

1 Season Three: *Forbidden Diary*
2 Episode Fourteen: Going Bananas

3
4 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

5		
6	Natalie	Sevil Delin
7	Bedie	Luka Aslin Nas
8	Jerry	Mark Oliver
9	June	Claire Oliver
10	Peg	Rebecca Haugh
11	Guard 1	Miki Hiramoto
12	Guard 2	Yoshi Amao
13	Miss McKim	Christine Holloway
14	Women's Committee Secretary	Wendy Brown
15	Ted	Troy W. Hudson
16	Millie	Melba King
17	Larry	Patrick Golebioiski
18	Arthur	Robert S. Ball
19	Phil	Eric Ryan Moore
20	Jim	Maxwell Glick
21	Hank	Dan Davis
22	Dr. Hall	Dean T. Moody
23	Dr. Dean	Nick Steen
24	Enid	Karen DeBoer
25	Dotty	Ina Marie Smith
26	Doris	Nora Novak
27	Fern	Priscilla Hagan
28	Colleen	Mandy Balser
29	Josephine	Halley DeVestern
30	Alex	Slava Timoshenk

31
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33
34

35 [Cold Open]

36

37 Announcer Previously....

38

39 [SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

40

41 Announcer And now, Episode Fourteen.

42

43

44 [DIARY READING ONE]

45

46 [SOUNDS OF BOOK OPENING, PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

47

48 Natalie January 1, 1943. I dreamed of being dressed in blue satin, a black
49 velvet picture hat and white furs but woke doubled into a ball
50 with the cold.¹

51

52 The New Year is here and we hope again, as we hoped all of 1942,
53 but we're still concentrated, our teeth crumbling, bodies
54 vitamin deficient, still lacking toilet paper and using septic tanks
55 for 517 which were intended 250.

56

57 But Bedie is back to health and this morning brought coffee to the
58 window as his Daddy whipped up hotcakes from ground parched
59 rice, rice flour, mashed banana and yams², a triumph of ingenuity
60 to start the new year.

61

62

63 [SCENE ONE A]³

64

65 Bedie Are there any more pancakes, D addy?

66

67 Jerry That's it, kiddo.

68

69 Bedie Wanna play checkers, June?⁴

¹ Natalie's [January 22, 1943](#) entry.

² Natalie called it a comote with which listeners may not be familiar.

³ Unless otherwise footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [January 1, 1943](#).

⁴ Checkers is mentioned five times in *Forbidden Diary* as a pastime.

70 June I guess so. Is it okay, Mom?
71
72 Natalie Oh, go ahead. Daddy and I'll clean up here.
73
74 Bedie I get to go first!
75
76 June No you don't, you little creep! You went first last time.
77
78 [SOUND OF THEM LEAVING. SILENCE. JERRY SIGHS, POURS COFFEE.]
79
80 Jerry Well, Happy New Year darlin'!
81
82 Natalie Happy New Year, Jerry. Is this the kitchen's coffee?
83
84 Jerry Yep.
85
86 Natalie First ground?
87
88 Jerry Uh huh, they made it for New Years. Tomorrow it'll be
89 submarined, so drink up.⁵
90
91 Natalie What exactly *is* submarined coffee?
92
93 Jerry Coffee made from used grounds. Alex⁶ has the cooks save 30% of
94 the first brew so 20% can go into second day's and 10% into the
95 third. After that you can't make much of a silk purse out of it.
96
97 Natalie Or a decent cup of coffee. Is the kitchen still going make fresh
98 coffee every three days?⁷
99
100 Jerry Yea. Looks like it.
101
102 Natalie Well, I guess it's better than nothing. That'll come soon enough, I
103 suppose. [PEG WALKS BY] Oh, hi Peg, come have some coffee with
104 us.⁸

⁵ Hind, R. Renton, *Spirits Unbroken*, pp. 88.

⁶ I'm inserting Alex into the text to remind listeners of this character who will appear later in this episode.

⁷ My guess that the kitchen would make fresh coffee after "submarining" it twice.

⁸ I'm adding Peg into the scene because her story arc about her husband will be in Season 3.

105 Peg Thanks. Don't mind if I do.⁹ [SOUND OF COFFEE POURING AND
106 DRINKING] Happy New Year.
107
108 Jerry and Natalie Happy New Year.
109
110 Jerry Any word from Davao about your husband?¹⁰
111
112 Peg No. The kids miss him something awful. You know, Jerry, we were
113 separated when the War broke out.¹¹
114
115 Jerry Must be really rough, Peg.
116
117 Peg It is...sometimes.
118
119 Natalie Did the guards get their pumpkin pie?
120
121 Peg Oh yes indeed. They hovered over us the whole time we were
122 making it last night. It was actually pretty funny. They inspected
123 every ingredient and sniffed every box of spice.
124
125
126 **[SCENE ONE B]**
127
128 Guard 1 [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] What's it?
129
130 Guard 2 [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] I don't' know.
131
132 Guard 1 [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Are they making something sweet
133 for us?
134

⁹ This season will explore a bit about Peg. Natalie doesn't write specifically about her background, and I cannot find her listed in the *Spirits Unbroken*. But here's what Natalie wrote about her. Her name is Peg Whit ([March 25, 1943](#), [January 25, 1945](#)); she has children, one son is named Kurt ([February 15, 1942](#), [July 6, 1942](#), [December 21, 1943](#), [March 4, 1944](#), [March 13, 1944](#)); her husband is missing ([February 17, 1943](#)). In 1943 her husband was in Davao in a labor camp but prior to this had been in Manila. The family was interned together at some point, so I'm assuming that it was in Manila. I'm not sure how Peg and her kids landed in Baguio; her husband's name is Walter ([April 15, 1943](#), [December 21, 1943](#), [March 13, 1944](#))

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Ibid.

135 Guard 2 [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Miss McKim says it's a pie made out
136 of squash.

137
138 Miss McKim [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] It's called a pumpkin pie, and it's
139 very tasty.

140
141

142 [SCENE ONE C]

143
144 Natalie Did they like it?

145
146 Peg Well, they told Miss McKim they did. It sure disappeared quickly.

147
148 Jerry Probably downed it in one bite.

149
150 Peg Just about. Miss McKim told them it was American Indian food,
151 but I think she lost 'em on that.

152
153

154 [DIARY READING TWO]¹²

155
156

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

157
158 Natalie January 9, 1943. As we sat the common room waiting for Jerry to
159 make cocoa, I noticed the love-starved couples all around us,
160 hungry for each other and kept apart. The crowd broke up early,
161 drifting off, away from provocations that will end in frustration
162 because of nonsensical camp restrictions.¹³

163
164 The latest was announced this week. Single women can now eat
165 on the parade ground with a man or boyfriend but must not look
166 romantic as guards with binoculars are watching and know the
167 romantic ones.¹⁴ And, if the guards *don't* catch you, the petty and
168 envious among us might call you a "dirty commingler."¹⁵ Some
169 people have way too much time that they could put to better use.

¹² From Natalie's [January 2, 1943](#), [January 7, 1943](#), and [January 9, 1943](#) diary entries

¹³ Natalie's [January 2, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹⁴ Natalie's [January 9, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹⁵ Natalie's [January 7, 1943](#) diary entry.

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[CUT-IN ONE]

Women’s Committee Secy. Women’s Committee Minutes. It is our sincere hope that in the first four months of 1943, women will work harmoniously together, each doing their fair amount of the work, and no one undertaking so many duties that she develops a martyr complex.¹⁶

Natalie Peg says that after the War she’ll never live communally again.¹⁷ People actually fight over bananas at first meal and elbow to the front of the line to get the best ones.¹⁸

January 15, 1943. At five minutes to two we were all gonged and yelled at to assemble for roll call. The men went right through, but it took us women and children two hours, with babies fussing and children tearing around, while soldiers checked off lists. All afternoon wild rumors spread about the reason for the surprise roll call.

[SCENE TWO]¹⁹

Ted I think it boils down to three things, Millie. One. They’re getting ready to send some of us to Manila because of the firewood shortage. Two, they were looking for money and canned goods.

Millie Well, ya can’t squeeze blood out of a turnip, can ya?

Ted Or Sy.

Millie Sy? He escaped four months ago.

Ted They finally caught the idiot.

¹⁶ Natalie’s [January 2, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹⁷ A fair assumption on my part. I think I read this in Frances B. Cogon’s *Captured*, but can’t find where. I used Peg to put her more in the story and to underscore the pettiness of camp life.

¹⁸ This is a summary reason and lead up to why the “Banana Machine” was invented. Natalie’s [February 27, 1943](#) diary entry describes the acrimony over getting the best bananas.

¹⁹ Based on and imagined from Natalie’s [January 15, 1943](#) diary entry.

203 Millie Where?

204

205 Ted I don't know, but they're gonna bring him here so they can
206 torture or kill him in front of us as an example. That's what going
207 around camp.

208

209

210 **[DIARY READING THREE]**

211

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

213

214 Natalie January 22, 1943. Three guards left today, as patched, ragged, and
215 seedy as they came in—quite a contrast with one of their
216 replacements. We now have a new Sergeant who is a big husky,
217 handsome type. He speaks English and walks around wearing
218 swanky American khaki shirts and trousers. Before they left, our
219 old guards warned Arthur about him and the other new guards.²⁰

220

221 As much as I hate the men's poker games, I concede to Jerry's
222 point they are the one of best ways to find out what's going on.

223

224

225 **[SCENE THREE]²¹**

226

227 Larry What'd they do Arthur, chase you out of the women's barracks?

228

229 Arthur Ah, just deal the cards, will ya Larry?

230

231 Jerry What's his name?

232

233 Arthur Sergeant Fukihara.²²

234

235 Phil That new guard? He's a cocky little bastard.

236

237 Arthur His English is good.

²⁰ Natalie's [January 29, 1943](#) diary entry.

²¹ Unless otherwise footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [January 22, 1943](#) diary entry.

²² Natalie's [January 29, 1943](#) diary entry.

238 Jerry I heard that he lived in the States.
239
240 Arthur You know, something doesn't make sense about that guy. All of
241 the soldiers come in looking rode hard and put away wet, but old
242 Sergeant Fukihara looks like he just came off a cruise ship.
243
244 Jim Well he sure likes the women, calls himself a Class-A military man.
245 And get this: the first thing he asked about was if women are
246 available at the guard house.
247
248 Arthur Sy's said he's seen our new guards beating people at the jail.²³
249
250 Jerry Swell.
251
252 Phil Boy, Sy sure got off easy.
253
254 Jerry You know what happened with that, Arthur?²⁴
255
256 Arthur Just bits and pieces. Seems General Nagasaki spared Sy's life
257 because he likes Sy's son.
258
259 Phil Who's General Nagasaki?
260
261 Arthur He's in charge of Baguio. When the Executive Committee found
262 out Sy was being transferred back here, we sent a notification to
263 High Command stating that the Camp can't be held responsible if
264 Sy tries to escape a second time.²⁵
265
266 Phil They think we can police Sy?
267
268 Arthur I'm not concerned about Sy. I think he's learned his lesson. But
269 Sergeant Fukihara has me a little worried...something doesn't
270 clock right with that guy.
271
272

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Hind, [pp. 89](#). Describes what happened to Sy Sorrell (Natalie called him Sy Stone) and as it is depicted here.

²⁵ Ibid.

273 [DIARY READING FOUR]

274
275 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

276

277 Natalie January 26, 1943. After four nights of chills and fever, I finally
278 slept soundly last night—completely out of this world of
279 discomfort and trouble.

280

281 Everyone's grateful for the Mansell family who donated hundreds
282 of sulfa tablets intended for mission use in Africa. It looks like we
283 may need them soon for dysentery. No rain is affecting our
284 drinking water and sewage, and we're seeing more flies around
285 Camp, just like this time last year.²⁶ One of the nasty creatures bit
286 right through my sweater.²⁷

287

288 January 28, 1943. Jerry thought the doctor would put me on the
289 special diet we give patients, but I guess I am not sick enough. I
290 don't want to wait until I'm jaundiced, so Dorothy brought me a
291 Special Diet plate this afternoon—red hot graft whisked out past
292 authority. The food tasted good, but I'd still rather get along on
293 regular chow to save friction and face.

294

295 January 29, 1943. Jerry says we're out of our own food, so no egg
296 for breakfast, only camp chow consisting of hot-water rice.²⁸ I've
297 felt light headed all day.

298

299 January 30, 1943.²⁹ I noticed something off about Sergeant
300 Fukihara's behavior. When Japanese officers visited camp
301 yesterday, the Sergeant strode up to join a colonel, and, after a
302 salute, walked up the road right next to a general—an equity
303 most unusual for an acting³⁰ sergeant. Is this a sample of the
304 much-vaunted "new" fraternity between officers and soldiers in
305 the Japanese Army? Well, whatever's going on, Sergeant Fukihara

²⁶ Around this time Natalie writes of having to use waste water for the garden and later restrictions using tap water. In [March 9, 1943](#) she writes about finally getting rain and it cleaning out garbage and flies.

²⁷ Natalie's [February 4, 1943](#) diary entry.

²⁸ Natalie's [January 7, 1943](#) diary entry mentions a hot-water rice breakfast.

²⁹ Natalie's [January 29, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁰ Note to self. An acting soldier could be any rank. It means they have been pulled into a rank for special reasons. Fukihura could be Kempeitai or a wealthy man's son put into a safe situation.

306 has sure pushed Mr. Hayakawa, our timid civilian commandant,
307 into the background—and, from what the men say, undercover as
308 well.

309
310

311 **[SCENE FOUR]³¹**

312

313 Larry It's true. I swear. Ritchie pulled the covers from Ray's bed this
314 morning and found Hayakawa sound asleep.

315

316 Hank What the hell was he doing in here?

317

318 Larry Beats me.

319

320 Phil Miss McKim says Hayakawa's afraid of Sergeant Fukihara.

321

322 Larry Yea, well the story I heard was Fukihara had a girl and tossed
323 Hayakawa out of his own room.

324

325 Phil That sounds about right.

326

327 Larry Man, this is one for the records, even in this loony bin. Hey,
328 Hayakawa's not bunkin' in with us now?

329

330 Phil Yea, Larry. He's gonna sleep right next to you.

331

332 Jim Did you know that Hayakawa went to school in Baguio³² with a
333 couple of the guys in here?

334

335 Larry Then he can take one of their beds.

336

337

338 **[DIARY READING FIVE]**

339

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

341

³¹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [January 31, 1943](#) diary entry.

³² I assume it was in Baguio because Hayakawa was the son of a wealthy Baguio merchant.

342 Natalie January 31, 1943. A miraculous bag of food arrived from Nida. I
343 made Jerry come over just to see his face as he pulled out curry
344 powder, chili powder, and parmesan cheese from our shelves at
345 home, and a precious package of white beans and bundle of
346 beefsteak—all the makings for a curry or chili dish. Jerry claims
347 Nida must have read his mind.³³

348
349 There is news of a big conference in Morocco, with Churchill,
350 Roosevelt and many leaders there.³⁴ Japan is promising
351 independence very soon to the Philippine Islands and within a
352 year to Burma.³⁵

353
354 February 4, 1943. Bacillary dysentery reached the upper dorms
355 last night and took Penny to the hospital. Four men from the
356 men's barracks have it. Camp is subdued and nervous.

357
358 An open trench latrine is being dug this morning in the back of the
359 Convent buildings. If the nuns don't catch dysentery from the
360 hastily-built privy, the flies will do the rest.

361
362 February 5, 1943.³⁶ Six more dysentery cases. The youngest has a
363 temperature of 105. Peg looked panicky as people from our
364 barracks took their bedding to the hospital.

365
366 Patients have been given serum, and Dr. Hall worked the
367 microscope until 11 last night and is worn out.

368
369

370 **[SCENE FIVE]**³⁷

371
372 Dr. Hall I don't know why I even bother, Natalie. No one seems to worry
373 about dysentery until it's too late.

374

³³ Natalie's [January 29, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Natalie's [January 30, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁶ Natalie's [February 4, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁷ Unless otherwise footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [February 4, 1943](#) diary entry.

375 Natalie Well, you know / agree with you, Dr. Hall. I'm warning the children
376 to keep their hands extra clean. So, do you think this going to be a
377 repeat of last year?
378

379 Dr. Hall I...I hope not. We're certainly better prepared and have a hospital
380 in camp, but I'm afraid it's back to quarantines, specimens, and a
381 strict disinfection regimen.³⁸
382

383 Natalie But how do they expect us to disinfect the camp with the ashes
384 we're using for soap?³⁹
385

386 Dr. Hall Well, the Executive Committee's going to take Miss McKim with
387 us to talk to Mr. Hayakawa about that.
388

389 .

390 **[DIARY READING SIX]**
391

392 [SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]
393

394 Natalie Miss McKim is included in all important camp discussions because
395 she is well regarded by everyone for her intelligence and tact. Her
396 upbringing as a Tokyo Bishop's daughter brings serenity, patience,
397 and an enigmatic demeanor that allows her to settle problems
398 quietly and diplomatically with no one knowing just where or how
399 she stands on an issue.⁴⁰
400

401

402

403 **[SCENE SIX]⁴¹**
404

405

406 Miss McKim How bad is it, Dr. Hall?
407

408

409 Dr. Hall It's very serious, Miss McKim. The dysentery cases are increasing
410 faster than last year because of our compromised health.
411

412

³⁸ Specimen collection, disinfection, and quarantines are mentioned throughout Season Two, particularly in Episode 7, Scene Two B.

³⁹ Natalie's [November 24, 1942](#) diary entry.

⁴⁰ Natalie's [February 23, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁴¹ Based on and imagined from Season Two.

409 Dr. Dean And the toilet paper shortages haven't helped.
410
411 Miss McKim How can I help, doctors?
412
413 Dr. Dean You know what's going in camp more than anyone. Who's really
414 in charge? It isn't Hayakawa....⁴²
415
416 Miss McKim Sergeant Fukihara appears to have High Command's ear these
417 days, Dr. Dean.
418
419 Dr. Dean Then you have to help us make him understand the urgency here.
420 You and Fukihara weren't here this time last year.
421
422 Miss McKim I heard about it.
423
424 Dr. Hall The only reason there were no fatalities was because we ran a
425 strict sanitation campaign.
426
427 Dr. Dean Yea, but this year supplies are even lower, and those ashes we're
428 using for soap ain't gonna to cut it.
429
430 Miss McKim High Command says ashes are being used for soap back in Japan.⁴³
431
432 Dr. Dean I can guarantee you that the Japanese Army hospitals aren't using
433 ashes.⁴⁴ We need disinfectants, specimen trays, and toilet paper
434 or this thing is going to turn into an epidemic, if it hasn't already.
435
436 Dr. Hall We also need immunizations for the healthy and medication for
437 the sick. Otherwise, disease will continue to spread
438
439 Dr. Dean Exponentially.
440
441 Dr. Hall And not just among internees. Japanese soldiers are just as
442 vulnerable.
443

⁴² My assumption based on Scene 4 where Sgt. Fukihara boots Hayakawa out of his own bed.

⁴³ Natalie's [November 24, 1942](#) diary entry.

⁴⁴ This is my assumption because the Japanese Army sent medical supplies fairly quickly.

444 Dr. Dean Good point. That oughta get Sergeant Fukihara’s attention.

445

446 Dr. Hall Now, here’s a list we’re put together for....

447

448

449 **[DIARY READING SEVEN]**

450

451 [SOUNDS OF WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

452

453 Natalie The doctors, Miss McKim, and Sergeant Fukihara with his white
454 notebook went to the guard house at noon. Some Lysol was
455 found, so our dorm is being disinfected from head to foot, side to
456 side—beds pushed down to one end, to clean floors; mattresses
457 and blankets hung on lines and racks outside; and crying babies
458 parked and dumped on irate fathers.⁴⁵

459

460 Everyone works with a feeling of waiting and suspense wondering
461 who will get dysentery next? People swat flies, and we waitresses
462 dip our hands in Lysol before serving.⁴⁶

463

464 Natalie February 9, 1943. Four Japanese officers inspected camp. Arthur
465 insists that they were Intelligence, not medical officers, and no
466 one can tell him any different.

467

468 We’re being treating like pests. No one is allowed to go to the
469 guardhouse to hear the radio as the guards don’t want any
470 contact with us during the epidemic. No bags or packages may be
471 sent out of camp, but they are allowed come in.

472

473 To their credit, and Miss McKim’s gentle persuasion, the Japanese
474 Army Hospital quickly sent cellophane specimen containers which
475 all internees must use. Castor oil, magnesia, and serum arrived
476 today. 27,000 died in Capas prison, and the Japanese Army
477 doesn’t want this repeated, so a notice was placed on the parade-
478 ground bulletin board.

479

⁴⁵ Natalie’s [February 4, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁴⁶ Natalie’s [February 6, 1943](#) diary entry.

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[CUT-IN TWO]

Jim

The Japanese authorities have ordered that all members of the camp be inoculated with triple vaccine (cholera, typhoid, dysentery) and vaccinated against smallpox.

Natalie

February 11, 1943. June's specimen showed that she has dysentery. The poor kid, she's had a rotten time with her health and a poor diet for weeks. When I pulled her out of school, she wept. Jerry took his mattress pad and my double blanket to the hospital for her bed. The Greys have kindly loaned me a blanket and a pillow.

February 12, 1943. Today's scandal is a mother let her child with the trots go unreported for four days! The Japanese have installed square boxes outside doorways with Lysoled cloth on which we must wipe our feet before entering a room.⁴⁷

Enid has been on her hands and knees scrubbing the toilets to help with the sanitation campaign. At ten in the morning, she found four women playing bridge and really gave them what for.⁴⁸

[CUT-IN THREE]⁴⁹

Enid

Well this is a fine how-do-you-do!! It is incomprehensible to me how any of you has the *gall* to play bridge in the middle of an epidemic! Oh, don't at me like that. Two of you have children in the hospital for heaven's sake! Has it occurred to *any* of you that the hospital might need volunteers? Surely you can think of something better to do than sit around a bridge table and throw parties while the rest of us scrub floors!

⁴⁷ Natalie's [February 13, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁴⁸ Natalie's [February 11, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁴⁹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [February 11, 1943](#) diary entry

514 Natalie February 14, 1943. I dreamed of being in a big tea garden in a
515 large stone house on Beacon Street. There was gleaming silver,
516 satins shining and taffetas rustling, subdued lights and restrained
517 murmur of conversation—all very Boston. Everyone turned to
518 stare at me with that frigid look which all good Bostonians can
519 turn on at times. I suddenly realized that I was dressed in my
520 Concentration clothes and rundown shoes. I kept saying over and
521 over, “I’m only trying to find my way out. I’m *just* trying to find the
522 door.”

523
524 February 15, 1943. Drainage and cesspool problems have plagued
525 us for days. The gutters are rivers of white from the lime used to
526 kill baby flies growing by the thousands. It drifts all over the grass
527 while we keep busy with the camp’s new obsession: drafting
528 house plans for when we get out of here.⁵⁰ Before June fell sick,
529 plans to enlarge our kitchen were spread all over our bed. In
530 addition to a huge kitchen, we designed a beautiful bathroom,
531 two bedrooms and a small library. Peg just laughed at us.⁵¹

532
533 February 17, 1943. June is back home! She bounded out of the
534 hospital all aglow, saying she gained two and a half pounds!”

535
536 June said patients had to use Dr. Hall’s dysentery reports as toilet
537 paper. That’s all that’s left. The camp’s taken to using school
538 paper as well as pages from books that we read while waiting in
539 line.

540
541 February 18, 1943. People are finally listening to Dr. Hall. Daphne
542 is back to making health posters, and the dining room is papered
543 with the children’s crayon signs reading, *Don’t Drink Tap Water*,
544 *Don’t Chew Your Toys* and *Send Your Specimen on Time*.⁵²

545
546 Despite all of this, the epidemic doesn’t seem to have slowed the
547 chit chat in the women’s barracks.

548

⁵⁰ Natalie’s [February 7, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁵¹ Natalie’s [February 2, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁵² Natalie’s [February 21, 1943](#) diary entry.

549 [SCENE SEVEN]

550

551

[FADING IN AND OUT OF VARIOUS BARRACK CONVERSATIONS]

552

553 Dotty

Ugh, I can *still* smell the chlorine, can you?⁵³

554

555 Doris

No

556

557 Dotty

Well, y'all must be nose blind, Doris! Someone broke a whole bottle of chlorine in the dispensary, and it seeped into the dorm last night.

558

559

560

561

[FADE OUT; FADE IN TO NEXT CONVERSATION]

562

563 Millie

I saw them drive up before second meal.⁵⁴

564

565 Fern

Who?

566

567 Millie

The Pearson's son, Jack... and his little boy. They'd all been hiding near Itogon mine. Jack's wife didn't make it.

568

569

570 Fern

What happened to her?

571

572 Millie

Well, she was a diabetic, you know. Jack said they had a two-year supply of insulin but had to hide in the bush for 10 days with nothing to eat but rice and milk. With her condition she developed an intestinal blockage, and they had to turn themselves in.

573

574

575

576

577

578 Fern

She's always been so frail.

579

580 Millie

But instead of taking her to a hospital the Japanese put her in a barrio jail where the poor little thing died. Jack couldn't do anything but watch her suffer.

581

582

583

584 Fern

Those poor dears!

⁵³ This conversation based on and imagined from Natalie's [February 19, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁵⁴ This conversation based on and imagined from Natalie's [February 18, 1943](#) diary entry.

585 [FADE OUT; FADE IN TO NEXT CONVERSATION]
586
587 Enid Well, someone's gotta pray for this sorry group.⁵⁵
588
589 Colleen Maybe this is like a little vacation for them.
590
591 Josephine Vacation for who?
592
593 Enid The new nuns at the convent. They're supposed to be cloistered.
594
595 Josephine What's that?
596
597 Colleen It means you just sit around praying and don't see or talk with
598 anyone but nuns.
599
600 Enid Good luck around here.
601
602 Colleen See. That's what I mean.... Gee, I wonder what they must think of
603 all of us.
604
605

606 [DIARY READING EIGHT]

607
608 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
609

610 Natalie February 28, 1943. Chef Alex has been in a bad foul lately. With so
611 many dysentery cases he has to make more special meals for the
612 recovering patients; plans for the garden expansion have ceased
613 due to the lack of seeds and tools; and so much silverware has
614 been pinched from the dining room that it's almost impossible to
615 serve meals.
616
617 Today he gave one-and-a-half stuffed cabbage rolls to the men,
618 and shorted 35 women, many of whom had worked hard all
619 afternoon preparing the vegetables for them.
620
621

⁵⁵ This conversation based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 9, 1943](#) diary entry.

622 [SCENE EIGHT]⁵⁶

623

624 Alex I can't apologize no more for those women, Arthur.

625

626 Arthur Well then just make some more cabbage rolls for them.

627

628 Alex There is no more cabbage.

629

630 Arthur Well, I can't help you there.

631

632 Alex And people *still* fighting over bananas.

633

634 Arthur What??

635

636 Alex Oh yea. Everyone fights for first in line to get best bananas.

637

638 Arthur Then get your assistants to hand them out.

639

640 Alex I'm not going do that. They'll get killed.

641

642

643 [DIARY READING NINE]

644

645 [THUNDER AND RAIN. SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

646

647 Natalie March 9, 1943. After teasing us for days, there is finally rain,
648 blessed rain. And it's a hard one that's lasting all evening, filling
649 the tanks and the spring, and enough to wash away some of the
650 garbage dump and drown flies and their eggs.

651

652 Everyone, including myself, is looking forward to having enough
653 piping hot water for sponge baths.

654

655 March 10, 1943. Today, the Banana Machine, a masterpiece
656 invented by Phil at the shop appeared before our astonished eyes

⁵⁶ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [February 28, 1943](#) diary entry.

657 at first meal. It's the picture, plan and execution of the Camp's
658 state of mine.⁵⁷

659

660

661 **[SCENE NINE]**⁵⁸

662

663 Dr. Dean You have outdone yourself, Phil. This is even better than your fly
664 swatters.⁵⁹

665

666 Alex How does it work?

667

668 Phil Simple, Alex. The cooks load a banana into each of these slots on
669 the assembly, and a server turns this crank so the next person in
670 line *has* to take the next banana. What they get is the luck of the
671 draw.

672

673 Hank Phil, you're a Goddamn Edison!

674

675 Alex You turning my dining room into casino.

676

677

678 **[DIARY READING TEN]**

679

680 **[SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]**

681

682 Natalie If you ask me, Phil has put more than hand-skill into his invention.
683 He has worked democracy into it. The machine does away with
684 favoritism, privilege, graft, politics, and hurt feelings because the
685 banana distribution is random and unseen. It cannot be exploited
686 by people "in the know" or committee members to get votes—
687 well, at least until someone sits up nights and works out a plan to
688 beat the game.⁶⁰

689

690 We need more Banana Machines! They are great fun, with just
691 that element of chance in the grooves to make dispensation

⁵⁷ Natalie's [February 27, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁵⁸ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [February 27, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁵⁹ Natalie's [March 10, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁶⁰ From Natalie's [March 8, 1943](#) diary entry.

692
693
694
695
696
697

exciting and mysterious. Will we draw a fat, long yellow banana,
fresh and unbruised? No, it's the green, hard one. Ah, but
tomorrow! That may be our day.⁶¹

[COLD CLOSE]

⁶¹ Ibid.