

1 Season Three: *Forbidden Diary*
2 Episode Seventeen: We're in the Money!

3
4 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

5	Natalie Crouter	Sevil Delin
6	Bedie Crouter	Luka Aslan Nas
7	Jerry Crouter	Mark Oliver
8	June Crouter	Claire Oliver
9	Guard 1	Miki Hiramoto
10	Guard 2	Yoshi Amao
11	Hank	Dan Davis
12	Hazel	Diane Bolton
13	Betty	Julie M. Dean
14	Colleen	Mandy Balser
15	Doris	Nora Novak
16	Millie	Melba King
17	Mrs. Greer	Margo Zinberg
18	Enid	Karen DeBoer
19	Jim	Maxwell Glick
20	Nida	Jeanne Maria Sison
21	Nida's Auntie	Ria Vrana
22	Alex	Slava Timoshenko
23	Arthur	Robert S. Ball
24	Nurse	Yurie Hoyoyon
25	Mr. Hayakawa	Koji Asano
26	Committee Man	Christopher V. Thorn
27	Isobel	Jennifer Nittoso
28	Carlotta	Mandy Balser
29	Peg	Rebecca Haugh
30	Scott	Allen Enlow
31	Betty	Julie M. Dean
32	Larry	Patrick Golebioski
33	Joe	Rich D'aigle
34	Dr. Lee	Celia Lynn
35	Phil	Eric Ryan Moore
36	Ted	Troy W. Hudson

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[DIARY READING ONE]

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

Natalie July 4, 1943. Camp Holmes celebrated the Fourth with a Handicraft Exhibit, which combined county fair, arts and crafts, shop and garden and artistry. The kids were so excited about it.

[SCENE ONE]¹

Bedie Are you coming dad?

Jerry Ah Bedie, it's gonna be goin' on all day.

Bedie But all the good stuff'll be gone.

Jerry Go with your mother and sister. I'm gonna to take a little cat nap and catch up with you later.

[TRANSITION 1]

Bedie June, wanna go see the farm stuff?

June No. I'm going to go see the crafts first.

Bedie But you're gonna miss the animals.

June I'll meet you there later.

[TRANSITION 2]

Guard 1 You gotta see all this stuff, Hayashi.

Guard 2 Ah, it's just a bunch of junk they're trying to sell.

¹ Except where footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 4, 1943](#) diary entry.

75 Guard 1 No. There's some pretty good things. I saw a doll my daughter
76 would like. Come on. What else have you got to do?
77

78 Guard 2 Yea, okay, I'll go.
79
80

81 [TRANSITION 3]
82

83 Hank Yep, we raised this handsome, award-winning rooster ourselves,
84 Bedie.
85

86 Bedie He sure is a beaut, Mr. O'Dowd.
87

88 Hank Yea, and he's one of our own—came from a hen here in camp.
89

90 Bedie What's his name?
91
92

93 [TRANSITION 4]
94

95 Guard 1 Why does that rooster have red and blue ribbons around its leg?
96

97 Guard 2 I don't know.
98
99

100 [TRANSITION 5]
101

102 Natalie There you are, Bedie! June and I thought we'd find you at the
103 farm exhibits. Did you help grow these pumpkins?
104

105 Bedie No.
106

107 June Look Bedie! Your name's on one of the pictures.
108

109 Natalie Really, where is it?
110

111 June Over on that wall.
112

113 Natalie Oh, it's precious!
114
115 Bedie Mom, it's just a crayon picture of a flower.
116
117 June It is a hibiscus?
118
119 Bedie Yeah
120
121 June It's really good.
122
123 Bedie Really?
124
125 June Yeah.
126
127
128 [TRANSITION 6]
129
130 Hazel Did you make these children's books, Betty?
131
132 Betty Oh heavens no, Daphne did. She's a professional illustrator.
133
134 Hazel Well, I can certainly believe that.
135
136 Betty Did you see the bedspread embroidered with all the names of the
137 babies born here?
138
139 Hazel It's just darling.
140
141 Betty Look at this eggcup, Hazel. It's as thin as China.
142
143 Hazel How do you think they made it out of wood?
144
145 Betty Is that really wood?
146
147
148 [TRANSITION 7]
149
150 Guard 1 What's this?

151
152 Guard 2 Looks like a sextant someone made.
153
154 Guard 1 What's that?
155
156 Guard 2 You don't know what a sextant is?
157
158 Guard 1 So what if I don't.
159
160 Guard 2 It's a navigation tool for sailing.
161
162 Guard 1 Why'd anyone in here want that?
163
164 Guard 2 Because they're going to steal a boat and sail back to San
165 Francisco.
166
167 Guard 1 You know, Hayashi, you're real wise guy.
168
169
170 [TRANSITION 8]
171
172 Colleen I'll trade you this sweater I knit for the home-made lipstick.
173
174 Doris Deal.
175
176 Colleen What's in it anyway?
177
178 Doris Beeswax and dye.
179
180
181 [TRANSITION 9]
182
183 Millie Well, I'll be. I think maybe one of the guards might buy Sylvia's
184 pastel. There were a bunch of 'em hovering around it.
185
186 Mrs. Greer They really went for the Japanese dolls too.
187

188 Millie Think they have any money?²
189
190 Enid They're probably more broke than we are.
191
192 Mrs. Greer And, all they'll have is that Mickey Mouse, Japanese money.³
193
194 Millie Money's money, isn't it?
195
196 Mrs. Greer No. Those so-call "Philippines" pesos printed by the Japanese
197 Government *aren't* real pesos.⁴
198
199 Millie That's what everyone's saying about occupation money, but I
200 don't get why.
201
202 Mrs. Greer It's not hard currency.
203
204 Millie What's that mean?
205
206 Mrs. Greer It's not insured, so if anything happens, it's all monopoly money.
207
208 Enid Arthur says they'll be using it for toilet paper.
209
210 Millie Gee, well I guess that means it's better to buy all you can with it
211 before it's worth nothing.
212
213 Enid Youuuu.... got it!
214
215 Mrs. Greer That's one theory for you.
216
217
218 [TRANSITION 10]
219
220 Natalie There you are Rip Van Winkle! So glad you could join me.
221
222 Jerry Man, this fair is really something.

² The dialogue about money was added to explain the internee's spending behavior later.

³ See [Japanese invasion money - Wikipedia](#)

⁴ [Japanese government-issued Philippine peso - Wikipedia](#)

223
224 Natalie I know. It's packed.
225
226 Jerry Did you notice Dr. Skerl and the other "security guards" milling
227 around? I guess our new, Internee Police Force appointed them
228 keep people from snitching stuff.

229
230 Natalie We shouldn't need security guards at all!

231
232 Jerry Look at it this way: at least it's our guys and not the Japanese.

233
234 Bedie Dad, come see the totem pole!

235
236 Natalie Jim Thompson made it. It's a real hoot!

237
238 Bedie Come on, Dad.

239
240

241 **[CUT-IN ONE]⁵**

242
243 Jim *Camp Holmes Daily News.* Today's Handicraft Exhibit was
244 attended by a capacity crowd dressed in their Sunday best (most
245 of them anyway) who stood patiently in line to enter.
246 Bereft of worldly goods, faced by both scarcity and high prices of
247 all necessities and lack of money to buy them, internees proved
248 that worn adage "Necessity is the mother of invention." Ranging
249 from boondoggling to chemical lab, it combined county fair and
250 the Early Development Room of Patent Office, with a totem
251 artifact that Jim Thompson described as

252
253 *A very rare totem pole, found in ruins of Camp Holmes, date about*
254 *A.D. 1943. Believed to have been used by prehistoric totem cult;*
255 *top figure is thought to represent the lamentations of the cult for*
256 *their square-headedness for getting in such a mess; the central*
257 *figure symbolizing their national sickness (pigheadedness); the*
258 *bottom figure represents the ultimate condition of these people—*
259 *the rice belly.*

⁵ Natalie's [July 4, 1943](#) diary entry.

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[DIARY READING TWO]

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

Natalie July 7, 1943. There's word around Camp about five different American landings in the Solomons and fighting in the mountains of Dutch New Guinea.⁶ The Manila paper reports that because the Japanese markets have ceased to make a profit their function now is to distribute commodities. As a result, Japan's financial relations with Manila will be closer.⁷

Our economy here in Camp has changed as well. For some reason people are flush with money. I received another 10 pesos from Nida⁸, but there is less to spend it on because imports are limited and manufacturing in the Philippines is down to a dribble.⁹

July 8, 1943. I wrote a note and sent it off to Nida but was aching to say more to her.

Dear Nida, The Adobo chicken and everything you sent this week was perfect. Many thanks. Please don't send any rubbers or boots as we have wooden shoes made at the shop from logs. These are fine in... [NATALIE'S VOICE AND NIDA'S WILL OVERLAP TO TRANSITION INTO SCENE TWO]

[SCENE TWO]¹⁰

Nida ... These are fine in rain and mud and they like them. Only get well for we want you to be better every day. It is all we need. Our love, especially from June and Bedie."

Nida's Auntie See, Nida. Everything is all right.

⁶ Natalie's [July 3, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁷ Natalie's [June 27, 1943](#) diary entry

⁸ Natalies' [July 7, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁹ My assumption. The War was limiting imports, agriculture, and manufacturing.

¹⁰ Based on and imagined from [July 8, 1943](#) diary entry and as footnoted.

294 Nida I don't like that they have to wear wooden shoes, Auntie.¹¹
295
296 Nida's Auntie They'll survive, thanks to the food you give them.
297
298 Nida Mrs. Crouter would do the same, and we're sending things that
299 are theirs, like those spices we hid before the invasion.¹²
300
301 Nida's Auntie But you send fruit and vegetables, and they're so expensive now.
302
303 Nida That's because nobody wants that Japanese occupation money.¹³
304 The cucumbers and corn came from our garden.¹⁴
305
306 Nida's Auntie I hope you didn't pick them.
307
308 Nida No. Ismael did.
309
310 Nida's Auntie You're still doing way too much.
311
312 Nida Well, I can't sit around doing nothing.
313
314 Nida's Auntie But you must, my sobrinita.
315
316 Nida I worry about June and Bedie, Auntie. Ismael says the cooks from
317 Camp Holmes aren't buying as much food from the market, so
318 Crouters are going to have to buy food on their own. I think it's
319 time to start giving them some of their money.¹⁵
320
321 Nida's Auntie Is that safe?
322
323 Nida I think so. Ismael's going to give 100 pesos to Mr. Halsema to give
324 to the Crouters.¹⁶

¹¹ Natalie's [July 12, 1943](#) diary entry. She writes that Nida would "feel aghast" of them reduced to "bakia" instead of rubber boots.

¹² Natalie's [January 29, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹³ Natalie's [July 9, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹⁴ Natalie's [July 5, 1943](#) mentions cucumbers and corn. That it came from their garden and Ismael harvested it is my imagining.

¹⁵ Natalie did not write about why Nida started sending in money. This is my assumption given the food shortages and Jim's *Camp Holmes Daily News* excerpt about total calories from the kitchen being reduced 25%. See Natalie's [July 10, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹⁶ Natalie wrote in her [July 7, 1943](#) diary entry that "grandpa" who is Jim's father facilitated the money exchange.

325 Nida's Auntie Mayor Halsema?¹⁷
326
327 Nida Yes. He's living in town; we know the Crouters trust him.
328
329 Nida's Auntie He was a good mayor. Oh, did you hear? Those Japanese are
330 building huts all over Baguio. They're called
331 anti...anti...something.¹⁸
332
333 Nida That doesn't sound good.
334
335 Nida's Auntie No. They're going to put soldiers with machine guns in them so
336 they can shoot down planes.¹⁹
337
338 Nida Why would they want to shoot down their own planes?
339
340 Nida's Auntie I guess the Germans aren't doing so good, so they think the
341 Americans are going after Japan next.²⁰
342
343

[DIARY READING THREE]

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

344
345
346
347
348 Natalie July 9, 1943.²¹ While I was in the cook house Carl²² came around
349 the corner and handed over an envelope addressed to me from
350 Mr. Halsema containing ten, 10-peso bills, the receipt marked
351 "Nida" under his name.
352
353 Jerry was floored, for all his anxiety is relieved. Last week we were
354 so far down, trying to raise funds by selling our powdered milk to
355 buy an egg now and then. This week we are almost wealthy.
356
357 Eggs have become a necessity for Bedie. He hasn't gained any

¹⁷ Jim's father was the mayor of Baguio. See *Forbidden Diary* footnote 27, [pp. 534](#).

¹⁸ Natalie's [August 8, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Natalie's [July 7, 1943](#) diary entry.

²² It was someone named Ward, but I used a name familiar to listeners. Natalie writes about Carl delivering money from Nida in her [July 12, 1943](#) diary entry.

358 weight since we've been interned and is still growing. We've
359 gotten to the point where we have to restrict his activities, which
360 is not easy because he wants to play in the Camp pool.²³

361
362 June and I find we don't have such a gnawing hunger when eat an
363 egg. It must be a lack of protein that bothers us. Unfortunately,
364 now that we have money, eggs prices are sky-high.²⁴

365
366

367 **[CUT-IN TWO]**

368

369 Jim *Camp Holmes Daily News*. Rising food prices combined with a
370 shortage of food items due to the advent of the rainy season have
371 been responsible for decrease of approximately 25% in daily
372 caloric total of camp meals, according to our dietician
373 Dr. Shaffer.²⁵

374
375

376 Natalie July 10, 1943. News was out at breakfast that the camp is
377 receiving 7,000 pesos from the Red Cross, and all day everyone
378 was talking over ideas of distribution.²⁶

379
380

381 There is one problem, however. We there's nothing to buy! The
382 camp store has no eggs. There's no grease to fry rice or onions,
383 except at absurdly inflated prices. Everything soaring—sugar, fat,
384 soap, if one can get them. A fall in Japanese currency values is the
385 reason. The tide has swung, and now American dollars bring high
386 value as the Japanese occupation money goes down and down.²⁷

387
388

389 July 12, 1943. We had another visit from the Japanese muckety-
390 mucks, but this time they brought Japanese nurses who were
391 given a tour of our kitchen. The nurses were fascinated watching
the kitchen workers moving about in the steam—pulling kettle
covers from giant cauldrons; hoisting huge ladles; stirring,

²³ Natalie's [August 18, 1943](#) diary entry.

²⁴ Natalie's [July 4, 1943](#) diary entry.

²⁵ Natalie's [July 10, 1943](#) diary entry.

²⁶ Natalie's [July 9, 1943](#) diary entry.

²⁷ Ibid.

392 shoving, grinding, and mixing; lifting big stacks of dishes and
393 kettles; and joking around.²⁸

394
395 Alex served a Spartan meal for our Japanese visitors, but it
396 disappeared quickly.

397

398

399 **[SCENE THREE A]**²⁹

400

401 [SOUNDS OF BUBBLING; POTS BANGING; A KETTLE LID SLAMMING DOWN]

402

403 Alex What is these nurses doing in my kitchen, Arthur? You know I hate
404 strangers in my kitchen.

405

406 Arthur Well, you don't have a choice, Alex. And this time, you're gonna
407 have to try being nice to 'em. Okay?

408

409 Alex I am nice being.

410

411 Arthur Then smile.

412

413 Alex I am smiling.

414

415 Arthur This all the food you're giving them?

416

417 Alex I got leave food for us, Arthur.

418

419 Arthur Well... [SIGHS] Lt. Kira told their honcho we're short on food, so
420 he agreed to let the men eat first and give the women what's left
421 over.

422

423 Alex [IN RUSSIAN] The bastards are real gentlemen. What a bunch of
424 pigs! [IN ENGLISH] Wait!... Where is Miss McKim?

425

426 Arthur Lt. Kira's taken over as camp interpreter, so any time we have
427 officer visits, he's it.

²⁸ Kitchen description from Natalie's [July 20, 1943](#) diary entry.

²⁹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 12, 1943](#) diary entry.

428 Alex How we get information about Japanese?
429
430 Arthur We won't. That's the point.
431
432 Alex [IN RUSSIAN] Great! How am I going to know what's going on at
433 the market and with the guards?? [IN ENGLISH, SEEING A COOK
434 DOING SOMETHING HE ISN'T SUPPOSED TO DO] No, no, no! Hank,
435 *Hank*, HANK! What, what you doing?
436
437 Hank Aren't we using the banana dispenser?
438
439 Alex No put on tray, let them fight. Hey, Larry put lid on cauldron and
440 get these girls out of here. [IN RUSSIAN] Two years with these
441 idiots and I still have to telling them how to do everything!
442
443 Arthur Ahh, [EMBARASSED LAUGH] Ugh...Ladies, why, why don't we go
444 into the dining room?
445
446
447 **[SCENE THREE B]³⁰**
448
449 Nurse [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] This is excellent food, Mr. Hayakawa.
450
451 Mr. Hayakawa [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Did you try the bananas?
452
453 Nurse What are those?
454
455 Mr. Hayakawa Haven't you have ever heard of a banana?
456
457 Nurse No
458
459 Mr. Hayakawa Here. See if you like them.
460
461 Nurse Thank you.
462
463 Mr. Hayakawa [LAUGHING] No. Don't eat the skin.
464

³⁰ Ibid.

465 Nurse Oh...
466
467 Mr. Hayakawa Like this. See. And eat it with your hands. Go on, try it.
468
469 Nurse Mmmmm, it's delicious.
470
471 Mr. Hayakawa I guess they are... if you don't have eat them every day of the
472 year.
473
474 Nurse Ummm...Mr. Hayakawa? Can your prisoners leave this camp?
475
476 Mr. Hayakawa Yes, with the guards.
477
478 Nurse [CONFUSED] Oh...but I thought... I mean, in other camps they....
479
480

[DIARY READING FOUR]

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

481
482
483
484
485 Natalie July 14, 1943. By the new standards, we are rich, very rich. Today
486 is the third time Nida sent one hundred pesos. Her family and my
487 Grandfather's legacy by check on the bank at home are keeping us
488 going during inflation and concentration.³¹
489
490 What a bunch of spendthrifts many of us have become! People
491 are practically humming, "We're in the Money" around camp.³²
492 And, I am fast becoming sick to death of hearing these two
493 axioms:³³
494
495

[CUT-IN THREE]

496
497
498 Committee Man Well, you're a fool if you don't take everything you can get away
499 with.

³¹ Natalie's [July 13, 1943](#) diary entry.

³² Tie-in to episode title, *We're in the Money*.

³³ This sentence and Cut-In Three from Natalie's [July 14, 1943](#) diary entry.

500 Isobel Everyone does it; I might as well get *my* share. Why shouldn't I?

501

502

503 Natalie Both sayings show symptoms of lowered mental and moral tone
504 induced by war and looting. And I will take no part. It is a tough
505 time to live through and stand firm. One is looked upon as a fool
506 and a sap, but I don't care what small minds think.³⁴

507

508 July 16, 1943. June's commencement took place today. Earlier, as
509 we were looking for a dress for her to wear, it suddenly dawned
510 on me that this was a big milestone for June.

511

512

513 **[SCENE FOUR]**³⁵

514

515 June I'm going into high school, Mummie, so I need a dress that makes
516 me look older.

517

518 Natalie Well, you've grown out of most of your clothes, so you don't have
519 much to choose from.

520

521 June Is there anything in our suitcase?

522

523 Natalie Well, let's get it down and see. [SOUNDS OF GETTING OFF SHELF
524 AND SUITCASE OPENING] Oh, I know! What about my white
525 challis dress with the gold leather buttons and belt? [SOUNDS OF
526 THEM RUMMAGING THROUGH SUITCASE] It's in here somewhere.
527 Oh here is it! Gee, it's got 18 months of wrinkles we'll have to
528 iron.

529

530 June You think it will fit?

531

532 Natalie Try it on, and we'll find out.

533

534 June Okay.

535

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 16, 1943](#) diary entry.

536 [SOUND OF JUNE WALKING AWAY]
537
538 Millie What are you two up to?
539
540 Natalie June's trying on one of my dresses for her commencement
541 ceremony.
542
543 Millie She's not graduating from high school, is she??
544
545 Natalie No. Carol, Kate, Evelyn and June are getting certificates for
546 starting high school, and June wants to look older.
547
548 Millie Oh, I see.
549
550 June [AFTER RETURNING AND ALL EXCITED] It fits perfectly!
551
552 Millie Hmm, the style's appropriate.
553
554 Natalie Mmm hum...sophisticated, but no too.
555
556 June I love it.
557
558 Natalie I thought it'd work. It just needs to be hemmed.
559
560 Millie I can do that; I'll go get a yardstick and some pins.
561
562
563 [DIARY READING FIVE]
564
565 [SOUNDS OF WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
566
567 Natalie I sent word to Jerry who was at the shop that he must be sure to
568 attend his daughter's graduation. He embarrassed June greatly by
569 telling all the men that his daughter was graduating to high school
570 and was he proud! We wouldn't tell him what she was going to
571 wear, and it was fun to see his wide grin and hear his exclamation
572 at the graduation ceremony when she stepped onto the platform

573 to receive her certificate.³⁶

574
575 July 20, 1943. More typhoon wind and sheets of rain bringing
576 mud, slosh, feet wet and floors that won't dry,³⁷ The Camp News
577 says that on July 18 there was 20.76 inches of rain.³⁸

578
579 July 22, 1943. Six days after June's commencement, Dr. Skerl
580 called me to say that June has dysentery and must go to the
581 hospital. I could have cried. Jerry was terribly upset and went off
582 in the deluge to the hospital with a canvas pack of mattress and
583 blankets on his shoulders. He'll sleep on slats tonight and I'll be
584 one less blanket and pillow. Oh, how I will miss Junie.

585
586 We are all steadily running downhill from our diets; there are new
587 cases of people with dysentery for first time and many repeats.

588
589 I got soaked going to and from the hospital. Thankfully, June is
590 very cheerful and takes full care of little Suzie with whom she
591 shares her bed, reads to and loves devotedly like an older sister.³⁹

592
593 While I was there, I took the opportunity to have tea with Carlotta
594 who lives at the hospital in a little room, cozy and warm, with a
595 double-decker bed, and shelves for all of her belongings. A neat
596 little hibachi made from an oil can⁴⁰ and wire netting was heating
597 water in a kettle when I arrived.

598
599
600 **[SCENE FIVE]**⁴¹

601
602 Carlotta Natalie, come in! Here, let me grab your jacket.
603

³⁶ Natalie's [July 16, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁷ Natalie's [July 22, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁸ Natalie's [July 20, 1943](#) diary entry.

³⁹ Natalie's [July 23, 1943](#) diary entry. This paragraph and next.

⁴⁰ Natalie mentioned a "Socony" can, which was an oil can. See [Vacuum Oil Company - Wikipedia](#).

⁴¹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 23, 1943](#) diary entry.

604 Natalie Sorry I'm a little late. I fell on some muddy steps and had to go
605 back and clean up all over again. What a lovely space you have
606 here.
607

608 Carlotta It's like my own little cocoon.
609

610 Natalie I like how you're decorated it—very Bohemian, Carlotta.
611

612 Carlotta Have a seat.
613

614 Natalie Boy, this hospital's a whole different world from the barracks. It's
615 lights out at nine for us and a long way to the bathroom especially
616 in this weather.
617

618 Carlotta Oh, we don't worry about that. The toilets are right down the hall
619 and the lights are on for as long as we want. We're like a big
620 happy family here.
621

622 Natalie We're a big loud family at the barracks. You can hear banging
623 from the kitchen downstairs all day long. The other day, poor Peg
624 was trying to get a siesta the when Anna kicked over her foot-
625 bath water. Someone's always making noise.
626

627 Carlotta Well, you know, we have to keep things quiet and well lit because
628 it's a hospital.
629

630 Natalie Swap you. My dorm's more like a circus tent.
631

632 Carlotta Tea's ready.
633

634 Natalie Where'd you get the pot?
635

636 Carlotta Isn't it darling? I bought it at the fair. Someone at the shop made
637 it from the curve of saxophone. This serving plate was made from
638 the same instrument.⁴² Have some coffee cake.
639

640 Natalie Thank you.

⁴² Description of another friend's coffee pot. See Natalie's [July 9, 1943](#) diary entry.

641 Carlotta It's left over from a party. We seem to have one every night, and
642 they're such fun. What a bunch of wiseacres those doctors are.

643

644 Natalie I'm very fond of Dr. Hall.

645

646 Carlotta Did you know he might be going to Manila?

647

648 Natalie Oh no.

649

650 Carlotta Oh well. Well, who knows really. The Japanese change their minds
651 at the drop of hat.

652

653

654 **[DIARY READING SIX]**

655

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

657

658 Natalie I noticed China plates and cups stacked on her shelves from the
659 camp kitchen, snaked off for hospital staff use—like many other
660 things. Although we had a gay and pleasant hour, I came home in
661 a savage mood, thinking of June in the hospital and how she
662 wouldn't be there if things were run right and dysentery were
663 under control.⁴³

664

665 July 29, 1943. Dr. Skerl⁴⁴ suspects that Bedie's diarrhea may be
666 caused by tropical sprue from folic acid deficiency.⁴⁵ He wants
667 blood tests tomorrow. This cast us down a long way. If it is true, it
668 will cost us plenty in eggs and red beef which is hard to get and
669 none too good. But Bedie's feeling important, glad to be noticed
670 and to get his share of eggs with June.

671

672 This rain! Will it ever stop? I have soaking feet from downpour
673 and mops. Squish, squish in shoes, slacks drenched and it is so
674 cold.

675

⁴³ Natalie's [July 23, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁴⁴ It was really Dr. Viola. For simplicity, I have to streamline the number of characters.

⁴⁵ Mackie, Hunter, Worth, *A Manual of Tropical Medicines (1945, 1954)*, pp 573-575.

[CUT-IN FIVE]

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Jim

Camp Holmes Daily News The storm has dropped 71 inches of water in ten days.

Natalie

August 1, 1943. To help celebrate Chef Alex's birthday, we had chop suey at second meal with bits of salted pork and for dessert, ginger cake with frosting.

It's been parties and more parties around here, so no one is hungry at the moment, despite poor, low-calorie meals from the camp kitchen.

Inflation is in the air. It's spend, spend, spend! Buy all you can, for tomorrow those Japanese occupation pesos won't be worth anything. Get rid of them. You will never need eggs more than now. It is against my New England constitution, but I have to begrudgingly admit, it's not a bad philosophy at the present.

August 5, 1943. It is the first sun in 20 days. Everyone is washing and tired and cranky from cold, mold, and mud.

I see Bill Moule out in the yard, on crutches from polio, with his wife and three children around him, happy to be together in the bleak sun.

August 6, 1943. Jerry made a marvelous rice soup with curry, sausage, pork, onions, and peanut butter.

For the moment, the great experiment is over. We no longer know what it is to feel hungry. The pangs are forgotten already in the orgy of cakes and parties. Everyone is anxious to loan, while borrowers spend recklessly on scarce and overpriced meat, eggs, flour, brown sugar balls and shortening. Inflation is here, and triple prices are nothing.

We shoot our wad mostly on eggs and cooking bananas for the

714 children, trying to build them up on the limited things they can
715 eat and that we can procure.

716
717 The financial boom and associated loans have intensified the
718 petty struggles in here. And it appears that the Camp store is up
719 to its neck in graft.⁴⁶

720
721

722 **[SCENE SIX]⁴⁷**

723
724 Doris Well, you'd have to be blind not to see it.

725
726 Peg See what?

727
728 Doris Haven't you ever wondered why the Camp store is always picked
729 over? It's because when stuff comes in a "certain few" go to the
730 store at night and choose what they want, so we're left standing
731 in line the next day.

732
733 Peg Doesn't surprise me in the least.

734
735 Doris I guess our measly orders of two or three cans are unimportant
736 compared to people buying case lots. It makes me fume.

737
738 Peg Is this why the store's auditor resigned?

739
740 Doris Well, he didn't give any reason why he resigned, so what do you
741 think?

742
743

744 **[DIARY READING SEVEN]**

745
746 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

747

⁴⁶ Last sentence is my lead-in for Scene Six.

⁴⁷ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [August 8, 1943](#) diary entry.

748 Natalie August 10, 1943. Now stag parties are all the rage. Wives are
749 throwing them for their husband's birthdays. There are parties
750 everywhere one looks. It's been non-stop for the past ten days.

751
752

[SCENE SEVEN]⁴⁸

754

755 Natalie Happy Birthday, Scott.

756

757 Scott Oh, thank you, Natalie. Wow, honey brittle. Ahh...If you don't
758 mind, I'll have some a little later. I'm stuffed with coffee and pie
759 from the stag party my wife gave me. I just don't think I can eat
760 any more.

761

762 Natalie Well, then... many happy returns.

763

764

[TRANSITION 1]

766

767 Larry It's killing me. I've been smellin' roast pork all day from the
768 women's kitchen.

769

770 Joe Think we can get away with crashing Arthur's party?

771

772 Larry Why we'd want to hang out with a bunch of school teachers?

773

774 Joe Cuz that's where the roast pig's going. They're buyin' votes with
775 all these parties.

776

777 Larry Oh yea...I forgot. Camp elections are next week.

778

779

[TRANSITION 2]

781

782 Peg Are you going to Arthur and Enid's party for the teachers tonight?

783

⁴⁸ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [August 10, 1943](#) diary entry.

784 Betty No. Is that what that roast pig's for?

785

786 Peg I think so.

787

788 Betty Well, it's been taking up the oven all day long.

789

790

791 **[DIARY READING EIGHT]**

792

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

794

795 Natalie August 11, 1943. I have heard of the expression "Eat, drink and be
796 merry, for tomorrow we die," but I have never seen it concretely
797 expressed before my eyes, and all on borrowed money. No one
798 has earned in here for two years, and it is all Japanese currency at
799 that.

800

801 Jim Bozeman says anyone with integrity can borrow any amount
802 in town without any interest, just the security of knowing they will
803 get American money later.⁴⁹

804

805 August 18, 1943. Bedie is back down from 76 to 74 pounds. I feel
806 anxious about it. He gets double eggs and must start to gain. I had
807 to tell him to lay off his adored but strenuous swims until he starts
808 to put on weight.

809

810 August 19, 1943. After supper Dr. Dean brought word that Dr. Hall
811 and Dr. Lee and her children are leaving for Manila in two days.
812 With all that she has to do before leaving, Dr. Lee made time to
813 examine Bedie.

814

815

816 **[CUT-IN SIX]**

817

818 Dr. Lee Well, his lungs and heart are okay, but he needs to eat every two
819 hours and drink a lot more liquid. And I know it's hard to get

⁴⁹ Natalie's [August 13, 1943](#) diary entry.

820 them, Natalie, but he needs two eggs a day. And you,
821 Mr. Bedie, no more swimming in that pool until you gain weight!⁵⁰

822
823
824
825 Natalie August 23, 1943. Dr. Shaffer came to say that Bedie's temperature
826 was over 103, and he'd better go to the hospital.

827
828 September 2, 1943. I had another funny dream. Bedie and
829 Dr. Lee⁵¹ were trying to talk to me but it sounded like a foreign
830 language and I kept saying, "It's no use. I can't understand. I can't
831 get through."

832
833 September 7, 1943. Well, with all of the parties going on, it was
834 only fair that the teenage kids had one of their own in the
835 vegetable room today. The girls were dressed in formals like gay
836 butterflies with hibiscus in their hair. There was much laughter
837 and squealing and cheers. They had a good time, the poor kids.

838
839 It's too bad the girls had to do all of the inviting. I wonder if
840 women always take the initiative in wartime? Well, in the end,
841 what a man really wants he goes after—when his mind is made
842 up.

843
844 September 11, 1943. Dr. Viola asked for another specimen and
845 confirmed that Bedie has dysentery. I was so discouraged. It felt
846 like a void.

847
848 September 14, 1943. Dr. Dean's been ordered to Los Baños where
849 he is to organize and maintain a medical service at the prison
850 there. We said a rushed goodbye as Mr. Hayakawa drove him
851 away in a brown Chevrolet this morning, our heads spinning at
852 the suddenness of it all.

853

⁵⁰ Based on Natalie's [August 21, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁵¹ Natalie actually said Bunny, but this is the only mention of this person (and there is no reference to a pet rabbit), so I used Bedie and Dr. Lee to show Natalie is worried about Bedie's health despite only writing about camp events.

854 September 17, 1943. Colleen rushed into the barracks panting,
855 calling out two glorious words:⁵²

856

857

858 **[SCENE EIGHT]⁵³**

859

860 [WOMEN'S BARRACK SOUNDS]

861

862 Colleen ITALY SURRENDERED!!

863

864 Enid What? What are you talking about Colleen?

865

866 Colleen It's true. The guys heard it on the radio at the guard house. Italy
867 surrendered!

868

869 [MEN'S BARRACKS SOUNDS]

870

871 Phil Guys!! Guys!! Listen up! Italy surrendered!

872

873 Jerry Are you trying to pull our leg again?

874

875 Phil No it's really true. I heard it on the radio over at the guard house.
876 Italy surrendered! First Italy, then Germany in six months, and
877 maybe Japan a year from now. What do you think about that Mr.
878 Hayakawa?

879

880 Mr. Hayakawa Then you won't be interned any more.

881

882 Phil Man, I'll be glad to get the hell out of here.

883

884 Mr. Hayakawa Don't you Americans like it in here?

885

886 Phil No, Mr. Hayakawa

887

888 Hayakawa Well, neither do we.

⁵² Natalie's [September 9, 1943](#) diary entry. Natalie wrote that Edna and Sonny made the announcement but to keep the character count down used Colleen and Phil.

⁵³ Based and imagined from Natalie's [September 9, 1943](#) diary entry.

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[DIARY READING NINE]

[SOUND OF WRITING AND FADE]

Natalie

When the news broke, people listening at the guard house radio were silent, just looked at each other. As word reached the barracks, a subdued, murmuring excitement broke into cheers, down the barracks like a storm wind. Everyone is buzzing, laughing, speculating, keyed up, and feeling almost free.⁵⁴

September 18, 1943.⁵⁵ The wind is sending torrents of rain in a horizontal slant. It is a driving cold tempest in typhoon cycle. This is the second wet season this year, with a third to start again in December. But October will bring the end of the rains and the promised great offensive in Burma against Japan.

September 19, 1943. The Japanese High Command has ordered that the entire radio be taken away from the guard house. Apparently, they don't want us or the guards to hear news from Tokyo. From now on, it will only come from Manila and the Philippines.⁵⁶

The same is being done all over the islands because of American broadcasts telling Filipinos and Japanese soldiers they will be protected when the U.S. returns.⁵⁷ Our secret shortwave will probably be removed from service until things are safer.⁵⁸

September 20, 1943. Jerry opened our last can of powdered milk for Bedie, who is thin and pale enough to be considered emergency. All of us had some. June and I each rated a glass which was indescribably good. It gave the illusion of being cream. Jerry had milk in his coffee and Bedie in an eggnog. A simple glass of milk a day would clear up our health troubles.

⁵⁴ Op. cit.

⁵⁵ Natalie's [September 19, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁵⁶ Natalie's [September 17, 1943](#) diary entry. My assumption that High Command would have done this and that Mr. Hayakawa wouldn't have had the authority.

⁵⁷ Op. Cit.

⁵⁸⁵⁸ My assumption about the secret radio and to remind listeners that there was a secret radio.

922 September 26, 1943. A guard came through our barracks with a
923 gun and bayonet, swaying down the aisle, polite and genial,
924 bowing but obviously under the influence.
925 People are still spending like drunken soldiers. I don't know how
926 they can do it. There were five or six parties recently, one of
927 about 50 guests for a husband's birthday. Mr. Hayakawa has been
928 away, so a guard sat in a corner at Carl's party, watching the
929 whole time.

930
931 Our newly-found wealth is nothing for the guards to celebrate.
932 They flatten their noses against the windows, watching our
933 parties which to them must look as glittering and luxurious as
934 Fifth Avenue windows to us.

935
936 One soldier visited a party with a hopeless look on his face.

937
938

939 **[SCENE NINE]⁵⁹**

940

941 Ted Hey, Cheer up... It can't be all that bad. Millie, give this lad here a
942 piece of cake.

943

944 Millie Here you go, hon.

945

946 Guard 2 [IN JAPANESE] Thank you.

947

948 Millie Are you missin' your family? Is that it?

949

950 Guard 2 Yes. My wife expecting child number four.

951

952 Ted Well, congratulations!

953

954 Guard 2 All my money goes to her. If I am taken prisoner, my family will
955 get no money at all. If I desert, they will get no money. If I kill
956 myself before capture, my wife will be paid.

957

⁵⁹ Except where footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [September 26, 1943](#) diary entry.

958 Millie Oh, now don't you worry. It's not going to come to that. If we win,
959 we'll vouch for you. Won't we, Ted?
960
961 Ted Yea. Sure.
962
963 Guard 2 There is no way out for Japanese soldier but death. We must all
964 die fighting, and if defeat comes, we all must die.
965
966 Ted Then, son, what you need to do is drink heavily.⁶⁰
967
968 Millie Gawd!!! Ted!! Where do you come *up* with this stuff!
969
970 Ted That's what our Sergeant used to tell us doughboys.
971
972 Millie I *hate* this stupid war!
973
974 Ted Join the crowd, Millie.
975
976 [COLD CLOSE]

⁶⁰ I lifted this line from a story a friend told me about being stationed in a particularly miserable location, even by Army standards. When he told his commanding officer that he thought he was going crazy, the officer put his hand on my friend's shoulder and said, "Son, what you need to do is drink heavily" because my friend wasn't going home and neither was the Japanese soldier.