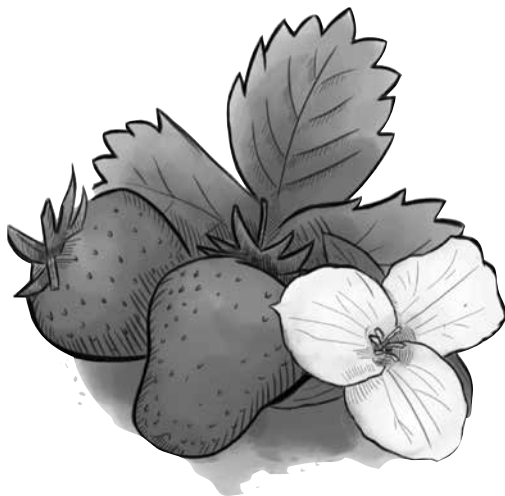


The Hopes and Dreams Series
Japanese-Americans

Sent Away

A story based on history



Second Edition

Tana Reiff

Illustrations by Tyler Stiene

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The cover and illustrations are by Tyler Stiene. The book was set and designed by Tana Reiff, consulting with A.A. Burrows, using the Adobe *Century Schoolbook* typeface for the text. This is a digital adaptation of one of the most popular faces of the twentieth century. Century's distinctive roman and italic fonts and its clear, dark strokes and serifs were designed, as the name suggests, to make schoolbooks easy to read. The display font used on the cover and titles is a 21st-century digital invention titled Telugu. It is designed to work on all digital platforms and with Indic scripts. Telugu is named for the Telugu people in southern India and their widely spoken language. This is a simple, strong, and interesting sans serif display font.

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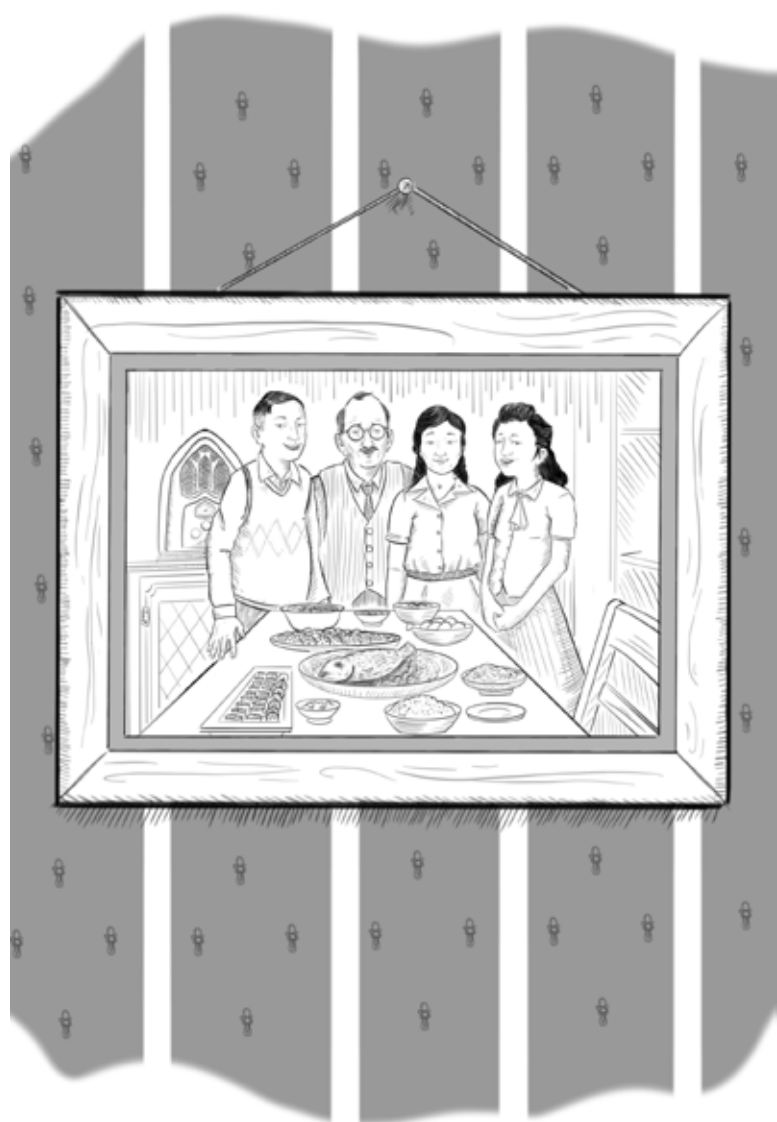
The Hopes and Dreams Series

by Tana Reiff

The Magic Paper (Mexican-Americans)
For Gold and Blood (Chinese-Americans)
Nobody Knows (African-Americans)
Little Italy (Italian-Americans)
Hungry No More (Irish-Americans)
Sent Away (Japanese-Americans)
Two Hearts (Greek-Americans)

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1 Happy New Year

Northern California, 1941

For the Higashi family,
New Year's was the best day
of the whole year.
Keiko, the daughter,
looked down the long table.
"In all my 15 years,
our New Year's food
has never looked so beautiful!"
Keiko told her mother.

Keiko's favorite foods
were laid out
to see and to smell.
Every food
had meaning.
Lotus roots,
for a clear future.
Dark green seaweed,
to bring joy.
Black soybeans,
as a wish
for good health.

Grilled whitefish,
as a prayer for success.
Bright pink shrimp,
for a long life.
White and gold eggs,
shaped like hearts,
to bring good fortune.

“Take a picture!”
Keiko begged her father.

“Everyone stand
around the table,”
Papa said.
He pointed
his little box camera
at Mama and Keiko.
“Tatsu, get into the picture!”
he called to his son.
“Stand behind
your mother and sister.
You are taller
than they are.”
Tatsu did
as his father asked.

Just as Papa
was about to
take the picture,
Mrs. Finn from next door
walked in.
“Get into the picture!”
she said to Mr. Higashi.
“Give me the camera.
I’ll take a picture
of all four of you.”

Papa stepped in
beside Tatsu.
The camera flash
went off.

“What a beautiful family!”
said Mrs. Finn.

“And a happy one!”
Papa smiled.
He put his arms
around the other three.

“Come and eat with us,”
Mama told Mrs. Finn.

“No, no,”
said Mrs. Finn.
“I just came to wish you
a Happy New Year!”

Mrs. Finn left
some special cookies
she had made.
Then the four Higashis
sat down at the table.
Each of them
put their hands together
and said, “*Itadakimasu.*”*

The meal began
with hot soup
and rice cakes.
The food kept coming
for hours.

* The Japanese word *itadakimasu* means “I humbly receive,” but when relating to food, it is often compared to “Let’s eat,” “Bon appétit,” or “Thanks for the food.”

When the meal was over,
Papa had something to say.
“We have come
a long way,”
he began.
“Today, we are
a lucky family.
We have a good life
in America.
We have everything
that we need.
We have so much
to give thanks for.
On this day,
we wish
for a long, happy, healthy life.”

He went on
to tell the family story.
Keiko and Tatsu
had heard the story
many times before.
It was a long story.
But it was a good one.
They did not mind
hearing it one more time.



2 Papa's Story

Papa told about
how he left Japan.
He went to Hawaii
as a young boy.
In Hawaii
he cut sugar cane.
It was back-breaking work.

Then he came
to northern California.
He picked vegetables and fruit —
beets, grapes, grapefruit —
all year long.
He worked hard.

He saved up money
to get married.
But in those days
there were few Japanese women
in California.

So Papa had his picture taken.
He sent the picture
to his family
back in Japan.
They sent him a picture
of a young Japanese woman.
The marriage
went on the books
in Japan.

The “picture bride”
came to America.
Papa met her
as she got off the ship
with many other young women.

Papa and his bride
were lucky.
They liked each other.
They had two children.
Tatsu, the boy,
was first.
Keiko, the girl,
was second.

As a young family man,
Papa had big ideas.
He wanted
to grow strawberries.
Many American farmers
thought that strawberry farming
was too hard.
Japanese workers
did not think
it was too hard.
Papa saw a chance
to make money.
However, California law
did not let Japanese people
own farmland.
So Papa leased some land.

After Tatsu was born,
Papa had another idea.
Children born in America
were U.S. citizens.
As citizens,
they could own land.
So Papa bought some land
in his son's name.

A few years after that
Papa had yet another idea.
He could see
that some farm workers
needed a place to live.
So he leased
a big house.
He turned it
into a boarding house.
Mama was the one
who ran it.

The boarding business
did very well.
The family lived
in five nice, large rooms
on the third floor.

With the strawberries
and the boarding house,
the young couple
made a good living.
But California
had many laws
against the Japanese
who lived there.

In some places
the Higashis
were not welcome.
Still, by New Year's Day 1941
the Higashi family
had a very good life.

Papa said
it was important
for Keiko and Tatsu
to hear this story
every now and then.



3 War with Japan

One day
in early December
Mama was home alone.
Mrs. Finn
came running into the house.
She was crying.

“Did you hear the news?”
she asked Mama.
“Japan has
bombed Pearl Harbor
in Hawaii!”

“Oh, no!”
cried Mama.
“I can’t believe it!”

It was December 7, 1941.
It was the day
the United States
got into World War II.*

* II is the Roman numeral for the number 2:
“World War Two.”

And it was the first day
of a long, hard time
for the Japanese in America.

The newspapers and radio
said that anyone from Japan
was on the wrong side
of the war.
Some people said
that the Japanese in America
were working
for the Japanese government.
As days and weeks went by,
these bad feelings
only grew worse.

“Be home by 8:00,”
Papa told Tatsu and Keiko
one morning.

“Why?”
they both asked
at the same time.

“It’s the law
for everyone from Japan,”
Papa explained.

As he spoke,
he took the box camera
out of the drawer.

“Are you taking our picture?”
Keiko asked him.

“No,” he said
without looking at her.
“I must turn it in
at the police station.
We may not own
a camera now.
No short-wave radios
or guns, either,
if we had them.”

One day at dinner
Mama wasn't eating.
She looked upset.

“What's the matter?”
Papa asked.

“Today I heard something
at the market,”
said Mama.

“Everyone from Japan
might be sent away
while the war is on.”

“But Tatsu and I
are U.S. citizens!”
cried Keiko.
“And you and Papa
are our parents.
They can’t send us away,
can they?”

No one had an answer
to Keiko’s question.

Then in April
the bad news came.
In ten days
all Japanese
and Japanese-Americans
had to leave their homes.
They would go to camps
far from home.
They could take along
only what they could carry.

They were told
they were being sent away
for their own safety.

“Our home
is the safest place,”
said Keiko.
“I want to stay here.”

“You may be right,”
said Papa.
“But we will do
whatever the U.S. government
tells us to do.
We must show
that we are
with the Americans.”

On May 1,
the Higashi family
was told to report
to a church.
From the church,
they would be taken
to the first camp.

They would stay there
until the main camp
was ready.

They had
only ten days
to sell or store their things.
Only ten days
to close their businesses.
Only ten days
to say goodbye
to the good life
they had built.

Glossary

Definitions and examples of certain words and terms used in the story

Chapter 1 — Happy New Year page 1

lotus — A flower that grows on the surface of the water.

Lotus roots for a clear future.

flash — A sudden, bright light for taking photographs in dark places.

went off (to go off) — to start, as a sound or light or alarm that happens very suddenly.

The camera flash went off.

Chapter 2 — Papa's Story page 6

went (to go) on the books — To become official.

The marriage went on the books in Japan.

leased (to lease) — To rent something, often requiring a contract.

So Papa leased some land.

boarding house — A building where people rent a room and buy the meals served by the owner.

He turned it into a boarding house.

Chapter 3 — War with Japan page 11

short-wave radio — A radio that can get signals from distant places.

No short wave radios, or guns . . .

Chapter 4 — The Race Track Camp page 17

broom — A household tool used to clean the floor by brushing.

She left the broom standing against the back door.

turned into (to turn into) — To change from one form to another.

It had been turned into a camp.

armed guards — Guards are uniformed men who protect or control. Armed means they have guns.

Keiko watched as armed guards closed the gate behind them.

barbed wire — Metal “string” that has sharp points on it.

The gate was covered with barbed wire.

chill — A sudden cold feeling caused by fear or anxiety.

A chill went down Keiko’s back.

horse stalls — Small “rooms” for horses in a building called a stable.

Horse stalls were all around the track.