

1 Season Four, Part 1, *Forbidden Diary*  
2 Episode Twenty-Three: *Internment-itus*

3  
4  
5 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

6		
7	Announcer	Steve Mountjoy
8	Natalie Crouter	Sevil Delin
9	Isobel	Jennifer Nittoso
10	Doris	Nora Novak
11	Peg	Rebeccah Haugh
12	Miss McKim	Christine Atsuko Holloway
13	Mr. Tomibe	Masaya Okubo
14	Carl	Scott Walton
15	Dr. Benedetti	Lance DeBock
16	Dr. Mather	Joseph Jo Macdonald
17	Jim	Maxwell Glick
18	Mrs. Coulter	Wendy Davis
19	Colleen	Mandy Balser
20	Marj	Bonnie Marie Williams
21	Hazel	Diane Bolton
22	Millie	Melba Sibrel King
23	Committee Man	Christopher V. Thorn
24	Enid	Karen DeBoer
25	Smitty	Jessie Fister
26	Ted	Troy W. Hudson
27	Dotty	Ina Marie Smith
28	Arthur	Robert Ball
29	Joe	Rich 'dAngle
30	Larry	Patrick Golebiowski
31	Jerry Crouter	Mark Oliver
32	Fr. Sheridan	Kasper Micheals
33	Woman	Mandy Balser
34	Herb	Vincent Caruso
35	Little Boy	Emil Civan Nas
36	Walter	Kiff VandenHeuvel
37	Little Girl	Clementine McMann

38  
39  
40  
41  
42

43 [Cold Open]

44  
45 Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*...

46  
47 [SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

48  
49 Announcer And now, Episode Twenty-Three.

50  
51 [DIARY READING ONE]

52  
53 [SOUNDS OF BOOK OPENING, PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

54  
55 Natalie February 23, 1944.<sup>1</sup> Ray's wife is expecting in May, so a friend  
56 gave her a baby shower. She got a layette and a crib basket—and  
57 a lot of ribbing seeing as Ray went all over Camp bragging about  
58 the baby's Camp-shop conception. The shower was best summed  
59 up in Mrs. Greer's verse with her gift.

60  
61  
62 [CUT-IN ONE]

63  
64 Isobel, Doris Roses are red, violets are blue,  
65 Peg, Natalie It can't happen in here  
66 But it happened to *you*!

67  
68 [WOMEN LAUGHING AND FADE]

69  
70  
71 Natalie February 24, 1944.<sup>2</sup> Because of his position on the Executive  
72 Committee,<sup>3</sup> Carl was able to go to his house in Baguio for the  
73 first time in many months. He is broke, and so are many others,  
74 but not everyone in here. Yesterday in the kitchen, the huge  
75 roasts, meat loaf, hamburgers, and stews on the stove for people  
76 who still have the funds to pay for them<sup>4</sup> nearly finished me. The

---

<sup>1</sup> Natalie's [February 24, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>2</sup> Natalie's [February 26, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>3</sup> My assumption that his position on the Executive Committee would have allowed him to go into town.

<sup>4</sup> I added "for people who still have the funds to pay for them" for clarity.

77 sight and flavor were overpowering. Jerry and I can buy none of it,  
78 so we shared Nida's pineapple and coffee with Peg.

79  
80 February 26, 1944. Well, no more Manila *Tribune* for camp  
81 subscribers, alas.<sup>5</sup> Banning newspaper subscriptions hasn't won  
82 Mr. Tomibe any popularity contests, but Miss McKim remains a  
83 loyal fan. Over the dishpan she told Peg and me about a side of  
84 our Commandant we do not see.

85  
86

87 **[SCENE ONE A]<sup>6</sup>**

88

89 Miss McKim Well, I'll give you an example. Mr. Tomibe went to bat for us with  
90 the New Year's Eve dancing. General Kō disapproved, but Mr.  
91 Tomibe stood his ground and said,

92

93

94 **[SCENE ONE A, CUT-IN ONE]**

95

96 Mr. Tomibe It is an American custom. They like it, I say let them have it.

97

98

99 **[SCENE ONE A CONTINUES]**

100

101 Natalie Really? No kidding.

102

103 Miss McKim He's been very open with me. He was embarrassed to talk about  
104 it, but told me that a Filipina doctor had come to him desperate  
105 for sanitary supplies. He said that being a man, he had given it no  
106 thought, but told the doctor that he would do everything he could  
107 to help.

108

109 Peg Do you think he can get some for us?

110

111 Miss McKim I asked.

112

---

<sup>5</sup> First sentence from Natalie's [February 25, 1944](#) diary entry. I added "Manila" for further clarification.

<sup>6</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [February 26, 1944](#) diary entry.

113 Peg If he does, I'll start a fan club.  
114  
115 Natalie Well, a lot of us have stopped. Dr. Mather told me it's because of  
116 poor nutrition.<sup>7</sup>  
117  
118 Peg More like starving, if you ask me.  
119  
120 Miss McKim Could you pass me that dry towel, Peg? Thanks. You know,  
121 Tomibe-san puts a lot of thought behind his actions.  
122  
123 Natalie He does seem to be open minded.  
124  
125 Miss McKim He is. Lately, we've been comparing notes about language and  
126 customs. He told me that he had to clear up a misunderstanding  
127 between a Filipino and a Japanese soldier in town. When the  
128 soldier asked the Filipino if he'd completed a task, the Filipino  
129 answered yes using slang, but the Japanese soldier took it to  
130 mean something different.  
131  
132  
133 **[SCENE ONE B]<sup>8</sup>**  
134  
135 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Of course, Miss McKim, you would  
136 know that in Japanese, what the Filipino said means, "I am looking  
137 down on you. You are beneath me."  
138  
139 Miss McKim [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] I see the problem. What happened?  
140  
141 Mr. Tomibe The soldier struck the Filipino, and the battle of complete  
142 misunderstanding was on. You can easily imagine the  
143 bewilderment in the Filipino's mind. He'd just agreed to the  
144 soldier's order and was beaten. I was called in to unravel the  
145 situation and learned a great deal about the damage that can  
146 result from differences in languages and customs.

---

<sup>7</sup> In a 1/2/2022 email to me, Carol Angeny Wion, a Baguio internee, wrote "You are correct there was not contact between husbands and wives until the spring of 1944 when Commandant Tomibe allowed families to live together. By this time most women had stopped menstruating." See also [How Do You Know if Your Body Is in Starvation Mode? 9 Symptoms](#)

<sup>8</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [February 26, 1944](#) diary entry.

147  
148 Miss McKim I've seen similar situations here in Camp, but they've never turned  
149 physical.  
150  
151 Mr. Tomibe I am glad to hear that, but they can still cause resentment and  
152 more misunderstandings.  
153  
154 Miss McKim Well, that's certainly true.  
155  
156 Mr. Tomibe I find Americans and your customs interesting. If we had leaders  
157 who would give us a chance to learn and express our interests and  
158 desires, I believe the Japanese people would make a good  
159 democracy.  
160  
161 Miss McKim If you want to get to know Americans better, Tomibe-san, perhaps  
162 you might consider dining with us some time.  
163  
164

165 **[DIARY READING TWO]**  
166

167 Natalie February 28, 1944. At breakfast, Mr. Tomibe stood at the end of  
168 the last line as John dished out lumpy, poorly cooked rice, served  
169 with hot tea. No sugar this morning. Mr. Tomibe ate a little of the  
170 rice and enjoyed the tea. He asked if there wasn't soup or sugar or  
171 something to go on the rice and the answer was negative. He  
172 shook his head, said, "Sa!" looking as though he agreed with Miss  
173 McKim and went off to think.  
174  
175 February 29, 1944. People are starting to sell the clothes off their  
176 backs to people in town to get money for food. Betty<sup>9</sup> says my  
177 Filipino friend Marie<sup>10</sup> sold some clothes for her and sent in over

---

<sup>9</sup> Natalie wrote that this person was Mary, but that name sounds too much like Marie and could easily pull listeners off track, so I used Betty who saw Nida in town ([November 6, 1943](#)) and seemed to have some connections with the Outside.

<sup>10</sup> For clarity, I added "Filipino friend" to indirectly indicate that someone in town was selling the clothes. Natalie wrote about three Maries: Nida's mother ([November 6, 1943](#)), Marie Thompson who lives in Camp ([April 19, 1944](#)), and a Marie living in Baguio ([November 5, 1944](#) and [December 5, 1944](#)) who sold the prisoners' clothes for them. Natalie wrote [June 4, 1944](#), "I received ... P480 from N. Baloli which is Marie — or is it Nida again?" Baloli could have been Nida's maiden name and this Marie, her mother. However, Natalie does not say that this Marie was Nida's mother, and I think she would have noted that.

178 200 pesos. She told Betty that velvets are popular right now for  
179 making evening slippers.

180  
181 Six days ago, Jerry sent out his watch to raise money to buy eggs  
182 for me and meat for the kids. We have so few possessions left  
183 that it hurt me to have him do it but as the Japanese say,  
184 “Shikataganai.” There is no help for it, nothing can be done.<sup>11</sup>

185  
186 I think I’m going to send out the word for Nida<sup>12</sup> to sell my red-,  
187 purple- and wine-colored velvets but not my black one. I am  
188 sentimental about that Singapore dress. Maybe we will eat my  
189 clothes yet. We need the cash and haven’t heard a word about  
190 Jerry’s watch.

191  
192 March 2, 1944. It looks like Miss McKim was right, Mr. Tomibe is  
193 trying to make life more bearable for us. <sup>13</sup> A few days after his  
194 rice-and-tea breakfast, Mr. Tomibe asked Miss McKim what we  
195 would have had at this meal in normal times. She told him fruit,  
196 cereal with milk and sugar, eggs and bacon, or ham, or hotcakes,  
197 or toast and butter, coffee with milk and sugar. He said nothing  
198 and went away in deep thought.

199  
200 March 3, 1944. Just when we think that things might be  
201 improving, Mr. Tomibe did an about face and ordered that roll call  
202 be taken twice a day.

203  
204 March 4, 1944. I took a long walk beyond the goat pens with Peg  
205 and her children. We enjoyed pushing through dewy weeds and  
206 bushes which were cool and delightful. We heard the roar of  
207 planes over the coast and could see a crowd of people down in  
208 one of the villages in Trinidad Valley and our wood crew working  
209 up on the hillside.

210  
211 There’s a big Executive Committee meeting going on today, but I

---

<sup>11</sup> Last two sentences are from Natalie’s [February 23, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>12</sup> Natalie didn’t mention Nida, but it probably was. I also added Nida’s name to identify to listeners that Natalie was selling clothes she’d left behind in Baguio.

<sup>13</sup> This text is my lead-in for Cut-In Two.

212 haven't heard what it's about—probably food. Mr. Tomibe and  
213 Sgt. Sato are attending.<sup>14</sup>

214

215

216

**[SCENE TWO]**<sup>15</sup>

217

218 Carl Our supply of rice and cabbage is sufficient at the moment,  
219 Tomibe-san, but we don't have enough sugar, salt and fat.

220

221 Mr. Tomibe Ah, unfortunately, Chairman Carl, I do not think that the Imperial  
222 Army will increase rations. However, your committee may write a  
223 request giving reasons for increases, and I will discuss the matter  
224 on my next trip to Manila.

225

226 Carl We'd appreciate that, Tomibe -san.

227

228 Mr. Tomibe Please understand that it is a difficult request. Doctors in the  
229 Japanese Army say civilian internees are getting adequate food  
230 for working people.

231

232 Dr. Benedetti Er...um, if we may, Tomibe-san?

233

234 Mr. Tomibe Of course, doctor. Please do.

235

236 Dr. Benedetti The people in here are not fit, young workers. We have an aging  
237 population that came here with pre-existing health problems that  
238 have been exacerbated by the limited diet.

239

240 Dr. Mather And, ah, if I may, Tomibe -san... most "working people" have not  
241 been exposed to multiple bouts of dysentery.

242

243 Dr. Benedetti A lot of these people have developed digestive issues because of  
244 it.

245

246 Dr. Mather They can't handle the cabbage.

247

---

<sup>14</sup> Last paragraph is my introduction for the next scene.

<sup>15</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 4, 1944](#) diary entry.

248 Dr. Benedetti You see...the kitchen used to puree sweet potatoes for them.  
249  
250 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] Miss McKim, what is [IN ENGLISH] pureed?  
251  
252 Miss McKim [IN JAPANESE] It's mashed food, sort of like baby food.  
253  
254 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] Ah, pureed.  
255  
256 Miss McKim [IN JAPANESE] Yes.  
257  
258 Mr. Tomibe I understand, Doctor. What are you feeding patients to replace  
259 cabbage?  
260  
261 Dr. Benedetti Well, all we have left is rice but there aren't enough nutrients in  
262 rice. People are contracting sprue, berry berry, scurvy....  
263  
264 Dr. Mather And if we have another round of dysentery, which we probably  
265 will, the population with digestive issues will increase.  
266  
267 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] How do you say ledger in English, Miss McKim?  
268  
269 Miss McKim Ledger, Tomibe-san.  
270  
271 Mr. Tomibe Do you keep a ledger of your food expenses?  
272  
273 Carl Yes. As you know, before the Army started supplying food, we got  
274 an allowance from the Japanese Bureau of External Affairs.<sup>16</sup>  
275  
276 Mr. Tomibe Yes. I am well aware of that. What percentage of the kitchen's  
277 food did the bureau pay for?<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>16</sup> Ohdaria, Shinichiro, *Recollections of 1943-1945*, MacArthur Memorial Archives, Record Group 105, Box 11, Folder 7, pp. 3.

<sup>17</sup> In Natalie's [February 3, 1944](#) diary entry, she includes committee minutes, "Budgeting P125 per day (for purchase of fruit and seasonings)," which led me to think that money was still being collected from internees for food. However, Natalie's [March 4, 1944](#) diary entry states, "one third of our food intake had previously come from our Japanese allowance, and ... purchases from the store and food bags from the outside represented two thirds of the food consumed by camp." What happened to the money being collected? I noticed this inconsistency when proof reading these footnotes after the episode was published and concluded that adding the [March 4, 1944](#) information would confuse listeners more than increase their understanding of how dire the situation was and decided to leave it out.

278  
279 Carl About 60%.<sup>18</sup>  
280  
281 Mr. Tomibe Where did you get remaining 40%?  
282  
283 Carl Us. I mean, the internees. Everyone paid a monthly fee which we  
284 gave to the kitchen to buy food in bulk.  
285  
286 Mr. Tomibe Does the Camp continue to pay into this fund?  
287  
288 Carl Yes, but as you know food prices have skyrocketed—ah, I mean  
289 increased. And people are running out of money. We're down to  
290 3800 pesos a month<sup>19</sup> for 500 people, so we really depend on  
291 getting bags of food from friends and relatives in town.  
292  
293 Mr. Tomibe How much did you collect in the past?  
294  
295 Carl Oh gee, let's see. Um, when we were first interned... about 4000  
296 pesos a month. But with food scarcities and inflation, that 4000  
297 pesos is probably worth 1000 pesos now, and I'm probably being  
298 conservative.<sup>20</sup> We used to get two dozen eggs for 80 centavos,  
299 now they're 70 centavos each!<sup>21</sup>  
300  
301 Mr. Tomibe I see. Unfortunately, I am not allowed to let prisoners receive  
302 packages from the Outside. But I will ask Sargeant Sato to buy  
303 sweet potatoes for the kitchen and do all I can to help the Camp  
304 store get food.  
305  
306 Carl Thank you, Tomibe-san. But you see...ummm, people are ummm...  
307 running out of money to buy at the Camp store.  
308  
309 Mr. Tomibe I don't understand. Wasn't your chef selling roasted meat the  
310 other day?

---

<sup>18</sup> Natalie's [February 7, 1942](#) diary entry says internees paid P8 a month (approximately P133 a day) and the Committee used only P100 a day because, I assume, they got (see Natalie's [July 21, 1942](#) diary entry) P150 a day from the Japanese back then.  $150/250=.6$  and  $100/250=.4$ .

<sup>19</sup> Natalie's [February 3, 1944](#) diary entry says they got P125 a day, so  $125 \times 30 = 3750$

<sup>20</sup> Natalie's [February 7, 1942](#) diary entry says internees each paid P8 a month, so  $8 \times 500 = 4000$ .

<sup>21</sup> Natalie's [December 9, 1944](#) diary entry.

311  
312 Carl Yes, but very few of us can afford to buy meat. You see, people  
313 are selling their clothes for money to buy food. Is there any way  
314 we could establish a regular channel for loans?  
315  
316 Mr. Tomibe I will talk with General Kō about these matters when I go to  
317 Manila. Hmm, 750 pesos is going to be used to purchase white  
318 thread and fabric, but it could be used for food instead. However,  
319 cloth might not be available in the future. You may prefer the  
320 cloth.<sup>22</sup>  
321  
322 Carl May we have time to consider?  
323  
324 Mr. Tomibe Yes. I think that the true answer to your problem is growing your  
325 own food. They are doing this successfully at the Santo Tomas.<sup>23</sup>  
326  
327 Carl We've tried gardens before, and they've been moderately  
328 successful.<sup>24</sup> And as you know, we have some livestock.  
329  
330 Mr. Tomibe The Japanese Army is very in favor of farming and will purchase  
331 more chickens and pigs for you to raise.  
332  
333  
334 **[DIARY READING THREE]**  
335  
336 **[SOUNDS WRITING AND FADE OUT]**  
337  
338 Natalie March 5, 1944.<sup>25</sup> The money for Jerry's watch came in. Jerry  
339 says that "if he feels like two eggs, he's going to have 'em," which  
340 is no end of relief to me. It was no fun for June and me to eat eggs  
341 while Jerry's face grew gaunt with self-denial. Now we'll all have  
342 eggs and beef and carrots... well, as long as the bracelet, hour and  
343 minute hands, and watch case last.

---

<sup>22</sup> This was Mr. Hayakawa's idea.

<sup>23</sup> In the Episode 18 Epilogue, Curt Brooks who was interned at Santo Tomas said that they had large gardens that fed internees.

<sup>24</sup> Attempts were made at gardening, but they didn't have the tools or seeds. See Natalie's [February 28, 1943](#) diary entry.

<sup>25</sup> Natalie's [March 4, 1944](#) diary entry.



375

376 Colleen "It's wuuuunderful!"<sup>34</sup>

377

378 Marj Honestly, it has reached the point where if you want a family life

379 you're immoral, and if you don't want it, you don't love your

380 husband!<sup>35</sup>

381

382 Hazel Gee, I expected to see all married couples rush into each other's

383 arms. I would if I were married.<sup>36</sup>

384

385 Millie Are you kidding? I don't want to see any more of my husband

386 than I have to.<sup>37</sup>

387

388 Peg If my Walter was here, we'd sign up.<sup>38</sup>

389

390 Committee Man I don't want to have to wake up in the middle of the night to care

391 of a baby.<sup>39</sup>

392

393 Enid Well, I can't blame people who are against it. They're terrified of

394 having more children.<sup>40</sup>

395

396 Smitty Hey, wait a minute. I'm not married. Does that mean I have to

397 give up my space?<sup>41</sup>

398

399 Dr. Benedetti Ah, what's the big deal? Couples who don't want to live together

400 can go on as usual.<sup>42</sup>

401

402 Dr. Mather I see no need to keep married couples apart.<sup>43</sup> This could be

403 settled quite sensibly and reasonably. Curtains could be used or

404 men can dress at one time and women another. At night when

405 one couple went off to play bridge, for example, the other pair

---

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Natalie's [March 8, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>36</sup> Natalie's [March 7, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid,

<sup>38</sup> I added this sentence mine to foreshadow the episode's ending.

<sup>39</sup> Natalie's [March 7, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

406 could spend the evening in the cubicle.<sup>44</sup>  
407  
408 Ted I can't even get half through a meal without quarreling, so why  
409 ask for more of it.<sup>45</sup>  
410  
411 Dotty Well, it's real obvious who's happily married and who isn't and  
412 those that don't know it.<sup>46</sup>  
413  
414 Arthur You know, all of the friction and bitterness might not be worth it,  
415 considering the short time we have left in here.<sup>47</sup>  
416  
417  
418 [DIALOGUE ONE] <sup>48</sup>  
419  
420 Doris Can you believe it? Delia opposes the family project.  
421  
422 Isobel That's rich. She gets to see her husband in the hospital all the  
423 time.  
424  
425 Doris She'd change her tune if she had to live like the rest of us.  
426  
427  
428 [DIALOGUE TWO] <sup>49</sup>  
429  
430 Joe Boy, oh boy, oh boy. Arthur likes living dangerously  
431  
432 Larry How's that?  
433  
434 Joe He's going around saying that it's too late in the game to change  
435 things now.  
436  
437 Larry With the family plan?  
438

---

<sup>44</sup> Natalie's [March 10, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>45</sup> Natalie's [March 7, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Natalie's [March 8, 1944](#) diary entry. Jerry actually said this but I am using Arthur as a set up for Dialogue One.

<sup>48</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 8, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>49</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 5, 1944](#) diary entry.

439 Joe Yea.  
440  
441 Larry Really? He'd better keep his big bazoo shut or he'll lose his happy  
442 home livin' with his family in the women's barracks.

443  
444  
445 Jerry I'm for it but can see the other side of the argument. Men can  
446 stand living among men but not mixed. I can see where it would  
447 be like living in a Pullman car.<sup>50</sup>

448  
449 Fr. Sheridan Too much emphasis is put on the sex end of it. What about  
450 companionship and help that a father can give?<sup>51</sup>

451

452

453 **[DIARY READING FOUR]<sup>52</sup>**

454

455 [SOUNDS WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

456

457 Natalie Well, those who don't like much sex are obvious. To some,  
458 concentration has been surcease, a relief from all this and its  
459 connected worries. The chief point against families living together  
460 has been the great chance of pregnancies in time of war and  
461 scarcity. However, it is no different from Outside. The same  
462 means and ways of getting around difficulties or prohibitions will  
463 be worked out.

464

465 Some say that permission to marry and Clifford and Wilma's  
466 wedding have started all this. Ray's wife thinks her baby arriving in  
467 May is the cause. I think it's normal and healthy and should have  
468 been started long ago.

469

470 God deliver me from privileged people and smug mid-Victorians,  
471 uncongenial marriages, and some who don't even know what the  
472 score is. The family unit has been the basis for thousands of years  
473 and those who want to live in a unit should be able to do so

---

<sup>50</sup> Natalie's [March 8, 1944](#) dairy entry.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> The first three paragraphs are from Natalie's [March 8, 1944](#) dairy entry.

474 regardless of bachelor opinions or comforts.

475  
476 March 9, 1944. I came home from rice picking and heard excited  
477 shouts coming from women's barracks. Good news at last!

478  
479

**[CUT-IN THREE]<sup>53</sup>**

481  
482 Colleen Hey everyone! They just brought in a bag of letters from home!  
483 Art's taking a bunch of the letters to the hospital, and Cleo got 20!

484  
485  
486 Natalie Like a wave it swept over camp and excitement mounted with  
487 people asking, "Did you get a letter? Did you hear from home?" I  
488 hardly dared to hope, having heard no mention of one for us. I  
489 went off to wash dishes, looking at groups crouched with smiles  
490 over sheets of paper, laughter and squeals of joy in every  
491 direction. But when I returned, Jerry came up the front steps with  
492 his hands behind him and a big grin.

493  
494

**[CUT-IN FOUR]<sup>54</sup>**

495  
496  
497 Jerry Guess which hand.

498  
499 Natalie Oh, you'd better not be teasing me because I don't think I can  
500 bear it.

501  
502 Jerry Go on. Pick a hand.

503  
504 Natalie This one.

505  
506 Jerry Here you go.

507  
508

---

<sup>53</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 9, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

509 Natalie I immediately saw mother's firm big, black writing, as bold as  
510 ever. Her letter was postmarked August 1943, seven months ago.  
511 She's still going strong at 88. Her letter ended with, "Everyone  
512 sends love. God bless you all, Mother."

513  
514 What a difference that single sheet of paper makes to us. At the  
515 top of the letter is the telephone number they have had for 20  
516 years, "Columbia 0603." There is still Boston and stability for us!  
517 How difficult it will be to tell them all we have been through. We  
518 read the letter over and over on the front porch, trying to draw  
519 more news out of it. There is such restraint, yet telling much if  
520 one reads between the lines.

521  
522 Though we've said little, we all know that Jerry feels very low  
523 because of no word from his mother. Peg feels the same way  
524 about Walter.<sup>55</sup>

525  
526

527 **[SCENE FOUR]**<sup>56</sup>

528

529 Natalie Did you get a letter, Peg?

530

531 Peg No. Nothing from Manila.

532

533 Natalie I'm so sorry. It must have just been international mail.

534

535 Peg I don't know if Walter's dead or alive, Natalie.

536

537 Natalie Don't even think that way.

538

539 Peg Well, I haven't heard anything since I talked with Mr. Matsumoto  
540 last April.<sup>57</sup> Oh God, Natalie. Do you think they've shipped him to a  
541 military prison camp?

542

---

<sup>55</sup> I added this sentence about Walter to foreshadow the episode's surprise ending.

<sup>56</sup> This scene is imagined from my assumptions about Peg worrying about her husband.

<sup>57</sup> Natalie's [April 15, 1943](#) diary entry is the last time she writes about Peg getting information about Walter.

543 Natalie No! He's a civilian!<sup>58</sup> I bet he's waiting his turn to come up here.

544

545 Peg But who knows when that's going to be.

546

547

548 **[DIARY READING FIVE]**

549

550 Natalie March 10, 1944. The *Camp News* says only 35 couples in the  
551 entire Camp, including us, signed up for the Family Unit Plan!<sup>59</sup>  
552 After reviling the Nipponese for two years for not allowing  
553 families to live together, we turn it down! No one wants to move  
554 an inch of cubicle space— oh no, not for a little thing like  
555 companionship and family life! They don't want to legalize sex and  
556 married life. They prefer it furtive and hidden in the bushes or  
557 back rooms. Jerry and I commiserated over coffee.

558

559

560 **[SCENE FIVE]**<sup>60</sup>

561

562 Jerry I have a half a cup of coffee left over from this morning, want to  
563 split it, Natalie?

564

565 Natalie I'd prefer something a little stronger, Jerry. Did you know that we  
566 are the oldest couple who signed up for Family Units?

567

568 Jerry Before all of this happened that would have surprised me, but not  
569 now.

570

571 Natalie What is *wrong* with these people!

572

573 Jerry Internment-itus. Living in an internment camp has rotted their  
574 brains, and I've got proof. Did you know that we are unpatriotic?

575

576 Natalie Huh?

577

---

<sup>58</sup> Ibid. Natalie never mentions Walter was in the military. It sounded like he worked in agricultural management. Natalie's [April 15, 1943](#) diary entry.

<sup>59</sup> Natalie's [March 9, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>60</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 10, 1944](#) diary entry.

578 Jerry Some people are going around saying that if you're in favor of  
579 family plan, you're unpatriotic. Can you beat that?  
580  
581 Natalie How did they come to that conclusion, pray tell?  
582  
583 Jerry US Soldiers aren't with their families so we shouldn't be either.  
584  
585 Natalie Oh dear Lord. Well, then by that logic everyone at home is  
586 unpatriotic because all they wrote about was marriages and  
587 babies, babies, babies.<sup>61</sup>  
588  
589 Jerry Maybe the Japanese are right when they say we've gone soft and  
590 are degenerate.  
591  
592 Natalie This is embarrassing.  
593  
594 Jerry It's pathetic.  
595  
596 Natalie And Mr. Tomibe seems so human about married life.<sup>62</sup>  
597  
598 Jerry Yea. Evidently, more than us.  
599  
600 Natalie He must think we're crazy.  
601  
602 Jerry I would if I were him. Some guy in the barracks opined last night  
603 that family living will be "too inconvenient" for him. It's a hell of a  
604 lot more inconvenient for families that have to run back and forth  
605 between the men's and women's barracks.  
606  
607 Natalie I know. The way Bedie's split between us, we may as well be  
608 divorced. And I don't care what you say, as far as discipline goes,  
609 he's playing one of us off the other to be with those friends of his  
610 I'm not too wild about.<sup>63</sup>  
611

---

<sup>61</sup> Natalie's [March 11, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>62</sup> Natalie's [March 8, 1944](#) dairy entry.

<sup>63</sup> My assumption about Bedie playing one parents off the other. Natalie wrote in her [February 3, 1944](#), diary entry about "Bedie and his pals" defying her by shaving their heads and about Bedie's "smart-aleck stage."

612 Jerry Ah, he's thirteen, you gotta give him some freedom.<sup>64</sup> He is  
613 jealous of June living with you.

614  
615 Natalie Really? Well, he hates to miss anything and is always trying to be  
616 two places at once. He wanted to stay longer with me last night,  
617 but I had to send him back to the men's barracks for roll call.

618  
619 Jerry Hell of a way to raise kids. You know, I'm getting mighty tired of  
620 people looking down their noses at us like we're immoral or  
621 oversexed for wanting to be together.

622  
623 Natalie I am proud that we want to live together with our children.

624  
625

626 **[DIARY READING SIX]**

627

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

629

630 Natalie March 12, 1944. Yesterday a woman who has been against family  
631 living asked me if I've ever taken a walk up in the hills. I said that I  
632 have and find it worthwhile because it gives me perspective.

633

634 Whenever I go up the hill, I am impressed each time with the  
635 magnificent imperturbability of the mountains, how little effect  
636 any national invasion has had upon them whether it was Spanish,  
637 American or Nipponese. Only people are troubled, not the  
638 mountains at all.<sup>65</sup>

639

640 When I told her that Scott and Isobel got a permit to go up on the  
641 hill for the day and came back with eyes shining, cleared minds,  
642 tired and sunburnt but radiant,<sup>66</sup> she said,

643

644

645 **[CUT-IN FIVE]**

646

---

<sup>64</sup> This is my assumption based on Natalie's [May 4, 1942](#) diary entry about "hazing" over at the men's barracks and the men's *laissez-faire* attitude about it.

<sup>65</sup> This paragraph is from Natalie's [March 2, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>66</sup> This paragraph is from Natalie's [January 7, 1944](#) diary entry.



682  
683 Arthur I don't think the effort's going to be worth it. Even if the soil was  
684 good, the plot's not big enough to feed the Camp.  
685  
686 Jerry So what are you gonna do? Mr. Tomibe seems pretty gung ho  
687 about a Camp garden.  
688  
689 Arthur Well, I think we owe it to 'em to put in an effort and give it a try.  
690  
691 Herb It's gonna be a back buster without farm tools.  
692  
693 Arthur Then the Committee'll put in a request for them.  
694  
695 Carl Mr. Tomibe's a reasonable guy, but his boss isn't gonna like  
696 hearing that.  
697  
698 Arthur No, he's not.

700  
701 **[DIARY READING SEVEN]**

702  
703 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

704  
705 Natalie March 13, 1944. Dotty<sup>70</sup> came hurrying into the dorm looking for  
706 Peg. The Japanese had just dropped off Peg's husband, Walter, at  
707 the guard house. There was no notice. Nothing from Manila, but  
708 who cares! Finally, finally, after being separated since the  
709 beginning of the War my dear friend has her husband back.

710  
711  
712 **[SCENE SEVEN]<sup>71</sup>**

713  
714 Dotty Millie, where's Peg? Have y'all seen her?  
715  
716 Millie I think she's at the women's stove, Dotty.

---

<sup>70</sup> Natalie wrote that Leora called for Peg, but for simplicity I used a known character, Dotty. This paragraph is mostly my writing. Natalie description of the even was terse, so I filled in some of the missing pieces.

<sup>71</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 13, 1944](#) diary entry.

717  
718 Natalie I just came from there. I think she took her kids outside to play.  
719  
720 Peg What's this? No, I didn't. Is someone looking for me?  
721  
722 Dotty Peg, it's your husband. He just came into Camp!!  
723  
724 Millie Oh Peg!  
725  
726 Peg You're kidding?  
727  
728 Dotty No! They just dropped him off.  
729  
730 Peg I can't believe it!  
731  
732 Natalie He's finally here, Peg!!  
733  
734 Millie How wonderful!  
735  
736 Little Boy Where's Daddy, Mommy?  
737  
738 Peg Where is he, Dotty?  
739  
740 Dotty By the guard house last time I saw him.  
741  
742 Peg Common kiddos, let's go see your Daddy!  
743  
744 [SOUNDS OF RUNNING DOWNSTAIRS AND OUTDOOR SOUNDS]  
745  
746 Peg Walter! Walter!!!  
747  
748 Walter Peg!!!  
749  
750 [SOUNDS OF RUNNING, STOP AND EMBRACE]  
751  
752 Walter Peg! Man, oh man do you look good.  
753  
754 Peg Oh Walter!

755  
756 Little Boy and Girl Daddy! Daddy!  
757  
758 Walter Say, who are these kids, Peg?  
759  
760 Peg They've grown haven't they?  
761  
762 Walter Come here you two.  
763  
764 Little Boy and Girl I love you, Daddy!  
765  
766 Walter Hey, where's Curt?  
767  
768 Peg Oh, he must have hid behind the pig pens. He said he was going to  
769 do that when you came back.  
770  
771 Walter Still our shy guy....  
772  
773 Peg He's just overwhelmed, honey.  
774  
775 Walter Tell you what. I'm gonna go look for him.  
776  
777 Little Boy Can we go too, Daddy?  
778  
779 Little Girl Me too! Me too!!  
780  
781 Walter No. No, I think I'd better go get him by myself.  
782  
783 Little Boy [DISAPPOINTED] Oh.  
784  
785 Little Girl Me too! Me too! Me too!  
786  
787 Walter Ah, it'll just take a sec. Come on, give me a big 'ol hug and a  
788 smooch.  
789  
790 [SOUND OF CHILDREN GIGGLING]  
791

792 Walter  
793

Hey, that means you too Mom. Come here! [PLANTS A WWII KISS  
ON HIS WIFE]



794  
795  
796 Peg

[GIGGLES] Walter!

797  
798 Walter  
799  
800

Oh man, I've missed that. Be back in two shakes<sup>72</sup> with Curt. Stay  
there. [SHOUTS BACK AT HIS FAMILY AS HE RUNS TO FIND HIS  
SON] We got all the time in the world now!

801  
802  
803

**[DIARY READING EIGHT]**

804  
805  
806

[SOUNDS OF WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

807 Natalie  
808  
809  
810  
811  
812  
813  
814

It was wonderful to see them all united after nearly two and a half  
years, wife with husband, children with father, irrepressibly  
smiling from ear to ear, the whole face radiant. The entire camp  
was made happy by their happiness, even couples who don't want  
to live together. Jerry says he hopes that it'll cure their  
internment-itus and knock some sense into them.<sup>73</sup>

[COLD CLOSE]

---

<sup>72</sup> [Two Shakes of a Lamb's Tail – Origin and Meaning](#)

<sup>73</sup> The last two sentences and “even couples who don't want to live together” are my close and tie-in to the episode's theme.