

Season Four, Part One, *Forbidden Diary*
Episode Twenty-Four: *No Good Deed*

CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE

1		
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5		
6	Announcer	Steve Mountjoy
7	Natalie Crouter	Sevil Delin
8	Mrs. Coulter	Wendy Brown
9	Miss McKim	Christine Atsuko Holloway
10	Mr. Tomibe	Masaya Okubo
11	Lt. Harada	AJ Sparks
12	Peg	Rebecca Haugh
13	Enid	Karen DeBoer
14	Dotty	Ina Marie Smith
15	Committee Man	Christopher V. Thorn
16	Walter	Kiff VandenHeuvel
17	Jerry Crouter	Mark Oliver
18	Bill Moule	Dustin Parkhurst
19	Jim	Maxwell Glick
20	Mr. Suda	Yuki Amezawa
21	Betty	Julie M. Dean
22	Millie	Melba Sibrel King
23	Alfreda Hitchcock	Chris Robinson
24	Clara (Mrs. Griffith)	Karla Wren
25	Carl	Scott Walton
26	Sgt. Sato	Miki Hiromoto
27	Arthur	Bob Ball
28	Alex	Slava Timoshenko
29	Mr. Hayakawa	Koji Asano
30	Smitty	Jesse Fister
31	Committee Man/Dorm Monitor	Christopher V. Thorn
32	Phil	Eric Bryan Moore
33	Bedie Crouter	Luka Aslan Nas
34	Jerry Crouter	Mark Oliver
35	Ted	Troy W. Hudson
36	Larry	Patrick Golebiowski
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39		

40 [Cold Open]

41

42 Announcer Previously on *Forbidden Diary*....

43

44 [SOUND BITES FROM PREVIOUS EPISODES]

45

46 Announcer And now, Episode Twenty-Four.

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48

49 [DIARY READING ONE]

50

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

52

53 Natalie March 15, 1944. Betty gave a grand bridal shower for Wilma,
54 decorating with her embroidered cloth, pink candlesticks and a
55 low pewter bowl with Jane's exquisite flower arrangement. She
56 really shot the works on all of the extra-special food.¹

57

58 Meanwhile, arguments over family life are still going on, with
59 couples buzzing and knots of disturbed single women and grumpy
60 single men grouping to complain, grouse or sound off in horror.
61 One woman said very high hat,

62

63

64 [CUT-IN ONE]

65

66 Mrs. Coulter This is neither the time nor the place to ask for such a thing!

67

68

69 Natalie Time nor place! Hmph! What a bunch of malarkey! Speaking of
70 which,² a truck from Manila arrived loaded with barbed wire for
71 the fence the Japanese are planning to put up around Camp. But
72 it also carried mail, Red Cross medicine (mostly vitamins), a box of
73 recreational equipment, *and* Walter's baggage from Manila. 9,270
74 pesos in Relief Funds came in along with June's Antuitrin, thank
75 God, to prevent her from hemorrhaging.

¹ Natalie's [March 14, 1944](#) diary entry.

² My transition to next topic about which Natalie wrote.

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In Japanese class Miss McKim told us about Mr. Tomibe's English lessons.³

[SCENE ONE]⁴

Miss McKim Tomibe-san tried to tell me in English about his car trip and running out of gasoline. Every time he reached a certain point in the telling, he would say in his Nipponese English, "And when we reached there, we got some!" But his English is very good. He told me about an argument that he had with Lt. Harada over how poorly the Lt. Harada treats internees. It ended with Tomibe-san pointing to Lt. Harada's shoulder insignia and yelling

[CUT-IN TWO]

Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] If you are of that opinion, you had better take off your insignia of rank and go back to Japan!"

Miss McKim Then Lt. Harada shouted back at him...

[CUT-IN THREE]

Lt. Harada [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] And if *you* are of that opinion, you had better take off *your* insignia of rank and go back to Japan!"

Miss McKim Tomibe-san says his Japanese friends insist that he's too lenient and that he'll receive a medal from the American government after the war.

Peg What'd he say to that, Miss McKim?

³ My introduction to the next scene.

⁴ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 15, 1944](#) and [March 23, 1944](#) diary entries.

112
113 Miss McKim Tomibe-san told them that our Executive Committee does not
114 think he is lenient.
115
116 Enid Has he told you anything about himself?
117
118 Miss McKim Well, he has a wife. They were married seven years ago at the
119 beginning of the China War. He told me,
120
121
122 **[CUT-IN FOUR]**
123
124 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] I what you call in love.
125
126
127 Natalie Well, that sure tells you why he's letting families live together.
128 Doesn't it?
129
130 Miss McKim Yes. I think it does. He was in the military for seven years and
131 been sent to China, Manchukuo, and then here to the Philippines.
132 He's only been home for two years.
133
134 Enid Does he have any children?
135
136 Miss McKim Uh huh, a boy age four and a girl six. He graduated from Kyoto
137 University and is a lawyer.⁵ He obviously comes from money. I
138 think he's the best commandant we've had by far.
139
140 Peg Well, Nakamura and Mr. Hayakawa aren't much competition.
141
142 Miss McKim True. But he's making a real attempt to understand and fix our
143 problems—and he's clever enough to do it too! He says that he's
144 trying to treat us the way he would want to be treated if the
145 situation were in reverse.⁶
146
147 Natalie The golden rule.

⁵ Natalie wrote "trained in the legal profession."

⁶ Tomibe, Rokuro, *Memoir Notes*, MacArthur Memorial Archives, Record Group 105, Box 11, Folder 4, pp. 7.

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Miss McKim

Enid

Miss McKim

Yes.

Well, that's very Christian of him.

I believe Mr. Tomibe is a man of conscience.

[DIARY READING TWO]

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

Natalie

March 16, 1944. I was walking back from the dining hall when Dotty⁷ called to me from a dorm window.

[CUT-IN FIVE]⁸

Dotty

Hey Natalie, y'all expecting some things from Baguio?

Natalie

No. Why?

Dotty

Well, the truck's brought a lot of boxes and bags with your name on 'em. I think you got a big 'ol steamer trunk too!

Natalie

Astonished, I rushed out to the bag table where there were two of our suitcases and other things. The soldier told me it would have to be examined, so I tore out to the woodshed to tell Jerry. His jaw dropped and with a whoop he lifted the sledge and let it fall with a terrific wallop.

Two guards went through the black trunk full of clothes, two suitcases, the bag of silver, a wooden jewel box, and a cardboard box of ivories. The ivories and silver have moved five since they left our house. They went to our friends the DeBoers who have

⁷ It was actually a woman named Daisy, but for simplicity I used an existing cast member.

⁸ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 16, 1944](#) diary entry.

184 moved twice, to Carl's house in Baguio, then here. With moving,
185 looting and emergency prospects, the DeBoers did not want
186 further responsibility as the end of the War nears, and I don't
187 blame them. Carl described how Nida and Ismael and Jorge had
188 carried and carted the clothes over four miles across town on
189 many trips.

190
191 Every bit of silver, every piece of ivory was there except the
192 carved ball which was left on a table. The silver is just as I packed
193 it after the first bombings in 1941, and the ivories as I packed
194 them away four Christmases ago. There's not only the silver I
195 packed, but all of the loose pieces which were left in the drawer
196 and gathered up by Nida.

197
198 The big leather suitcase and gray army suitcase were full of
199 clothes— dresses, sweaters, stockings, underwear, orange
200 embroidered Chinese pajamas, the black satin embroidered ones,
201 wool suits and pants of Jerry's. Oriental silks and colors tumbling
202 into the drabness of Concentration pell-mell. We went through
203 each case, covering the bed with rainbow shades.

204
205 My jewelry, except for the empty boxes which held the valuable
206 pieces that the Japanese stole from our safety deposit boxes
207 during our first weeks of internment was there.

208
209 It is almost a burden but exciting, stimulating to have these
210 ghosts from the past coming into my mind which has been
211 detached and made into a new mold. I feel that I want to share
212 what has come in without effort on my part, almost undeserved,
213 so I'm going to give away some things. First, June's dresses are too
214 young and outgrown, and there are only six as the rest were
215 looted, so I'll take three to Ann and three to Peg's girls. The silver
216 pusher and baby spoon go to John Hay, a curved spoon to Susan,
217 and a straight-handled spoon to Ann. The Red Cross bath towels
218 go to Ruth and Jane as well as a large pair of black sateen trousers
219 that Jerry used for a costume at some club party. I'm sure
220 material can be made into a skirt.

221

222 While packing, repacking and storing the cases under the bed, we
223 found a second box of ivories.

224
225 Jerry and I have had waves of gratefulness for our faithful Nida
226 and Ismael. The risks they took showed in the candle wax on
227 many fabrics indicating the dangers of being caught and charged
228 with looting.⁹

229
230

231 [CUT-IN SIX]

232

233 Committee Man *March 17, 1944, Executive Committee Minutes* Father Sheridan
234 presented a plan drawn up by three volunteers interested in the
235 Family Unit Project. In it, spaces were allocated for couples with
236 and without children.

237

238 Dr. Skerl reported the work to date at Trinidad garden site and
239 stated that little could be done until seeds, fertilizer, water and a
240 number of other items necessary to such an agricultural project
241 are supplied. Preliminary preparation of soil is being carried on in
242 one section of the Camp's plot.

243

244

245 Natalie *March 18, 1944.* Peg's husband, Walter, seems to be settled into
246 Camp. After Japanese class, I joined the Jerry, Bill Moule, Walter,
247 and Peg on the back porch for coffee and muffins, where we
248 listened to Walter's saga of Davao and Manila.¹⁰ He and Peg were
249 separated early in the war when the Japanese sent him to a work
250 camp near Davao City on the island of Mindanao.

251

252 We sat spellbound as Walter talked about what happened in
253 Davao after the first bombings and his harrowing sea journey to
254 Manila before the Japanese finally transferred him up here to
255 Camp Holmes.

256

257

⁹ Last sentence and second box of ivories from Natalie's [March 17, 1944](#) diary entry.

¹⁰ Natalie's [March 13, 1944](#) diary entry. I added that they were sitting on the back porch for a visual.

[SCENE TWO]¹¹

258
259
260 Walter Oh yea, we sailed up to Manila from Davao on a real luxury liner.
261 The Japanese forced us below deck so we bunked with the rats for
262 the whole trip.
263
264 Jerry That's a hell of a long boat ride.
265
266 Walter No kidding. We spent four days in the dark. There were no port
267 holes, and a lot of the men ended up getting typhus from the rats'
268 fleas.
269
270 Natalie Ugh. Were you glad to get to Manila? I mean, was it any better
271 than Davao City?
272
273 Walter I don't know. It was all lousy. The camp where I stayed in Manila
274 was crammed with a hell of a lot of people. I think they ran out of
275 space before the last 1,000 prisoners arrived. Jeez, they must
276 have had... I don't know, maybe five times the number of people
277 as here. What's that, 2,500?¹² And, they had blackouts every
278 night. One switch turned off all the lights. Well, except for the
279 blue lights in the toilets. A guy who'd been there since '41 told me
280 that the guards had taken everyone's electrical stuff—you know,
281 hot plates and light bulbs. That was pretty recent, but I think that
282 things are going to get a lot worse down there. Man, I'm eternally
283 grateful that Peg and the kids ended up here.
284
285 Jerry Were you in Davao at the beginning of the war?
286
287 Walter Yep, sure was.
288
289 Bill Moule What was that like? There's a huge Japanese population down
290 there.
291
292 Walter I think that there was something like 20,000 before the War.¹³

¹¹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 13, 1944](#) and [March 18, 1944](#) diary entries.

¹² The total number of internees liberated at Santo Tomas on February 3, 1945 was 3,785. See [Santo Tomas Internment Camp - Wikipedia](#).

¹³ [Cultural Potpourri | The Japanese Interlude in Davao's Past](#) and [Davao as furusato: The shared history of Davao and Japan](#)

293
294 Bill Moule What happened December 8?
295
296 Walter You mean after the first bombings by the Japanese?
297
298 Bill Moule Yea.
299
300 Walter Well one thing that happened was lot of the Japanese families
301 fled across rivers to the mountains.
302
303 Natalie Why'd they do that?
304
305 Walter They were afraid of retaliation. Some drowned and the ones who
306 stayed were interned and treated pretty bad.¹⁴
307
308 Jerry That's what happened here. They interned Japanese civilian men
309 at Camp John Hay.¹⁵
310
311 Natalie It was pretty ironic that when the Japanese took over, we
312 swapped places with them.¹⁶
313
314 Walter The switch over on Mindanao was brutal. Something like 10,000
315 starving Japanese internees came back to Davao from hiding and
316 looted every store and house in the city.
317
318 Bill Moule Jeez, what a mess.
319
320 Jerry Those were rough days. The Japanese internees became our
321 guards, and they wanted payback.¹⁷
322

¹⁴ [Cogan, Frances B., *Captured: The Japanese Internment of American Civilians in the Philippines, 1941-1945*, pp. 23.](#)

¹⁵ Ibid. Also, Miles, Fern Harrington, [Captive Community](#), pp. 10 and Natalie's her [December 27, 1941](#) entry.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ On page 24 of a manuscript that Fern Harrington Miles, gave Jim Halsema to review she recalled, "The next day [after she was interned] we learned that the Japanese in charge of the Americans at Brent School were not military but local Japanese civilians who knew several of the Americans personally. This discovery lifted our hopes for better treatment. However, quite the opposite proved to be true. They had been so mistreated by the American military during their brief interment at Camp John Hay that they seemed to delight I making us miserable." (../Forbidden Diary/MacArthur/Fern Harrington Miles Manuscript.)

323 Natalie We didn't have food or water for days. Remember how the men
324 had to dig the privies without any shovels?¹⁸
325
326 Jerry Did they make you sign a loyalty oath?
327
328 Walter In Manila, yea. But we protested that we'd be signing under
329 duress and the Japanese backed off.
330
331 Jerry We had to signed ours but were allowed to attach letters of
332 protest, for all the good it did us.¹⁹
333
334 Walter Yea, in Davao, they "asked" us to sign a document saying that we
335 "volunteered" to "help" rebuild roads.
336
337 Jerry High Command wants us to turn in the names of tradesmen but
338 we refused.
339
340 Bill Moule Well, all except Ray.
341
342 Jerry That's because the Japanese already know Ray's a diesel
343 mechanic.
344
345 Bill Moule Yea. And he and the Japanese both know that Ray's in the catbird
346 seat²⁰ 'cuz their trucks won't run without him.
347
348

349 **[DIARY READING THREE]**

350
351 [SOUNDS OF PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
352

353 Natalie March 21, 1944. After lunch my name was posted as having a
354 note from Baguio, so I went to the office to receive 220 pesos in
355 Japanese government bills for my dresses that I'd sold. First, we
356 ate gold watches, now it is velvet, taffeta and felt.
357

¹⁸ Natalie's [December 31, 1941](#) diary; California State University Fullerton (CSUF) Halsema interview, pp. 5; and Halsema January 1, 1942 diary entry.

¹⁹ Natalie's [February 23, 1944](#) diary entry.

²⁰ Idiom popularized in 1942, but used earlier. See [Catbird seat - Wikipedia](#)

358 Well, at least we're not eating our integrity and self-respect.
359 When I hear some of the comments around here, I have to grind
360 my teeth.²¹ One man announced that he never expects to pay
361 what he has borrowed from people living the Outside while he
362 was in here. He prefers to go bankrupt instead. What an attitude
363 to take! We'll be only too glad to pay every cent even if it takes
364 several years. It was the difference between life and death for
365 June, health or wretchedness for the four of us and can never be
366 fully repaid for all it did to sustain us mentally and physically.

367
368
369
370 [CUT-IN SEVEN]

371 Jim *Camp Holmes Daily News*. One of the Camp's pigs developed hog
372 cholera, and within three days four swine have died. A
373 veterinarian came out to Camp Holmes to investigate and
374 administered a vaccine but fears we will have to kill all of our pigs
375 as the strain is virulent, highly contagious and usually fatal. Both
376 internees and guards have lost livestock.²²

377
378
379 Natalie It's too bad the Japanese didn't isolate their new livestock for a
380 few days. The pigs can't even be eaten because they were
381 infected.²³ What a tragedy, in these times especially. We all feel
382 the pinch.²⁴

383
384 March 22, 1944.²⁵ On Monday, we had a change of guards. Our
385 guards have to be replaced every so often before they become
386 too soft. Those departing always go about the night before
387 chatting with friends for the last time, giving out candy to their
388 favorite children.

389

²¹ My transition. The remainder of the paragraph is from Natalie's [March 22, 1944](#) diary entry.

²² I turned parts of Natalie's [March 21, 1944](#) diary entry into a news article and added that virulent cases are 100% fatal because all of the pigs died. See [Classical Swine Fever \(Hog Cholera\) | Iowa State University](#).

²³ I added this sentence to make it clear that the pigs could not be eaten compounding the prisoners' loss. See [The Causal Relationship between Eating Animals and Viral Epidemics - PMC](#).

²⁴ Last sentence from Natalie's [March 27, 1944](#) diary entry.

²⁵ Natalie's [March 21, 1944](#) diary entry.

390 We undermine the common soldier. He likes us, and we feel
391 friendly toward him. One guard, watching the wood crew,
392 remarked apropos of nothing to one of the men.

393
394

[CUT-IN EIGHT]

395

396
397 Mr. Suda Japanese government is not good.

398

399

400 Natalie His announcement was received in silence. The guards have been
401 avidly interested in every detail of the Red Cross shipment. They
402 all want to go to America after the war ends and think it is
403 wonderful that the U.S. government sends all that to mere
404 civilians. One even remarked that after war here, Japanese,
405 Americans and Filipinos get along together.

406

407 March 23, 1944. Wilma and Clifford were married today! Much
408 preparation had gone into every detail. The piano was moved
409 down to the church garden. White sheets were laid to make a
410 narrow aisle from the hospital to a fern-trimmed bower. Each peg
411 holding the strips down was decorated with pine spray, the green
412 at intervals being very effective.

413

414 Many wore evening gowns or coats, and everyone dressed up if
415 only a little. I wore my brocade Chinese coat, the Genoa pink
416 corals, jade engagement ring and Grandmother's diamond for the
417 first time in two and a half years. I received a number of
418 compliments.

419

420 The green outdoors made a happy setting. A thin mist came and
421 went in wisps and streamers. It was so peaceful. Mary started the
422 ceremony by singing "Because" and "O Promise Me." Then to the
423 slow, stately strains of "Here Comes the Bride," the bridal
424 procession came down the slope toward the two ministers who
425 both performed the marriage ceremony.

426

427 The attendants wore powder blue gowns, with bouquets of pink

428 and white sweet peas. Betty's white satin gown from Saks Fifth
429 Avenue was lovely on Wilma, who lifted the tulle veil from her
430 face as she reached the altar.

431
432 Along the upper bank in a row sat a number of spectators
433 including small children deeply absorbed in the wedding
434 ceremony. They have heard nothing but wedding, wedding,
435 wedding, for weeks. On a bench at the guardhouse were a row of
436 guards with six or eight Igorot children whose eyes were glued on
437 the ceremony.

438
439 When the service was completed, the bride fairly jazzed up the
440 aisle, then ran down the slope with her new husband. There was a
441 long receiving line of good wishes, then to sign the guest book.
442 The four-layer wedding cake was surrounded by the Wylie's
443 sterling and my recently-returned silver flatware on a beautiful
444 embroidered cloth.

445
446 Mr. Tomibe has been much interested in this wedding and just
447 before the ceremony drove in from town with a vivid bouquet of
448 pink dahlias and calla lilies, a bottle of sake and a bottle of
449 whiskey for the bride and groom. He was all dressed up, watching
450 the ceremony closely, and afterward congratulated the couple
451 assisted by Miss McKim. He signed the guest book and mingled
452 with the 500 guests. Earlier, he had given us all permission to
453 dance till 9:25 in the evening.

454
455 For the first time in two years I felt like dancing both mentally and
456 physically. I felt like Cinderella leaving her mops behind. We
457 waltzed, one-stepped, two-stepped and fox-trotted, throwing in a
458 few other slides for good measure. Bedie and June danced
459 together. June danced with her Dad and learned to follow.

460
461 At the end, Walter drove the bridal pair around the parade
462 ground then down to the hospital in the Lincoln car, with
463 clattering tin cans tied by Larry on the back. Fern and Cleo gave up
464 their big front room for the couple and just before lights out some
465 of their closest friends serenaded them with tin cans. Ruthie, who

466 was the only unmarried attendant, caught the bride's bouquet.
467
468 It is always over so quickly after the endless preparations taking
469 weeks. It was a happy occasion but everyone felt let down, tired
470 after all the hard extra work, gaiety and hectic excitement.
471
472 Back at the women's barracks, some of us were too keyed-up to
473 sleep and got to talking about married and single life.
474
475
476 **[SCENE THREE]**²⁶
477
478 Enid It really was a lovely wedding.
479
480 Betty Indeed. And Grace and Ann adorable little flower girls. Weren't
481 they?
482
483 Natalie Maybe there'll there be another wedding from sheer contagion.
484
485 Millie Oh, I hope not. I'm still pooped from this one.
486
487 Alfreda Hitchcock Did you see that Mr. Tomibe signed the wedding book, Miss
488 McKim?
489
490 Miss McKim I did.
491
492 Peg What'd he write?
493
494 Miss McKim Congratulations! May happiness lie in your future.²⁷
495
496 Clara You know, this wedding has had me thinking about the Family
497 Unit Plan. It really is upsetting the apple cart.
498
499 Natalie I don't think so. It's returning things to the way they should be.
500

²⁶ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 24, 1944](#) diary entry.

²⁷ Tomibe op. cit., pp. 10.

501 Clara But married life isn't normal any more. Is it? I mean, not now,
502 when we've been living the single life for two years. You know,
503 this is the first time in my married life that I've been free enough
504 from child and family responsibilities to do other things, like go
505 back to nursing which I'm really enjoying.
506

507 Natalie Ah yes, but we're in a unique situation. The Camp takes care of
508 home duties like cooking and child care.
509

510 Clara I know, but in some ways, I like my life in here.
511

512 Natalie Well, you're never lonely; I'll give you that.
513

514 Peg Heavens no! That's for sure.
515

516 Clara I'm just saying that there's something to be said for the way we're
517 living in here. Just look at the single people who have found
518 companionship. And we've all made friend that we've never had
519 time for in the past. The kids seem happier too, with so many
520 friends to play with and all.
521

522 Natalie But they miss being with their parents.
523

524 Peg Well, sink or swim, they're sure learning how to get along with
525 people. I'll give you that.
526

527 Enid Personally, I'd find this experience so much more enjoyable if we
528 had food.
529

530 Clara I wonder. When the War is over the world and we've gone our
531 separate ways, will we miss Camp life?
532

533 Enid No.
534

535 Peg Maybe some things, I suppose.
536

537 Clara I'm going to miss all of the jokes and comradery and freedom.
538

539 Enid Freedom! What are you talking about, Clara?
540
541 Millie You're just being sentimental because it was such a good day.
542
543 Clara No. I don't think so, Millie.
544
545 Millie You'll be back to being miserable at breakfast when you get a look
546 at your little bowl of pasty rice and spoiled cabbage.
547
548

549 **[DIARY READING FOUR]**

550
551 [SOUNDS OF BOOK OPENING, PAGE TURNING, WRITING, AND FADE OUT]
552

553 Natalie As I sat listening to my dorm mates, I thought when we leave this
554 life, many will be maladjusted, cranky and unhappy, and we won't
555 know why. It will be a form of homesickness for the years that we
556 tried to work together and didn't do so badly, managed to live
557 with people we never dreamed we could get along with, and had
558 fun doing it too—thanks to rice machines, peanut machines, and
559 banana machines.²⁸

560
561 March 26, 1944. I went down to look at Wilma's wedding gifts
562 displayed on tables for everyone to view. About one third of the
563 camp, her most intimate friends, gave presents. Some had given
564 personal silver spoons and forks. (You could tell who had things
565 rescued or sent in.) On one table were all the hand-made gifts like
566 the bamboo salt and pepper jars with bark covers and a copper
567 coffeepot beautifully hammered out by Jess. Another table
568 contained all Red Cross items—sheets, embroidered with their
569 initials, bath and hand towels initialed, handkerchiefs and pink
570 step-ins panties all cleverly made into wedding gifts.

571
572 March 27, 1944. Camp is preparing for General Kō's visit in every
573 direction. Wooden signs with "Store," "No. 1 Dorm," "Dentist,"
574 "Dispensary," are being painted with Japanese characters over
575 each English word. Because of this, I had my first one-on-one

²⁸ Natalie's [March 26, 1944](#) diary entry.

576 encounter with Mr. Tomibe who walked up to me, bowed, and
577 pointed to a building, asking politely,

578

579

580 **[CUT-IN NINE]**²⁹

581

582 Mr. Tomibe Excuse me, Mrs. Crouter. What is this building called?

583

584 Natalie It's call a bathroom, Tomibe-san.

585

586 Mr. Tomibe Ah ha! Thank you.

587

588

589 Natalie He's even labeling people with armbands, which are being made
590 by Velma in a hurry. After they've been sewed, black characters
591 are painted on them, designating Committee members, doctors,
592 nurses, and so on.

593

594 As Carl, Miss McKim, Mr. Tomibe and his staff reviewed
595 preparations for the General's upcoming visit, Carl kidded
596 Tomibe-san about the arm bands. At first, Tomibe took him
597 seriously.

598

599

600 **[SCENE FOUR A]**³⁰

601

602 Mr. Tomibe Have the armbands been completed, Chairman Carl?³¹

603

604 Carl Yes, Tomibe-san. But there is a problem.

605

606 Mr. Tomibe What is it?

607

608 Carl Now everyone in Camp wants an armband, even the wood crew.

609

²⁹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 27, 1944](#) diary entry.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Tomibe op. cit., pp. 7. Tomibe uses the title Mr. or first names for male internees except Carl whom he calls Chairman Carl.

610 [SILENCE]
611
612 Miss McKim [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Carl is making a joke, Tomibe-san.
613
614 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Oh, I get it. [IN ENGLISH] Then they
615 will get armbands too!
616
617 Carl They'll be very pleased to hear that, Tomibe-san.
618
619 Mr. Tomibe Now, let us continue talking about General Kō's visit. I must know
620 this: how long does it take for cement to dry?
621
622 Carl Pardon me. I don't understand.
623
624 Mr. Tomibe I want to build in a cement walkway for the General's visit.
625
626 Carl I'd say at least a week. What do you think Arthur?
627
628 Arthur That sounds about right.
629
630 Mr. Tomibe But it must be dry by tomorrow!
631
632 Mr. Suda [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] How about using sheets instead of
633 cement?³²
634
635 Sgt. Sato [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] Then, General Ko can walk through
636 camp like a bride.
637
638 Arthur What's so funny Miss McKim?
639
640 Miss McKim I think they are suggesting that General Ko could walk on the
641 white sheets Wilma and Caroll used as a walkway to their
642 wedding alter. They're being very disrespectful.
643
644 Arthur Would you tell him about the fish? He needs to go over to the
645 kitchen and see it.

³² Natalie wrote that one of Tomibe's staff said, "'We might lay down a sheet,' whereupon they all laughed uproariously." I edited for clarification.

646
647 Miss McKim [IN JAPANESE TO TOMIBE] Tomibe-san, Arthur wants to talk about
648 the fish the kitchen's getting.
649
650 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] Why, Miss McKim?
651
652 Miss McKim [IN JAPANESE] He wants you to see for yourself.
653
654 Mr. Tomibe [IN JAPANESE] Please tell him we'll go to the kitchen after the
655 meeting.
656
657 Miss McKim Tomibe-san says he and his staff will go over to the kitchen after
658 the meeting, Arthur.
659
660 Arthur Thank you, Tomibe-san.
661
662
663 **[SCENE FOUR B]**³³
664
665 [KITCHEN SOUNDS]
666
667 Arthur Hey, Alex. Show Tomibe-san the fish we've been getting.
668
669 Alex Okay, but stinks when I open ice box.
670
671 [SOUNDS OF ICE BOX BEING OPENED]
672
673 Arthur As you can see, Tomibe-san, the gills are green.
674
675 Alex Is no good. I can't cook.
676
677 Mr. Tomibe You must understand, Chef Alex. Food is limited for everyone.
678 Japanese soldiers do not eat better than prisoners.
679
680 Alex Okay. I send fish to guardhouse for dinner.
681
682 Suda/Sato/Hayakawa [IN ENGLISH AND JAPANESE] No!

³³ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 27, 1944](#) diary entry.

683
684 Mr. Suda [IN JAPANESE] No way! I'm not that hungry.
685
686 Mr. Hayakawa [IN JAPANESE] Forget it!
687
688 Sgt. Sato [IN JAPANESE AND ENGLISH] I'm not eating rotten fish!
689
690 [SOUND OF PERSON RUSHING INTO THE KITCHEN]
691
692 Smitty They're dead! They're dead! They're.... Oh, um...Tomibe-san....
693
694 Arthur My God, Smitty, who's dead?
695
696 Smitty Two of the pigs.
697
698 Sgt. Sato Were they my pigs?!!!
699
700 Smitty Gee, I don't know, Mr. Sato. They all look the same to me.
701
702 Sgt. Sato [IN ENGLISH] I just spent 600 pesos on those pigs! They'd better
703 be alive! [IN JAPANESE] I saved for six months to buy for them. [IN
704 ENGLISH] What the hell!
705
706 Miss McKim [IN ENGLISH AND JAPANESE] Oh dear, ummm... would you like
707 someone to go after poor Mr. Sato, Tomibe-san?
708
709 Mr. Tomibe [IN ENGLISH AND JAPANESE] Thank you, Miss McKim. I'll deal with
710 him later. [IN ENGLISH] Mr. ah... Mr. Smitty, do you know how the
711 pigs died?
712
713 Smitty We're pretty sure it's fish poisoning.
714
715 Arthur You sure, Smitty?
716
717 Alex See. What I tell you. Even pigs can't eat fish.
718
719
720

[DIARY READING FIVE]

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

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Natalie

March 28, 1944. General Kō arrived late morning and made the rounds with about eight officers. I was a bit surprised to see that he's an elderly and benign-looking man with a long face. He toured the machine and shoe shops, hospital, private kitchens, dorms, and livestock pens housing our surviving pigs.

In honor of the visit, we ate pate and good rice, then saw "The Marx Brothers Go West" and cartoons down in the church garden on a big sheet that was stretched on bamboo for a screen. Two guards and a young Filipino sweated over the projector, but the kids had a grand time. June said she was disgusted with all the movie actors, thought them terrible smoothies, hated the kissing and "mush." She shows all the signs of Concentration Complex—no affection, no loving, or Holy Matrimony. All taboo! It shows a little of what can be done in molding of the young.

The question of family living quarters was taken up with General Kō. He said we cannot construct new buildings but if something could be arranged in the present buildings, he would not be opposed to it.³⁴

March 29, 1944. Outside contacts are very dangerous at the moment, so it is time to lay low—no more messages from the hill, no more bird calls, no more secret contact with Igorot friends.

I went a week without an ascorbic acid shot, and sure enough, a first canker appeared and multiplied, so I had to go back on Vitamin C. I'm hardly the only one. Many have mouths being treated with Vitamin C, along with two bad cases of beriberi, with legs swollen to the thighs, swollen face, etc. There is much athlete's foot in camp too.

March 30, 1944. Miss McKim told us about a special Executive

³⁴ Natalie's [March 31, 1944](#) diary entry.

758 Committee meeting with Mr. Tomibe and Mr. Suda. The topics
759 were etiquette and prison escapes.³⁵

760

761

762

[SCENE FIVE]³⁶

763

764 Miss McKim ...and there was Mr. Suda calling us all one big family and asking
765 why can't we act more friendly when he comes around.

766

767 Peg Gee, I wonder why. What did you tell 'em?

768

769 Miss McKim I suggested that there was a time when we were slapped by
770 guards and that perhaps we remembered it.

771

772 Peg What'd he say?

773

774 Miss McKim Nothing. I had him there.

775

776 Dotty Y'all sure did. Remember how Mr. Suda treated us at Brent School
777 when we struggled with our bags and things?

778

779 Millie I sure do.

780

781 Miss McKim Well then, Mr. Suda back peddled a bit and said that young and
782 old internees are almost always courteous, but the rest of us
783 show open resentment.

784

785 Dotty Well isn't he a delicate little flower.

786

787 Miss McKim Carl explained to him that most of us have never experienced
788 military discipline, and that if we go about our work without
789 seeming to acknowledge the presence of a soldier, we're not
790 aware of giving any offense.

791

792 Natalie Carl's such a diplomat.

793

³⁵ My introduction to the next scene.

³⁶ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [March 30, 1944](#) and [March 31, 1944](#) diary entries.

794 Peg Did Mr. Tomibe buy it?
795
796 Miss McKim I think so, but manners are important to Japanese.
797
798 Millie Oh yea, and Mr. Suda's a regular Emily Post.
799
800 Peg Who cares about Mr. Suda, what about Mr. Tomibe?
801
802 Miss McKim I think he that he doesn't have much to give his men and that this
803 is something he can do for them with little impact on us. After the
804 meeting he asked me to draft a message telling our work crews to
805 say, "Good morning" or "How do you do" to the guards.
806
807 Dotty Is that a fact? Well, I suppose some of those work-crew guys could
808 stand to learn some manners.
809
810 Miss McKim Well, then Mr. Tomibe got to the real reason for the meeting. He
811 warned the General Committee that if anyone were to escape and
812 get caught, they'd be put in jail, and it would not be pleasant.
813
814 Natalie That came out of nowhere. Why'd he say that?
815
816 Miss McKim General Kō must have said something about escapes during his
817 visit.
818
819 Millie Why would anyone be stupid enough to try to escape? There's
820 nowhere to go.
821
822 Miss McKim Some people tried to escape in Manila. That's why General Kō is
823 having the fence built around Camp. Something must be going on
824 because before I left the meeting, Tomibe-san said he had
825 something of General Kō's for me to translate tomorrow.
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[CUT-IN TEN]³⁷

Committee Man

March 31, 1944. The following is a Notice from the Commandant.

Because of an incident where two internees at Santo Tomas left prison to go to a bar in Manila³⁸, High Command has ordered that all prisoners in camps where such infractions occur must be penalized.

As punishment for this incident, Santo Tomas prison now has a 2 a.m. roll call. The Commandant does not wish to have call roll at Camp Holmes at inconvenient hours and makes a personal request to the internees of this camp to follow the rules so that the whole camp will not be forced to suffer for the indiscretions of a few. If the Military Police made any complaint in connection with this camp, the Commandant would receive all of the blame and shoulder all of the responsibility for allowing an infraction of the rules, should the person be found guilty.

[DIARY READING SIX]

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

Natalie

April 1, 1944. A python on the hill is getting some of the younger chickens in the Camp hen house.

April 2, 1944. About ten pigs have died in spite of serum shots which is a tragic burial of relief money for all of us.

April 5, 1944. An hour after lights out, everyone was roused out

³⁷ Natalie wrote that Tomibe stated the contents of this Cut-In. She didn't say how this was done, so I made it an announcement to foreshadow the episode ending and emphasize the heightened Japanese concern about prison escapes.

³⁸ In the Episode 18 Epilogue, Curt Brooks, who was interned at Santo Tomas, recounted what I assume is the same incident. Brooks said they went to a local bar. Natalie does not mention it but the men were beaten and executed.

862 of a dead sleep for roll call.³⁹ In the men's and women's barracks,
863 dorm monitors called out numbers under the watchful eyes of the
864 guards.⁴⁰

865

866

867 **[SCENE SIX]**⁴¹

868

869 Dorm Monitor Number 314

870

871 Jim Here

872

873 Dorm Monitor Number 317

874

875 Phil Yo

876

877 Dorm Monitor 319

878

879 Walter Here

880

881 Dorm Monitor 325

882

883 Bill Moule Here.

884

885 Bedie Daddy, why are they doing this?

886

887 Jerry I have no idea, Bedie.

888

889 Bedie I'm cold.

890

891 Jerry Take my coat.

892

893 Dorm Monitor 330 [SILENCE] Number 330 [SILENCE] Number three-three-zero

894 [SILENCE]

895

³⁹ For clarity, I rewrote Natalie's diary entry, "A more strict roll call late in the evening, we heard for the first time that Ritchie and Wick were not found." Lights out was at nine, so I assumed that they were asleep and startled by the surprise roll call.

⁴⁰ Last sentence is my introduction to the next scene.

⁴¹ Based on and imagined from Natalie's [April 5, 1944](#) diary entry.

896 Lt. Harada Who is three, three zero?
897
898 Dorm Monitor Ritchie.
899
900 Lt. Harada Do any of you know where this "Ritchie" is? [SILENCE] [IN
901 JAPANESE TO THE GUARDS] Haruki! Isshikawa! Go search the
902 bathroom!
903
904 Soldiers [IN JAPANESE] Yes!
905
906 Lt. Harada [TO THE PRISONERS] After roll call is finished, all of you will be
907 questioned. [TO THE DORM MONITOR] Continue.
908
909 Dorm Monitor Ah, number 441.
910
911 Alex Here.
912
913 Dorm Monitor 452
914
915 Smitty Here.
916
917 Dorm Monitor 453
918
919 Ted Here.
920
921 Larry [WHISPERS] Psst. Have you seen Ritchie?
922
923 Phil [WHISPERS] No. You seen Wick?
924
925 Larry [WHISPERS] No.
926
927 Phil [WHISPERS] Oh crap.
928
929 Dorm Monitor 532 [SILENCE], Number 532, [SILENCE] Number five-three-two.
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[DIARY READING SEVEN]

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

Natalie

Ritchie and Wick did not show up for roll call and have not been found. Jerry heard that they had passes for the hill today. No one saw them this evening or remembered seeing them during the day.

This is just unbelievable! After all of Mr. Tomibe’s warnings and efforts to make our lives better, none of his good deeds will go unpunished—not for him, for us, or for Wick and Richie.⁴²

If caught, it will be fatal for them.

[COLD CLOSE]

⁴² I wrote this paragraph to tie back to the Episode’s title, “No Good Deeds.” It is a fair assumption that