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Season Two: *Forbidden Diary*
Episode Eleven: Close Calls

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

Natalie Crouter	Sevil Delin
Bedie	Luka Aslan Nas
June	Claire Oliver
Jerry Crouter	Mark Oliver
Jim	Maxwell Glick
Hank	Dan Davis
Phil	Eric Bryan Moore
Nida	Jeannie Anne Sison
Ismael	Pocholo Gonzales
Jorge	Andre Ricarte
Dr. Lee	Celia Lynn
Peg	Rebecca Haugh
Joe	Rich D’aingle
Arthur	Robert S. Ball

[Cold Open]

Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*....

[SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

Announcer And now, Episode Eleven.

[DIARY READING ONE]

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

Natalie July 4, 1942 Someone whispered that an American flag is being made with red, white, and blue fabric that came in with some clothes. It is hidden until mañana comes— but ready, and we will feel we had a part in it.

39 On the fourth we usually watch a parade, Jerry plays golf at the
40 club and we join him for a sandwich, but this year we are
41 celebrating with a back-to-nature adventure. I can see Jerry and
42 the kids from the window as they walk along the skyline above
43 camp—with Jerry naked to the waist, June in a light blue blouse,
44 and Bedie in a dark shirt silhouetted against the blue heaven.
45 They're heading into the wet, jungle forest to hike down a canyon
46 near a palisades covered with growth where Daddy fells trees
47 with other men on workdays. They should be back few hours.
48
49

50 **[SCENE ONE]¹**

51
52 Bedie Mommy! Mommy!
53
54 Natalie Well, how was it?
55
56 June Oh, Mummy! We had the whole place to ourselves, but we kept
57 wishing you were with us.
58
59 Bedie We went to the meadow at the top.
60
61 June You could see all the way to Baguio.
62
63 Bedie There were wild strawberries!
64
65 Jerry We just sat and listened to the birds for a while and then hiked
66 down to the cave.
67
68 Bedie It's got a bunch of stalagmites!
69
70 June Stalagmites.
71
72 Bedie Daddy and I got bit by leeches. Wanna see!
73
74
75

¹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 4, 1942](#) diary entry.

[DIARY READING TWO]²

[SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

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Natalie

We'll dress for supper and toast Freedom with two inches of home-brewed Basi, which is a rice liquor. One inch of that stuff is enough to me feel like Planter's Punch and the ruins of old Panama.³

I'm hoping that some of the men don't celebrate too thoroughly with the Basi. The other night they could be heard whooping, throwing things, bellowing, and arguing about Australia. Some were long in quieting down, and it was remarked there may be no more packages from town because of the outbursts.

Natalie

July 7, 1942 We haven't heard much from our new Commandant, Henry Hayakawa. Everyone who has lived Baguio knows him as the son of a prominent business man.⁴ What a change after Nakamura! Hayakawa is younger, a more sensitive type, better educated but not as mature.⁵

School's been in session for close to a month. The high school curriculum includes Latin, German, French, Spanish, Japanese, English, Algebra, Geometry, Trigonometry, General Science, Biology, Reading and Chemistry.⁶

Fortunately, we have a lot of qualified people in camp. Jim says 127⁷ of us have college degrees. One man is writing his dissertation for a Ph.D. in here.⁸

² Except where noted, remaining entry from [July 4, 1942](#) diary entry.

³ [June 18, 1942](#) diary entry. Planter's Punch is a rum cocktail.

⁴ Halsema June 29, 1942 diary entry.

⁵ [June 30, 1942](#) diary entry.

⁶ [July 13, 1942](#) diary entry.

⁷ Halsema, California State University Fullerton (CSUF) Oral History, pp. 12.

⁸ Op. Cit.

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[CUT-IN ONE]

[SOUND OF TYPING]

Jim *Camp Holmes Daily News*: The Camp Holmes High School will make its own bid for recognition in the world. Of its unique features there is no doubt. What other school for instance, can boast of an Alger story in reverse? From dean of a university college to janitor of a high school, C. Heflin is now on the way up again, having been made proctor, with certain disciplinary supervision added to his duties as building superintendent.⁹

Natalie Our principal says she could write a thesis on how Camp Holmes School gets along with only one or two books that are passed around in turns. There's no ink, limited pencils, and scraps used for paper. Classes are held in the bedlam of the dining room with kitchen pans clanging, cooks yelling, and baby-scraping and banging from above— not to mention sounds coming from the alley. When the dining room is being scrubbed students meet on the porch or garden, dashing in and out of the rain— noise, confusion, every kind of obstacle— but all overcome.¹⁰

We adults are entertained with weekly lectures. Phil Witmarsh gave one of his best talks on African wild animals this week; Dr. Skerl lectured on geology;¹¹ and the flower arrangement class started by Nakamura continues.

Japanese is taught by Miss McKim, one of the missionaries who arrived from Manila last month. She's the daughter of the Episcopal Bishop of Tokyo who was born and raised in Japan. She speaks the language with precision and beauty.¹²

Japanese soldiers and officers respect her aristocratic accent and call her "Honorable Aunt" or "Obasan" when they want to converse with her. Miss McKim's thorough understanding not

⁹ [November 21, 1942](#) diary entry.

¹⁰ [October 31, 1942](#) diary entry.

¹¹ [July 11, 1942 diary entry.](#)

¹² [April 26, 1942](#) diary entry.

142 only of Japanese and English but of the customs of both cultures
143 has made her Camp Holmes' interpreter and diplomat.¹³

144
145 July 8, 1942 Jerry fried out some pork and gave me some of the
146 crisp remains. It tasted so good, and I was so hungry that I cried
147 over it and couldn't talk. He fried up some rice with the grease
148 and June and I ate it with our fingers. Jerry understands how I feel
149 emotionally wrought up over meat with real flavor. He says the
150 wood cutters feel the same way on the hill at noon.

151
152 We took a walk beyond camp and found the most glorious free
153 view, more sweeping than those from camp. Only the
154 mountains are untouched by invasion. Clouds trailed into each
155 valley and indentation, piled in huge heaps like snow. The rice
156 paddies in the distance were full of water like glass—beautiful,
157 quiet and detached. We saw six Igorot women with full baskets on
158 their backs hiking down a narrow trail toward their home, then a
159 boy and a water buffalo.¹⁴

160
161 July 10, 1942 A plane dropped leaflets, and Hayakawa posted one
162 of them for all to see.

163
164

165 [SCENE TWO]¹⁵

166
167 Hank What's it say, Phil?

168
169 Phil Ah nothing. Just more propaganda. The Japanese want people
170 living the hills to surrender. Love this line, "It is very much
171 regrettable and sympathy-worthy not only for such remnants in
172 particular, but also for the people of the Philippines in general,
173 that they are obscuring the sound development of the
174 Philippines."¹⁶

175

¹³ Crouter, Natalie, *Forbidden Diary*, pp. xix. The reference to obasan is from Natalie's [May 27, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹⁴ Natalie actually wrote a [carabao](#) but one of my reviewers was confused about the term thinking it was a caribou, not known to be an Asia-Pacific animal.

¹⁵ Unless otherwise footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 16, 1942](#) and [June 30, 1942](#) diary entries.

¹⁶ Natalie's [July 10, 1942](#) diary entry.

176 Hank Words only a lawyer can understand. What the hell are remnants?
177 Is that supposed to be us?
178
179 [TRANSITION TO KITCHEN SOUNDS]
180
181 Nida [IN TAGALOG] Where did you get that flyer?
182
183 Ismael [IN TAGALOG] They were passing them out on Sessions Road.
184
185 Nida [RESUME SCENE IN ENGLISH] What do they mean by remnants,
186 Ismael?
187
188 Ismael [RESUME SCENE IN ENGLISH] People who haven't surrendered,
189 Nida. The Japanese want guerillas to hand themselves in.
190
191 Nida They're not going to do that.
192
193 Ismael I bet you Walter Cushing got under the Jap's skin.
194
195 ed He was a miner up in Abara before he became a guerrilla. Did you
196 know that?¹⁷
197
198 Nida I thought he was in the Army, Jorge.
199
200 Jorge No, not at first. He recruited 200 Filipino miners back when the
201 Japanese invaded Lingayen Gulf.
202
203 Ismael They ambushed a truck convoy and killed 60 Japanese! He's a
204 daemon! He ran up to them with a pistol in each hand...
205
206 Jorge ... and sticks of dynamite hanging out of his pockets
207
208 Ismael Yea! Yelling, "Give it to 'em boys!"
209

¹⁷ All of the information about Cushing is based on [A Call To Arms in the Philippines | HistoryNet](#) and Hunt, Ray, *Behind Japanese Lines: An American Guerilla in the Philippines*, pp. 100-103. There is a lot of lore about Walter Cushing and his brother, and these two resources don't always follow the same narrative. I picked out the more colorful stories with the idea that Nida and Ismael could have heard some of these tales and rumors living in Baguio.

210 Jorge He's killed 500 Japanese and blown up a million bridges.
211
212 Ismael They're never gonna catch him!
213
214 Jorge Man, all of those guerillas are like ghosts! They ambush the Japs
215 and disappear up the mountains. They're driving them crazy!
216
217 Ismael That's why they dropped that stupid leaflet.
218
219 Jorge Did you know that Cushing's recruited a bunch of Filipino soldiers?
220
221 Ismael Did they desert the army?
222
223 Jorge No, some Colonel's made Cushing a captain! [LAUGHS]
224
225 Nida So he *is* in the Army!
226
227 Jorge [IGNORING NIDA] Hey, did you hear the one about Filipinas
228 serenading him and the Japanese officers walking by? Cushing hid
229 while the girls sang "God Bless America," and the morons [IN
230 TAGALOG] applauded!
231
232 Ismael Oh, man I love that guy.¹⁸
233
234 Nida I think he's crazy!
235
236 Ismael He's in Manila now, trying to get money for the resistance.
237
238 Jorge He was in a night club there and a Japanese soldier recognized
239 him. So what does Cushing do? He walks straight up to the guy
240 and tells him he'd been released from prison for the day to visit
241 the hospital.
242
243 Ismael Man, he's got guts.
244
245 Jorge That's what's gonna get our country back, my friend.
246

¹⁸ Natalie's [June 16, 1942](#) and [June 30, 1942](#) diary entries.

247 Nida Well, he'd better do it before the food runs out. There were food
248 riots in town because no one can afford the prices.¹⁹ And with
249 typhoon season coming, it's just going to get worse.
250
251 Ismael They're replacing English with Japanese and Tagalog for
252 government documents.²⁰
253
254 Jorge How about replacing *everything* with Tagalog? Some New East
255 Asian Order! Where are *we* in all of it?
256
257 Ismael Nowhere.
258
259 Nida After the invasion a bunch of rich Japanese locals put their names
260 in a hat and divvied up everything. That's how Mr. Nagatomi got
261 the Pines Hotel and Mr. Hayakawa got Heacock's Supplies.²¹
262
263 Ismael And we're living under the boot of Kempeitai and hiding our
264 women and girls from Jap soldiers.²²
265
266 Nida Our girls have to dress as boys!²³
267
268 Ismael That's where we figure into Japan's New Order.
269
270 Nida At least we're not as bad as those poor American GIs imprisoned
271 at Camp Hay. Have you seen them at the market?²⁴
272
273 Jorge Yea, they're a mess—really really thin and dirty, wearing rags.
274
275 Ismael The Japanese are using those GIs to convince us that America's
276 lost its power.
277
278

¹⁹ [July 2, 1942](#) diary entry.

²⁰ [August 3, 1942](#) diary entry.

²¹ [July 15, 1942](#) diary entry.

²² The Imperial Army's abuse of Filipinos common knowledge. Here's one source: Tanaka, Yuki, [Hidden Horrors: Japanese War Crimes in WWII](#).

²³ The Filipina actor who plays Nida told me that as a child her grandmother dressed as a boy so as to not attract the attention of Japanese soldiers.

²⁴ [July 15, 1942](#) diary entry.

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[DIARY READING THREE]

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

Natalie July 15, 1942 Dr. Lee had a baby boy. She told me that Nakamura came to see her before she was even out from under the ether.

[CUT-IN TWO]

Dr. Lee Oh, he was so proud that I had a boy. My neck, shoulders and arms ached from nerves after the delivery, so Nakamura stayed an hour and massaged them. You know, I'll never forget the strength in those carpenter fingers relieving my aches. I think he literally poured strength into me.

Natalie It turned out that there was no job for Nakamura at Tarlac prison, so he returned a few days later, subdued and silent—with no job, no house, no place for his family, and broke. He had not been paid for his time as commandant, so Dr. Lee offered her house to Nakamura and his family if they can get permission.

A bag arrived on the delivery truck from Nida with raw pork chops, mangos, toothpaste, chowchow pickle and pineapple. That girl is inspired! But how do does her family manage to live?²⁵

The day also brought good news circulated word-of-mouth around camp: Tokyo, Yokohama, Osaka, and Nagoya were bombed back on April 18th. Thirteen U.S. bombers hit manufacturing centers. At Midway, twenty-seven ships were sunk or damaged—Coral Sea the same. The Japanese lost 270 planes on sunk carriers, the U.S. only four ships. In the Solomons, occupied by the Japanese, the enemy lost 254 planes in a week.

We also heard that the Philippine Islands became a member of the United Nations. There are 28 countries in all now.

July 16, 1942 The rainy season has begun. No washing on the

²⁵ [July 11, 1942](#) diary entry.

316 lines or mopping, but more time to talk, read, and study until it
317 clears. The men say that it is fine weather for guerrilla activity.²⁶

318
319 July 17, 1942 Jerry sent out an urgent call to meet, so I went out
320 into the gusts to drink a half cup of coffee at our meeting place
321 behind the back stairs.²⁷ His big brown eyes were serious, his face
322 grey, as he told me the news.

323
324

325 **[SCENE THREE]²⁸**

326

327 June Mummy, Daddy's calling for you.

328

329 Natalie Oh, I'd better go see what he wants

330

331 [SOUND OF DOOR OPENING, GUSTS, AND FOOTSTEPS ON STAIRS]

332

333 Natalie What's wrong?

334

335 Jerry One of the woodsmen escaped over the hill.

336

337 Natalie Who?

338

339 Jerry It was Sy.

340

341 Natalie When?

342

343 Jerry During work duty.

344

345 Natalie And you're the one who's going to be punished! Aren't you?

346

347 Jerry I'm the group leader, so the target's on my back.

348

349 Natalie How could he be so selfish? Did he give any indication that he was
350 going to escape?

²⁶ This is a combination of Natalie's July 16 and [July 18, 1942](#) diary entries.

²⁷ [September 27, 1942](#) diary entry describes co-mingling restrictions.

²⁸ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 17, 1942](#) diary entry.

351 Jerry In hindsight, I suppose. I mean, he's always griping about
352 something. But you could say that about a lot of people. Nah, I'd
353 say that he kept his plans to himself.

354
355 Natalie Oh Jerry!

356
357 Jerry I'm going to send my things over to you just in case the Kempeitai
358 gets involved.

359
360 Natalie You really think it's that bad?

361
362 Jerry It might be sweetheart. We've been out here too long. I'd better
363 go.

364
365
366 **[DIARY READING FOUR]**

367
368 [SOUND OF WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

369
370 Natalie As it turned out the guards took Sy's escape equitably enough. By
371 noon it seeped around camp that Intelligence had found us such
372 model prisoners that no action would be taken this time. But if it
373 happens again, punishment will be drastic. There has to be more
374 behind this leniency than their explanation. High Command is
375 probably too busy with the increased guerilla activity we're
376 hearing about. Four months ago they would have acted at once.

377
378 July 20, 1942...

379
380 **[CUT-IN THREE]**

381
382 [TYPING SOUNDS]

383
384 Jim *Camp Holmes News*: Good old Camp Holmes, the place whose
385 motto is "Every man for himself and best things for those who can
386 grab the most."²⁹

387

²⁹ Natalie's [November 3, 1942](#) diary entry.

388 Natalie Boy, oh boy! Truer words were never written! Everyone in camp's
389 involved in some sort of graft—the kitchen crew, the lumber
390 jacks, wood haulers, hospital staff, garbage duty, and now me!

391
392 I grabbed in old army coat from a garbage can, which was
393 probably looted from Camp Hay and tossed out by someone
394 moving into town. Despite mends, patches and holes it had
395 months of wear left in it, so I gave it to one of the men working
396 the garbage wagon to trade. He came back with three bunches of
397 bananas, payment from an old Igorot sitting by the roadside who
398 welcomed the coat. So now it's giving warmth and pleasure
399 instead of being at the bottom of an ash heap.³⁰

400
401 Come to think of it, thanks to graft, we now have a work shop.
402 Jerry gave me the grand tour.

403
404

405 **[SCENE FOUR]**³¹

406
407
408

[WORKSHOP SOUNDS]

409 Natalie Wow! This is place like something out of a Swiss Family Robinson
410 novel with all these homemade gadgets.

411
412 Jerry Yea. It's pretty amazing. You can thank the firewood crew and the
413 Looting Parsons for most of this. And, you know...I gotta give the
414 devil his due.... Nakamura let us bring over all of the tools and
415 supplies we'd pilfered from Camp Hay.

416
417 Natalie What's this contraption?

418
419 Jerry A buffer. It's made from a piece of fire hose.

420
421 Natalie Well, isn't that clever.

422

³⁰ [June 17, 1942](#) diary entry.

³¹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 12, 1942](#) diary entry.

423 Jerry The polishing grit's residue from a grindstone. We looted the
424 jeweler's rouge.
425
426 Natalie That's a cute pin someone's making. What's the heart shape
427 made of?
428
429 Jerry Coral. The spades, diamonds and clubs are made from silver.
430
431 Natalie Where they get that?
432
433 Jerry From the trophies we "borrowed" from Camp Hay. This emery
434 wheel came from there too.
435
436 Natalie That's a forge over there. Isn't it?
437
438 Jerry Yep.
439
440 Natalie Is that were you made our frying pan?
441
442 Jerry Yea. The floor of the charcoal burner was made from an old road
443 roller.
444
445 Natalie The door looks like it came from a safe.
446
447 Jerry Ah huh. An army field safe. Remember the ones out of the field
448 when we first came here? See. All these chisels, punches and awls
449 were made from firing pins and rifle sights. Nothing goes to waste
450 around here.
451
452 Natalie That work bench looks familiar.
453
454 Jerry It should. It was the serving counter at the mess hall.
455
456 Natalie And here I thought there was nothing left to loot.
457
458 Jerry There's always something to loot around here, darlin'. I'm saving
459 the best for last. Follow me.
460

461 Natalie Where are we going?
462
463 Jerry You'll see.
464
465 Natalie Okay. What is it?
466
467 Jerry It's a still.
468
469 Natalie So this is where the Basi comes from.
470
471 Jerry A huh. The pressure cooker's made from a fire extinguisher; that
472 firebox was a gasoline drum; and cooling system's made from the
473 end of a steel reel, some copper tubing, and a gasoline tin. Makes
474 pretty good hootch.
475
476 Natalie Well it sure packs a wallop. I can't take more than an inch of that
477 stuff.
478
479 Jerry I know. Come check out the stock room.
480
481 Natalie Jerry, this is just amazing!
482
483 Jerry Everything's inventoried, from worn-out light bulbs to these old
484 inner tubes. Sy used some of this stuff to make an army belt to
485 carry his tomahawk and bolo. He even added a first aid kit and a
486 carrying pouch.
487
488 Natalie And now we know why.
489
490 Jerry Yea, well.... That was a close call for sure. We got lucky on that
491 one.
492
493 Natalie I wonder where he ended up.
494
495 Jerry Probably hiding up somewhere in the mountains with his Filipino
496 wife. Hey Phil, what are you making there?
497

498 Phil Mrs. James asked me to etch her prison number on a piece of
499 bamboo.³²
500
501 Natalie That's quite ornate, Phil. It'll make a stunning brooch.
502
503 Jerry Think that you could make something for my favorite girl here?
504
505 Phil I can carve a stone for you, Natalie. Or put your name on a steel
506 mirror?
507
508 Natalie How would you do that?
509
510 Phil With this electric writer. It's made from a nail point, wooden
511 handle, and a small coil.
512
513 Natalie How is all this equipment powered?
514
515 Phil The wood crew supplies us with gasoline and oil.
516
517 Natalie But, where do they get that?
518
519 Jerry Wherever the opportunity presents itself. Right Phil?
520
521 Phil Teneo quae invenio!
522
523 Jerry Yep. Finders keepers— our camp motto.
524
525 Natalie Sounds better in Latin.
526
527 Phil How 'bout if I etch it on a mirror for you, Natalie?
528
529
530

³² [July 30, 1942](#) diary entry.

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[DIARY READING FIVE]

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

Natalie

July 28, 1942 After supper, I found a bag on my bunk from Nida and Carl. In it were three raincoats, two pairs of shoes for Jerry, an umbrella, towels, and four enamel plates and four tin spoons!

No one in America can know the importance of such everyday items. Those plates and spoons will take us out of a long waiting list for dishes. We put our names on them with precious adhesive tape. Just like Jerry’s frying pan, our figure-nine teapot made at the shop from an oatmeal can has also given us independence from borrowing.

Nida also sent a Red Cross box with the last of the supplies sent from Manila during the invasion. In it were the towels, surgical coats, and gowns sewn in our garage by faithful Filipina women throughout the air raids. There was also 50 yards of linen toweling and sewing supplies, including eight spools of white thread which are worth their weight in gold right now.

The box’s miraculous appearance gave me almost as much of a thrill as handing it over to the Committee who presented me with four hand towels and a pair of scissors to replace ones taken by the Japanese.

After the contents had been distributed, Peg swung by my barracks space with additional items— things from the past, things I had forgotten about and not even asked for.

[SCENE FIVE]³³

[WOMEN’S BARRACK SOUNDS]

Natalie

Oh hi, Peg. What do you have there?

³³ Based on and imagined from Natalie’s [July 28, 1942](#) diary entry

568 Peg The Committee found some things in the Red Cross box that they
569 want you to have.
570
571 Natalie Oh, that's not necessary. They've already given me towels and
572 scissors.
573
574 Peg I know, but these belong to you. Here.
575
576 Natalie Those velvet cases sure look familiar.
577
578 Peg They should; they're yours. Go on. Open them up.
579
580 Natalie Oh, Nida packed the miniatures of June and Bedie that their
581 godfather gave us.
582
583 Peg And here's a box of pencil leads. Nida must have wanted you to
584 have them as well.
585
586

587 **[DIARY READING SIX]³⁴**

588
589 [SOUNDS OF RAIN, PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
590

591 Natalie August 7, 1942 It's been a week since the tragic confirmation of
592 Rufus Grey's death. He was one the missionaries detained during
593 our first month at Camp Hay.³⁵ Rufus was killed March 15 by the
594 Intelligence Special Service of the Japanese Imperial Army from
595 third degree questioning and torture.
596
597 The day of his funeral Jerry, the kids, and I took a hike up the
598 mountain. As we sat near a baby pine and looked down into the
599 valley, a gong sounded in slow mournful beats calling church
600 members to gather for Rufus's memorial service. There were
601 prayers and Scripture to "give comfort and sympathy from all to
602 the strong hearts left behind," the minister said.
603

³⁴ [July 29, 1942](#) and [August 2, 1942](#) diary entries.

³⁵ Halsema January 23 -26, 1942 diary entries.

604 Rufus Grey's young widow stood bravely in the group, her long
605 months of uncertainty, agonizing doubt, at last ended. If she could
606 have been on the rim of the hill instead of in the valley she would
607 have heard their voices rising to the heavens, to the Creator, even
608 to Rufus himself who is beyond all mortal suffering now.

609
610 Natalie August 8, 1942 News from the outside has resumed with several
611 Authentics circulating through camp: 125,000 people were killed
612 in Dusselorf raids, with 50,000 injured. America and Britain have
613 delivered an ultimatum to Germany that all of her cities will be
614 bombed like this if she does not stop the war now. Dreadful,
615 horrible world!

616
617 Because the U.S. is getting so much news from the Philippines, the
618 Japanese are trying to track down American and Filipino
619 communication lines.³⁶ It is said that somebody outside camp
620 hears broadcasts every week in Tagalog, Ilocano, Visayan, and
621 even in Ibanag from the U.S. to encourage the Philippine Islands.
622 Within three days, a happening here is told back at home,
623 showing contact by radio, both receiving and sending.³⁷

624
625 Yesterday in a deluge of rain Dr. Dean went to town for special
626 surgical instruments. About 10 P.M. he operated on Paul
627 Thorson's brain to relieve the terrible attacks that became so
628 severe that four men had to hold the patient. They found much
629 fluid and inserted a drain, finishing about 1 a.m. I have not heard
630 any other facts other than it is a tumor. Our lives are so close in
631 here that the illness of one life touches and saddens us all.
632 Everyone is quiet and depressed.

633
634 Natalie August 16, 1942 Our camp Committee held elections for new
635 officers a few days ago. It still surprises me that the chairman does
636 not want the women to vote or have any kind of election. Instead,
637 the General Committee appointed the women's committee and
638 allowed women to contribute ideas to the Men's Suggestion Box.
639 The chairman thinks any other way would end in what he calls a

³⁶ [August 2, 1942](#) diary entry.

³⁷ [July 26, 1942](#) diary entry.

640 "mess." Well, the Japanese don't consider women people anyway
641 so it is all one piece. Perhaps there never will be any official
642 democracy in here except for the men.³⁸

643
644 Even though the election has come and gone, Jerry says that the
645 losers are still binding their wounds over at the men's barracks.
646

647

648 **[SCENE SIX]**³⁹

649

650 **[MEN'S BARRACK SOUNDS]**

651

652 Phil That whole election stunk on ice! I made 42 frying pans for people
653 and only got eight votes.

654

655 Hank I didn't even get a vote. All I got for making 48 coffee pots were 8
656 cups of coffee.

657

658 Joe Yea. Well, that's nuthin'! I made 200 beds.

659

660 Phil What were you running for: frustrated Don Juan?

661

662 Hank You don't have to run for office for that.

663

664

665 **[DIARY READING SEVEN]**

666

667 **[SOUNDS OF RAIN, PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]**

668

669 Natalie August 17, 1942 It is a strain on the sex instinct to be so near and
670 yet so far. Numerous petting parties have been going on lately,
671 which accounts for the guards pointing flash lights in odd corners
672 of camp every night. They are lenient about daylight co-mingling,
673 but in this setup, there isn't much use stirring up the emotions
674 beyond a certain point.⁴⁰

³⁸ Natalie's [August 13, 1942](#) diary entry.

³⁹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [August 16, 1942](#) diary entry. This scene is a transition to a discussion on the effects of separating the sexes.

⁴⁰ [August 2, 1942](#) diary entry.

675 One man was reprimanded by Arthur and the guards for being in
676 the women's barrack. So many take advantage of the leniency
677 that we may end up with no more co-mingling again. As it is,
678 couples can play bridge in the evening and there is pleasant
679 mingling in the dining room. Why some men have to be smart and
680 brag about how much they get away with is just another one of
681 the human mysteries.⁴¹

682
683 Natalie August 21, 1942⁴² The truck came in from market with stacks of
684 plates and cups for which we had implored weeks and months
685 ago. In the truckload was a precious packet of birdseed. I don't
686 know who is more joyous: us or the little canary dipping in his
687 birdseed.

688
689 But late afternoon, when I was dunking mops, I heard my name
690 called loudly. Arthur was looking for me because I was wanted at
691 the guardhouse. My heart did flip-flops like the day Sy went
692 missing. I hung up the mop and handed the bucket to Bedie who
693 wanted to go to the guardhouse with me. Arthur and I talked in
694 low voices on the way over.

695

696

697 [SCENE SEVEN]⁴³

698

699 [SOUNDS OF WALKING ON GRAVEL]

700

701 Natalie What's going on?

702

703 Arthur I haven't a clue, Natalie.

704

705 Natalie Did they send for Jerry too?

706

707 Arthur No. Just you.

708

709 Natalie Maybe it's about our sponsors wanting to get us out.

710

711 Arthur I don't think so. Evidently, there's a package for you.

712

⁴¹ [August 21, 1942](#) diary entry.

⁴²⁴² [August 17, 1942](#) diary entry.

⁴³ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [August 17, 1942](#) diary entry.

[DIARY READING EIGHT]

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Natalie

[SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

It was less than a week since our last package from Nida, so I could not imagine who it might be from. The guard pronounced my name and looked me over, then, in front of Arthur and Miss McKim⁴⁴ who was there to interpret, he portentously cut the string securing the package in front of him. We craned forward — to behold a luscious pie with sliced bananas and grated coconut on top.

"A pie, a pie," the guard repeated and then handed me the package. It was such an anticlimax that I wanted to shriek with laughter and flushed crimson trying not to do so.

People were hanging out of windows and watching from the front porch as I came back, calling out, "What was it?" and it sounded so absurd to say, "a pie."

Arthur later told me that when Inez, our lovely Igorot friend, and two other girls came to the guardhouse, he tried to impress on them that it was dangerous and that they should send food using the truck that goes to the market.

in these times of guerrilla suspicion, anyone knowing or contacting Igorots, even by pie only, is suspect and put on a blacklist. This was our second close call this summer, and we were lucky again. But I worry that our luck with the whims of the Imperial Japanese Army may not be as favorable in the future.

[COLD CLOSE]

⁴⁴ Natalie actually wrote Miss Spenser, but I changed it to Miss McKim to keep the number of characters down.