

1 Season Three: *Forbidden Diary*
2 Episode Twenty: Red Cross Rescue

3
4 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

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|----|-----------------|----------------------|
| 5 | | |
| 6 | Natalie Crouter | Sevil Delin |
| 7 | Jerry Crouter | Mark Oliver |
| 8 | Dr. Benedetti | Lance |
| 9 | Jim | Maxwell Glick |
| 10 | Larry | Patrick Gobloski |
| 11 | Joe | Rich 'dAngle |
| 12 | Phil | Eric Ryan Moore |
| 13 | Hank | Dan Davis |
| 14 | Peg | Rebecca Haugh |
| 15 | Little Boy | Emil Nas |
| 16 | Committee Man | Christopher V. Thorn |
| 17 | Mrs. Griffith | Karla Wren |
| 18 | Colleen | Mandy Basler |
| 19 | Fern | Priscilla Hagan |
| 20 | Old Buzzard | Allen Enlow |
| 21 | Bedie | Luka Aslan Nas |
| 22 | June | Claire Oliver |
| 23 | Announcer | Steve |
| 24 | Nida | Jeannie Marie Sison |
| 25 | Auntie | Ria Vrana |
| 26 | Guard 1 | Yoshi Amao |
| 27 | Arthur | Robert Ball |
| 28 | Miss McKim | Christine Holloway |
| 29 | Betty | Julie M. Dean |

30
31
32 [Cold Open]

33
34 Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*....

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36 [SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

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38 Announcer And now, Episode Twenty.

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[DIARY READING ONE]

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

Natalie December 2, 1943.¹ Bedie is back from the Camp hospital after only three days because they are running out of space.² If we continue at this pace, with more dysentery patients going in than out, they'll run out of beds like last year.

December 3, 1943.³ School is closed till further notice because the Japanese are converting our school building into a guard house, so they can train their binoculars on the camp hospital which is filling with dysentery patients. Carl is down with it. And today Doug and his mattress went to the hospital. Della says that Dr. Shaffer is working so hard that he's going to crack if he isn't careful. Doug on the other hand, ran himself ragged throwing parties on borrowed money.

There is so much cake and cookie baking that there are not enough workers for vegetables. Men are wearing themselves out hauling extra wood to keep the ovens going. What a waste of labor and supplies! Where are these people getting the ingredients?

I was telling Jerry this morning that they are pushing themselves too hard for the wrong thing.

[SCENE ONE]⁴

Natalie This is just nuts, Jerry. They *have* to control the baking. Some of these women bake double recipes every other day. It's just like how the hospital's run: they begin at the wrong end.

¹ Except where footnoted, all from this entry are from Natalie's [December 2, 1943](#) diary entry.

² Natalie's [December 1, 1943](#) diary entry. Bedie was first diagnosed on November 28, 1943. The remainder of the paragraph is a summary of Natalie's early December 1943 diary entries.

³ This paragraph from Natalie's [December 2, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁴ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [December 2, 1943](#) diary entry.

73 Jerry Yep.
74
75 Natalie They're treating that Camp hospital like a luxury apartment. The
76 only ones who should be sleeping in that hospital are patients and
77 medical staff on call—especially now. And that's not the only
78 thing. They've tossed Dr. Hall's ironclad rule about no dysentery
79 patients leaving the hospital until they've had three clear
80 specimens in a row.
81

82 Jerry Wait. Didn't they do that with Bedie?

83
84 Natalie No. They ran out of beds. That's why he came home after three
85 days. And it's all because some people want to live at the hospital.
86
87

88 **[DIARY READING TWO]**

89
90 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
91

92 Natalie Well, sure enough, Bedie had to go back to the hospital. The
93 doctor who is in charge of the labs told Jerry this afternoon.⁵
94
95

96 **[SCENE TWO]⁶**
97

98 Dr. Benedetti Well, it's not good news, Jerry. Your son turned up positive for
99 dysentery.
100

101 Jerry What! Why was he released in the first place?
102

103 Dr. Benedetti Not enough beds.
104

105 Jerry Then why not move the staff to make room for dysentery
106 patients?
107

108 Dr. Benedetti I'm afraid it isn't as simple as that.

⁵ Natalie's [December 3, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁶ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [December 3, 1943](#) diary entry.

109 Jerry It sure is. Move 'em to the barracks with everyone else.
110
111 Dr. Benedetti Well, it's considerably more complicated.
112
113 Jerry Does Bedie have to go back on a starvation diet and take
114 purgatives *again*?
115
116 Dr. Benedetti I'm afraid so.
117
118 Jerry Only he's going back sicker this time, and God know how many
119 he's infected! All because a few people don't want to lose their
120 private rooms?? Jeez, have you looked at him? The kid can't lose
121 more weight, doctor. And I don't know how the hell I'm going to
122 get food to help him gain it back.
123
124 Dr. Benedetti He's *not* the only one, Jerry.
125
126 Jerry Good point. Bedie *isn't* the only one!
127
128
129 **[DIARY READING THREE]**
130
131 [SOUND WRITING AND FADE OUT]
132
133 Natalie Like the cows of India, the staff is too sacred to move.⁷ Poor old
134 Bedie looked sick at heart when we told him. And Jerry soon
135 headed over to the hospital bent under the mattress, blanket,
136 discouragement and soreness.
137
138 After my mop duty I threw myself on the bed feeling I could blow
139 into a thousand pieces.
140
141 December 4, 1943. Dysentery patients are now being moved to
142 overflow tents. It's a disgrace. Last year when tents were used for
143 this purpose even the Japanese said we should use on of the
144 cottages.

⁷ First sentence is from Natalie's [December 4, 1943](#) diary entry. The remainder of the diary entry is from Natalie's [December 3, 1943](#) diary entry.

145 December 6, 1943. After being released from camp hospital,
146 Mrs. Kessler rhapsodized about organization being so much
147 better, but the mill still grinds out patients in four days.
148

149 Besides dysentery, there's been little else to talk or write about
150 except high prices and scarce supplies.
151

152 **[CUT IN ONE]**
153

154 Jim *Camp Holmes Daily News* Unable to purchase milk for children,
155 the kitchen has begun to manufacture soybean milk. With the
156 beans at four pesos a kilo and extremely difficult to obtain, the
157 milk is only given to babies.
158

159 Alert: Watch your belongings—high prices seem to be tempting
160 the light-fingered.⁸
161

162 Natalie December 7, 1943. The Manila *Tribune* reported that Roosevelt,
163 Churchill, Chaing Kai-Shek and Stalin meet at Cairo and Teheran.
164 I'm sure the Japanese are aware of it.⁹ Last night, the
165 Sergeant broke into the Executive Committee meeting and asked
166 the members when the war was going to be over. They said they
167 didn't know and asked what he thought. He said he didn't know
168 either, but he wanted to go home and was getting mighty tired of
169 the war. The guardhouse and barracks, prisoners and enemy all
170 feel alike.
171

172 December 8, 1943. To save firewood, Executive Committee finally
173 limited use of the main stove. Shortages are so pervasive that
174 waitressing has become just another detail because there are
175 hardly any scraps any more.
176
177

⁸ Natalie's [December 7, 1943](#) diary entry.

⁹ Natalie's [December 6, 1943](#) diary entry and my conjecture that the Japanese are aware of the meeting to introduce guard story.

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[CUT IN TWO]

Camp Holmes Daily News A tin can is a rarity in the garbage now, and vegetable peelings fail to fill more than one third of a 3-gallon tin container, as there is no soft rice in the kitchen slop or banana peels in Barracks 1 and 2. Even the hospital can fails to make its two carriers stagger. This is prosperity index (or shall we say scarcity index) by garbage can.¹⁰

[SCENE THREE]¹¹

That's it?

Yea. That's it.

Where'd you get that whole lot of nothin'?

Out in the back of Barracks 2.

What! That's from the kitchen!!

Yea. Dr. Wells has been scrounging through the kitchen garbage to feed his livestock.

You know, those goat getters and pig grubbers are startin' to cut into *our* garbage!

Hey, check that out, over by the guard house.

What?

Hayakawa and those guards. What in the hell are they doing swinging golf clubs around like machetes?

¹⁰ Natalie's [December 8, 1943](#) diary entry.

¹¹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [Decembcer 15, 1943](#) diary entry.

213 Larry They're probably hacking through the bushes looking for chickens.
214 They get loose from the guard house all the time. Come on, let's
215 go see what they've got over at the women's barracks.

216
217

218 **[DIARY READING FOUR]**

219
220
221

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

222 Natalie December 9, 1943. This must be the quote unquote "hard days at
223 the last" which have been spoken about before. We are literally
224 down to eating peanuts. The grinding department works overtime
225 now that everyone is stocking up on peanuts. Our order for 10
226 pesos worth came in from the Tong market stall this noon. Eggs
227 are now 70 centavos *each*. We used to get *two dozen* for 80
228 centavos, but none are available says the store. With no meat and
229 no eggs only bean and nut proteins are left to us, so everyone is
230 stocking up on them, and milk is no more, except soy. Jerry trying
231 to make peanut milk with help from the Soy group.

232

233 December 11, 1943. Despite shortages, Christmas season has
234 arrived. Jerry and Bedie are carving gifts at the shop in spare and
235 secret moments. Men are making carts and wood toys out of
236 scrap wood—it really is down to scrap this year. In the women's
237 dorm, dolls with hand-sewn faces and silk scrap gowns peak out
238 of hidden corners. And people are busy with scraps and scissors,
239 needles and whatever thread is left. Some are using yarn
240 unraveled from old sweaters and socks full of holes.

241

242 December 14, 1943. Because of soaring prices, the Executive
243 Committee's number one request for the Japanese authorities is
244 an increase in the Camp's kitchen allowance. Internees must now
245 pay one peso per day per person over and above the food
246 allowance given to us by the Japanese. That's five times more
247 than last year.¹² Fortunately, the Japanese have allowed us to use
248 relief and other funds to maintain a subsistence diet, but they

¹² Natalie wrote in her [February 7, 1942](#) diary entry that the "Committee uses somewhat less than P100 a day" which is P.20 per person per day. At this writing they were paying P1, which is five times more.

249 cannot be depended upon as a permanent source of help.
250
251 Natalie December 15, 1943. Committee elections are over but the sore
252 losers have yet to take down signs around camp reading “Dunne
253 is done for” and “Don’t vote for Denki, he’s stinky.”
254
255 I can’t say the election will change much around here, but I was
256 delighted that the Executive Committee finally found the good
257 sense to hand over Camp liaison duties to Miss McKim and her
258 excellent diplomacy.
259
260 With all the bad news about shortages, we welcome rumors
261 about Americans forces in the Marianas and a marvelous escape
262 story.
263
264
265 **[SCENE FOUR]**¹³
266
267 Phil Nah, you’re full of it, Larry.
268
269 Larry No. it’s true. An American pilot and a mechanic stole a Japanese
270 transport plane. They just flew off with it!
271
272 Phil How in sweet Jesus did they do that?
273
274 Larry Knocked down a guard, hopped in, and took off.
275
276 Phil Huh??
277
278 Larry They were maintenance work on the plane.
279
280 Phil Exactly where did *this* happen?
281
282 Larry Up in Tugeguerao.
283
284 Phil And they got away with it...
285

¹³ Based on and imagined from Natalie’s [December 16, 1943](#) diary entry.

286 Larry Yea.

287

288 Dan How could a Japanese plane—with a couple of meatballs¹⁴ on its
289 wings—land anywhere near Americans without getting shot
290 down?

291

292 Larry Beats me. But wouldn't mind giving it a try.

293

294

295 **[DIARY READING FIVE]**

296

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

298

299 Natalie December 17, 1943. Yesterday an Igorot woman and her
300 premature baby were brought in on a litter from a nearby barrio.
301 The infant was fed sugar water from a medicine dropper, but had
302 little chance of survival. Some of the older boys here dug a little
303 grave on our hillside cemetery. Father Maquire read the services.

304

305 December 18, 1943. Despite our troubles, Christmas festivities are
306 moving forward. The school put on a three-act play called "The
307 Bird's Christmas Carol" with the kids dressed in bird costumes
308 wearing our worn clothes.

309

310 Now that the fire-eating guards have been transferred, we're all
311 relaxing a little. Husbands are visiting upstairs discreetly.

312

313 December 19, 1943. Red hot news is spreading through camp!
314 Our Red Cross packages are at Damortis ¹⁵—less than 50
315 kilometers from here! Jim posted a sign-up sheet in the yard
316 asking for volunteers to load the kits onto trucks.

317

318 **[CUT-IN 3]¹⁶**

319

320 Phil What have you go there, Jim?

¹⁴ Natalie called them "two fried eggs" but "meatballs" was a more popular term and more visually similar.

¹⁵ Natalie's [December 3, 1943](#) diary entry said the packages were at Damortis.

¹⁶ Based on and imagined from [December 19, 1943](#) diary entry. The Executive Committee posted the sign but I want to start introducing Tomibe.

321 Jim A sign-up sheet. Major Tomibe asked me to post it; says to
322 volunteer if you're able-bodied enough to load Red Cross supplies
323 onto trucks and want a trip down the coast.
324
325 Phil Looks like you already signed up.
326
327 Jim You bet I did.
328
329 Phil Got a pencil?
330
331 Natalie Ninety apparently able-bodied men signed up. Never before has
332 the camp seen such a rapid improvement in the health of its
333 hitherto rather decrepit, ache-and-pain wracked manhood.
334 Major Tomibe who is in charge of the packages wants us to use a
335 lottery to whittle the list down to 50.¹⁷
336
337 December 20, 1943. Peg had an emotionally draining day waiting
338 for her husband to arrive from Manila. They've been separated
339 for two long years and she's convinced he was picked for the
340 prisoner exchange. The truck was supposed to arrive at three but
341 didn't. Six prisoners are supposed to come up here¹⁸ but they
342 haven't said who and I worry that Walter won't be one of them.
343 Peg is so excited about seeing her husband that I doubt she'll
344 sleep tonight.
345
346 December 21, 1943. Peg waited and waited for her husband all
347 day, still keyed up to a fever pitch from yesterday. She's baked
348 cookies and applesauce cake and scrubbed her space and her kids
349 like a mirror.
350
351 Just before dinner, I went up to see Peg. We were standing near
352 her window when the truck from Manila came in.
353
354
355

¹⁷ My assumption that this was Tomibe's idea to use a lottery. Also, I want to start introducing him as an important character for 1944.

¹⁸ Natalie's [November 22, 1943](#) diary entry remainder if sentence is my assumption.

[SCENE FIVE]¹⁹

356

357

358 Peg Oh my God, they're here.

359

360 Natalie You go on down. I'll get your kids, Peg.

361

362 Peg Thanks, Natalie!

363

364 [SOUNDS OF CROWD OF PEOPLE AND TRUCK IDLING]

365

366 Mrs. Griffith There he is! Billy over here!

367

368 Colleen You're finally here! I didn't think I'd ever see you again.

369

370 Committee Man Mary, over here!

371

372 Natalie Has Walter gotten off, Peg?

373

374 Peg No. Not yet.

375

376 Emil Mommy. Where's Daddy?

377

378 Peg They haven't all gotten off the bus, honey.

379

380 Natalie There's supposed to be six of them.

381

382 Peg Al's wife just got off the bus.

383

384 [SOUND OF SLOW FOOTSTEPS]

385

386 Fern Let me take a look at you.

387

388 Old Buzzard What do ya' think?

389

390 Fern My stars! You're just skin and bones.

391

392 Old Buzzard Well, did ya miss me?

¹⁹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [December 21, 1943](#) diary entry.

393 Fern Of course I did, you old buzzard.
394
395 [SILENCE; JUST BIRDS CHIRPPING]
396
397 Peg That's all of them. Walter didn't make it.
398
399 Natalie Oh, Peg.
400
401 Peg [SOBBING] What's happened to him?
402
403 Natalie He just didn't get picked this time. I'm sure that....
404
405 Peg He's never coming! Ever! [BREAKS DOWN SOBBING] I can't do this
406 anymore.
407
408 Emil Maybe Daddy'll come with the Red Cross packages, Mommy.
409
410 Peg [GETTING CONTROL OF HERSELF] That's right sweetie. I'm sure he
411 will.
412
413 Emil Can we do a hugga bugga, Mom?
414
415 Peg Of course. Come here babies.
416
417
418 **[DIARY READING SIX]**
419
420 [SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]
421
422 Natalie It was heartbreaking to see Peg and her kids standing alone,
423 surround by families greeting their loved ones after months and
424 years of separation.
425
426 Later, we shared our roast beef supper from Nida with the Scotts
427 and sent up a plate up to Peg and her kids.²⁰ It was our first beef in
428 months and months. I almost dissolved in tears and wanted to

²⁰ Natalie didn't write about sending a plate up to Peg. I added this line to punctuate Scene Five and transition to the roast beef. Plus, Natalie proved time and time again that she shared food with others.

429 concentrate forever on each mouthful, but the children couldn't
430 wait to open Aunt Jemie's packages which finally came through
431 from Manila, and we didn't have the heart to say no, so June and
432 Bedie tore into the package to find clothes, pencils, soap, thread,
433 needles, buttons, snaps, and a bottle of cinnamon with
434 embroidery thread tied around it.

435
436 Natalie December 22, 1943. I ran around giving away five of June's
437 outgrown dresses for Christmas; one for Anne, two for Eloise.
438 June ironed the remaining two and we tied them up to go out in
439 the bag for Nida's girls for Christmas.

440
441 During the evening, headlights from the first Red Cross truck
442 appeared in the distance. The convoy wheezed up the road until
443 one by one eight drove into Camp. As the trucks were unloaded
444 under guard into the camp store, we sat pinching ourselves,
445 hardly able to believe that what we have been doubting could
446 come true.

447
448 All but 55 of the 631 cases arrived.

449
450 **[CUT-IN FOUR]**

451
452 Jim *Camp Holmes Daily News* The Red Cross cases total nearly 18 tons
453 and travelled 15,000 miles from the United States via South
454 Africa, India and Manila.

455
456 Major Tomibe, emphasizes that no relief supplies in any amount
457 are to be sent outside camp. Strict compliance of this rule is
458 enjoined.

459
460 The supplies are in paper cartons in new clean-smelling pine
461 boxes. In addition to 520 food parcels weighing 24,440 pounds,
462 there are 34 cases of instruments, surgical dressings and first-aid
463 kits worth a fortune in real money these days. Many are
464 unobtainable at any price. Over 4,000 pounds of miscellaneous
465 apparel and toiletries are in 27 cases. And, there are 880 pounds
466 of sheets and 300 pounds of men's heavy clothing.

467 You are advised to save contents of food parcels for a rainy day.²¹

468

469 Natalie

Everyone is saying they will gladly give to the Red Cross the next time an appeal comes. No crabbers after this! Whatever the Red Cross's shortcomings, it achieves greatness.²²

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479

Despite everyone's giddiness over the supplies, we know our temporary our wealth is. Two of the new prisoners who came from the Manila internment camps said people everywhere are terrified of the food shortage. On the road up to Baguio they didn't see any livestock or people along the road. Only two trucks passed them during the entire trip.²³

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December 24, 1943. Daphne hung a big poster in the dining hall with the Christmas Day menu surrounded by reindeer pulling Santa and his sleigh; in the lower corner watching him sail across the sky are internees at a table holding steaming cups near a blazing fire, all framed in barbed wire and holly.

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This Christmas there is an excitement that the Outside has arrived across thousands of miles. The camp hums, echoes, resounds with Christmas cheer. Everyone is hacking or dragging pine branches, hanging red tinsel streamers and silver ornaments...arranging and trying out this, surveying that. The kitchen has is neither rice for tonight nor coffee for tomorrow's breakfast, but no one dwells on it.

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501

Tonight there was a surprise after the rice dinner for people on special diets. A shop in town had sent five -gallons of coconut ice cream, and we waitresses received a ladle full of the frozen cream too. I put mine in a cup and divided it with June, Bedie and Jerry after work.

²¹ Natalie's [December 23, 1943](#) diary entry.

²² Natalie's [December 25, 1943](#) diary entry.

²³ Natalie's [December 24, 1943](#) diary entry.

[SCENE SIX]²⁴

502
503
504 Natalie Come here kids, before it melts.
505
506 Jerry Whatcha got there?
507
508 Natalie Coconut ice cream. There's just about a spoonful for each of us.
509
510 Bedie What's that?
511
512 Natalie Try it.
513
514 Bedie Oh wow! Ice cream
515
516 Natalie There was extra left over at Special Diets.
517
518 June Mmmm, thank you mummy.
519
520 Natalie We served ice cream to 75 people.
521
522 Bedie Got any more?
523
524 Natalie No. That's it.
525
526 Jerry You're in the Nativity pageant, Bedie, so you'd get a move on.
527
528 Bedie Okay. Ya know, it's not going to be as fancy as last year.
529
530 Jerry Then it'll be truer to what actually happened.
531
532 June Who are you gonna be this year?
533
534 Bedie A shepherd. I gotta wear a dumb outfit.²⁵
535
536 Natalie Who gets to be the Madonna this year?

²⁴ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [December 24, 1943](#) diary entry.

²⁵ Bedie wore a "sack loincloth." It's my assumption that a 13-year-old would be embarrassed to wear that in front of the entire camp.

537 June Ruth Zimmerman. She's going to sing "Away in a Manger."

538

539 Natalie Well, I'd better head upstairs and get dressed. You too, June.

540

541 [SOUNDS OF JUNE AND NATALIE GOING UP STAIRS]

542

543 June What are you going to wear, mummie?

544

545 Natalie I think I'm going to wear on my red-checked dress and put on
546 some make up.

547

548

549 [DIARY READING SEVEN]

550

551 [SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

552

553 Natalie After the Nativity Pageant, we four then sat in the dining room—
554 all festive with wreaths in windows and a lighted tree outside—
555 and drank Herb's cocoa flavored with Nida's sugar and freshly
556 milked coconut cream. What was left of the cream will became
557 luscious, thick cheese by morning.

558

559 Later, Jerry and I talked about how we both noticed that the
560 children don't seem as homesick as last year. I wonder if other
561 memories are fading as we become more used to communal
562 living.

563

564 December 25, 1943, Christmas Day. I thought June was walking in
565 her sleep when she crawled out of bed at five. In spite of sniffles,
566 she had Katie wake her and they quickly dressed and joined the
567 carol singers. It was delightful to lie there half asleep in the dark,
568 listening to the chorus of old and young voices singing. After, Jerry
569 brought coffee and bananas to a bench in front of the barracks
570 where we opened our gifts. I had to waitress and joined the family
571 later for breakfast in the dining hall.

572

573

[SCENE SEVEN]²⁶

574
575
576 Jerry All done with the waitressing?
577
578 Natalie All done. Whew. I just want to get off my feet. Where are the
579 kids?
580
581 Jerry Bellying up to the counter for hotcakes.
582
583 Natalie I had some earlier. They're pretty good. You know, I thought
584 Bedie was a good sport about the gifts.
585
586 Jerry Six eggs and a jar of jam ain't much.
587
588 Natalie Well, he got the notebook and pencils.
589
590 Jerry Just what a kid his age wants.
591
592 Natalie He was very thankful; don't you think?
593
594 Jerry Yes. He was.
595
596 Natalie I love the socks June knitted for me and Bedie's picture.
597
598 Jerry Was that report card for both of us?
599
600 Natalie Yes.
601
602 Jerry Well, I can't think of a better gift from Bedie than good grades.
603
604 Natalie. I think June really liked her blouses, but you and Bedie gave the
605 best gifts—hands down.
606
607 Jerry We worked on them like galley slaves. It wasn't easy putting a
608 hinge on that coconut for June.
609
610 Natalie Did Bedie scraped and polish it all by himself?

²⁶ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [December 25, 1943](#) diary entry.

611 Jerry He did. I was too busy working on your wooden box.
612
613 Natalie I love those candle holders you put on either side.
614
615 Jerry I figured that you can put a mirror or a vase of flowers in between
616 the candles. And, it's something you can take home with you. Oh
617 hey, there they are.
618
619 Natalie Over here, kids!!
620
621 [SOUNDS OF BEDIE AND JUNE SITTING DOWN THE TABLE]
622
623 Bedie When are we going to open the Red Cross boxes?
624
625 June Yea, when are we going to open them?
626
627 Natalie Later today.
628
629 Jerry How are the hotcakes?
630
631 Bedie Pretty good. Want my grapefruit, June.
632
633 June Sure.
634
635 Natalie How'd your girlfriend like your Christmas gift?
636
637 June Why'd you make her a knife?
638
639 Bedie Because she wanted one.
640
641 Jerry You sure worked hard enough on it. Did she like it?
642
643 Bedie Yea.
644
645 Natalie Oh, I forgot to mention that Mrs. Nang sent us a box of
646 chocolates.
647
648 June Really!

649 Natalie Yea. And Lilian Lim sent peanut brittle.
650
651 Jerry Miss Ramos sent us a care package as well.
652
653 Natalie We haven't heard from her for probably a year.
654
655 Jerry She sent eight of these little frosted cakes cut in diamond shapes.
656
657 June Petiet fours?
658
659 Jerry Yea, something like that. What else was there Bedie?
660
661 Bedie Sugar, coffee, two boxes of matches, two bars of soap and some
662 cigarettes.
663
664 Jerry Hey, speaking of which, Nida sent us a whole roast chicken.
665
666 Natalie Oh that darling!
667
668 [SOUNDS OF A MAN WALKING THROUGH THE DINING HALL LIKE A TOWN CRYER]
669
670 Man Hear Ye, Hear Ye!! We just got news from the North Pole that
671 Santa Claus will be on the parade ground in fifteen minutes!
672
673 Bedie Do we get presents too?
674
675 June No. We're too old.
676
677 Natalie I don't think you are. Go on and see. We'll meet you there.
678
679 [SOUNDS OF JUNE AND BEDIE LEAVING THE TABLE]
680
681 Jerry What's this about older kids getting gifts?
682
683 Natalie Some books came in last-minute from Manila when they did the
684 prisoner swap. Miss McKim says they've got chop-marks certifying
685 they passed Japanese inspection.
686

687 Jerry Well, they'll make interesting mementos someday.
688
689 Natalie Did you like the drawing of me?
690
691 Jerry I sure did.
692
693 Natalie Peg drew it, and...it comes with this card.
694
695 Jerry Thank you sweetheart
696
697 Natalie I didn't want to give it to you front of the kids.
698
699 Jerry Says...Happy Christmas. For Jerry: an I.O.U. for one personal
700 chronicle of our internment days, for which this is the cover
701 page.²⁷ You're still writing about this crazy place??
702
703 Natalie Every day.
704
705 Jerry I can't wait to get out of here and read it.
706
707 Natalie Me too. Wouldn't that be a nice Christmas gift?
708
709 Jerry Hey, you still need to be careful about hiding your diary.
710
711 Natalie Don't worry. I am.
712
713 Jerry Intelligence officers haven't stopped nosing around camp, and
714 you know how the Japanese get when they think they're losing.
715 Did you see those three big Japanese bombers flying south today?
716
717 Natalie I did.
718
719 Jerry Well, the U.S. may be landing in the Marianas, but the war ain't
720 over yet.
721
722 Natalie I'm very aware of that dear.
723

²⁷ Natalie used the term "frontispiece," a term which isn't used much, so for clarity I substituted it with "cover page."

724 Jerry Well, okay then.... Say, when *are* we going to open those Red
725 Cross boxes?
726

727

728 **[DIARY READING EIGHT]**

729

730 [SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

731

732 Natalie The Red Cross packages were distributed after Santa Claus left. If
733 only the people at home could have seen us! Each of us got 47
734 pounds of food from. The whole camp queued up in front of the
735 camp store, and like spiders crawling in every direction out from
736 the center of a web, took their packages home.

737

738 Before Jerry even knew the line started, Bedie had already
739 retrieved his packages out, stopping three times to rest while
740 taking them back to the barracks.

741

742 Dr. Shaffer and the others carried stretchers loaded with cases.
743 People used sacks, poles, wheelbarrows large and small, even
744 Christmas carts on wheels precarious for such weight—everyone
745 smiling and sprinting back for the next case or to help others. As
746 fast as men took boxes from inside the camp store and onto the
747 counter out front, they were checked off as each was trundled
748 away joyously. One man sat right down in the camp store, opened
749 his box and took out and lit a cigarette. Then he grabbed a slice of
750 cheese in one hand, a slice of Spam in the other and headed up
751 the hill with the heavy box on his shoulder, grinning as he puffed
752 his cigarette and chewed.

753

754 All commingling rules were suspended so fathers joined their
755 families. Cases were shunted about, opened and spread out in
756 piles, stacks and rows. Inventory was taken as each can and box
757 was lovingly handled, felt and gazed upon, exclaimed over.
758 Exhilaration is not the word! Counting and sorting will occupy the
759 next 48 hours.

760

761 The boxes breath American efficiency, even to the little brown

762 envelopes with can openers. There are V's for Victory framing
763 printed directions, a slogan here and there in picture form, which
764 escaped the all-seeing Japanese eye which peers into every
765 private corner here.

766
767 Best of all, we now know that America is thinking of us, working
768 for us. We ended Christmas day by sitting out under the stars.

769
770

771 **[SCENE EIGHT A]²⁸**

772

773 Jerry I don't think I'll ever have a better Christmas. Have you, Natalie?

774

775 Natalie No. And best of all, everyone was equal.

776

777 June What do you mean by that, Mummie?

778

779 Natalie Each package had the same contents; there were no special
780 privileges. And what's more everyone was satisfied.

781

782 Jerry And we've got a nice little stockpile of food. That'll sure give me a
783 goodnight's sleep.

784

785 June We got almost 200 pounds of food.

786

787 Bedie No we didn't.

788

789 June Each case weighed 47 pounds. And there are four of us, so 8 carry
790 the 2 is 188 pounds.

791

792 Natalie To me, knowing that the world hasn't forgotten us is important as
793 the food.

794 June I wonder what Nida's doing for Christmas.

795

796

797

²⁸ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [December 25, 1943](#) diary entry.

[SCENE EIGHT B]²⁹

798
799
800 Nida [IN TAGALOG AND ENGLISH] What am I going to do Auntie?
801
802 Auntie [IN TAGALOG AND ENGLISH] Do you know where the Japanese
803 took Ismael?
804
805 Nida Fort Santiago.
806
807 Auntie Gasps. Why, why was he imprisoned?
808
809 Nida The Japanese say he and three others stole acid from the mines.
810
811 Auntie Why would he do that?
812
813 Nida I don't know if he even did it.
814
815 Auntie He wasn't involved in any guerrilla business, was he?
816
817 Nida I don't know. Jorge³⁰ joined the guerrillas and you know he and
818 Ismael are as thick as thieves.
819
820 Auntie Oh, Nida, did the Japanese question you?
821
822 Nida Yes, when they came to the house. I was so scared but they didn't
823 take me to prison and left our girls alone.
824
825 Auntie Thank God!
826
827 Nida But they stole 300 pesos and searched the lower garage because
828 there's nothing left to steal in the house.
829
830 Auntie Ay!
831

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Natalie's [December 24, 1943](#) diary entry mentions that Nida's brother was a guerrilla but I substituted Jorge who was in an earlier scene.

832 Nida The last of the Crouter's belongings were there. They took
833 everything and burned a Chinese picture just because they could.
834
835 Auntie [IN TAGALOG AND ENGLISH] Is there nothing these animals won't
836 do? [IN ENGLISH] Do you know how long Ismael is going to be in
837 prison?
838
839 Nida They said six months.³¹
840
841 Auntie I will tell Father to add Ismael to the church's prisoner novenas
842 and light a candle for him and Jorge.
843
844 Nida Our church is going to burn down with all of the candles people
845 are lighting.
846
847 Auntie Never you mind. You know where Ismael is. You and your girls are
848 safe. Are the Japanese going to let you stay at the Crouter's
849 house?
850

851

[DIARY READING NINE]

852

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

853

854 Natalie December 27, 1943. Were back to our regular routine of mops
855 and garbage cans. Jerry is up hill with the wood crew, and June is
856 cutting vegetables as high school girls are taking on the jobs many
857 women are shirking.
858

859

860
861 After lunch Jerry and I repacked the kits, putting all of each kind
862 together instead of split up. We had the fun of handling it again,
863 seeing new points and talking about it endlessly. Many others are
864 doing this for the third time, trying a new combination or just for
865 fun! Never was anything so welcome and enjoyed!
866

867

868 There were 34 cases of medical supplies, with the worst breakage
so far only among bottles of vitamin pills. We didn't get any

³¹ It was actually six weeks. This is an error on my part.

869 lipstick, but there are 200 shoes for women, 100 for children, and
870 84 for men. Toothbrushes and Squibb's tooth powder came in
871 cardboard containers, along with cleaning tissue, cold cream,
872 dresses, shorts, sunsuits, socks, wool, soap, bath towels, sewing
873 kits, shoe repair, underwear and nightgowns.

874
875 Throughout our excitement we haven't had much time to think
876 about our new Commandant, Major Tomibe, except when reading
877 his bulletin-board edicts.

878

879 **[CUT-IN FIVE]**

880

881 Guard By order of Camp Commandant, it is strictly forbidden to send any
882 part of a Red Cross Kit out of camp. We also wish to call attention
883 the International Regulation prohibiting sale of any Red Cross
884 supplies. The Executive Committee considers it a duty to urge all
885 internees to conserve their Red Cross kits, after removing
886 perishable articles, for their possible future emergency needs.³²

887

888

889 Natalie Always our best intelligence resource, Miss McKim is guardedly
890 optimistic about our new commandant.

891

892

893 **[SCENE NINE]³³**

894

895 Arthur Well, what do you think of him, Miss McKim?

896

897 Miss McKim I like him, Arthur. He's educated.

898

899 Arthur So's Hayakawa.

900

901 Miss McKim But Mr. Tomibe's³⁴ more mature and confident, and humble, I
902 think.

³² Natalie's [December 27, 1943](#) diary entry.

³³ Based on and imagined from Rokuro Tomibe's memoir after attending the 1977 reunion of camp Holmes. See [Footnote 43 \(1943\)](#).

³⁴ I have switched over to calling Major Tomibe to Mr. Tomibe because that is how he is referred to in the diary. I used Major initially to establish his rank (see [pp. xix](#)) and that he was not a civilian. I thought Miss

903 Arthur I've been lied to so many times by these guys.
904
905 Miss McKim I know. Your home. But...And, I have to tell you this in confidence.
906
907 Arthur What?
908
909 Miss McKim Well...
910
911 Arthur You've got my word.
912
913 Miss McKim You know those Old Gold cigarette packages that were cut up in
914 our Red Cross boxes?
915
916 Arthur Yea, the Japanese didn't like the pro-American slogans on them.
917
918 Miss McKim Well, there's more to it than that. The guards wanted to
919 confiscate them for themselves, but Mr. Tomibe outsmarted
920 them.
921
922 Arthur Really.
923
924 Miss McKim Yes. He did. He ordered them to throw away the wrappers.
925
926 Arthur Ahh, so the guards had no reason to confiscate the cigarettes.
927
928 Miss McKim And sell them on the black market. Mr. Tomibe is the reason we
929 have any cigarettes from the Red Cross.
930
931 Arthur No kidding.
932
933 Miss McKim I think he's a straight arrow. As far as I can see, he's the opposite
934 of Lt. Mukibo and Mr. Hayakawa.
935

McKim who is better versed in Japanese protocol would be the one to start calling him Mr. Tomibe. After Episode 20 was produced, I found in Rokuro Tomibe's papers at the MacArthur Memorial Archives that he "arrived Philippines January 1943 as a civilian (also Reserve 1st Lt Army) attached to Japanese Army HQ sent to Baguio in charge of government property, commerce and industry when Japan granted "independent" to Laurel government. More of his background will be explained in Season Four (1944).

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[DIARY READING TEN]

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

Natalie December 31, 1943. Our good fortune didn't last very long. I'm closing out 1943 with terrible news. Ismael's in prison. I'm trying to unravel the story as there have been three versions of his imprisonment and Nida being searched and questioned. Betty saw Nida briefly when she was in Baguio.³⁵

[SCENE TEN A]

Natalie Did you get a chance to talk with Nida?

Betty No. I'm sorry. I couldn't. I saw her from a distance at the market.

Natalie How did she look?

Betty Prosperous and well dressed.

Natalie Really? That's good news.

Betty I have bad news about your house, Natalie. Japanese Navy officers are occupying it now.

Natalie Where are Nida and the girls are living?

Betty I did hear a bit of news about that. She's living with relatives who are apparently making ends meet selling rice and produce.

[SCENE TEN B]

Natalie All I got from Betty are bits and pieces, Jerry.

³⁵ This entry and Scenes Ten A and B are from Natalie's [December 25, 1943](#) diary entry.

972 Jerry Me too. If Ismael is at Fort Santiago, that's a real hell hole. Oh,
973 how could have I forgot, Lallie and Fluffy are alive.
974
975 Natalie Really!
976
977 Jerry So I hear.
978
979 Natalie Well, Bedie'll be glad to hear that.
980
981 Jerry The guy who saw our pets said our house is the only one on our
982 street still intact.
983
984 Natalie Only because of Nida and Ismael. Betty said that there is some of
985 our furniture left. Do you think Ismael stole the mine's acid to
986 send to the guerrillas?
987
988 Jerry I wouldn't doubt it. He is a patriotic Filipino.
989
990 Natalie Why would they steal acid?
991
992 Jerry Don't know. Acid is used in gold mining.... maybe to sell it for
993 cash?³⁶
994
995 Natalie Why? Pesos aren't worth anything.
996
997 Jerry Well, they could have bartered it for guns. I mean, why not?
998 Everything that isn't nailed down's goes through the black market.
999
1000 Natalie But we don't even know if Ismael stole it in the first place.
1001
1002 Jerry No. Not for sure.
1003
1004 Natalie God, what year this has been.
1005
1006
1007 [COLD CLOSE]

³⁶ The remainder of the scene is my conjecture.