

1 Season Three: *Forbidden Diary*
2 Episode Sixteen: Social Studies

3
4 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

5		
6	Natalie Crouter	Sevil Delin
7	Bill Moules	Dustin Parkhurst
8	Marj Moules	Bonnie Marie Williams
9	Jerry	Mark Oliver
10	Foster	Micheal Anthony
11	Mrs. Coulter	Wendy Brown
12	Peg	Rebecca Haugh
13	Betty	Julie M. Dean
14	Millie	Melba King
15	Miss McKim	Christine Holoway
16	Jim	Maxwell Glick
17	Nida's Auntie	Ria Vrana
18	Hazel	Diane Bolton
19	Nida	Jeannie Marie Sioson
20	Bedie	Luka Nas
21	June	Claire Oliver
22	Herb	Vincent Caruso
23	Lt. Kira	Kenzo Mori
24	Ted	Troy W. Hudson

25
26
27 [Cold Open]

28
29 Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*....

30
31 [SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

32
33 Announcer And now, Episode Sixteen.

34
35
36
37
38

39 [DIARY READING ONE]

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

41

42 Natalie

43 May 10, 1943. As the new internees settle into Camp, we hear
44 more and more stories, some I will never be able to erase from
45 my mind, especially the ones from Marj and Bill Moules and a
46 newcomer named Foster.¹

47

48

49 [SCENE ONE]²

50

51 Bill

I don't know, Natalie, for me it was when the Japanese hit Appari
52 a week after the first bomb. Man, I knew I had to get Marj and the
53 kids away from the mine.³

54

55 Marj

I didn't want to go. We were already living up in the boonies at
56 Itogon Mine with other engineers' families. And the Lusod Lumber
57 Mill is even farther up in the mountains.

58

59 Bill

Yea. About 4,000 feet straight up from Itogon Mine.⁴ But there
60 were eighty cases of chow there⁵, and I figured the Japanese
61 wouldn't bother us that far out.⁶

62

63 Marj

Another family lived there, and they had a telephone⁷ and an
64 aerial tram to get supplies up and down the mountain.⁸ And I was
65 eight months pregnant.⁹

66

67 Bill

I hired ten of the huskiest men from the Igorot police force to
68 carry Marg up in a wicker chair strapped to two poles.¹⁰

¹ This is my introduction to Scene One.

² Unless otherwise footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 1, 1943](#) (Igorots leaving their village) and [June 6, 1943](#) (Foster's story) diary entries and Moule, William R., *God's Arms Around Us*. See specific pages are footnoted below.

³ Moule, pp. 42.

⁴ Moule, pp. 50.

⁵ Moule, pp. 43.

⁶ My assumption from context of Moule book.

⁷ Moule, pp. 56.

⁸ Moule, pp. 45.

⁹ Moule, pp. 107. Marj gave birth to a girl a few months after they started hiding from the Japanese.

69
70 Marg I looked ridiculous.
71
72 Bill When the trail got too narrow, they put her in a blanket.¹¹ I gotta
73 tell you. When the Igorots hike, they go in a straight line up the
74 mountain.¹²
75
76 Natalie Weren't you worried about giving birth so far away from a
77 hospital?
78
79 Marj Oh no, my first two were easy deliveries.¹³
80
81 Bill Not everyone did what we did. When the Japanese started to
82 invade, some people at the mine decided to hand themselves in
83 at Brent school.¹⁴
84
85 Natalie Everyone's reactions and choices were so different. We went to
86 Brent.
87
88 Jerry Boy, I sure remember those days. Remember how fast they closed
89 the road to Manila?
90
91 Bill Moule I sure do. When the Japanese invaded, the mining families who
92 couldn't decide what to do had to go to up to Lusod Mill because
93 they couldn't get to Baguio or Manila.¹⁵
94
95 Marj Two of the gals were pregnant, one with her first baby.¹⁶
96
97 Natalie Boy, they were brave.
98
99 Marj Well, we really thought it'd just be a few months and figured we
100 could rough it for a little bit.¹⁷

¹⁰ Moule, pp. 43.

¹¹ Moule, pp. 48.

¹² Moule, pp. 51-52.

¹³ Moule, pp. 65.

¹⁴ Moule, pp. 60.

¹⁵ Moule, pp. 55.

¹⁶ Moule, pp. 65.

¹⁷ Moule, pp. 66. Moule thought "the War will be over "shortly."

101
102 Bill That's what everyone thought. Boy, things sure got dicey when
103 the army ordered us miners to burn all of our oil and blast bridges
104 to get rid of the dynamite.¹⁸
105
106 Jerry They burned all of the gas at my station too.¹⁹
107
108 Bill Did they?
109
110 Jerry Yea. Natalie and I watched it from a lookout point above town.
111
112 Bill Well, then the Filipino soldiers up and left²⁰ and the American
113 soldiers went to Bataan.²¹
114
115 Marj But some American officers stayed behind.²² I don't think the
116 Army knew what they were doing. Aren't they supposed to have a
117 plan or something?
118
119 Jerry All military plans fall apart at first contact with the enemy.
120
121 Bill That's a fact. So, after that happened, I made I don't know how
122 many trips up and down that godawful trail up to Lusod Mill
123 buttoning up things at the mine and getting supplies for us. One
124 one trip, I'm huffing and puffing up the mountain and looked over
125 the side and see a pile of Army trucks and cars dumped down the
126 bottom of a canyon.²³ But, you know even then, I still thought the
127 U.S. was gonna bail us out at any moment. Crazy, huh?
128
129 Jerry You weren't the only one.

¹⁸ Moule, pps. 42 & 52.

¹⁹ Natalie's [December 22, 1941](#) diary entry. My assumption that the military did it. See Footnote5 at [Script-FD-S1E4.pdf \(storiestovoice.com\)](#)

²⁰ Moule, pp. 44.

²¹ Moule, pp. 55. The soldiers were initially order to Lusod Mill . When the Japanese took over Baguio many of the civilians turned themselves in at Baguio (pp. 70). The only thing Moule mentioned about the soldiers was an officer saying "he thought the next big fight would be at Bataan" (pp. 64) and (pp 109) Moule assumed, "soon reinforcements would come into Bataan," and Moule didn't mention groups of soldiers hiding in the mountains, only a few officers. See next footnote.

²² Moule, pps. 109-110. The Moules ran into several officers (Al Hendrickson and Col Moses)when they were on the run in the mountains.

²³ Moule, pp. 61.

130
131 Bill Well, it turned out Luzod Mill wasn't safe, so everyone packed up
132 and hiked to Manila.
133
134 Marj Well, or tried to.
135
136 Bill Yea. We hiked about 60 miles to find out Manila wasn't safe and
137 had to turn around.²⁴
138
139 Marj And then spent the rest of the time trying to stay one step ahead
140 of the Japanese. Wouldn't you say, Bill?
141
142 Bill Yep.
143
144 Marj Tell 'em about the village.
145
146 Bill The Igorot barrio?
147
148 Marj Yea.
149
150 Bill How could I forget?
151
152 Marj Moules I still feel guilty.
153
154 Natalie What happened?
155
156 Bill Moule Well, while we were on the run from the Japanese, a village took
157 us in.
158
159 Marj Moule No. More than that, they gave us their...well you tell it, Bill.
160
161 Bill Moule Okay. So after saying our howdy-dos and thank-yous, we settled
162 in and dropped off to sleep in one of their houses. The next
163 morning...dead silence.
164
165 Marj Moule The entire village had left. I mean, everyone.

²⁴ Moule, pps. 86 & 91.

166
167 Bill I don't think even the dogs stuck around. Then it dawned on us
168 that they couldn't risk helping Americans, and they didn't want to
169 refuse us, so they just left their village.
170 Marj Well, of course we left immediately.
171
172 Bill And prayed the Japanese'd never find out we'd been there.
173
174 Marj Moule They could have easily turned us away.
175
176 Bill Every one of those villagers risked their lives for us.
177
178 Foster Bill and Marj are right. They really *did* risk their lives. Some Igorots
179 gave me food, and their entire village was killed for it to set an
180 example—eighty men, women and children were just
181 slaughtered.
182
183 Jerry God, Foster. We've heard stories but....
184
185 Natalie How could anyone do that?
186
187 Foster I turned myself in when I heard about it. I didn't want any more
188 blood on my hands.
189
190 Natalie You can't think of it that way. Those people's blood is on the
191 hands of their murders.
192
193 Foster I really wish I could, but I can't. Well...then the Japanese tossed
194 me in jail for 15 days. They gave us plenty of rice, and you could
195 buy almost anything, if you had the money. But they teased us
196 with the water. When they turned it on, everyone stampeded to a
197 water pipe sticking out of the wall, and then they'd just shut it off.
198 If you couldn't get to the water in time, too bad for you. But the
199 worst part was we never knew when they were going to turn it
200 back on, so everyone watched that old pipe like the RCA Victor
201 dog.
202

203 Jerry Jim's dad is in jail in Baguio and only gets one cup of water to
204 drink and bath with.²⁵

205
206 Foster Yea. Poor guy. They let Filipinos look in the windows when we
207 were being interrogated. This one Japanese captain yelled and
208 jumped around, put on a real show. But after a while the whole
209 thing became as degrading for the interrogators as the
210 prisoners—well, least for the ones who weren't sadists. Man, I
211 *never* thought human beings could behave in the ways I've seen.
212 It's been a real education.

213
214

215 [DIARY READING TWO]

216
217

[SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

218
219

Natalie May 20, 1943. Now that the dysentery epidemic and the dry
220 weather seem to be behind us, Camp Holmes has turned its
221 attention to barracks improvements, shoe manufacture and
222 souvenirs. The talk, hammer and pound in the barracks is all
223 about suspended beds from the ceiling. There are 17 in this dorm,
224 which now resembles a pullman car with uppers and lowers.²⁶
225 Because children's feet and the holes in our shoes are growing,
226 the shop has over 50 orders for wooden clogs that are arranged
227 on shelves in all stages of carving down to a big log measured off
228 in sections. As personal food supplies diminish, people are making
229 and selling souvenirs to buy food from the Camp store and
230 elsewhere. Daphne is selling her campsite sketches for 75¢ each.²⁷

231
232

May 25, 1943. I slept after lunch but still feel great lack of energy.
233 I wish we could have eggs more often, but our cash must be
234 stretched. Rice flour is getting scarce and skyrocketing in price.
235 They've started food rationing in Baguio.

236
237

May 27, 1943. Our 18th month starts today, leaving us to wonder

²⁵ Natalie's [May 30, 1943](#) diary entry. Natalie refers to Jim's dad as Grandpa.

²⁶ Natalie's [May 18, 1943](#) diary entry.

²⁷ Natalie's [May 20, 1943](#) diary entry. See also Natalie's [July 4, 1943](#) diary entry about a craft fair to make money.

238 if it will go on into two years. I could howl at the thought of being
239 stuck here another six months with some of these people.

240
241 Camp Holmes is a petri dish of human behavior. Mrs. Coulter who
242 often blows her top was at it this morning from one end of the
243 backyard to the other. She'd been on the receiving end of the
244 Camp Judicial Code for disregarding the new dorm rules. Because
245 doctors make up the General Committee who created and
246 enforces the Code, she broadcast a long gamut of opinion about
247 the hospital staff, their freedom, their parties and privileges. Next,
248 the tirade turned to commingling inequities when she blurted out
249 her most classic line to date.²⁸

250
251 **[CUT-IN ONE]**

252
253 Mrs. Coulter We were only doing what every respectable, happily married
254 couple does!

255
256 Natalie Which points to the absurdities and contradictions in our
257 situation. These days commingling freedom has gone to the
258 unmarried or those without mates at hand. Well, there was
259 enough truth in her diatribe that gave the Camp some quiet public
260 chuckles and a lot of laughs in the women's barracks.²⁹

261
262
263 **[SCENE TWO]**³⁰

264
265 Natalie How could you have missed it!

266
267 Peg Mrs. Coulter is on a crusade for sex!

268
269 Betty That old trout?

270
271 Millie Well, bless her heart.

272

²⁸ Natalie's [June 20, 1943](#) and [June 22, 1943](#).

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ As footnoted, based on and imagined from multiple diary entries.

273 Peg She does have a point, you know. If my husband were here, I'd be
274 upset about all of these stupid commingling rules.
275
276 Miss McKim Mrs. Coulter must have been talking with the Eric and his wife.
277 Peg How's that?
278
279 Miss McKim A guard came up to them at lunch and asked if they were married.
280 When they said yes, he said, they could eat together but not sleep
281 and make a baby because if the soldiers can't do it, no one can.³¹
282
283 Peg Typical male logic.
284
285 Miss McKim Ah, but the Japanese soldier can and does.³²
286
287 Peg Why Miss McKim!
288
289 Miss McKim Oh, don't be so surprised. I hear all sort of things from the guards.
290 A few weeks ago, Sergeant Fukihara told me that he thinks
291 America's going to win the war and retake the Philippines.
292
293 Peg Did you ask him when this is going to happen because I'd sure like
294 to know?
295
296 Miss McKim No. He said that the reason is we have more planes. But when I
297 asked him if Japan couldn't make planes too, he said "not as fast
298 as America."
299
300 Natalie Looks like everyone in this camp's an armchair strategist, even the
301 guards.
302
303 Miss McKim But get this. The Sergeant Fukihara looked me straight in the eye
304 and said that in the meantime Dr. Dean can make the sick well
305 and the rest of our men could play softball.
306
307 Peg Just like one big happy family.
308

³¹ Natalie wrote about the "Eric and his wife" encounter in her [May 28, 1943](#) diary entry.

³² Natalie's [May 28, 1943](#) diary entry.

309 Miss McKim He says it's very boring taking care of us, and the guards welcome
310 events of any kind, even infractions by us so they have something
311 to do.³³
312
313 Millie Well, we're like that too. Aren't we? So bored we'll chew any
314 rumor to pieces.³⁴
315
316 Peg Well, then here's a really good one for you. I heard another
317 woman has been snooping around the hospital and ratting on
318 husbands and wives—and husbands *not* with their wives.
319
320 Millie Oh my. I haven't heard that. I mean about the cheating.
321
322 Peg She's refusing to obey commingling rules because the General
323 Committee Chairman, hospital staff and Baby House are exempt.
324
325 Miss McKim The Baby House?
326
327 Peg It has two rooms where couples can go and shut the doors.³⁵
328
329 Miss McKim You know, I don't think this is really of any our business.
330
331 Peg Why, Miss McKim. You're blushing.
332
333 Miss McKim Oh, I am not.
334
335 Natalie Ah, Peg.... Weren't you going to tell us about your visitor?
336
337 Peg Oh my gosh, I almost forgot about Mr. Matsumoto.
338
339 Betty Who's he?
340

³³ All of Miss McKim's comments about Sergeant Fukihara are based and imagined from Natalie's [May 15, 1943](#) diary entry. She just called him the Sergeant but in her [January 29, 1943](#) diary entry she wrote, "Fukihara is the name of the new Sergeant."

³⁴ Paraphrased from Natalie's [May 15, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁵ The snooping woman and Baby House are based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 30, 1934](#) diary entry.

341 Peg A business friend of my husband's. He's the head of a plantation
342 in Davao. I still can't believe he came all the way to tell me about
343 Walter.³⁶
344
345 Miss McKim Your husband?
346
347 Peg Yes. We were separated early in the war.³⁷
348
349 Miss McKim That's been over a year and a half!
350
351 Peg Yes. It's just been me and our three little hooligans.³⁸
352
353 Miss McKim I don't know how you mothers do it all by yourselves.
354
355 Peg Me neither. When the war broke out, we were all interned a
356 funeral parlor. Did I ever tell you that, Natalie?³⁹
357
358 Natalie No.
359
360 Peg That pail I use to wash clothes came from there. Walter salvaged
361 it and cleaned out the embalming wax.⁴⁰ Anyway, Mr. Matsumoto
362 told me Walter's still on Davao, said he saw him two weeks ago
363 looking "fat and well."⁴¹ I was so happy that I almost kissed Mr.
364 Matsumoto.
365
366 Natalie Did he say anything about Walter being transferring here?
367
368 Peg I asked, but he didn't know. I'm just thankful he's alive. Walter
369 and the other Americans were put on road gangs at first. But now
370 he's interned with 300 other civilians. There's no running water,
371 but Mr. Matsumoto said that they're alive.
372
373 Miss McKim Are all they Americans?

³⁶ All of the dialogue about Mr. Matsumoto are based on and imagined from Natalie's [April 15, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁷ Peg is first mentioned in a [February 6, 1942](#) diary entry and her husband, Walter appears in a [March 13, 1944](#) entry.

³⁸ Natalie mentions Jerry making pancakes for "Peg's three children" in her [June 11, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁹ Natalie's [March 14, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Natalie's [April 15, 1943](#) diary entry. All Matsumoto news is from this diary entry.

374
375 Peg He didn't say but mentioned about a third of them are planters,
376 gold miners and Del Monte people, so Walter must be with
377 friends. That's a comfort. And...I guess, that's all he had to say,
378 really.

379
380 Natalie You must be relieved.

381
382 Peg I am. Mr. Matsumoto could hardly believe that I haven't heard a
383 word about Walter since we were separated.⁴²

384
385 Natalie You're so brave, Peg.

386
387 Peg Don't kid yourself. There isn't a day that goes by when I don't
388 have a low moment and I wonder if I can keep going.⁴³

389
390
391 **[DIARY READING THREE]**

392
393 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

394
395 Natalie June 2, 1943. Two overly curious guards invaded the ladies' toilet
396 and baths, catching one of us with her bloomers down, causing
397 much furor and a complaint lodged at the guardhouse by the
398 Women's Committee.

399
400 Inexplicably, at least to me, is parties are all the rage now.⁴⁴ Jim
401 wrote one of his best editorials about the complexities of
402 throwing a party in an internment camp.

403
404
405
406
407

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Natalie's [February 17, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁴⁴ Crouter, Natalie, *Forbidden Diary*, pp. xxiii. I am using this to foreshadow the next episode that deals with many of the internees' spending sprees.

[CUT-IN TWO]⁴⁵

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Jim

Camp Holmes Daily News The principal intramural pleasure in camp is giving or being invited to parties. Almost any excuse is enough to find an occasion, but one must first consider who should you ask:

- The person who gave you an extra (rotten) banana at Camp Hay when you were hungry?
- Those who refrain from excessive argumentation on subjects theological, political or otherwise?
- People who have live far enough away in dorms to still be friends?
- Someone who works in the kitchen?
- Or, Mrs. So and So because she has such good chow at her parties?

Natalie

June 5, 1943. The rain has been coming down in torrents for days, and Bedie got in a jam with another boy over a knife. The mother was naturally on the warpath and called Jerry. Bedie fibbed as he usually does when he's up to his neck. The knife was finally found by Bedie in his pocket. He'd been feeling very tough and devilish lately but was sent to bed early under a cloud.

Bedie hasn't gained a pound in the last 18 months. He needs eggs and milk but we have none to give. Jerry's weight is down to 166, the first time since he was 17. He lost 9 pounds in three days in the last spell of sickness that wasn't even dysentery.⁴⁶ I weigh 92 pounds and my blood pressure is 88. I guess that we'll all just have to stick it until Roosevelt, Churchill and the Marines come through.⁴⁷

June, however, is blooming—full of pep, gaining weight, eats anything, yells her head off at baseball, and is well thought of in Camp. She is learning the hazards of dating in the small-quarters of a prison camp. Several nights ago, she played cards with one

⁴⁵ Natalie's [May 27, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁴⁶ Natalie's [June 23, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁴⁷ Natalie's [June 7, 1943](#) diary entry.

443 date while another one glowered. It's the other boy's turn this
444 evening.⁴⁸

445
446 June 19, 1943. Word-of-mouth news tells of a big American convoy
447 in the Solomons near Guadalcanal.

448
449 I found fifty cents and turned it in, but the owner was found. Oh
450 well, there's nothing to spend money on so no chance of me going
451 on a wild fling.

452
453 New rules concerning electric lights just posted, giving us half
454 hour extra on dark, rainy days—with permission from a member
455 of the Executive Committee.

456
457 June 20, 1943. In the fried rice at supper was a measly five pounds
458 of pork for 500 people. It was the first meat for days, so people
459 whooped when they found a small piece on their plate.

460
461 June 21, 1943. We received a disturbing message from Nida's
462 aunt hastily scratched on paper.

463
464 **[CUT-IN THREE]**

465
466 Auntie Dear Mr. and Mrs. Crouter, Nida had surgery this afternoon for
467 her appendix. We got her there in time. I think she is going to be
468 okay.

469
470 Natalie June 22, 1943. No further word about Nida who is constantly on
471 our minds. I would give many things to be with her now.⁴⁹

472
473 June 23, 1943. One of the most pretentious couples in camp, who
474 can't wash their own laundry and are broke, threw a party for 90
475 guests on borrowed funds. We have handed it to them for the worst
476 taste, the most asinine judgement, the most obvious play at
477 politics, and greatest lack of community spirit.

478

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ This sentence is from Natalie's [June 25, 1943](#) diary entry.

479 Still no word about Nida.

480
481 June 24, 1943. June's been going through her own particular
482 brand of hell this week. Three girls and one lad have ganged up
483 against her, make withering cracks, write Spanish epithets on her
484 school desk, and walk away or freeze conversations when she sits
485 nearby. A desire for leadership and control is mixed up with it.
486 The boy wants June to date only him. They'll all get over it, but
487 meanwhile it is putting iron into June's constitution.

488
489 No news about Nida today.

490
491 June 25, 1943. Finally! We heard word about Nida from Hazel⁵⁰
492 who saw her at the hospital in Baguio. The first bit of news
493 mentally sank me to the floor as the earth rocked and the rest
494 passed over me like a title wave.

495
496
497 **[SCENE THREE A]**⁵¹

498
499 Hazel Here you go, Natalie. Here's the bag of goodies Nida gave to me.
500 Watch those eggs now. She said Ismael probably wasn't paying
501 attention when he packed them for her.

502
503 Natalie Thank you. How is Nida?

504
505 Hazel She's in terrible condition, Natalie.

506
507 Natalie Did you get a chance to talk with a doctor or nurse?

508
509 Hazel All I got was she's very sick. Sorry. Oh, I almost forgot to give you
510 this ten-peso bill she wanted you to have.

511
512 Natalie Oh good, thank you. So tell me, what did Nida say about...

513

⁵⁰ It was actually a Mrs. Larsen.

⁵¹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 25, 1943](#) diary entry.

514 Hazel Natalie...Natalie, I think you're going to want to sit down when
515 you hear what Nida told me....

516

517

518 **[SCENE THREE B]⁵²**

519

520 Nida Miss Hazel, I have horrible news about Crouter's home. The
521 Japanese drove a big truck up to their house the day before
522 yesterday and cleaned it out.

523

524 Hazel [GASP] How awful!

525

526 Nida They took everything but the piano and the stove. Ismael and our
527 girls couldn't do anything to stop it.

528

529 Hazel Well, how could they?

530

531 Nida They just stood and watched.

532

533 Hazel I know Natalie would say the most important thing is your family's
534 safety. They weren't harmed in any way. Were they?

535

536 Nida No. Tell the Crouters we're all okay.

537

538 Hazel Of course I will.

539

540 Nida And please tell Mrs. Crouter that they didn't take anything we hid.
541 Her ivories, her collection of bibles, June and Bedie's baby books,
542 and the family silver are all safe.

543

544 Hazel Natalie'll be so grateful to hear that, but right now she'd much
545 rather hear you're getting better. You hear me dear?

546

547 Nida I'll be okay. Ismael said looters came later that night and took all
548 of June's dresses except the three they dropped on their way out.
549 I'm so sorry. The poor Crouters.

550

⁵² Ibid.

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[DIARY READING FOUR]

[SOUNDS OF WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

Natalie

Hazel said Nida was almost in tears because she couldn't send June a birthday package and felt worse about this than her physical pain. It breaks my heart. It is more than I can bear now—this pure love and unselfishness from a Filipina who is seriously ill, thinking only of us, worrying about our things and our comfort. I go down under it, with roaring in my ears, bowed under the simplicity of being completely shorn yet bestowed with the greatest and deepest gifts and at the same moment, humble before Nida's affection, devotion and selfless loyalty. She is our family, our sister, our mother. Her children are ours, and we are welded together now for all time.

June cried over Nida and wants to spend all we have to make her well. Jerry swore softly, helplessly, going over out loud what we must do for Nida—if we could. Bedie put his head down on my lap, and I let him cry quietly until he raised his head and said...

[CUT-IN FOUR]

Bedie

God damn the Japs!

Natalie

I told him the Japanese could not be blamed for Nida's illness. No one could.

For the first time, I feel in prison. I want to fly to Nida, to give her eggs, milk and rest, everything to make her well. And we can do nothing.

Impetigo is spreading rapidly in camp. The salve spread over people's chins is so unappetizing.⁵³

⁵³ Natalie's [July 2, 1943](#) diary entry.

587 And is it ever going to stop raining?⁵⁴
588
589 Natalie June 26, 1943. I slept soundly but woke as if I had not slept at all.
590 As I cried through breakfast about our home being looted, June
591 said...

592
593 **[CUT-IN FIVE]**

594
595 June It'll be fun going home and starting all over with nothing!

596
597 Natalie She went on and on, planning with the spirit of youth while I felt
598 old, so old, for the first time. It would have been all that June
599 said—exciting, joyous, fun working together if only Nida was not
600 seriously ill.

601
602 June 27, 1943. Dr. Hall told me today not to feel final or sad
603 about Nida, as a typical gangrenous appendix is often called
604 serious but is not.

605
606 My mind dwells fleetingly upon possessions lost. Over second-
607 ground coffee, Jerry and I took inventory and talked about Bedie's
608 recent behavior.

609
610
611 **[SCENE FOUR A]⁵⁵**

612
613 **[SOUND OF RAIN ON PORCH]**

614
615 Jerry You know, since they stripped us of everything we own, I'm
616 starting to agree with Jim—this war *is* personal.⁵⁶

617
618 Natalie What gets me is this wasn't, oh I don't know...starving or even
619 greedy locals. It was all planned and executed by officers.

620

⁵⁴ My tie off and tie in for the July 1, 1943 entry saying it rained 25 out of 30 days in June 1943.

⁵⁵ Except where footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 27, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁵⁶ Natalie's [June 26, 1943](#) diary entry.

621 Jerry But the Japanese are supposed to be the New Order, the Chosen
622 People, the Rising Sun. I wonder which one of 'ems playing our
623 Victrola records right now.
624
625 Natalie A lot of them came from Boston. Remember?
626
627 Jerry Thirty-five years of collecting 78s. Poof! Gone. And I'm going to
628 miss all of our books.
629
630 Natalie Remember hauling them down to Baguio from our first house?
631
632 Jerry Yea, I sure do. Hey speaking of books, why did Nida say she saved
633 your bibles?⁵⁷
634
635 Natalie I think it was her code word for my Indusco books.
636
637 Jerry You didn't toss them?
638
639 Natalie No. Obviously not.
640
641 Jerry Natalie, if the Japanese are still interrogating missionaries for any
642 association with the Chinese Language School, what do you think
643 they're going to do if they find documents and paperwork linking
644 you to a political movement that advocates for China building its
645 own industries?⁵⁸
646
647 Natalie Well, thank God, Nida was smart enough to hide them.
648
649 Jerry She should burn them. If the Japanese find them, they'll haul us to
650 jail and sooner or later start asking questions about my gas
651 station. Remember how they kept questioning the missionaries
652 last year about a "mysterious oil man who'd done so much for
653 China." I thought I was in for a damn good beating or worse.⁵⁹
654
655 Natalie But the Japanese gave up on that after Rufus Gray died.

⁵⁷ The Indusco part of the dialogue is based on Natalie's [June 25, 1943](#) diary entry where she realizes "bibles" are Nida's code word for Indusco.

⁵⁸ Natalie's [May 13, 1943](#) and [August 1, 1943](#) diary entries.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

656 Jerry Honey, when it comes to China, they're never gonna quit.
657
658 Natalie Maybe we can get word to Ismael to burn them?
659
660 Jerry Maybe.
661
662 Natalie Hey, have you given any thought about what we're going to do
663 about Bedie?⁶⁰
664
665 Jerry Yea, his grudge about Nida and the house is getting ugly.
666
667 Natalie He's picked up that language from people in camp.
668
669 Jerry I suppose it's bound to happen.
670
671 Natalie No it isn't. And he knows better.
672
673 Jerry Natalie, he's in a concentration camp. Even in normal
674 circumstances, he's going to hear all sorts of foul words out in the
675 world.
676
677 Natalie Yes. But he's repeating them.
678
679 Natalie Yea, I know, so I had a little talk with him.
680
681
682 **[SCENE FOUR B]⁶¹**
683
684 Bedie Hi, Dad.
685
686 Jerry Hey, son.
687
688 Bedie What are you making?
689
690 Jerry Oh, I'm carving a new tray to replace the one stolen from home.
691

⁶⁰ Conversation about Bedie's language is based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 29, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁶¹ Except where footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 29, 1943](#) diary entry.

692 Bedie God damn Japs!⁶²
693
694 Jerry Don't let your mother hear you saying that.
695
696 Bedie I don't care.
697
698 Jerry Well, you'd better. You don't want to turn into a Japan-hater.
699
700 Bedie Everyone else says it.
701
702 Jerry Not everyone. Not Carl. Or your mom and me.
703
704 Bedie But they took *everything* of ours, Daddy!!
705
706 Jerry Not every Japanese. And they had nothing to do with Nida's
707 appendicitis. You agree?
708
709 Bedie I suppose so.
710
711 Jerry Remember that guard who was an artist?
712
713 Bedie Yea. He drew pictures of his village and kimonos for June.
714
715 Jerry Would you say the same thing to him?
716
717 Bedie No.
718
719 Jerry Why?
720
721 Bedie Because he was nice and drew pictures for us.
722
723 Jerry I never told you this, but before he left, he and the other soldiers
724 told Dr. Dean that they had the best time of their lives in here.
725 Think about that, Bedie. Doesn't it make you wonder what their
726 lives have been like?
727

⁶² Natalie's [June 25, 1943](#) diary entry

728 Bedie I guess so. But what about Lt. Mukibo and the guards who beat
729 people?

730
731 Jerry Lt. Mukibo's a bad guy. He stole from us, and he's jail.⁶³ The
732 soldiers who beat people and the officers who tell them to do it'll
733 join him when we win the war. Look son, there are good and bad
734 people of all stripes and nationalities. What I'm trying say is blame
735 the right things, don't storm at the wrong ones.

736
737

738 **[DIARY READING FIVE]**

739

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

741

742 Natalie June 29, 1943. It looks like Lt. Kira is going to be around Camp
743 Holmes for a while. We're not yet sure what his role is, but many
744 are convinced that he's a spy. He's another interesting specimen
745 to watch around here.⁶⁴

746

747 Herb came by with Lt. Kira asking Jerry and me to play a round of
748 bridge. Of course, we had little choice but to say yes to a strained,
749 guarded game of bridge that turned into an unexpected, amazing
750 and amusing evening which my perverse brain thoroughly
751 enjoyed.

752

753

754 **[SCENE FIVE]⁶⁵**

755

756 Herb Hey Jerry, Natalie. Are you up for a game of bridge with me and
757 Lt. Kira here?

758

759 Jerry No. I've got an accounting class. [JERRY SEES LT. KIRA] Oh, ah, but
760 I don't mind skipping it if we can get other players.

761

⁶³ Natalie's [April 9, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁶⁴ My assumption that people think Lt. Kira is a spy. Natalie's [April 26, 1943](#) diary entry infers that Kira (the "new regime") is a spy because of the way he interrogates Miss McKim; she wonders if he isn't going to be another Mukibo. Natalie's last entry about about Kira was on [November 7, 1943](#).

⁶⁵ Except where footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 29, 1943](#) diary entry.

762 Natalie I'll play. Are you going to get another table?
763
764 Herb Yea. I'll go find some more couples.
765
766 Jerry I'll get the cards and some tea.
767
768 [SOUNDS OF HERB AND JERRY LEAVING. NATALIE IS STUCK WITH LT. KIRA]
769
770 Natalie So.... Lt. Kira, you play bridge?
771
772 Lt. Kira Yes.
773 [UNCOMFORTABLE SILENCE; SOUND OF NATALIE CLEARING HER THROAT]
774
775 Natalie The tea Jerry's gone to get came from a tea-taster friend in
776 Formosa.
777
778 Lt. Kira It must be good then.
779
780 Natalie When did you last play a game of bridge, Lt. Kira?
781
782 Lt. Kira Three years ago.
783
784 Natalie Oh, where was that?
785
786 Lt. Kira Japan.
787
788 Natalie Do many people like bridge there?
789
790 Lt. Kira No.
791
792 Natalie Well ...we're so glad you'll be joining us then.
793
794 [SOUND OF PEOPLE GATHERING]
795
796 Millie Are we going to play rubber or duplicate bridge?
797
798 Ted I don't know Millie. You'll have to ask Herb.
799

800 Betty Who's got the cards?
801
802 Jerry I do.
803
804 Herb Okay. Betty and Jerry, you're at this table. Millie, Ted you're with
805 them.
806
807 Ted You're going to pay a little more attention this time, Millie?
808
809 Millie Now don't you start in on me, Ted.
810
811 Herb Natalie, looks like Lt. Kira's your partner.
812
813 Natalie Well, then I have to warn you, Lt. Kira, I'm apt to be an erratic
814 player at times.
815
816 Lt. Kira Then I may say, Mrs. Couter, I have absolutely no sense of humor.
817
818 Natalie Yes you may, but it's really not necessary.
819
820 Herb Ah, I'm gonna just head over to the other table then. Natalie, you
821 behave yourself.
822
823 Natalie So, Lt. Kira, do you use the Culbertson system of bidding?
824
825 Lt. Kira I don't know anything about it. I play very badly.
826
827 Natalie I have the feeling that you are being way too modest. Shall we get
828 seated?
829
830 Millie Two clubs.
831
832 Jerry Two diamonds.
833
834 Millie Ted, it's your bid.
835
836
837

[DIARY READING SIX]

838
839
840
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872
873

Natalie

[SOUNDS OF WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

I soon found Lt. Kira’s self-deprecation to be unfounded. He plays his hands perfectly and knows bidding, plays an excellent game in fact.

When I heard I drew his name as partner, I felt cold steel across my throat. We had to watch everything we said. Jerry made frantic eye and mouth motions to Ted who make a remark about not being able to tell Filipinos and Japanese apart. Lt. Kira politely ignored it.

At one point in the game I didn't hear Sylvia bid a heart and when Lt. Kira bid two clubs I took it for slam indication and went two no trump showing a bust. Realizing something was wrong, after three no trump, I left him in four clubs and we went down six tricks! Oh that cold steely glare from across the table! But, from then on, we got along fine. I didn't get my throat slit, and he does have a sense of humor for he made slight responses to bridge-table repartee and knows how to smile.

Surprisingly, we weren’t bad when we found our stride. Five minutes before curfew I said to Lt. Kira, “Wouldn’t it be too bad if we found a slam just in time for lights out!” He grinned and after the game said he’d like to play again. I laughed and promised to be well-behaved next time. And when I asked, “You like bridge very much, don’t you?” he nodded deprecatingly, humbly polite, true to tradition.

In the end, we wondered if he was trying to pick up information from conversations or just hungry for bridge and companionship. Both may be true. My sense is he’s lonely—well educated and out of his element in this mess.

874 July 1, 1943. Jim reported that last month we had 23.4 inches of
875 rain—five more than average and 10% of the year’s precipitation,
876 raining 25 days out of 30.⁶⁶

877
878 Natalie July 2, 1943. Bedie rushed over to the women’s dorm, calling me,
879 carrying a bag from Nida.

880
881

882 **[SCENE SIX]⁶⁷**

883
884 Bedie Mom! Mom! Mom! We got a bag from Nida.

885
886 Natalie Really?

887
888 Bedie Open it, Mom!

889
890 Natalie Oh, she shouldn’t be sending *us* anything.

891
892 Bedie Is there a note?

893
894 Natalie No. There’s cooking bananas, avocados, laundry soap, cigarettes,
895 cookies and a bag of candles. And... no note. I’d give all these
896 things just to know she’s okay.

897
898 Bedie Well, she must be okay if she sent this stuff, right mom?

899
900

901 **[DIARY READING SEVEN]**

902
903 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

904
905 Natalie July 3, 1943. Miss McKim has been relieved of interpreting as
906 Lt. Kira has taken over this function, including all Japanese
907 officers’ visits, which means we’ll now know even less about
908 what’s going on in camp.⁶⁸

⁶⁶ Natalie’s [June 30, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁶⁷ Based on and imagined from Natalie’s [July 2, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁶⁸ Natalie’s [July 7, 1943](#) diary entry.

909
910 Our justice system is up and running and June attended our first
911 criminal trial which was presided over by a judge appointed by the
912 General Committee. It was a domestic dispute.⁶⁹

913
914 June saw the victim just after the crime. She was covered with
915 blood all over the front, holding her nose and being led to the
916 dispensary. The woman's face was swollen beyond recognition,
917 black around the eyes, and she was nauseated all night.

918
919 It seems earlier her devoted husband stood below a window
920 telling her that if she didn't do what he said, she'd be sorry. The
921 next thing anyone knew he was stalking up the stairs with a
922 hammer in his hand and struck her twice in the middle of her
923 face.

924
925
926 **[SCENE SEVEN]**⁷⁰

927
928 June The trial was all over in about ten minutes, Mummie.

929
930 Natalie Where there any witnesses?

931
932 June No. Just a judge and a court recorder.

933
934 Natalie What were the charges?

935
936 June Entering a barracks without permission and assault and battery.
937 He got a chance to make a statement but didn't do it.

938
939 Natalie What's his sentence?

940
941 June Twenty days in jail, ten on a restricted diet.

942
943 Natalie What! But he struck his wife in the face with a hammer.

944

⁶⁹ Remaining diary entry from Natalie's [July 5, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁷⁰ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 5, 1943](#) diary entry.

945 June They're not sure what he hit her with.
946
947 Natalie How could they not know that! He could have killed her!⁷¹
948
949 June I don't get it either. The judge kinda acted like he didn't even want
950 to punish him.
951

952
953 **[DIARY READING EIGHT]**
954

955 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
956

957 Natalie The man's sentence starts immediately—except there is no jail
958 because it's not yet ready. Isn't that a pip? We have a judicial
959 code, our own Camp gendarmes, a court... and no jail.⁷²
960
961 Camp Holmes has become other side of the looking glass⁷³ (or a
962 cruel social experiment), and our behavior is becoming curiouser
963 and curiouser. People are going around quoting 1940 *Time*
964 magazine articles⁷⁴ that written when our savings hadn't gone for
965 naught, when we were living with our spouses and our homes
966 weren't scattered to the four winds.⁷⁵
967
968 It's a pity there isn't a degree in concentration camp sociology.
969 We'd all have PhDs by now!⁷⁶
970

971 [COLD CLOSE]

⁷¹ This is my commentary.

⁷² Natalie's [July 5, 1943](#) diary entry. "Isn't that a pip?" is me.

⁷³ Natalie's [July 8, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁷⁴ Natalie's [August 28, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁷⁵ Op. Cit.

⁷⁶ Last sentence is mine to close the episode.