

The outcast

"Oh, please, let it happen quickly," she prayed, her lips moving silently. She turned and walked resolutely past the guard tower toward the fence crowned with barbed wire. The baby, wrapped in ~~her~~ a shawl, Mexican fashion to free her hands, ~~was~~ was sleeping contentedly.

"Halt!" The command was a routine ~~military~~ one shouted down from the guard tower.

The woman paused imperceptibly then continued her march. "Howard, please forgive me, forgive me," ~~said she~~ she whispered.

"Lady, don't go near the fence!" The voice from the tower had abandoned its military manner.

"How much longer?" she wondered. She was now about ~~nix~~ 15 feet from the fence.

~~get away from there!"~~  
"Lady, ~~please~~ the voice was impatient but not angry.

She was suddenly at the fence. "It'll happen now," she thought.

"Lady, please get back or I'll shoot." It was a plea, not a threat.

Sumiko Greene, waiting for death, opened the shawl for ~~her~~ a last look at her baby. He had his mother's heavy-lidded eyes, but his matted hair and rich, chocolate skin were those of his Negro father.

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Like many 20-yearold daughters of Japanese farmers,  
/Sumiko Tanabe had never gone out with a boy when she met  
Howard Greene. Hers was a typical upbringing in a patriarchal  
home, and although she was born and raised within a two-hour drive  
in their model-A pick-up truck of Los Angeles, she might as well  
have been born in a farm in Southern Japan as far as her environment  
was concerned. The grade-school and junior high school education  
she had had was ~~with~~ in a rural school attended largely by children  
of other Japanese truck farmers and in any case, the Japanese language  
school was <sup>a</sup> ~~of~~ greater educational influence upon her as she continued  
to attend it after graduation from junior high school terminated her  
public school education.

Her natural language was Japanese, her thoughts were ~~i~~  
Japanese, her play in her short childhood was Japanese, and while  
she read English with good comprehension, she spoke it with a  
Japanese accent and grammatical confusion.

Her father <sup>Dynouke</sup> was a hard-working man raising truck crops.  
After immigrating to this country to work on the railroad, he saved  
his money and finally had enough to lease some marginal farm land  
which he made productive. ~~With~~ Living frugally and working hard, he  
managed to save enough to send <sup>to Japan</sup> /for a picture bride who proved satis-  
factory in every way save one. She worked hard beside him ~~in~~ the  
fields, was frugal in the operation of the household, cooked ~~with~~  
tasteful but thrifty meals, deferred to his wishes and was silent  
unless ~~he~~ something he said required an answer from <sup>her</sup> ~~him~~; but she  
never produced ~~ax~~ son, and the only child she brought forth alive  
was Sumiko. Three others miscarried, and her father thought that  
one of those might have been a boy.

As soon as she was able to, Sumiko also helped in the fields, and after she finished Junior high school, it was decided that she would be more useful ~~helping~~ <sup>while</sup> at home and on the farm instead of continuing school. ~~Although~~ the income from the farm, although irregular, was generally quite good, the Tanabe family continued to live ~~frugally~~ a frugal -- almost a marginal -- existence. Part of the money was sent back to relatives in Japan; part of it was set aside to be used for the family to return to Japan where Tanabe was sure he would be able to retire in luxurious ease; the remainder enabled them to buy such clothes as they needed, rice, soy sauce, bean paste, fish and meat to supplement the food they grew and left little for niceties let alone luxuries.

While Sumiko was not allowed to date boys, she was assured of a husband because her father had made arrangements with a ~~marriage~~ "baishaku-nin" a marriage broker, to provide a "yoshi," a husband who would ~~xxx~~ give up his family name ~~to~~ and assume that of ~~the~~ ~~Tanabe~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~that~~ bride's so that the <sup>wife's</sup> family name would be carried on. Mr. and Mrs. Tanabe ~~agreed~~ and the baishakunin finally <sup>Shinji</sup> ~~agreed~~ upon/the second son of a neighboring farmer. / ~~the~~ ~~neighboring~~ ~~farmer~~ ~~was~~ ~~xxx~~ ~~big~~ ~~enough~~ ~~to~~ ~~divide~~ ~~the~~ ~~farm~~ ~~between~~ ~~the~~ ~~two~~ ~~boys~~ ~~and~~ ~~xxxx~~ ~~therefore~~ ~~xxx~~ ~~the~~ ~~xxxx~~ ~~Shinji~~ As the Ishii farm was too small to be divided between Shinji and his older brother, Shinji was grateful for the opportunity of becoming the heir-apparent to the Tanabe farm which by this time had been purchased by the Tanabe's in Sumiko's name.

Before the marriage could take place, however, Ryonosuke Tanabe died of a heart-attack in the fields. Death merited ~~the~~ luxuries for Mr. Tanabe such as he had never enjoyed in life. Through the

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, Mr. Saito,  
good offices of a ~~friend~~ worldly friend/who frequently went to  
Los Angeles, Mrs. Tanabe purchased a Hart, Shaffner and Marx  
suit for her husband and the finest coffin ~~xxxxxxx~~ the mortician  
had. Mr. Tanabe was laid to rest in ~~xxxxxxx~~ a choice  
Cemetery lot with a huge headstone ordered.

The Ishii family noted the extravagance of the funeral,  
surmised that the dowry was thereby diminished and asked to ~~be~~ have  
~~xxxxxxx~~ Shinji released from ~~his~~ the marriage agreement.  
Mrs. Tanabe had hoped that with her husband's death, the marriage  
would take place ~~xxxx~~ immediately so that the head of the house  
would be replaced; however, she knew that it would do no good to  
protest and bitterly agreed to ~~xxxxx~~ release Shinji.

Mr. Saito then suggested that ~~the~~ farm be sold and Mrs.  
Tanabe and her daughter move to Los Angeles where Mrs. Tanabe might  
find work in Little Tokyo and Sumiko might go to <sup>secretary</sup> secretarial school  
or learn a trade.

After the farm was sold, the ~~xxx~~ Tanabes moved into a  
hotel on East 1st Street ~~xxxxxxx~~ in the Little Tokyo section  
of Los Angeles and Mrs. Tanabe found a job clerking in a shop ~~xxxxxxx~~  
that sold tea and Japanese sweets. As she had kept the books on all  
of the farm transactions, she encountered no difficulty in this work.

After a lengthy discussion as to whether Sumiko should  
learn sewing or go to a secretarial school or learn hairdressing, it  
was decided that she should go to barber school. ~~xx~~ Most ~~of~~ the other  
students, finding the presence of a girl unusual gave her quite a  
rush, but her ~~xxxxxxx~~ awkward shyness presented a barrier, and when  
the novelty of her presence wore off, they left her alone. One who  
did not participate in the initial onslaught was Howard Greene, a

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tall, slender, light-skinned Negro who was almost as shy and withdrawn as Sumiko. As time went on, perhaps because they were both so ~~sh~~ introverted, they gravitated toward one another and increasingly their breaks were spent together, ~~walking~~ drinking coffee at Nick's or just walking along looking at the ~~shops~~ little shops on skid row where the barber school was located.

At home, Sumiko received the same kind of rush from the gay blades of Little Tokyo as she had received ~~from them~~ initially from the students at the Barber school, but not being schooled to cope with this situation, she simply withdrew, and ~~soon~~ the "farm girl" was left alone.

Lacking experience in any contact with boys, she was repelled by the loudness and aggressiveness she had found in most of them. But Howard was different; he was ~~kind~~ quiet and kind and courteous, never failing to hold doors ~~for her~~ for her, making her feel that she was a special person.

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The outcast

No cruelty is more unreasonable nor more degrading than that practiced by oppressed people on those even less fortunate than they.

Among the eighteen thousand or so Japanese and Americans of Japanese parentage herded into the Santa Anita Assembly Center during April, 1942, were some who were to find it a place of refuge where bone-breaking labor was not necessary to eke out a meager existence; others were to find it a place of opportunity where time was available to develop unsuspected skills; many were to find it a place of opportunity to put into practice those skills for which they had been trained but which economic and social sanctions prevented them from utilizing; most were to find the opportunity to develop cultural interests that had eluded them "outside" in the press of their daily existence.

And so the farmers and gardeners and laborers and fruit stand workers who had been used to working 12-14 hours a day suddenly found that they could take jobs in the camp calling for an eight hour day or for that matter ~~luxuriate~~ luxuriate without the necessity of working at all. The mess halls served everyone whether they worked or not; coupons for shoes were given to all whether they worked or not.

So too

The alien within

One of the unreasonable characteristics of man is that often ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ when he himself is the victim of oppression, this does not increase compassion within him for other unfortunates but brings forth a cruelty.

Among the ~~eighteen~~ eighteen thousand or so Japanese and Americans of Japanese parentage herded into the Santa Anita Assembly Center during April, 1942, were some who were to find it a place of <sup>bone-breaking labor</sup> refuge where ~~XXXX~~ was not necessary to eke out a meager existence; others were to find it a place of opportunity where time was available to develop ~~XXXXXX~~ unsuspected skills; still others were to find <sup>yet</sup> the opportunity to develop cultural interests that had eluded them "outside" in the press of their ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ daily existence; then there were those so overwhelmed by the depressing turn of events,

x      \$      rbbb      b

*uncertainty, belatedness, resignation  
as she returned to the job*

The alien within

One of the greatest tragedies in the human comedy is that ~~there is no greater cruelty exercised than~~ often great cruelty is exercised by people who are themselves oppressed.

One of the unreasonable characteristics of man is that often he exercises great cruelty when he himself is oppressed. This fact was marked indelibly on my mind during the shameful period following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor when with thousands of other ~~Japanese~~ Americans of Japanese descent I was herded into what was called an Assembly Center preparatory to being sent to what was called a Relocation Center.

The evacuation of the West Coast was a fairly orderly process, and I might add as humane as possible under the circumstances. ~~The evacuation was by~~ ~~neighborhoods, and it was~~ ~~mid-April that~~ ~~the chosen ones~~ ~~were ordered to report for transportation to the Santa Anita Assembly Center located at the site of the famous horse racing track~~ ~~and on a day in~~ ~~mid-April that~~ ~~the chosen ones~~ were ordered to report for transportation to the Santa Anita Assembly Center located at the site of the famous horse racing track