

1 Season Four, Part One: *Forbidden Diary*  
2 Episode Twenty-Six: *Going Underground*

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4  
5 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

6		
7	Announcer	Steve Mountjoy
8	Natalie Crouter	Sevil Delin
9	Jerry Crouter	Mark Oliver
10	Ted	Troy W. Hudson
11	Fr. Sheridan	Kaspar Michaels
12	Bedie	Luka Aslan Nas
13	Betty	Julie M. Dean
14	Mr. Tomibe	Masaya Okubo
15	Miss McKim	Christine Atsuko Holloway
16	Marj	Bonnie Marie Williams
17	Bill	Dustin Parkhurst
18	Carl	Scott Walton
19	June	Claire Oliver
20	Jim	Maxwell Glick

21  
22  
23 [Cold Open]

24  
25 Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*....

26  
27 [SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

28  
29 Announcer And now, Episode Twenty-Six.

30  
31  
32 [DIARY READING ONE]<sup>1</sup>

33  
34 [SOUNDS OF BOOK OPENING, PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]

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<sup>1</sup> Unless footnoted, this diary entry is my transition from Episode 25 to Episode 26. To keep these two episodes organized by theme and in a meaningful way, I had to hop around with the diary dates. All occurrences are noted.

36 Natalie April 16, 1944. With Jim, Bill and Gene out of prison, the Camp's  
37 attention has returned to the Family Unit Plan. We are still  
38 bickering about whether to let families live together, but one  
39 decision has been made. Each barrack will decide separately  
40 whether they want families living together,<sup>2</sup> which leaves little  
41 hope for Jerry and me because both of our barracks are against it.

42  
43 The vote takes place in a few days, so Committee members have  
44 posted charts proposing the size and placement of family cubicles  
45 in each barrack. One was posted in our ironing room with two  
46 people on hand to explain and accept suggestions. I can't believe  
47 what went on.<sup>3</sup>

48  
49

50 **[SCENE ONE]**<sup>4</sup>

51  
52 Natalie You weren't there in the ironing room, Jerry. I was shocked, just ...  
53 shocked at Walter's reaction to the floorplans.

54  
55 Jerry What'd he do?

56  
57 Natalie He said the Family Unit Plan would be "harmful" to the camp and  
58 against all our best interests.

59  
60 Jerry Really? I'm surprised.

61  
62 Natalie Me too, and then he said if people wanted to "Begin the  
63 Beguine,"<sup>5</sup> they should "take to the bushes."

64  
65 Jerry He said that in front of women?

66  
67 Natalie Yes. And sneered when he said it.

68

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<sup>2</sup> Natalie doesn't explain that each barrack voted to go co-ed and that her barracks and Jerry's voted against it until her [May 5, 1944](#) diary entry. See also [1944 footnote 21](#). For clarity, I'm placing this information earlier as it explains why the Crouters and others built cubicles underneath the barracks.

<sup>3</sup> Natalie's [April 8, 1944](#) diary entry. The last sentence is my introduction to Scene One.

<sup>4</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [April 8, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>5</sup> Cole Porter song written in 1935. See [Begin the Beguine - Wikipedia](#).

69 Jerry Geez, I'd never think Walter'd say something like that...at least  
70 not around women.  
71

72 Natalie Well, men were there too. But then he really showed his cards  
73 when he ended his tirade by saying, "if one member of my family  
74 has to move one inch, there will be hell to pay."  
75

76 Jerry Ah ha! Well, there it is.  
77

78 Natalie There it is indeed: the real reason for all of the righteous  
79 indignation around here.  
80

81 Jerry People don't want to lose any of their floorspace.  
82

83 Natalie Not one precious inch! Harry took one look at the cubical chart  
84 and said he's going to start a petition against it.  
85

86 Jerry Oh brother.  
87

88 Natalie And I'm so disappointed in John. He's one of the most intellectual  
89 men in the camp.  
90

91 Jerry What'd he do?  
92

93 Natalie He's decided against Family Units because he'd have to move and  
94 doesn't want to disrupt his Greek studies.  
95

96 Jerry John too, huh?  
97

98 Natalie Yes. Even General Kō says we can cohabituate any way we please  
99 as long as we use the present buildings and don't construct new  
100 ones.<sup>6</sup>  
101

102 Jerry Well, if our both barracks vote against it....  
103

104 Natalie Well, then we'll just have to break the rules and visit whenever  
105 we like. The Japanese don't care.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Natalie's [March 31, 1944](#) diary entry.

106  
107 Jerry The vote's in a few days. No use crying before you're hurt. And  
108 anyway, I think there may be another way to skin this cat.

109  
110 Natalie How?

111  
112 Jerry I'll let you know when I'm sure.

113  
114

## 115 DIARY READING TWO

116  
117  
118

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

119 Natalie April 18, 1944.<sup>8</sup> I knew it! Both my barracks and Jerry's voted  
120 against Family Units or cubicles as they are now being called.<sup>9</sup>

121  
122 Mrs. Sproul came in to talk to me about my space and June's. Our  
123 combined allotment is 70 square feet. I told her that I've never  
124 taken my full share of floorspace because I didn't think it  
125 mattered, but now it does. I said that I'm going to move my bed  
126 around, occupy my full space and put up a sheet for privacy so I  
127 wouldn't have to look at neighbors<sup>10</sup> anymore.

128  
129 While our confab was going on, two women<sup>11</sup> in the room were  
130 staring avidly. It is quite evident they believe the rumor that Jerry  
131 is going "to move in."

132  
133 April 19, 1944.<sup>12</sup> With the vote over, you'd think that the Family  
134 Unit debate would be settled, but it's not. The barracks that voted  
135 for family cubicles are *still* facing opposition.

136

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid. Also, Natalie's [April 9, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>8</sup> This last two paragraphs are from Natalie's [April 15, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>9</sup> Natalie only implied that this happened, and I think it is important for listeners to know why the Crouters built under the barracks, so I made a direct statement.

<sup>10</sup> Natalie mentioned wrote "Garsons." For simplicity, I changed it to "neighbors."

<sup>11</sup> Natalie said "two families," which is confusing because I assume that Family Cubicles were not allowed in her dorm. She must have meant women and their children or maybe husbands were visiting? For clarity, I replaced it with women.

<sup>12</sup> Natalie's [April 16, 1944](#) diary entry, including Cut-Ins One and Two.

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**[CUT-IN ONE]**

Ted

Petition Against Cubicle Plans: "We, the undersigned members of Camp Holmes, wish to present to the General Committee our protest against Family Units. Naturally we have no objection to couples living together under normal conditions. However, times are not normal. The scheme will result inevitably in pregnancies, drawing on our meager stores for the care of expectant mothers.

In addition, Family Units will subject the Camp to an intimacy that is offensive to standards of propriety and even of decency. Moreover, they threaten further bitterness, quarrelling, and untold possibilities of embarrassment.

Natalie

Dr. Skerl countered the petition point by point and Fr. Sheridan wrote an open letter to the Camp.

**[CUT-IN TWO]**

Fr. Sheridan

To Camp Holmes Internees: Even strong men had lumps in their throats witnessing the reunion of Bill Moule with his family when he returned from being questioned by the Military Police about Wick's and Ritchie's escape. As Bill and his wife cried and laughed in anguish and joy, I had a vision of how deeply they must still be in love.

Celibate priest that I am, I vowed through sobs that I'll pay any price to bring such families together, not only for their companionship but especially for the mutual protection they can afford in the days as yet unborn when we shall perhaps be penniless, hungry, and obsessed with fears of what may befall the Islands, this camp, and ourselves.

173 Natalie April 20, 1944.<sup>13</sup> At breakfast there were three cartoons on the  
174 Bulletin board. One made fun of Fr. Sheridan's letter and the  
175 other two were lewd. The room was full of sniggers and giggles.  
176 Harry was laughing very superior, but it's all lies and no joke to me  
177 anymore.

178  
179 Later, when I saw one of the privileged fathers in his little cottage  
180 helping with the lunch and dishes, something exploded in me. I  
181 marched to the dining hall bulletin board and pinned up my sign  
182 next to the cartoons that screamed, "Lost—the Holy State of  
183 Matrimony, for better, for worse. Funder, please return to Fr.  
184 Sheridan.<sup>14</sup>!"

185  
186 A group of Camp leaders huddle around the Board and took  
187 everything down promptly, which suited me fine.

188  
189 Bedie hears and sees these things and wants to know what it is all  
190 about, especially the smutty stuff. We walked up and down the  
191 parade ground talking out the whole problem. When Bedie asked  
192 about my tirades today, I didn't know where to begin.

193  
194  
195 **[SCENE TWO]**<sup>15</sup>

196  
197 Bedie You almost cried two times, Mother!

198  
199 Natalie Well, Bedie. I'm angry, very angry, and tired of people snickering  
200 over things that aren't funny.

201  
202 Bedie I don't get what's going on. Why are the adults so mad about  
203 families living together?

204  
205 Natalie Well, some of them are worried about oh, I don't know...  
206 impropriety.

207

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<sup>13</sup> This diary entry is all from Natalie's [April 18, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>14</sup> Natalie wrote "return to the Episcopalians," but Fr. Sheridan wrote the letter, so I used his name for clarity. Note that he was a Catholic, Maryknoll priest. See *Forbidden Diary*, pp. [xxii](#).

<sup>15</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [April 18, 1944](#) diary entry.

208 Bedie Huh?  
209  
210 Natalie They are worried about people mating, Bedie. Okay? How do I put  
211 this? People think differently about it. Some are made so that  
212 they needed it more often than others and some less.  
213  
214 Bedie It's like Mike and me are girl crazy but Henry isn't.  
215  
216 Natalie Kind of. I hope you aren't teasing Henry about that, Bedie.  
217  
218 Bedie No.  
219  
220 Natalie You'd better not be. Look, the people I'm angry... disagree with,  
221 are the ones who think the only reason for marriage is mating.  
222 And they're just wrong, Bedie. Don't let anyone tell you it's the  
223 only reason people want to live together. Companionship and  
224 being with someone you love and wanting to tell the world about  
225 it are what count most.  
226  
227 Bedie I don't think it's fair that we can't live together just because some  
228 people don't like mating.  
229  
230 Natalie No. It's not fair. And it's not just that; they can't face the fact that  
231 millions of families live in one room, close to others. And while it  
232 isn't ideal, it is possible.  
233  
234 Bedie I really want all of us to live together.  
235  
236 Natalie Me too, sweetie.  
237  
238 Bedie And you can be happy living in a little bit of space, can't you?  
239  
240 Natalie You absolutely can.  
241  
242  
243 **[DIARY READING THREE]**  
244

245 [SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

246

247 Natalie We talked clear and straight. I told Bedie he would probably fall in  
248 love a number of times before he found the girl he wanted to  
249 marry but hoped he would try to keep himself clean and decent  
250 for her, not getting common or cheap trying to find out what it  
251 was all about. We had to cut the conversation short when the  
252 school bell rang, but we grew closer and Bedie heard some facts  
253 that will stick by him or come back strongly someday.

254

255 April 22, 1944.<sup>16</sup> Ingenuity has saved us again! Families who can't  
256 live together are going underground, literally. People are building  
257 cubicles underneath the barracks.

258

259 The Thompsons have theirs nearly built, so <sup>17</sup> Betty gave me a  
260 tour. As we crept along with bent backs, I hit my head on a rafter  
261 and she exclaimed...

262

263

264 [SCENE THREE]<sup>18</sup>

265

266 Betty Look out, Natalie. This is the Underworld! [FOOTSTEPS] Ah, here  
267 we are! What do you think?

268

269 Natalie I love it!

270

271 Betty It took Reggie three days to build our little room. The walls are all  
272 discarded wood and tin. I swapped a sweater for the canvas to  
273 make coverings for the three windows. Pretty good trade, don't  
274 you think?

275

276 Natalie I'll say. Has Mr. Tomibe approved this?

277

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<sup>16</sup> These two paragraphs are my transition to the topic of underground cubicles using on Natalie's [April 18, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>17</sup> Natalie said the woman's name was Marie but there are too many Maries, so for simplicity I used to Betty.

<sup>18</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [April 18, 1944](#) diary entry

278 Betty He knows about them and hasn't complained. After all, he's the  
279 one who came up with the Family Unit Plan, isn't he?

280

281

282

**[DIARY READING FOUR]**

283

284

[SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

285

286 Natalie April 23, 1944.<sup>19</sup> A complaint was lodged about the underground  
287 cubicles, so Mr. Tomibe inspected them with another officer. They  
288 asked how many cubicles in all and were told ten. To that, Mr.  
289 Tomibe nodded and said,

290

291

292

**[CUT-IN THREE]**

293

294 Mr. Tomibe Ah, very good, very good.<sup>20</sup>

295

296

297 Natalie I think the Japanese got a big kick out of the ingenuity displayed.  
298 No two cubicles are alike. The Mansells' is huge, already has a  
299 window with two panes of glass. They plan to have a door,  
300 curtains, couch, chair, all on a grand scale. The Carter's<sup>21</sup> will be  
301 like a ship's saloon, with curtains at porthole windows. All are  
302 being made from scrap, but they spell quiet, privacy and  
303 happiness.<sup>22</sup>

304

305 April 25, 1944. After morning chores, I dragged myself in for a  
306 blood count. A few hours later the doctor called me back say that  
307 my red and white cell count has dropped by a third. He prescribed  
308 iron pills and ten more ascorbic shots. I may get liver shots if the  
309 Medical Committee approves. They have only 15 left.

310

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<sup>19</sup> All from Natalie's [April 19, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>20</sup> Note that Natalie wrote multiple times that Tomibe said "Sa," but none of my Japanese actors had heard of this expression, so I replaced it with "Ah."

<sup>21</sup> Natalie wrote "Peg and Phil," so there probably was another Peg but I didn't want to confuse listeners and used a fictitious last name.

<sup>22</sup> This paragraph is taken from Natalie's [May 17, 1944](#) and [April 19, 1944](#) diary entries.

311 April 27, 1944. Two years ago today, 800 of us, including Chinese,  
312 moved to Camp Holmes. Happy anniversary to us.

313  
314 Another internee was questioned about Wick and Ritchie's  
315 escape. After returning from jail, looking tired and wan, he was  
316 forbidden to talk about it under serious penalty and had to sign a  
317 paper to this effect. The entire camp must sign another oath not  
318 to escape or conspire against Japan.<sup>23</sup> And, there is talk about  
319 electrifying the outer fence to 300 volts.

320  
321 Despite this, Mr. Tomibe continues find ways to help and reach  
322 out to us. He has even visited Japanese class, talking in Japanese,  
323 with his eyes shut tight in thought sometimes, his hands and arms  
324 in use, his thick black hair tossed now and then. Miss McKim  
325 translates beautifully, subtle in catching the shades and nuances  
326 of both languages. The two together are fascinating.

327  
328

329 **[SCENE FOUR]**<sup>24</sup>

330

331 Miss McKim Class! Class, we are honored to have Tomibe-san with us today.  
332 He is going to tell us the story of *The Forty-Seven Ronin* in  
333 Japanese. I will translate *but* encourage you to try to understand  
334 Japanese. [IN JAPANESE] I think we are ready Tomibe-san.  
335 [ENGLISH] Tomibe-san, we are all so grateful that you have taken  
336 time to be here with us.

337

338 Mr. Tomibe [JAPANESE] It is my honor to be here, Miss McKim. By studying  
339 Japanese, it is my hope that your class can perhaps gain a little  
340 insight into Japanese spirit and character.

341

342 Miss McKim [ENGLISH] Tomibe-san says he is honored to be here. He hopes  
343 that through your study of Japanese you will gain a little insight  
344 into Japanese spirit and character.

345

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<sup>23</sup> This occurred on [April 26, 1944](#). Note that the internees were asked to sign a loyalty oath earlier. See Natalie's [February 23, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>24</sup> Natalie wrote that Tomibe told "the story of the woman of the Samuri" which I could not source, so I switched to "The Forty-Seven Ronin" that Tomibe told to the class on [May 25, 1945](#).

346 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] This story is called *The Forty-Seven Ronins*.<sup>25</sup>  
347  
348 Miss McKim [IN ENGLISH] This story is called *The Forty-Seven Ronins*.  
349  
350 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] I ask you all to step back in time and fancy  
351 yourselves on the shores of the Bay of Yedo—a fair, smiling  
352 landscape of gentle slopes, dotted with temples and fringed with  
353 pines that lead down to the sea studded with fishing craft.  
354  
355 Miss McKim [IN ENGLISH] Tomibe-san asks you all to step back in time and  
356 fancy yourselves on the shores of the Bay of Yedo—a fair, smiling  
357 landscape of gentle slopes, dotted with temples and fringed with  
358 pines that lead down to the sea studded with fishing craft.  
359  
360 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] Far away to the west looms the goblin-haunted  
361 heights of Oyama and beyond that Fuji-Yama, the Peerless  
362 Volcanic Mountain, solitary and grand. For centuries years the  
363 huge mountain has been at peace.  
364  
365 Miss McKim [IN ENGLISH] Far away to the west looms the goblin-haunted  
366 heights of Oyama and beyond that Fuji-Yama, the Peerless  
367 Volcanic Mountain, solitary and grand. For centuries the huge  
368 mountain has been at peace.  
369  
370 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] But frequent earthquakes betray the fires within  
371 and no one can say when Fuji-Yama will erupt again.  
372  
373 Miss McKim [IN ENGLISH] But frequent earthquakes betray the fires within and  
374 no one can say when Fuji-Yama will erupt again.  
375  
376 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] In the midst of Yedo, hidden amongst a nest of  
377 venerable trees is the Sengakiju Temple renowned far and wide  
378 for its cemetery which contains the graves of the Forty-Seven  
379 Ronin.  
380

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<sup>25</sup> Mitford, A. B., *Tales of Old Japan*, pp. 2-4. This book was first published in 1871. The title is public domain. See [Tales of Old Japan - Wikipedia](#).

381 Miss McKim [IN ENGLISH] In the midst of Yedo, hidden amongst a nest of  
382 venerable trees is the Sengakiju Temple renowned far and wide  
383 for its cemetery which contains the graves of the Forty-Seven  
384 Ronin whose tales of heroic deeds I am about to describe.

385  
386 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] One the left side of the main court of Sengakiju  
387 Temple is a chapel, in which the.... [FADE]

388

389

390 [DIARY READING FIVE]

391

392 [SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]

393

394 Natalie April 28, 1944. I woke at 1 a.m. with poor respiration and my sight  
395 cloudy. For a couple of weeks, I have been having lapses of  
396 memory. After breakfast I went to Peg and told her I was resigning  
397 all my jobs for a week or month's rest to conserve what strength I  
398 have for my family who may have to look after me. Unfortunately,  
399 I am not the only one who is ill and needs help. There are many  
400 others.

401

402 May 1, 1944. Practice for the Maypole dancing, and monotonous  
403 piano tunes tinkling for days, ended after today's program. One of  
404 the men who had been tortured by the Kempeitai watched, his  
405 head still with that beaten, battered look, swollen here, sunken  
406 there, and eyes tragically not normal.

407

408 Families continue to move into their new cubicles in the barracks.  
409 Moving and hammering surges while people against the Family  
410 Unit Plan refuse to move an inch. They remain obturate islands,  
411 but Mr. Tomibe says to go by them.<sup>26</sup>

412

413 For days the Camp has looked like an ant hill with men carrying  
414 trunks, bags, beds, shelves, and all kinds of dunnage. It's inspiring  
415 to watch husbands and wives working together. The creative  
416 effort put into constructing beds, economizing on space, and  
417 storing possessions boosts morale for some and curdles it for

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<sup>26</sup> This paragraph from Natalie's [April 29, 1944](#) diary entry.

418 others.<sup>27</sup>

419  
420 Jerry and I took a tour of a barrack that voted in favor of families  
421 living together. After what happened to Bill Moule, we were  
422 surprised that he and Marj had the wherewithal to fix up a space  
423 but I think it did them some good.<sup>28</sup>

424

425

426 **[SCENE FIVE]**<sup>29</sup>

427

428 [LOW SOUND OF MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN DOORS]

429

430 Natalie See, Jerry. Everyone's using sheets for partitions like us.

431

432 Jerry This barracks looks like a cross between the inside of a trailer and  
433 a pullman car.

434

435 Marj Hi Jerry and Natalie, wanna come see our place?

436

437 Natalie We'd love to, Marj.

438

439 Marj Follow me. We're over in the corner. Bill! We've got visitors.

440

441 Bill Hi Jerry, Natalie. Come on in.

442

443 Jerry Thanks.

444

445 Bill Oh, hey lemme crank up the bed. [CRANKING SOUND]

446

447 Jerry How'd you build that pull-up bed so quickly?

448

449 Bill A bunch of guys helped.

450

451 Marj Everyone's been so great after Bill came back.

452

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<sup>27</sup> The last two sentences are from Natalie's [April 30, 1944](#) diary entries.

<sup>28</sup> Natalie's [May 1, 1944](#) diary entry refers to the Crouters visiting No. 2 barracks. Them visiting the Moules is from my imagining.

<sup>29</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [May 1, 1944](#) and [May 5, 1944](#) diary entries.

453 Bill Here we go. Grab a seat.  
454  
455 Jerry Man, your place looks swell!  
456  
457 Natalie It really does! You two've done a wonderful job!  
458  
459 Bill Thanks. The trick is everything has to do double duty. That desk  
460 folds out into a table and when the stools aren't being used, we  
461 stack 'em up and use 'em for end tables.  
462  
463 Marj Have you seen the Finley's<sup>30</sup> cubicle?  
464  
465 Natalie No.  
466  
467 Marj They have the trickiest little place. It's even got a kitchenette  
468 curtained with red-checked napkins. It's really cute.  
469  
470 Jerry Where's everyone getting the building materials?  
471  
472 Bill From the Presbyterian missionaries. I don't know how they  
473 managed to keep their property from the Japanese, but they're  
474 tearing down some vacation cottages their church owns in Baguio  
475 and donating the salvage to the Camp. I guess Mr. Tomibe's okay  
476 with that.<sup>31</sup>  
477  
478 Jerry I'll have to keep that in mind.  
479  
480 Natalie I was expecting it to be a lot noisier in here.  
481  
482 Marj I was worried about that too. But it's actually quieter now. Little  
483 kids aren't roaring up and down the center aisle screaming and  
484 fighting.  
485  
486 Natalie I wonder why that is.  
487  
488 Marj Kids pay more attention to a deep male voice.

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<sup>30</sup> Changed Fildeys to Finleys.

<sup>31</sup> See [1944, footnote 22](#).

489  
490 Jerry They know they can't get away with as much with their fathers  
491 around.  
492  
493 Natalie Unless their children happen to be teenage daughters.  
494  
495 Bill And, you don't have to hunt down each other all over camp.  
496  
497 Marj No. Thank God. The kids are home before dinner because Mom  
498 and Dad say so. It's so much better.  
499  
500 Bill They aren't keyed up from tearing around Camp from dawn to  
501 dark.  
502  
503 Marj I swear, they wind each other up.  
504  
505 Bill I can deal with my own ankle biters<sup>32</sup> but other people's....  
506  
507 Marj A lot of the stress is gone.  
508  
509 Natalie I'm so glad for you guys, especially after all you two've been  
510 through.  
511  
512 Marj But we feel bad for you and Jerry....  
513  
514 Bill Are you going to build a cubicle under one of the barracks?  
515  
516 Jerry Yep. We've got a space under No. 2 Barracks. Bedie's helping me  
517 with the digging.  
518  
519 Natalie His slogan is "Cubicle or Bust."  
520  
521 Jerry It's gonna be a snug fit down there.  
522  
523 Natalie I don't care. Anything to get away from all the pettiness. Everyone  
524 seems so happy over here.  
525

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<sup>32</sup> Expression dates back to 1850. See [Ankle-biter - Meaning & Origin Of The Phrase.](#)

526 Marj We really are. I'm hoping that the kid's nightmares will go away  
527 now that their Daddy's nearby.<sup>33</sup>

528  
529  
530

531 **[DIARY READING SIX]**

532  
533  
534

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

535 Natalie May 2, 1944. Another rumor says that Roosevelt has given Japan  
536 45 days for women and children to evacuate seven of their cities.  
537 In response, the Japanese have abandoned all defensive efforts<sup>34</sup>  
538 in eight cities, including Tokyo. This news is old, so we figure that  
539 Japan has two days.<sup>35</sup>

540

541 Perhaps this is one of the reasons for jitters, nerves and tightening  
542 up as we wait like the blind and the deaf for America to reach the  
543 Philippines. Our underground cubicle will be an excellent shelter  
544 in which to lie low in case bullets or shrapnel fly during retreat or  
545 battle.<sup>36</sup>

546

547 May 3, 1944. Jo loaned Jerry 100 pesos! We are so desperate for  
548 food and medical supplies that it seemed like the hand of the  
549 Lord!<sup>37</sup> Lately I've been wondering if my shoes might get perhaps...  
550 maybe 30 pesos on the Outside, so Jerry and I approached Carl  
551 who is sometimes allowed to go into Baguio. I was surprised when  
552 Carl said they would fetch 170 pesos. When he told us that  
553 jewelry goes for better, Jerry answered...

554

555

556

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<sup>33</sup> Moule, William R., *God's Arms Around Us*. The Moule family spent over a year running from Japanese soldiers in the mountains of Luzon. When they reached Camp Holmes, their mother was hospitalized with malaria. Their father had polio and was interrogated by the Kempeitai. It's not a stretch to assume that the kids would have been traumatized.

<sup>34</sup> Natalie used the term "open cities" which is a term probably not known by most listeners, so for clarity I exchanged it with "abandoned all defensive efforts."

<sup>35</sup> According to 1944, footnotes [19](#) and [27](#) this was unlikely.

<sup>36</sup> Last sentence is from Natalie's [May 15, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>37</sup> First two sentences from Natalie's [May 5, 1944](#) diary entry.

557 **[SCENE SIX]**<sup>38</sup>

558

559 Jerry Natalie's got a diamond bracelet, but it'd sell for more cash than  
560 we'd want.

561

562 Carl If you're willing to part with it and the Japanese consent, you  
563 could give a chunk of it to one of the missionary groups. I know  
564 they'd guarantee repayment.

565

566 Natalie Gee, I only have three big pieces of jewelry left.

567

568 Jerry It makes a lot of sense, Natalie. And we need food and medicine.

569

570 Carl Why don't you think it over.

571

572 Natalie No Carl. I'm going to do it. One more "thing" isn't going to matter.  
573 And it'll go to people who really need it.

574

575 Carl You sure, Natalie?

576

577 Natalie Yes. And tell them there's no strings attached. Do you want it  
578 now?

579

580

581 **[DIARY READING SEVEN]**

582

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

584

585 Natalie Jerry cleaned the diamond bracelet and I held it and looked at it in  
586 the sun. Then one wrench and it was gone—the sign and symbol  
587 of our gains from the Gold Boom, a gift from Jerry, one more item  
588 to put on my list of things bought for one purpose and used for  
589 quite another.

590

591 May 6, 1944. After breakfast I went over to Peg's to lie down.  
592 Elizabeth was having her bed swung to the ceiling, and my head  
593 couldn't take the hammering.

---

<sup>38</sup> Based on and imagined from [May 3, 1944](#) diary entry.

594  
595 At Peg's I began to get cold hands and feet, poor circulation all  
596 over. Peg made me an eggnog, and June managed to find two hot  
597 water bags. I drank gallons of water and didn't feel like fainting  
598 but my vitality was so low that I had to fight for control, holding  
599 on by a thread with my balance slipping. As I began to come back,  
600 June, looking me over me like a doctor said,

601  
602  
603 **[CUT-IN FOUR]**

604  
605 June You look a lot better, Mother.

606  
607 Natalie Why? How did I look before?

608  
609 June Your face was pinched and drawn. Your eyes looked bad, and your  
610 mouth pulled and strained.

611  
612  
613 Natalie My Junie answered like an adult, no longer a little girl. Jerry  
614 appeared with coffee and an anxious face, then called the doctor  
615 who examined me and said that I need meat and a lot else. I must  
616 go slow. Somehow, Jerry managed to buy pot roast with gravy for  
617 dinner, flavors we haven't tasted in months that made me want to  
618 weep.

619  
620 After my episode, I literally cut myself out of my girdle which is so  
621 completely patched that it has no more elasticity and is molded  
622 on to hold up a torn and patched pair of stockings. They're my last  
623 ones, except for one fresh pair that I'm saving for when we're  
624 rescued.<sup>39</sup>

625  
626  
627 **[CUT-IN FIVE]**<sup>40</sup>

628

---

<sup>39</sup> This paragraph is from Natalie's [May 12, 1944](#) diary entry where she wrote about another bout of illness.

<sup>40</sup> Natalie's [May 7, 1944](#) diary entry.

629 Jim Camp Bulletin: A new ruling has come into effect. Relatives living  
630 Outside may now bring clothes and toilet articles once a week on  
631 Sunday mornings to the guardhouse. No food is allowed.

632  
633  
634 Natalie May 9, 1944.<sup>41</sup> I am now trying to enjoy a woman in our dorm as a  
635 study in psychology. In the middle of a World War, in the middle  
636 of an internment Camp, this woman whom I call Sheba<sup>42</sup> still  
637 maintains a routine of constant pampering.

638  
639 June and I time her shampoos during the week. She is always  
640 washing her hair, having it done up by expert hands more and  
641 more often. In the morning, she wears a crystal choker with a  
642 lacy-string sweater and slacks. She can stay dressed up all day  
643 because someone in the family does the hard work and food  
644 preparation for her and the family meals as well. She has a  
645 complex beyond doubt. Having plenty of money, with  
646 people kowtowing, has built it up in this particular setup.

647  
648 Today, she's wearing another new sweater, this time with a big-  
649 needle weave of yellow and brown. Last week it was bright  
650 yellow. June says that Sheba will go mad if she runs out of wool.  
651 She'll probably unravel and re-knit when her skeins run out, for  
652 she sits up in the dark knitting by the outside light until nearly  
653 midnight. When I cannot sleep, I often hear her needles clicking.

654  
655 May 12, 1944. The Family Unit Plan, like a forest fire, has swept  
656 beyond stopping.<sup>43</sup> In addition to cubicles inside and underneath  
657 the barracks, people are building bank-side shacks. The lean-tos  
658 are so amusing, with roofs of canvas, tin, grass or woven  
659 branches. Some are very disheveled; others are neat, with flowers  
660 growing already in prim but scant borders. The owners drink their  
661 tea on log benches, dirt-terraced couches, plank settees, or chairs  
662 created with no two pieces of wood alike.

663

---

<sup>41</sup> This paragraph and the next are from Natalie's [May 15, 1944](#) diary entry. The last paragraph is from [May 9, 1944](#).

<sup>42</sup> Natalie wrote about the "Queen of Sheba" earlier in her [March 30, 1942](#) diary entry. Here she writes about her again but never used her real name, only the derogatory "Sheba."

<sup>43</sup> Natalie's [May 14, 1944](#) diary entry, the rest is [May 12, 1944](#).

664 A bulletin was posted outside the dining hall saying that anyone  
665 caught with a shortwave set will now be shot, no more bother  
666 with jail terms.<sup>44</sup>

667  
668  
669 Natalie May 14, 1944. Our little town under No. 2 Barracks has become a  
670 help-each-other community. We share tools, materials, and  
671 anything else we can scavenge. Everything is made from salvage—  
672 bent, rusty, bedraggled, worn— making us look like a miniature  
673 Greenwich Village.

674  
675 Jerry traded a mattress cover for electrical wire, so in time we'll  
676 even have electricity!<sup>45</sup>

677  
678 May 16, 1944. Afternoon rains are here. Last evening brought  
679 quite a gale. In between showers, Jerry and Bedie moved our  
680 table into our underground cubicle as June and I sewed together  
681 furoshikis,<sup>46</sup> which are squares of decorative fabric the Japanese  
682 use to wrap packages.

683  
684  
685 **[SCENE SEVEN]**<sup>47</sup>

686  
687 Jerry Where do you want Bedie and me to put the table, girls?

688  
689 Natalie Put it by the couch in the center of the back wall.

690  
691 Jerry What couch?

692  
693 Natalie The one you're going to terrace into the back wall.

694  
695 Jerry Oh I am, am I?

696  
697 Natalie Yes.

---

<sup>44</sup> Natalie's [May 13, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>45</sup> In her [May 18, 1944](#) diary entry Natalie wrote, "Our electric wire was handed down from Kink to Dr. Hall to Bill Moule who traded it to us for a mattress cover." I assume that Jerry did the trading.

<sup>46</sup> See [Furoshiki - Wikipedia](#). Note that I added June to introduce Scene Seven.

<sup>47</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [May 14, 1944](#) and [May 16, 1944](#) diary entries.

698  
699 Jerry It's gonna be hard as a rock.  
700  
701 Natalie No it isn't.  
702  
703 June We're going pad it with straw mats and covered it with a thick  
704 blanket.  
705  
706 Jerry Okay Bedie boy, grab an end of the table.  
707  
708 Natalie Look out for the rafter overhead you two.  
709  
710 [FOLEY OF THEM CARRYING AND PUTTING THE TABLE DOWN]  
711  
712 Bedie You got anything to eat, Mom?  
713  
714 Natalie Not here. You'll have to go back to the barracks.  
715  
716 Bedie Aren't we living down here?  
717  
718 Natalie Not right now, Bedie. We'll have to see.  
719  
720 Bedie Mom, I thought we were going to move out of the barracks.  
721  
722 Jerry Not completely, we're still keeping our spaces.<sup>48</sup>  
723  
724 Bedie Why?  
725  
726 Jerry It's called hedging your bets, son. What if this place leaks during  
727 the rainy season or one of us gets sick? We'll have a place to go  
728 back to. Your mom and I think it's best.  
729

---

<sup>48</sup> When the Camp was being evacuated to Manila, Natalie wrote in her [December 19, 1944](#), "After going to Peg's I looked into the Green Barracks which was partly vacated and turned upside down. I peeked into our corner, the curtain down and our stuff piled on the bed and in the corner ready to move. The underhouse cubicle looked as though a tornado had hit it." It appears that at least Natalie and June had kept their barracks space. I'm going to assume that Jerry and Bedie did the same.

730 Bedie If we're gonna do that, can I have a sleepover down here with my  
731 friends?  
732  
733 Jerry No.  
734  
735 Bedie Why?  
736  
737 Jerry Because I'm not going to chaperone four teenage boys in a  
738 dugout.  
739  
740 Bedie You don't have to do that. I'm 13.  
741  
742 Jerry You'd burn the place down smoking those corn tassel cigarettes.<sup>49</sup>  
743  
744 Bedie No we won't!  
745  
746 Jerry The answer is no.  
747  
748 Bedie Why?  
749  
750 Jerry Bedie, I'm not changing my mind.  
751  
752 Natalie Would you please pass me another furoshiki, June? Thanks.  
753 Hmm, I think six squares'll be enough to cover the tin wall.  
754  
755 Jerry It better. It's got some pretty big holes and four girls are moving in  
756 next to us.  
757  
758 Natalie Don't worry no one will see us.  
759  
760 Jerry That fabric looks familiar.  
761  
762 Natalie It should. It was in the trunk that came in from Baguio last  
763 month?<sup>50</sup>  
764

---

<sup>49</sup> Natalie's [June 5, 1943](#) diary entry.

<sup>50</sup> Natalie's [March 16, 1944](#) diary entry.

765 Jerry Was that in there? I didn't think we'd ever use all that junk,  
766 except to sell it.  
767

768 Natalie That blanket we got on the ship from our last trip to the U.S. was  
769 in there too. Remember?<sup>51</sup>  
770

771 Jerry No.  
772

773 June It's gonna go on top of the couch. We're going to put straw mats  
774 under the blanket to make it cushy.  
775

776 Natalie We're going for a strong Nipponese look, with a bit of a bohemian  
777 flare.  
778  
779

780 **[DIARY READING EIGHT]**  
781

782 Natalie May 17, 1944. Our underground dugout is heaven—to get out of  
783 that dorm room, hear no more opinions or sour critics is heaven.  
784 We've had all of our meals there, and I've spent the whole day  
785 resting and reading on the couch that Jerry terraced into the back  
786 wall. A box is our cupboard and Dr. Hall's wooden tray makes a  
787 good buffet, with the silver Spanish candlestick and two  
788 chromium plates catching highlights. Two hand-carved trays are  
789 propped against the dirt wall on a ledge; agate, silver, and tin cups  
790 hang above from the rafters. It's compact, casual, a real home.  
791

792 May 18, 1944. Jerry woke me at 6:30 and I dressed quickly. With a  
793 cup of coffee in hand and a bun, we sauntered up to the hospital  
794 and watched the sun rise over a soft blanket of clouds on one  
795 ridge. The sea was vague and far away in the distance. It was a  
796 tender beauty, delicate dawn colors. Behind us, the Episcopalians  
797 chanted early Mass of Ascension Day.  
798

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<sup>51</sup> Natalie called it a "steamer rug." The only way I could figure out what this was is through [Vintage "The Blue Wave" Steamer Rug Made in U.S.A. for THE UNITED STATES LINES | #2024906470](#), which will probably expire. Steamer rugs were basically wool blankets passengers covered themselves while sitting on deck. At that time, civilians living in the Philippines travelled by ship, so it makes sense that the Crouters would have had one.

799 As we sat there, Jerry broke the news about my diamond  
800 bracelet.<sup>52</sup>

801

802

803 **[SCENE EIGHT]<sup>53</sup>**

804

805 Jerry I'm sorry, honey. Carl said it'd sell for too many pesos to get into  
806 Camp right now.

807

808 Natalie What about my Igorot earrings? They're gold.

809

810 Jerry Just give me one of them, and I'll have it weighed. I'm thinking it'll  
811 bring in about 200 pesos.

812

813 Natalie How long do you think that'll carry us?

814

815 Jerry With what we already have—and if prices don't go up—maybe  
816 four weeks.

817

818

819 **[DIARY READING NINE]**

820

821 Natalie May 19, 1944. Now that construction is mostly finished, everyone  
822 is pleased with their new family cubicles.<sup>54</sup> All my time is spent in  
823 our underground dugout which delights me out of all proportion  
824 to what we've put into it. For the children, it is home. It is a warm,  
825 quiet, colorful gathering place. I lie here for hours doing nothing,  
826 just recuperating. Everything is simple. We have only to reach out  
827 a hand for spoon, plate or cup. No effort, yet Paradise enough.<sup>55</sup>

828

829 Jerry likes to putter about putting in small additions, but for me it  
830 is finished. I can finally relax and catch up a little, as I am out of  
831 steam and need to gather strength after weeks of sleepless nights  
832 and months of sore mouth and going downhill. Thank God the  
833 doctors chose me to get the last of the liver shots sent by the Red

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<sup>52</sup> My introduction to the next scene.

<sup>53</sup> Based on and imagined from Natalie's [May 18, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>54</sup> My transition sentence.

<sup>55</sup> This paragraph is from Natalie's [May 18, 1944](#) diary entry.

834 Cross.<sup>56</sup>

835

836 May 20, 1944. Peg and Walter and Carl came for coffee before we  
837 all went to hear Walter Neal speaking on Mexico and see an  
838 amusing drama skit, with Blackie, Johnnie and Carol as three  
839 cowboys singing ranch songs. They were so good that the children  
840 stamped, whistled, banged and begged for more.

841

842 But when we came back home, Bedie was homesick. He says our  
843 dugout is not enough. The cowboy songs made him think of Nida  
844 and Ismael who used to sing Yippie Ki-Yay.<sup>57</sup>

845

846 He wept on my shoulder.

847

848 [COLD CLOSE]

849

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<sup>56</sup> This paragraph is from Natalie's [May 17, 1944](#) diary entry.

<sup>57</sup> Natalie wrote "Kay Yippy Yippy," but I switched to Yippy Ki-Yay as it is more familiar. See [A brief history of yippee-ki-yay | The Week](#).