

1 Season Four Part One: *Forbidden Diary*
2 Episode Twenty-Seven: *The Wise Prince*

3
4 CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

5
6 Announcer Steve Mountjoy
7 Natalie Crouter Sevil Delin
8 Committee Man Christopher V. Thorn
9 Mr. Tomibe Masaya Okubo
10 Miss McKim Christine Atsuko Holloway
11 Mr. Hayakawa Koji Asano
12 Alex Slava Timoshenko
13 Dr. Benedetti Lance DeBock
14 Mr. Yamato and Sgt. Sato Miki Hiromoto
15 Mr. Suda Yuki Amezawa
16 Lt. Harada AJ Sparks
17 Peg Rebecca Haugh
18 Millie Melba Sibrel King
19 Dotty Ina Marie Smith
20 Marj Bonnie Marie Williams
21 Enid Karen DeBoer
22 Colleen Mandy Balser
23 Phil Eric Ryan Moore
24 Jim Maxwell Glick
25 Dr. Benedetti Lance DeBock
26 Jerry Crouter Mark Oliver
27 Clara Karla Wren
28 Carlotta Mandy Balser
29 Nida Jeannie Marie Sison
30 Jorge Andre Ricarte
31 Auntie Ria Vrana

32
33
34
35 [Cold Open]

36
37 Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*....

38
39 [SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

40
41 Announcer And now, Episode Twenty-Seven.

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[DIARY READING ONE]

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

Natalie

May 21, 1944. Now that construction is nearly finished, everyone who opted for the Family Plan is pleased with their new units. People are busy visiting each other's new living quarters be they bermed into the hillside, inside the barracks or underneath them like ours.¹

Our underground dugout is a hit. We have arrived. For the first time we are in the "smart" class with a smart dugout, in practically the last word in concentration style with artistic den or studio or whatever bohemia wants to call it— a Shangri-la in the earth, literally.²

Visitors love it. When the Scotts came over for coffee and quiet bridge, Izzy took her shoes off and curled up on our couch that Jerry dug into the wall and practically purred. Bedie's eyes shine when children come here to study,³ and Dr. Bruce sank back on our couch as though he would never leave it.⁴ Our dugout is cozy and colorful for bridge games and coffee parties, if one is able and can afford to hold them.⁵

Well, in any case, smart or not, it has saved my health and sanity.⁶

We have all suffered for quiet and privacy. When we get it, we let go the whole way. I lie here for hours doing nothing, just recuperating. It feels like disintegrating, to come together again. It is odd to watch it happen to others. The home touch, warmth and color, melt them at once—even the tough ones.⁷

¹ My lead-in and opening summary of previous episode for listeners.

² Natalie's [June 2, 1944](#) diary entry.

³ Natalie's [May 17, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁴ Natalie's [May 19, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁵ Natalie's [June 2, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Natalie's [May 19, 1944](#) diary entry.

75 Next week’s Japanese class is going to be held in our dugout and
76 Mr. Tomibe is attending. I don’t know how we’re going to crowd
77 everyone in, but a visit from the Camp Bushinkayo is quite an
78 honor, so Jerry says we’ll have to put on the dog.⁸

79
80 May 22, 1944. Hearing we were out of money, John Rasmussen
81 asked Jerry if he could use 20 pesos which Jerry clutched like a
82 drowning man. It was sweet of the old soldier to tide us over. One
83 does not ask for loans in these times when many are at bedrock.⁹

84

85

86 [CUT-IN ONE]¹⁰

87

88 Committee Man By Order of the Commandant: As of today, no more hillside shacks
89 are to be constructed within the camp. The digging will
90 undermine and wash away the bank. Furthermore, outdoor
91 shacks will be destroyed by steady rains and winds.

92

93

94 Natalie Mr. Tomibe says that they look like beggars’ shacks and does not
95 care for them. The guards don’t like them either. They overlook
96 the guardhouse, so they cannot see what goes on inside.
97 Fortunately, the Japanese have said nothing about family cubicles
98 underneath the barracks.¹¹

99

100 May 25, 1944.¹² All was made ready in our dugout for Japanese
101 class and Mr. Tomibe’s visit today. Jane made a beautiful ikebana
102 flower arrangement. The pine branch, red-orange nasturtium, and
103 rock fern arrangement looked charming in a low, oval bowl that
104 we put it on the ledge in our back wall.¹³ I hung a furoshiki
105 decorated with birds behind it to make the space look like a
106 tokonoma which is a decorative alcove in Japanese homes.

⁸ This paragraph is my lead up to Scene One. “Put on the dog” was first used in 1865. See [PUT ON THE DOG Definition & Meaning - Merriam-Webster](#).

⁹ This paragraph is from Natalie’s [May 21, 1944](#) diary entry.

¹⁰ Natalie’s [May 22, 1944](#) diary entry.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² This diary entry is condensed and reorganized.

¹³ Natalie’s [May 17, 1944](#) diary entry describes the dugout as having a ledge. It is my assumption that this is where they would have put it and that she was mimicking a tokonoma.

107
108 A furoshiki is a square of cloth that the Japanese use to wrap gifts,
109 and I've decorated our dugout with them. After the class Mr.
110 Tomibe told me that¹⁴ mine were used for special occasions —
111 the one with a character in red would be a wrapping for a bridal
112 present. I said I had bought it before the War because I liked the
113 color. He pronounced it all "Nihon rashii" (like Japan), a very nice
114 "home" indeed. I wonder what he really thought.

115
116 Ten of us crowded into our little space waiting for Mr. Tomibe
117 who was late, for he would not come without his bath. As I sat in
118 the doorway waiting, Mr. Tomibe arrived looking very spic and
119 span. I had memorized "Good evening," "You are welcome," and
120 "Please come in" but forgot all the "dozo" (or pleases) in between
121 which is politeness in greasing the wheels, but it did not matter.

122
123 Jerry had suggested that I offer Mr. Tomibe American cigarettes,
124 so I had some Camels ready and memorized Miss McKim's second
125 phrase, "Tabacco — ikaga desu ka?"

126

127

128 **[SCENE ONE]¹⁵**

129
130 Natalie Kon ban wa, Tomibe-san. Good evening, Tomibe-san.

131
132 Mr. Tomibe [IN ENGLISH] It is an honor to be invited into your home, Mrs.
133 Crouter.

134
135 Natalie Irasshaimase,¹⁶ Tomibe-san. You are welcome, Tomibe-san. Ohairi
136 kudasai! Please come in.

137
138 Mr. Tomibe [IN ENGLISH] Thank you.

139
140 [SOUNDS OF HIM TAKING OFF SHOES AND STEPPING INSIDE]

¹⁴ My review of what a furoshiki is for listeners. In Natalie's [May 16, 1944](#) diary entry she wrote, "...I hemmed and hung the rest of [my] furoshikis — six on the wall and one as a tablecloth."

¹⁵ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [May 25, 1944](#) diary entry.

¹⁶ According to Google Translate, irasshaimase just means welcome; you are welcome is do itashimashite. I used what Natalie wrote, however.

141
142 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE TO MISS MCKIM] Miss McKim, would you please
143 compliment Mrs. Crouter on her home?
144
145 Miss McKim [IN ENGLISH] Tomibe-san gives his compliments on your new
146 home, Natalie.
147
148 Natalie Thank you, um... arigatou gozaimasu, Tomibe-san. [TO MISS
149 MCKIM] Should I offer the cigarettes now, Miss McKim?
150
151 Miss McKim Yes.
152
153 Natalie Cigarette ikaga desu ka?
154
155 Mr. Tomibe [IN ENGLISH.] Yes! Thank you, Mrs. Crouter!
156
157 Natalie Light?
158
159 Mr. Tomibe [IN ENGLISH] Yes. Thank you.
160
161 [SOUND OF MATCH LIT AND CIGARETTE LIGHTING.]
162
163 Miss McKim Well, it looks like everyone is here. Natalie, do you want us to sit
164 on the two mats in front of the flowers?
165
166 Natalie Yes. You think that'll work?
167
168 Miss McKim It's perfect.
169
170 Natalie Okay then I'll just go grab an ashtray for Tomibe-san.
171
172 Miss McKim [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Tomibe-san, Mrs. Crouter wants us
173 to sit in the place of honor in front of the flower arrangement.
174
175 [MCKIM AND TOMIBE SIT IN FRONT OF THE TOKONOMA]
176
177 Miss McKim Okay everyone, let's get started. Class, we are honored to have
178 Tomibe-san with us today. [APPLAUSE] He wishes to compliment

179 Jane on flower arrangement and to thank our hostess, Natalie.
180 [APPLAUSE] Like last time, Tomibe-san will tell his story in
181 Japanese and I will translate, *but* I encourage you to try to
182 understand Japanese. It looks like everyone is ready. Good then.
183 [IN JAPANESE] Are you ready, Tomibe-san?
184
185 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] Yes. Thank you, Miss McKim. The story I am about
186 to tell is an old tale I heard as a child. It's called "The Prince and
187 Badger."¹⁷
188
189 Miss McKim Tomibe-san says he is going to tell us an old tale he heard as a
190 child. It's called "The Prince and Badger."
191
192 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] Once upon a time, young prince Kadzutoyo and his
193 servant went fishing. After they caught many fish, a terrible storm
194 forced them to walk back in the rain.
195
196 Miss McKim Once upon a time, young prince Kadzutoyo and his servant went
197 fishing. After they caught many fish, a terrible storm forced them
198 to walk back in the rain.
199
200 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] By and by they came upon a beautiful girl who said
201 her cruel step mother had beaten her, and she was escaping to a
202 nearby village.
203
204 Miss McKim By and by they came upon a beautiful girl who said she was
205 escaping to a nearby village because her cruel step mother had
206 beaten her.
207
208 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] As she spoke, she beguiled the servant but
209 Kadzutoyo remained silent, took out his sword and cut her head
210 off.
211

¹⁷ Mitford, A. B., *Tales of Old Japan*, pp. [275-8](#). This book was first published in 1871. The title is public domain. See [Tales of Old Japan - Wikipedia](#). Note that Tomibe actually told the story of the *Forty-Seven Ronin*, but I moved the story to Episode 26, Scene Four ([April 27, 1944](#)) to substitute it with a story about samurai women that I could not source and to use a story that aligns with theme of this episode.

212 Miss McKim As she spoke, the girl beguiled the servant, but Kadzutoyo
213 remained silent, then took out his sword and cut off her head.
214

215 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] Upon returning the servant told Kadzutoyo's
216 father, the Prince of Tosa, what happened. The old prince went to
217 his son, drew his sword, and told him to meet his fate as such
218 villainy was unworthy of a Samurai's son.
219

220 Miss McKim Upon returning the servant told Kadzutoyo's father, the Prince of
221 Tosa, what happened. The old prince went to his son, drew his
222 sword, and told him to meet his fate as such villainy was
223 unworthy of a Samurai's son.
224

225 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] To this, Kadzutoyo calmly said that he had killed a
226 foul goblin, not a beautiful girl.
227

228 Miss McKim To this, Kadzutoyo calmly said that he had killed a foul goblin, not
229 a beautiful girl.
230

231 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] The next day Kadzutoyo took his father to the spot
232 and found a beheaded badger. But the old prince still had doubts,
233 so Kadzutoyo explained, "The goblin appeared as a girl to me as
234 well. But something was not right. Here was a young girl, at night,
235 far from any village."
236

237 Miss McKim The next day Kadzutoyo took his father to the spot and found a
238 beheaded badger. But the old prince still had doubts, so
239 Kadzutoyo explained, "The goblin appeared as a girl to me as well.
240 But something was not right. Here was a young girl, at night, far
241 from any village."
242

243 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] "Stranger still was her wondrous beauty, but
244 strangest of all was that her clothes were dry in a pouring
245 rainstorm."
246

247 Miss McKim "Stranger still," Kadzutoyo continued, "was her wondrous beauty.
248 But strangest of all was that her clothes were dry in a pouring
249 rainstorm."

250
251 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] Because of these observations, Kadzutoyo
252 concluded that the creature was a goblin and must be slayed.
253
254 Miss McKim Because of these observations, Kadzutoyo concluded that the
255 creature was a goblin and must be slayed
256
257 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] The old prince so admired his son’s discernment
258 and wisdom that he abdicated and made Kadzutoyo the new
259 Prince of Tosa. And so it was that Kadzutoyo ruled thereafter with
260 great wisdom and discernment.
261
262 Miss McKim The old prince so admired his son’s discernment and wisdom that
263 he abdicated and made Kadzutoyo the new Prince of Tosa. And so
264 it was that Kadzutoyo ruled thereafter with great wisdom and
265 discernment.
266
267 [APPLAUSE]
268
269
270 [DIARY READING TWO]
271
272 [SOUNDS OF WRITING AND FADE OUT]
273
274 Natalie When Mr. Tomibe finished the story, we couldn’t help wondering
275 if he was talking about himself because he too is gifted with
276 discernment and looks at situations and people from different
277 angles.¹⁸
278
279 May 27, 1944. The food servers are now under fire, accused of
280 being mean because they stick strictly to the ration. Mothers are
281 accusing them of starving their children.
282
283 May 29, 1944.¹⁹ General Kō visited Camp yesterday, and judging
284 by the looks on the officers’ and guards’ faces today, it did not go
285 well. Evidently, the General gave them a raking over, and being

¹⁸ I wrote this paragraph to conclude the scene and tie it to the theme of this episode.

¹⁹ This entry is a mix of diary entries at footnoted.

286 nervy and jittery anyway, the soldiers pass it down to us.²⁰ The
287 Japanese want to make us feel what their country is going
288 through in blockade and privation.²¹

289
290 Mr. Tomibe is between the devil and the deep sea, with the
291 Committee writing letters of 50% decline in health²² and General
292 Kō who is clamping the lid tighter on all the internment camps.²³

293
294 May 30, 1944. We ate coconut strips²⁴ with milk and sugar at
295 noon. Camp gave us bread only, no rice, and that was all for lunch.
296 We baked sweet potatoes²⁵ for supper and put half a can of
297 corned beef in soup. We had the first half for breakfast.

298
299 With Japanese Army food, Red Cross Relief Funds, and our own
300 cash feeding us, we still starve due to inflation, no confidence in
301 currency, scarcity, and hoarding what is available. Prices are going
302 higher and higher. Eggs are really golden.

303
304 June 1, 1944.²⁶ I went to see Bedie move up to 8th grade. One
305 more year, then high school. Sometimes there are only three
306 study books to a class.

307
308 A young woman in our dorm hemorrhaged for 20 days and was
309 taken to the hospital.

310
311 June 2, 1944. Our friend Scott feels low. He is so equable, with
312 such balanced humor, that times are bad indeed when he is low.
313 Everyone is hungry all the time. Meals are less and less. No
314 vegetable in my bag for three days, only enough to put in stews
315 for Camp. June wakes up ravenous.

316
317 Meanwhile, the Japanese have turned nasty. They heard that the

²⁰ Natalie's [June 2, 1944](#) diary entry.

²¹ Natalie's [June 3, 1944](#) diary entry.

²² Ibid.

²³ My assumption. American Forces were closing in on the Philippines and the Japanese were increasingly worried about American spies.

²⁴ Natalie wrote "bucaco," but I changed it to coconut strips for clarity. See [Bukayo - Wikipedia](#).

²⁵ Natalie called them camotes. See [Kamote / Camote: Filipino Food Photo: Sweet Potato](#).

²⁶ This diary entry is actually [June 2, 1944](#). I used the [June 1, 1944](#) date to spread out the depressing news.

318 children call them Japs and complained to Carl. Now Chef Alex is
319 in trouble because a buyer overheard Alex saying Jap and
320 reported him. It grows into a major incident, and Alex is called to
321 the guardhouse.
322

323

324

[SCENE TWO]²⁷

325

326 Mr. Hayakawa What did you say to the Filipino buyer?

327

328 Alex I don't know.

329

330 Mr. Hayakawa You know what you said?

331

332 Alex [IN RUSSIAN] You bet I did, you goddamn Jap.

333

334 Mr. Hayakawa Jap! You said it again!

335

336 Alex What?

337

338 Mr. Hayakawa You said Jap!!

339

340 Alex So what?

341

342 Mr. Hayakawa It's an insult to the Imperial Army!

343

344 Alex What you talking about?

345

346 Mr. Hayakawa It is an insult!

347

348 Alex Stop being little girls. Is just slang. I call American Yanks and Brits
349 Pommys. You guys got Jap because Japanese too big to fit across
350 Yank newspaper.

351

352 Hayakawa You will be punished for this!

353

²⁷ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 2, 1944](#) diary entry and Tomibe, Rokuro, *Memoir Notes*, MacArthur Memorial Archives, Record Group 105, Box 11, Folder 4, pp. 8.

354

355

[DIARY READING THREE]

356

357 Natalie

Alex was threatened with three days in the jail room at the guardhouse until Mr. Tomibe and Miss McKim arrived and was finally made to write an apology.

358

359

360

361

A special Committee meeting was called to talk about the Chef Alex incident and the Camp's attitude during General Kō's visit. When the guards complained that we don't like them, a committee member told them bluntly,

362

363

364

365

366

367

[CUT-IN TWO]

368

369 Dr. Benedetti

What do you expect? We're all starving. Whose fault do you think that is?

370

371

372

373 Natalie

June 3, 1944. Miss McKim learned how Mr. Tomibe is adjudicating the squabbles and name calling when she was called to his office today.²⁸

374

375

376

377

378

[SCENE THREE]²⁹

379

380

[KNOCKING AT THE OFFICE DOOR]

381

382 Miss McKim

[IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] You asked for me, Tomibe-san?

383

384 Mr. Tomibe

[IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Yes. Please come in, Miss McKim.

385

386 Miss McKim

[IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Tomibe-san, I am extremely sorry for Alex's disrespectful language the other day with the food buyer.

387

388

²⁸ My introduction for Scene Three.

²⁹ Based on and imagined from Tomibe, *op. cit.*, pp. 8, where he wrote about the "Jap" incident and the wily Chef Alex whose "dealings behind [his] back" he "[pretended] not to notice."

389 Mr. Tomibe You know as well as I do, Miss McKim, that Japanese use just as
390 rude slang as Americans and the Filipinos. I hope you haven't
391 heard the colorful names the guards call General Kō.
392

393 Miss McKim Still, Alex should know better.
394

395 Mr. Tomibe I am sure that Chef Alex knows better, but he is a fearless man
396 with an independent mind.
397

398 Miss McKim Those are dangerous characteristics to have in a concentration
399 camp.
400

401 Mr. Tomibe Very true, Miss McKim. But Alex must feed 500 people every day
402 under difficult circumstances and his temperament has served the
403 us well. The guards have given me many reports about Alex's...
404 umm, how do you say it?
405

406 Miss McKim Horse trading?
407

408 Mr. Tomibe Horse trading? Ah, I see what you mean! Yes, horse trading. I am
409 often astounded by Chef Alex's... skills. But I have heard so many
410 outrageous stories from the guards that I have come to the
411 conclusion that they must be making them up.
412

413 Miss McKim Well, the guards *can* exaggerate at times.
414

415 Mr. Tomibe That is my current understanding—as long as there are food
416 shortages. There is another problem, however. General Kō
417 expressed great displeasure that prisoners did not salute his
418 officers.
419

420 Miss McKim I'm surprised, Tomibe-san. We're civilians, not military.
421

422 Mr. Tomibe I understand your confusion, Miss McKim. I kept wanting to tell
423 General Kō, "Don't mind, don't mind." But the General was very
424 unhappy, so that is why I had to talk very sharply to you and
425 Chairman Carl in front of him.
426

427 Miss McKim Carl and I both know that was the case.
428
429 Mr. Tomibe And the guards are still very upset about being called Japs, so I
430 must do something for them.

431
432 Miss McKim How may I help?

433
434 Mr. Tomibe Would you please translate this announcement for me?

435
436 Miss McKim Of course, Tomibe-san.

437

438

439 **[CUT-IN THREE]**

440

441 Committee Man Notice from the Camp Commandant: Since the term “Jap” is
442 considered an insult, the Command requests that when you refer
443 to the Japanese the term “Japanese” is to be used, not “Jap.”³⁰

444

445

446 **[DIARY READING FOUR]**

447

448 Natalie June 4, 1944. The Japanese are still complaining about our
449 manners. When Miss McKim reminded officers during a staff
450 meeting that she often says good morning and receives no
451 answer, Mr. Tomibe scolded his staff.³¹

452

453

454 **[SCENE FOUR]³²**

455

456 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] There must *always* be politeness!
457 How can I tell prisoners to stop you names when you act like you
458 deserve them?!!

459

460 **[SILENCE]**

461

³⁰ Natalie’s [June 3, 1944](#) diary entry.

³¹ My introduction to Scene Four based on Natalie’s [June 3, 1944](#) diary entry..

³² Based on and imagined from Natalie’s [June 3, 1944](#) diary entry and Tomibe, op. cit., pp. 8.

462 Mr. Yamato [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] I can see the prisoners' point about
463 "Jap" being an abbreviation, Tomibe-san.³³

464
465 Mr. Tomibe [IN ENGLISH] The words Jap, Ame-koh, and Fili-suki are all insults
466 and are not to be used in this camp. This is an order!

467
468 Mr. Suda/Sgt. Sato/ [IN ENGLISH] Yes, Tomibe-san.
469 Mr. Yamato/Lt. Harada

470
471

472 [DIARY READING FIVE A]

473
474 Natalie With the General's visit and uproar around camp, it is no wonder
475 that Miss McKim went to the hospital today, tired out.³⁴

476
477 June 5, 1944.³⁵ After lunch my name was on the Board to go to the
478 office where I received 200 pesos for my gold earring and 480
479 pesos from N. Baloli which is Marie — or is it Nida again? — saving
480 us from despair.³⁶

481
482 This afternoon, June and I sat on a bench taking in the sun
483 watching a mud-ball battle between small boys. Three months of
484 summer vacation and the boys are tearing all over the place,
485 yelling, taking prisoners and tying them up— as though being
486 captured were not enough. What instincts we have for
487 imprisoning one another— even at the age of five!

488
489 As we sat, Mr. Tomibe came up from the hospital with Mr. Saito.
490 As they passed us, I gathered my courage and said,

491
492

493 [SCENE FIVE A]³⁷

³³ Natalie wrote that Mr. Saito said this, but lower the number of characters I used Mr. Yamato who will appear often until the end of the story.

³⁴ Schlessinger Library, Stark Family Papers, Box 87, pp. 2,851-52. This references Natalie's original typed manuscript at Radcliffe University.

³⁵ This entry is actually Natalie's [June 4, 1944](#) diary entry.

³⁶ Natalie said they had been saved "twice from despair" but gave no reference to what happened the first time, so I edited it to "saving us from despair."

³⁷ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 4, 1944](#) diary entry.

494
495 Natalie Ohayo gozaimasu, Tomibe-san.

496
497 Mr. Tomibe Ikaga desu ka?

498
499 Natalie Genki desu, arigato gozaimasu.

500
501

[DIARY READING FIVE B]

503
504 Natalie After our salutations, Mr. Tomibe then said something which I did
505 not catch, so Mr. Saito pointed to the sky. Finally, I caught that it
506 was sun-bath and said, "Hai" (yes). Mr. Tomibe bowed at each
507 thank you very much, for politeness always delights the Japanese
508 especially when it is their own variety, which they understand.
509 Then they beam. Mr. Tomibe then turned to June and I told him,

510
511

[SCENE FIVE B]³⁸

512
513
514 Natalie Musume, daughter.

515
516 Mr. Tomibe Sa! So desu ka. Ikutsu desu..." What are those children shouting?

517
518 Natalie They're playing a game. It's a children's game, Tomibe-san.

519
520

[DIARY READING SIX]

521
522
523 Natalie After I explained, Mr. Tomibe understood and calmed down at
524 once. It was not until later that I realized we were on the verge of
525 an international incident! As the children marched, they shouted
526 what sounded like to me as "chop, chop, chop," but Mr. Tomibe
527 probably thought they were saying, "Jap, Jap, Jap."

528
529 No matter, I like Tomibe-san. He is a fine person and I never think
530 of him as Japanese or myself as American when we speak to each

³⁸ Ibid.

531 other.

532

533 June 6, 1944. Rumor hath it that the [Manila] *Tribune* says Admiral

534 Nimitz's new major offensive front line is New Guinea-Palau.

535

536 June 8, 1944.³⁹ Japanese class was great fun with Miss McKim

537 laughing until she put her head on the table telling us about how

538 Phil⁴⁰ got himself out of trouble for having a bottle of gin.

539

540

541 **[SCENE SIX]**⁴¹

542

543 Miss McKim [LAUGHING] Mr. Yamato had Phil dead to rights,⁴² but he kept

544 pushing the open bottle of gin under Mr. Yamato's nose and

545 yelling, "No it's water! Water!" until Mr. Yamato shook his head

546 and walked off.

547

548 Peg Mr. Yamato's a bigger milksop than Mr. Hayakawa.

549

550 Miss McKim Oh poor Mr. Yamato. He has been so lost since he's gotten here.

551

552 Millie He makes Mr. Hayakawa look like Charles Atlas.⁴³

553

554 Miss McKim He's just so passionate and serious... and so [LAUGHING]

555 ridiculous. I have to bite my lip sometimes to keep from laughing.

556 When he first got into Camp, he announced to everyone within

557 earshot, "I hope to cooperate and be kind and true."

558

559 Millie In front of the guards??

560

561 Miss McKim Yes.

562

563 Millie Oh, the poor deary. Those guards are going to eat him alive.

³⁹ Natalie's [May 18, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁴⁰ Natalie wrote Dean, but I changed it to Phil because I didn't want to confuse listeners with Dr. Dean who has left Camp.

⁴¹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [May 18, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁴² Slang originated in 1854. See [dead to rights - Wiktionary, the free dictionary](#) and [Dead to Rights – Idiom, Origin & Meaning](#).

⁴³ Charles Atlas was a well-known body builder of the time who claimed that he was once a 97-pound weakling. See [Charles Atlas - Wikipedia](#)

564
565 Dotty They're already acting like a bunch of barnyard cats with a new
566 mouse to bat around.
567
568 Millie And he keeps giving 'em more ammunition. Did you see him at
569 roll call?
570
571 Peg Roll call's getting more like a Marx brothers' movie. I thought I'd
572 die the other day when that black dog walked straight up to the
573 first row and sat at attention waiting to be counted off.⁴⁴
574
575 Millie Well, at least Mr. Yamato didn't ask the dog to count off.
576
577 Peg What'd he do?
578
579 Millie [LAUGHING] I'm sorry I can't help it. He marched his little legs
580 right up to six mothers and 15 infants who can't count to save
581 their little pink skins and shouted, "Please count off now!"
582
583 Marj [LAUGHING] I was standing right there with my baby on my hip. I
584 couldn't believe it.
585
586 Millie [LAUGHING] And George Denki's⁴⁵ yelling at Mr. Yamato, "But
587 don't you see, they can't count!" And there's Mr. Tomibe
588 watching the whole thing from across the field, trying to keep
589 from smiling.
590
591 Enid Mr. Tomibe doesn't miss much, does he.
592
593 Miss McKim No. He doesn't. After roll call, Tomibe-san said to me...
594
595
596 **[SCENE SIX, CUT-IN ONE]**
597

⁴⁴ Natalie's [May 23, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁴⁵ Hind, R. Robert, *Spirits Unbroken*, pp. [287-89](#). Natalie often used fictitious names and I can usually figure them out. I looked in the appendix listing internee names but found no one with Denki for a surname, so I added a popular first name for men at that time.

598 Mr. Tomibe I am a fortunate man, Miss McKim. I will never have a nervous
599 breakdown because I am able to say what I think. I don't keep my
600 thoughts piling up underneath, but Mr. Yamato takes everything
601 very seriously and is conscientious and sensitive in the extreme,
602 so you must not tease him too much.
603
604
605 Miss McKim He has such a keen understanding of human behavior. I think he's
606 one of the most remarkable men I have ever met.
607
608 Natalie He's been a wise leader through all of the Family Unit feuding.
609 What a thankless task that's been!
610
611 Miss McKim He's always watching and analyzing. And at the same time, he is
612 very human and has such a delightful sense of humor.
613
614 Natalie He really does. When he heard the younger kids call one of the
615 dogs Tojo, he didn't scold them. Instead, he joked
616
617
618 **[SCENE SIX, CUT-IN TWO]**
619
620 Mr. Tomibe Why do you children call the dog Tojo? You should call him
621 Roosevelt.
622
623
624 Natalie If there were more like Mr. Tomibe in Japan and America, neither
625 would be at war.
626
627 Miss McKim I will remember Tomibe-san for as long as I live.
628
629 Natalie He's the Wise Prince in that fairy tale he told us.
630
631 Miss McKim I agree.
632
633 Colleen Do you think he was talking about himself, Miss McKim?
634

635 Miss McKim No. Tomibe-san is too humble. I think he may have been telling us
636 that things are not always as they appear.

637

638 Colleen Well, I still think he's Prince Kadzutoyo.

639

640 Miss McKim You mean Prince Kadzutoyo....

641

642 Colleen Yea, the wise guy.

643

644 Miss McKim I'll be sure to tell Tomibe-san, Colleen. He'll appreciate hearing
645 that.

646

647

648 **[DIARY READING SEVEN]**

649

650 Natalie June 10, 1944. June adores dance-night. I mostly watched last
651 night. I had one waltz with Jerry and he danced many with his
652 daughter who is learning fast. Bedie learns fast but painfully. He
653 wore his long trousers made to fit his welfare coat, and plugged
654 away at dancing. He finally took the plunge and asked Eloise for
655 two dances, which grew to four by the telling of it this morning.

656

657 June 11, 1944. Ten of us filled our dugout, eating until we couldn't
658 sit up, to celebrate June's 15th birthday, with Peg's wonderful
659 cooking and Crouter contributions.

660

661 At roll call Phil⁴⁶ whispered to me.

662

663

664 **[CUT-IN FOUR]**

665

666 Phil If you hear any good news, Natalie, I think you can believe it this
667 time.

668

669

⁴⁶ Natalie wrote that a fellow named Bernie told her. To keep the character count down, I used Phil.

670 Natalie Later I heard that the New Guinea advance is carrying the U.S. 400
671 miles closer to the Philippines.

672

673

674

[CUT-IN FIVE]

675

676 Jim

Camp Holmes Daily News According to Ashford's Soldier in Science, Pre-sprue is a condition, not a disease. When people secure an insufficient amount of protein necessary to replace worn out vital organs, they soon show the following: indigestion and loss in weight, followed by excessive acid and irritation to the mucous membranes. Hence the sore tongue, the sore rectum, the burning in the pit of the stomach. Sprue is essentially a wasting disease.⁴⁷

677

678

679

680

681

682

683

684

685

686 Natalie

June 12, 1944. My face is swollen with canker-sore mouth,⁴⁸ so Jerry and I went to see Dr. Benedetti and quarreled right in front of him.

687

688

689

690

691

[SCENE SEVEN]⁴⁹

692

693 Dr. Benedetti

I'm more concerned with your low blood count, Natalie. We'll continue with the liver shots for as long as we can. Do you have enough canned meat left over from the Red Cross?

694

695

696

697 Jerry

Yes. Would two ounces of meat twice a day bring her blood count up?

698

699

700 Dr. Benedetti

It's a start. You'll need to keep it up.

701

702 Natalie

I think a two-week trial would be enough.

703

704 Jerry

No. One month.

⁴⁷ Natalie's [June 20, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁴⁸ Schlessinger, op. cit, pp. 2,853 and my introduction to the next scene.

⁴⁹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 12, 1944](#) diary entry. She wrote that Dr. Mather examined her. To equalize line counts between actors, I switched Dr. Mather with to Dr. Benedetti.

705
706 Natalie Two more weeks would use up three of our cans of meat instead
707 of six.
708
709 Jerry What do you think, Dr. Benedetti? I think she needs at least a
710 month.
711
712 Dr. Benedetti Well, I'd put Natalie and everyone in this camp on a steady diet of
713 protein and vegetables, but if the pinch comes, you've got to ask
714 how much would you have for the rest of your family?
715
716 Natalie See, Jerry. Dr. Benedetti's right. We have to conserve. I've lived
717 over half my life and the children need the meat to carry on the
718 torch for us.
719
720 Jerry Oh, for cryin' in 16 buckets, Natalie! Are you nuts? I haven't
721 worked this hard to keep you alive just to you have die on me?
722
723 Dr. Benedetti Gee, Jerry don't get too sentimental.
724
725 Natalie I'm just being realistic. It's settled—two weeks.
726
727 Jerry Four! I'm the best judge of how to use our food supply.
728
729
730 **[DIARY READING EIGHT]**
731
732 Natalie Until the Army comes in and settles our race with time against
733 anemia, such basic, ethical decisions are difficult and desperate. I
734 have given the children about all I can to help guide them. Their
735 formative years are nearly over, at least the basic ones, though
736 growth should never stop. They have learned about life, people
737 and working together in here in two and a half years which they
738 would not have learned in college or in easier, softer conditions,
739 and I shall love watching them use it if I come through.
740
741 Bedie will never forget what it is like to be hungry, not to have
742 enough day after day, as we stretch out the Red Cross supplies

743 and what we are able to buy. He weeps over a bad potato.
744 Coconut milk is too rich; beans are too gas-producing and peanuts
745 he doesn't chew enough. All these upset him in any quantity and
746 he doesn't like the fish the Japanese give us which makes his diet
747 difficult.⁵⁰

748
749 June 14, 1944. Word is circulating around camp about a June 6
750 article in the Manila *Tribune* reporting landings all
751 along Normandy⁵¹— 40,000 by sea, 60,000 by paratroops and
752 gliders after them. Previous to this, 11,000 planes. Transport
753 planes landed tanks and a big tank battle was in progress. General
754 Dwight Eisenhower was in command, Rommel commanding
755 Germans. The two great antagonists meet again on French soil,
756 after Africa. Another article reported that Rome declared an Open
757 City and evacuated "to spare its art treasures." The front is now
758 40 miles north in Italy.

759
760 News about such American advancements is probably why the
761 Japanese have decided not to allow any newspapers into Camp

762
763 The great pork graft is a major topic around Camp. Someone
764 squealed that the kitchen staff pinched eight or nine of the
765 biggest chops from the pork we had for second meal. Carl
766 investigated and found several still warming in the oven. The
767 stolen chops had been passed to the Chef to cook and divide
768 among the select few. Jerry said to me,

769
770
771 **[CUT-IN SIX]**

772
773 Jerry I'm tellin' you Natalie, it's reached the point around here where a
774 man might get killed over a pork chop.

775
776
777 Natalie June 15, 1944. Today a Chinese man who cooks for the Japanese
778 used a newspaper to protect his head while carrying sheet iron to

⁵⁰ This paragraph is from Natalie's [June 19, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁵¹ Natalie wrote Brittany but I substituted it to Normandy and added the June 6 date stamp for easier identification of D-Day.

779 the shop. A guard grabbed it and tore off the front sheet quickly
780 before our men could see it.

781
782 The June 6 news about Normandy must really have the Japanese
783 riled.⁵² One guard who is beginning to think for himself tells our
784 men that soldiers don't get enough to eat. He says that before
785 they could pound the posts in fast, but now they go very slow and
786 are tired all the time. He said more about us maybe winning and
787 being out in a year. If he was wounded, he would get paid 24
788 pesos and go home. If he dies his family gets only a little. There is
789 little to look forward to, no way to turn.

790
791 One of the Japanese's few pleasures— and ours— is
792 entertainment night. One of Mr. Tomibe's officers put on a
793 performance for our little variety show⁵³ a few nights ago.⁵⁴

794

795

796 **[SCENE EIGHT]**⁵⁵

797

798 Millie Will someone please explain to me what that was all about?

799

800 Peg I think it was a sword dance, Millie.

801

802 Enid Mr. Suda scared the living daylights out of the children when he
803 started leaping all over the place and swinging that sword!

804

805 Millie Where'd he get the sword?

806

807 Miss McKim From Tomibe-san. It's his family's sword.

808

809 Enid I wouldn't let Mr. Suda borrow anything valuable of mine. What
810 I'd like to know is where he got that costume?

811

812 Clara I lent him some fabric.

813

⁵² This is sentence is my assumption that I used to emphasize D-Day.

⁵³ Variety show was a common term used in the 1940s. See [Variety show - Wikipedia](#).

⁵⁴ This paragraph is my introduction for the next scene.

⁵⁵ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 17, 1944](#) diary entry.

814 Enid You're living dangerously.
815
816 Clara Well, I couldn't exactly say no.
817
818 Peg His accent is so thick that I couldn't understand what he said
819 before the dances. Was he supposed to be a samurai, Miss
820 McKim?
821
822 Miss McKim Yes. Each dance was about a warrior. The last one was about a
823 tired warrior who sees a big snake crawl before him. He thrusts
824 his sword to kill it to find that the snake is only the shadow of a
825 pine branch.
826
827 Carlotta He was pretty convincing, except for the coke-bottle glasses. He
828 should've taken them off.⁵⁶
829
830 Enid Then he'd have sliced off our heads.
831
832 Millie Guess we've infected Mr. Suda with the acting bug.
833
834 Miss McKim The guards and officers do love our entertainment nights.
835
836 Peg [LAUGHS] Mr. Suda's a star.
837
838 Carlotta How do you say, "No autographs, please," in Japanese?
839
840 Millie Ah, he's just like the rest of the hams in this Camp: you could stuff
841 him with cloves and have him for Easter dinner.
842
843 Doris Don't say that Millie!
844
845 Millie Why?
846
847 Doris Because now I'm gonna be thinking about ham all night.
848
849 Clara Gee, I hope I get my fabric back.
850

⁵⁶ *Forbidden Diary*, [pp. 354](#), shows a drawing of Mr. Suda performing with large glasses

851

852

[DIARY READING NINE]

853

854 Natalie

June 19, 1944. The kitchen staff had a meeting today to demand that our police put guards on kitchen doors to keep people out!

855

856

857

June 21, 1944. Miss McKim is worried about our poor, sensitive and lost, little Mr. Yamato.⁵⁷

858

859

860

861

[SCENE NINE]⁵⁸

862

863 Miss McKim

He's so homesick that he's ill, Natalie. His hair's going white and he has beriberi.

864

865

866 Natalie

There are a lot of homesick people in here, Miss McKim. Why are you feeling sorry for Mr. Yamato?

867

868

869 Miss McKim

Tomibe-san asked me the same question and if I felt sorry for him and Mr. Saito who miss their families.

870

871

872 Natalie

What'd you say?

873

874 Miss McKim

I said, "No, because you two can take it."

875

876 Natalie

Hmm, I see what you mean.

877

878 Miss McKim

Mr. Yamato just isn't as adaptable as Tomibe-san and Mr. Saito.

879

880

881

[DIARY READING TEN]

882

883 Natalie

We all have people whom we feel drawn to look after and who look after us. With Nida and me it is both.⁵⁹ Through my Filipino friend Marie,⁶⁰ I was able to give Nida cash from my dresses and

884

885

⁵⁷ This is my introduction to the next scene. Mr. Yamato will become an important character for the remainder of the story.

⁵⁸ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [June 21, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁵⁹ My transition for the remainder of the paragraph.

⁶⁰ For clarity, I added "my Filipino friend."

886 shoes. What complex interchange of all this is— Nida stands by
887 and rescues our things, keeps them from being looted until Carl
888 has them under his wing. Later, both of us are supported from the
889 clothes we left outside that Nida kept safe for us.

890
891

892 **[SCENE TEN]**⁶¹

893

894 [SOUND OF WALKING AND HEAVY BREATHING, THEN HURRIED FOOTSTEPS]

895

896 Nida [IN TAGALOG AND ENGLISH] Auntie! Are you okay? Help her
897 Jorge!

898

899 Jorge [IN TAGALOG AND ENGLISH] Here. Grab my arm auntie.

900

901 Auntie [IN TAGALOG AND ENGLISH] I just need to sit.

902

903 Nida Do you want to go in the house?

904

905 Auntie And waste this beautiful day? [SOUNDS OF SHOES BEING
906 UNLACED] I need a better pair of shoes. I walked all over
907 downtown Baguio today.

908

909 Nida Jorge and I were drinking buko juice, do you want some?

910

911 Auntie Si, gracias Sobrinita. [DRINKS JUICE] You know, I used to enjoy my
912 walks until they cut down the trees in the park.

913

914 Nida It all went for firewood, even that big laurel tree.⁶²

915

916 Jorge They had to do it. There was no fuel for heat.

917

918 Auntie Why didn't they cut the trees in the forest?

919

920 Jorge Because all the big lumber companies are gone, and there's no
921 transportation to hall in the wood.

⁶¹ Except where footnoted, based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 1, 1944](#) diary entry.

⁶² Natalie didn't mention the type of tree. [Top 20 Most Common Trees in Baguio](#)

922
923 Nida That's because the Japanese stole the equipment.
924
925 Auntie They've been here three years and look at what they've done to
926 Baguio. It hurts my heart to see Sessions Road so dirty and
927 unkept.
928
929 Nida And now they're stripping people's houses.
930
931 Auntie I thought they were finished with that. What more can they take?
932
933 Jorge The plumbing... the electric wiring... the roofs.
934
935 Nida Why would they take people's roofs?
936
937 Jorge They want the tin.
938
939 Nida They're going to tear down the Stevenson's home.
940
941 Auntie What a shame. I liked that house.
942
943 Jorge The hardwood floors are supposed to go to some new
944 government building.
945
946 Auntie But it's not their house. How can they do that?
947
948 Nida Who's going to stop them?
949
950 Auntie Oy.
951
952 Nida I was hoping the new Filipino government would be better.
953
954 Jorge They're not running things any better than the Japanese. One of
955 their hot shots⁶³ throws these big expensive parties. They're

⁶³ Slang was used in 1944. See [hotshot | Etymology of hotshot by etymonline](#).

956 supposed to be for the Filipino assemblymen, but everyone knows
 957 he's greasing the palms of Japanese officers for favors.⁶⁴
 958

959 Nida I know who you are talking about. He's made millions buying and
 960 selling stolen property.⁶⁵
 961

962 Auntie It's going to take years to get back to the way things were before
 963 the War. If we ever do.
 964

965 Jorge We'll get everything back. You'll see.
 966

967 Nida Jorge's right, Auntie. I got some plantains today from a neighbor.
 968 When they ripen, I'm going to make Minatamis na Saging.
 969

970 Auntie Oh, I would like that!
 971

972 Jorge Where'd you get the money for the sugar?
 973

974 Nida Mrs. Crouter asked Marie to sell some of her shoes and dresses in
 975 town. She got 300 pesos and gave it all to me. See Jorge. I knew
 976 Mrs. Crouter would help me.
 977
 978

979 **[DIARY READING ELEVEN]**
 980

981 Natalie June 22, 1944. Bedie's early specimen looked bad. We feel despair
 982 over prospects of dysentery for him, with no bananas to mash, no
 983 eggs to buy and prices soaring in any case. I covered him with a
 984 blanket in the dugout and he wept at the thought of salts and
 985 starvation diet for three days and staying a week at the hospital.
 986 This will be his third dysentery.
 987

988 He weeps again when the doctor says to take the mattress down.
 989 I gather towels and all the rest together and hunt for Jerry to carry
 990 the heavy part. We got two library books and some juice for him

⁶⁴ Natalie's [July 15, 1944](#) diary entry. "Greasing palms" would have been used in the 1940s. See [Grease the Palm – Idiom, Meaning & Sentence Examples](#)

⁶⁵ Ibid.

991 to take. He is very forlorn but cheers up when two carnations
992 come from his girlfriend and when Jerry reports he will buy
993 potatoes to give him mashed with butter as soon as he can eat.

994
995

996 **[CUT-IN SEVEN]**

997

998 Committee Man June 29, 1944, Committee Minutes. Dr. Shaffer reported the most
999 severe dysentery epidemic in nine months and explained the
1000 difficulties of treating these cases with the shortage of nourishing
1001 food. As a precautionary measure the serving of raw vegetables
1002 through the kitchen will be discontinued.

1003

1004

1005 Natalie June 30, 1944. I typed a postcard card to Mums, saying "Had to
1006 quit Work Details, resting which don't enjoy as you know, Mums.
1007 Jerry keeps busy, children school, rains beginning. four loves to
1008 three families." So much for the 25 words allowed.

1009

1010 July 1, 1944. Four, then six, planes roared over us. Two then one,
1011 then three pursuits. Seven more bombers went over the coast,
1012 four came back, all going north. By noon 36 had passed by.

1013

1014 Dr. Skerl talked on mountaineering and his ascent of the
1015 Matterhorn from Zermatt with a guide. It was thrilling to hear
1016 about it.

1017

1018 July 2, 1944. The doctors told Bedie he was released to go home.
1019 Bedie shot out the door and up the hill in his pajamas, not even a
1020 coat. He now loves fish!

1021

1022 Word has it that Saipan is now ours, also Cherbourg in Normandy
1023 and a hundred-mile line around it.

1024

1025 Fourth of July, 1944. Not much celebrating this year. Our men
1026 were allowed to leave work early to celebrate the holiday with a
1027 ball game.

1028

1029 July 5, 1944. At Japanese class we learned of Mr. Tomibe's
1030 punishment for Wick and Ritchie's escape, flipping his world and
1031 ours upside down.⁶⁶

1032

1033

1034

[SCENE ELEVEN]⁶⁷

1035

1036 Miss McKim Class! Before we begin, I have some very bad news to tell you.
1037 Tomibe-san is leaving.

1038

1039 Enid What? Are you sure?

1040

1041 Miss McKim Yes.

1042

1043 Natalie Oh no!

1044

1045 Peg You mean here, Camp Holmes?

1046

1047 Miss McKim Yes.

1048

1049 Natalie Are they punishing him for the escapes?

1050

1051 Miss McKim Yes. But he's been expecting it.

1052

1053 Millie What are they going to do?

1054

1055 Miss McKim They've already done it, Millie. They've demoted him and put him
1056 on active duty.

1057

1058 Natalie Where's he going to go?

1059

1060 Miss McKim They haven't said. He has to wait for his orders.

1061

1062 Peg Well, who, who's taking over for him?

1063

1064 Miss McKim A Lieutenant Oura.

⁶⁶ My introduction for the final scene.

⁶⁷ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [July 5, 1944](#) and [July 31, 1944](#) diary entries.

1065

1066 Natalie Do you know anything about him?

1067

1068 Miss McKim No. I don't, Natalie.

1069

1070 [COLD CLOSE]

1071