened?
463
464 Natalie Well... we lived happily ever after in a beautiful old beach town
465 called Vigan up on the northwestern coast of Luzon...until the
466 Great Depression. But your daddy found a gas-station business in
467 Baguio, so we moved down here.⁴⁹
468

⁴⁵ [FD, pp. xiv.](#)

⁴⁶ Ibid. The association was in Hawaii, but Jerry recruited Filipino laborers so he must have lived in the Philippines.

⁴⁷ I left out a reference to Boston from an earlier version because with Natalie not having an accent it's not important .

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ [FD, pp. xv.](#)

469 Bedie Was I born?
470
471 Natalie No. Not yet.
472
473 June But I was.
474
475 Natalie You were, in 1929 when the Depression started. But when it was
476 over, businesses began to spring up all over the Philippines.
477
478 Bedie Especially mines.
479
480 Natalie Especially mines. And especially in Baguio. So your very smart
481 father decided that people working in dangerous jobs needed
482 insurance and opened an insurance agency.⁵⁰
483
484 Bedie And that's when I was born!
485
486 Natalie You were born in 1931. The Depression wasn't over yet.
487
488 Bedie You were pretty old weren't you mom?
489
490 Natalie Oh, an ancient woman of 33.⁵¹ But *that* is no way to talk, *sir*, if you
491 want a piece of Apple Brown Betty tomorrow.
492
493 Bedie When'd you make that?
494
495 Natalie Nida baked it when you were at school today.
496
497 Bedie Can I have some?
498
499 Natalie *May* I have some.
500
501 Bedie May I have some?
502

⁵⁰ [FD, pp. xv.](#)

⁵¹ That was considered old for the times to have a baby. June (June Crouter) was born in 1929; Bedie (Frederick Crouter) was born in 1931; and Ada (Natalie Crouter) was born in 1998. So Ada would have been about 33 when she had Bedie.

503 Natalie Yes. You *may*...when Mrs. Perigrin visits us tomorrow. ⁵²
504
505 June Who's Mrs. Perigrin?
506
507 Natalie She is our gas station manager's new wife. ⁵³
508
509 Bedie Is she coming for breakfast?
510
511 Natalie No. You will just have to wait until after school. Now, off to sleep.
512 Both of you.
513
514 Bedie Night mommy.
515
516 June Night mummie.
517
518 **[SCENE FIVE]**
519
520 [DOOR BELL RINGS; DOOR OPENS]
521
522 Natalie Josephine! Come in. ⁵⁴
523
524 Josephine Thank you, Mrs. Crouter.
525
526 Natalie Please. Just call me Natalie.
527
528 [DOOR CLOSING; FOOTSTEPS AS THEY WALK THROUGH THE HOUSE]
529
530 Natalie Let's head into the living room. My children should be home from
531 school by about three, so we'll have the house to ourselves for a
532 little bit. Oh, there you are Nida.
533
534 [SOUND OF SOMEONE WALKING INTO THE ROOM WITH A TRAY]
535
536 Nida Here's the coffee and cobbler when you're ready, Mrs. Crouter. ⁵⁵

⁵² Fictional character for the next vignette.

⁵³ Couldn't find any information that Jerry closed his gas station or reason why he would, so I'm assuming that he ran both the gas station and his insurance business.

⁵⁴ The purpose of this imagined vignette is to introduce Nida and give further background about the Crouters.

537 Natalie It looks delicious. Thank you.
538
539 Nida You're welcome.
540
541 [SETS TRAY DOWN]
542
543 Natalie What happened to the center? It looks like a gopher went through
544 it.
545
546 Nida I think Bedie found the Apple Brown Betty.
547
548 Natalie Not again.
549
550 Nida I hid it really good this time. That boy! He knows all of my hiding
551 spots!
552
553 Natalie I will have a little talk with Bedie when he gets home from school.
554
555 Nida I'd better go to the market before dinner.
556
557 Natalie Thank you Nida.
558
559 Nida I'll see you later.
560
561
562 [SOUND OF WALKING FADING OUT]
563
564 Natalie Have a seat Josephine.
565
566 Josephine Thank you.
567
568 Natalie Now, tell me. How you and John are settling in?
569
570 Josephine Slowly, but we're getting there.
571
572 Natalie Coffee?

⁵⁵ [FD, pp. 9](#). Nida called Natalie "Mrs. Crouter."

573 Josephine Yes. Thank you.
574
575 Natalie [CUP NOISES] Cream and sugar? [COFFEE POURING]
576
577 Josephine Just a splash of cream please. [CLATTER OF TEACUPS] Thank you.
578
579 Josephine My furniture arrives next week from Manila.
580
581 Natalie Tell me. What do you think of Baguio so far? We're not quite as
582 cosmopolitan as Manila.
583
584 Josephine No. But I sure won't miss Manila come summertime.
585
586 Natalie You really will appreciate the cooler summers up here. Would
587 you like a...ummm...*untouched* piece of Apple Brown Betty? I
588 think there's some around the edge.
589
590 Josephine [LAUGHS] Yes. I haven't had Apple Brown Betty in ages.
591
592 Natalie This much?
593
594 Josephine Perfect.
595
596 [SERVING AND CLATTER OF DISHES, THEN SLIGHT PAUSE AS SHE EATS]
597
598 Josephine [WITH MOUTH SLIGHTLY FULL] Oh my! This *is* very good.
599
600 Natalie Nida's a wonderful cook.
601
602 Josephine I wanted to ask you...I'm having troubles finding a housekeeper.
603 Can you suggest anyone?
604
605 Natalie Not off hand, but I can ask Nida. Oh, I'm sorry. I should've
606 introduced you earlier.
607
608 Josephine That's okay. She seemed in a hurry.
609

610 Natalie Nida's been with us since we moved to Baguio... oh, josh, it must
611 be 12 years ago.⁵⁶ Honest and truly, I don't know what we— / —
612 would do without her. Just this week, on top of all of the cooking
613 and housework, she and the laundress sewed three dozen bed
614 sheets and two dozen surgical coats for the Red Cross.⁵⁷ Speaking
615 of which, do you think that you might be interested in joining?
616
617 Josephine The Red Cross?
618
619 Natalie It would be a good way to meet people.
620
621 Josephine I'm all for that.
622
623 Natalie You'll make a lot of friends there, and it's such a good cause.
624 More coffee?
625
626 Josephine I'm fine thank you. You were saying about Nida....
627
628 Natalie Mmm. Just that Nida is absolutely wonderful. She and her
629 husband Ismael are practically family. They live in a room next to
630 our garage.⁵⁸
631
632 Josephine I saw a bunch of kids playing in the front yard on the way in. Are
633 they hers?
634
635 Natalie Yes. Two girls. The others were probably her cousins' children.
636 Nida always has at least five to ten five family members living with
637 her.⁵⁹ If she doesn't know good housekeeper, I would bet that
638 somebody in her family will.
639
640 Josephine I'd really appreciate it.
641

⁵⁶ An approximation. Crouters moved to Baguio during the Depression to lease a gas station (see [FD, pp. xv](#)), so 1941 minus 1929 is 12.

⁵⁷ [FD, pp. 2](#).

⁵⁸ [FD, pp. xv](#).

⁵⁹ Ibid.

642 Natalie So... let me see. How else can you meet people....? There's always
643 the Tuesday Club. Oh, I know, do you and John play bridge?
644
645 Josephine We do.
646
647 Natalie I think that you'll find a lot to do ⁶⁰ and a very interesting mix of
648 people.⁶¹ Quite a few Chinese and Japanese live here,⁶² and, of
649 course, Filipinos and Igorots.
650
651 Josephine I always get confused: who *are* the Igorots?
652
653 Natalie They're the native people who live up here. There must be about
654 seven or eight tribes,⁶³ so Igorot is kind of a... general name—
655 perhaps...in a way, like...how Italians and Swiss are called
656 Europeans. But I think that there is more to it than that.⁶⁴ I do
657 know that the word Igorot means "mountaineer" in Tagalog.⁶⁵
658
659 Josephine Oh...and what about Americans and ex-patriots?
660
661 Natalie British mostly⁶⁶ and a lot Americans, including the soldiers at
662 Camp John Hay. You can see the fort from our house.⁶⁷
663
664 Josephine Camp Hay makes me feel a lot safer. John says that if anything
665 happens with Japan we're better off here than in Manila.⁶⁸ Thank
666 God we're not in living Europe.⁶⁹

⁶⁰ [FD, pp. xvii.](#)

⁶¹ [FD, pp. xiv.](#)

⁶² In her [December 8, 1941](#) entry diary entry, Natalie wrote about Japanese storekeepers.

⁶³ <https://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/c.php?g=105238&p=687381>.

⁶⁴ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Igorot>. Igorot is all over the web at legitimate sites. At

<https://www.igorotage.com/blog/p/Y73JY/igorot-people-philippines> it says, "At present, [Igorot] has the derogatory connotations of 'unchristian' and 'uncivilized' to some lowlanders, but it is used in books and newspapers without any such connotations with the approval of some native mountaineers and the disapproval of others." Natalie uses Igorot throughout the diary. They were major players in WWII and need to be introduced/defined in the story, so I'm using Natalie's nomenclature but putting her in neutral territory by saying that there is more to it.

⁶⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Igorot_people and <https://www.igorotage.com/blog/p/Y73JY/igorot-people-philippines>

⁶⁶ [FD, pp. xv.](#)

⁶⁷ [FD, pp. 3](#). Natalie writes about seeing bombs hit the Camp Hay officers' quarters from her house.

⁶⁸ Although Camp Hay on the outskirts of Baguio, there were many more and more important military garrisons in Manila.

667 [SOUND OF DOOR SLAMMING]
668
669 June We're home.
670
671 Bedie We're home mommy.
672
673 Natalie There are the kids. [CALL OUT] June, Bedie. Come here. I want you
674 to meet Mrs. Perigrin. Her husband runs daddy's gas station.
675
676 Bedie Hello
677
678 June Nice to meet you. Mummie, at recess Jimmy Lowthur said that
679 the Japanese are going to ship us all to Korea.⁷⁰
680
681 Natalie You know better than to believe that June.
682
683 Bedie Jimmy Lowthur is a horse's ass!
684
685 Natalie Frederick Edgerton Crouter! Watch your mouth!!
686
687 Bedie Sorry.
688
689 Natalie I don't know where he picks up such language Josephine! Bedie,
690 you are already skating on thin ice after what you did to Nida's
691 Apple Brown Betty.
692
693 [FADE OUT]
694
695
696 [DIARY READING FOUR]
697
698 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
699

⁶⁹ France surrendered to Germany in June 22, 1940, but most listeners wouldn't know that so I used Europe instead; see <https://www.sparknotes.com/history/european/ww2/section2/>. Judging by Natalie's [December 12, 1941](https://www.sparknotes.com/history/european/ww2/section2/) entry, France was on people's minds.

⁷⁰ This is an imagined playground story heard perhaps from "Jimmy Lowthur's" parents. Japan occupied Korea from 1910-1945; see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Korea_under_Japanese_rule. The commander of the all of the prisoner-of-war camps (General Kwo) was Korean. See [FD pp. 527](#).

700 Natalie December 2, 1941 Baguio, the Philippines. A 102 members were
701 present at the Tuesday Club this morning. Josephine Perigrin⁷¹
702 signed up for next year's first-aid course, and everyone wanted to
703 help with the Treasure bags for the soldiers. We also made warm
704 Christmas coats for Igorot babies, so they won't die from "wind on
705 the chest," as the Ingots call pneumonia.

706
707 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

708
709 Natalie December 4, 1941. Baguio, the Philippines.⁷² We listened to
710 Carlos Romulo on the radio this evening, which further darkened
711 the undercurrent we're treading above these days. The point of
712 the Filipino publisher's⁷³ speech was to remind us that we are
713 only 16 million about to enter what he called, quote/unquote, "a
714 large picture of 400 million Chinese and 70 million Japanese."

715
716 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

717
718 Natalie December 6, 1941 Baguio, the Philippines. The Tuesday Club's
719 box supper was a huge success. The auction baskets alone raised
720 460 pesos! We must have had at least 70 young people, and all of
721 them were wide-eyed at their first big soiree. The pretty dresses
722 made the event so colorful and gay. It was lovely to forget the
723 world for a few hours.

724
725 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

726
727 Natalie December 7, 1941 Baguio, the Philippines. Jerry and I drove
728 around Baguio to take photos to send back to the States. Our
729 excursion ended at the caddy house at Camp Hay where we
730 enjoyed a peaceful Coca-Cola.

731
732 It's funny, all week I've maintained that something would pop on
733 the seventh, but could give no reason why except a 7 in my tea
734 leaves, which is no reason at all.

⁷¹ Added the fictitious Josephine Perigrin to tie back to the previous dialog.

⁷² Natalie actually wrote about this on December 1, but I needed to space out the diary entries.

⁷³ <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Carlos-P-Romulo>.

735 Well, it's Sunday night and nothing's happened, so I guess my
736 intuition's wrong this time. It's probably just a case of overactive
737 nerves.

738
739 And *that* is all of the news to report for today. I'm heading off to
740 bed.⁷⁴

741
742 [SOUNDS OF WRITING, PERIOD, AND BOOK CLOSING]
743 [HISTORIC AND URGENT RADIO ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT THE BOMBING OF PEARL HARBOR]⁷⁵

744
745 [COLD CLOSE]

⁷⁴ This last paragraph is imagined to tie back into the theme of the story and introduce the ending cliffhanger.

⁷⁵ <https://archive.org/details/1941RadioNews/1941-12-07-1609-NBCR-KGU-Honolulu-Report.mp3>