

## Picture Bride Chapter Summaries

1. Hana Omiyah arrives by ship to California, where she will marry Taro Takida. She is nervous but excited. The travel by ship is long and tiring. It is 1917, the time period of WWI. She has only a photo to tell her of her husband-to-be, Taro Takeda.
2. After arriving at Angel Island, the entry point for all immigrants, Taro and Hana meet and spend time together while both await the wedding. Hana stays with Henry and Kiku Toda. Hana is exposed to American customs, but misses her home in Japan.
3. Hana attends her first church service, even dressing in American style, and has her first glance at Yamaka Kiyoshi, a young man she will develop feelings for. She is introduced to the congregation. She meets Dr. Kaneda and is introduced to Kiyoshi Yamaka. They all have Sunday dinner together and tell funny stories of adjusting to America.
4. Hana is somewhat disappointed about the Taro's shop and their home. She had expected them to be fancier and finer than they really are. Kiku, her first friend in America, cheers her up and begin wedding planning. Taro reminds Hana that they are foreigners in a foreign land, and they are not always welcomed by the Americans, an idea that comes as a surprise to Hana.
5. The wedding takes place amid much celebration. Kiyoshi drives the bride and groom to their home, where Taro seems slightly suspicious. Taro and Hana begin their married life.
6. Hana spends times tidying up and improving the shop's appearance. Hana settles into her new life. Taro leaves on church business for the day, leaving Hana alone. Kiyoshi stops by to check on her, per Taro's request. He advises her against any improper behavior since she is married now.
7. Everyone celebrates the New Year in traditional Japanese style with a festive meal at the Toda home. Hana has secret thoughts of longing for Kiyoshi as he sits across the table. All laugh at the reminder that Kiyoshi is a ladies' man. Hana fears her secret may be revealed.
8. Taro prepares for another day trip to visit Japanese farmers in the countryside. When Kiyoshi comes by for lunch, he makes physical advances toward Hana, who decides at the last moment to not accept his advances. When Taro returns, he learns that a customer mentions his shop had been closed at noon. Taro questions Hana and learns she had lunch with Kiyoshi. Taro, sensing Hana's heart longs for Kiyoshi, is hurt and upset.
9. Influenza (the flu) grips the city of Oakland, California. Taro and Dr. Kaneda warn Hana to be careful since she is expecting a baby. When Hana hears Kiyoshi is very sick with the flu and near death, she throws all caution aside and flees to his side, not caring if Taro finds

- out. After Kiyoshi's death, she is angry at "Taro's God" for letting Kiyoshi die and even blames herself as well. Hana contracts influenza and loses the baby boy.
10. Two years later, 1920-1921...Hana contemplates the anti-Japanese sentiment they encounter when she learns that they will move into a new neighborhood of Americans. Taro teaches her about the "Gentlemen's Agreement" and the Alien Land Law that each discriminated about immigrants. Hana, feeling guilt over her son's death, learns in church about God's offer of forgiveness and she is then eager to learn more. The family has a hostile visit by their new neighbors. Taro bravely faces the neighbors, and Hana is proud of him.
  11. Kiku drops by to visit Hana and tell her of their upcoming move to the countryside to begin a life of farming. The superintendent of the church also visits and asks for a loan for church supplies, which Hana willingly gives. Though she is being tricked, Hana loans \$25.50.
  12. At church, Dr. Kaneda announces the SS superintendent has suddenly left for Japan. In an effort to repay the church, Hana goes to work as a maid for a Mrs. Davis. On a bus ride home from Taro's shop, Hana encounters hostility due to the strong smell of her Japanese food. Embarrassed, she leaves the bus. Once at home, she is greeted by a neighbor knocking at her door. The lady visits long enough to ask if Hana does "day work" as a maid. Hana's pride is offended.
  13. Hana spends her first day working for Mrs. Davis, Kiku's former employer. She is treating warmly and kindly. Hana is amazed at all of Mrs. Davis's lavish possessions. She comes home exhausted and is treated lovingly when Taro cooks supper and cleans the dishes. Taro is happy.
  14. Hana brings sushi to church as a gift. The minister's wife and Hana go looking for the assistant SS superintendent, Mr. Kenji Nishima, the young seminary student who felt responsible for the theft of the money. They find him hiding in the attic, hungry and emotionally overwhelmed. At a church meeting, Hana walks by and blurts out an offer to house Mr. Nishima for the summer and bring him back to health. Taro seems less than enthusiastic about her sudden offer.
  15. Kenji Nishima now lives with Hana and Taro, mending day by day. Mrs. Davis, in an effort to help out, raises Hana's pay. Hana allows Kenji to take Mary, her daughter, out to the park. All goes well, but when Hana tells Taro of the successful babysitting by Kenji, Taro does not seem pleased.
  16. Taro seems to keep to himself, deep in worry. Finally, he breaks down to tell her the shop is deep in debt. Taro owes a great deal of money in unpaid rent and other debts used to pay the expenses. Hana and Nishima hatch a plan to raise money. Taro and Nishima will paint Mrs. Davis's house, without Taro knowing Hana arranged the extra work.

17. Taro's shop prospers under Hana's improvements. Sales increase and once again they are making a profit. This good news gladdens Taro who seems happier. The Takedas and their friends spend summer nights remembering childhood memories from Japan.

1930-1940 (The decade of the Great Depression, before the start of WWII )

18. Mary is now ten and pesters her parents to take a real summer vacation. After making lengthy preparations, the Takeda family travels out to the countryside to visit Kiku and Henry Toda, who now have two boys and a successful farm. Both families enjoy a week of good fellowship and relaxed summer fun.

19. Still at their vacation, the families continue to enjoy each other's company while the Takeda family enjoys their time in the countryside, far different than their home of Oakland, California, a busy city. Kiku's family is strong, healthy and happy. Hana, however, still struggles with the prejudice that is ever present in the city's environment. She will always feel like an outsider trying to fit in. Hana, who has clung to her Japanese ways, feels also that the older her daughter Mary grows, the less Hana knows her and the farther they grow apart. Mary is thoroughly Americanized, while Hana remains an outsider to the American culture and people.

20. The Takeda family honors those who have passed on with a memorial service at the cemetery. They remember Kiyoshi Yamaka. They also remember their son who died at birth in 1918, Ichiro Takeda. Reverend Okada announces that he and his family are returning to Japan. The congregation decides Kenji Nishima will make a fine replacement for Reverend Okada.

21. Mary is now sixteen, and wanting more than ever to fit into the American culture. She is shy, hard working, and obedient. She seldom has any interaction with American teenagers. The international club at Mary's school holds an assembly to celebrate the school's various cultures. Hana's mother brings her traditional kimono to school, but is not invited by Mary or her teacher to stay for the program. Hana continues to feel left out.

22. Mary is now a freshman at a university. She is interested in studying science and becoming a doctor. However, she is not motivated to be a doctor in order to help others. Instead, she is simply interested in medicine. Taro has more confidence and hope for his daughter than Hana does. Hana feels that she simply does not understand her daughter. Mary is very popular with the Japanese-American boys on campus and has a busy social life. One day, Mary is picked up for a date, but the young man is not Japanese at all. Her date, Joseph Cantelli, is Italian. They soon begin a passionate relationship that Hana or Joseph's parents do not understand.

23. That winter, Han and Taro Takeda wake to find a note on pink stationery informing them Mary had left. Mary and Joseph had run away to be married, not feeling their families would approve or understand. Taro is quick to forgive Mary in his heart, but Hana struggles with any forgiveness for Mary. Meanwhile, Mary has a few small doubts about her decision to become Mrs. Joseph Cantelli. In two months' time, their new family is expecting a child. Hana waits until Mary is in her sixth month to offer help when the baby arrives. By then, Mary had already made other arrangements and did not need her mother's help.

1941-1943 (The years of WWII)

24. Japanese military forces strike the Pearl Harbor Naval Base in Hawaii, leading America to enter WWII. Hana and Taro struggle to understand how the actions of some in her home country could possibly affect the views of Americans towards Japanese living in America. Dr. Kaneda is taken away by the FBI for having leadership roles in many Japanese organizations. The Takedas hear rumors of an "evacuation" of Japanese taking place in California, a relocation to an internment camp. Taro worries about what to do with his shop, if they are taken away. He decides to sell the shop and their possessions. Mrs. Davis suggests Hana and Taro move to Nevada, where Mary and her husband are. Nevada was outside of the "Exclusion Zone." When a letter arrives from Mary, it is clear her parents may come if they wish, but she would rather they not.

25. The restrictions on Japanese grow. They no longer may travel over five miles from home. They must turn in any CB radios, cameras, and binoculars. Kiku, who is scared, calls Hana. They are considering selling their farm. Taro decides to sell his shop. The low price he receives takes any hope away Taro might have had. In their last night in their home, the Takedas look around at an empty home. The next day they will relocate to a racetrack turned into a relocation camp.

26. In Livingston, California, the home of Kiku and Henry, a drunk American wanders to their front door. He fires into Henry's chest, killing him.

27. Taro and Hana are relocated to their new barracks, a horse stable at a former race track. As they struggle to adjust their first day, sad news arrives about Henry's killing. Meanwhile, in Montana as his relocation camp, Dr. Kaneda also receives word of the death. Later, a gift package sent by Henry before his death, arrives. Dr. Kaneda and other Japanese remember Henry with love.

28. Hana converses with the woman in the next stall, a single mother with a lazy son. Hana is surprised at how empty this woman's "room" is, Taro and Hana having worked hard to build furniture and decorate their small, simple living space. Seeing an opportunity to help

- Kenji find a bride, Taro plays matchmaker when they meet a young, shy neighbor, Sumiko. Rather than play matchmaker herself, Hana allows Taro to negotiate the introductions.
29. Taro and Hana spend a long time waiting on an FBI inspection, causing them to miss a meal. All of the camp's internees are nervous about the upcoming visit by the FBI. Rumors circulate about what the results of the visit might be. In the end, the inspections turned out to be extremely minor and Hana weeps with frustration after all her waiting and worrying. Despite her reserved Japanese upbringing, this time she does not care who sees her cry.
30. The Tanforan Assembly detention center is to be phased out and residents await their relocation. Hana and Taro are destined for a Utah location, the Topaz Relocation Center, creating a possibility of a stop in Salt Lake City, Utah to see Mary, Joe and the grandchild. Meanwhile, Kenji and Sumiko are happily married and the entire camp has a festive break from the tiresome, stressful camp life.
31. On the train ride to Utah, Hana is struck with how alive and busy the outside world appears after months in the isolated camp. Finally, the train arrives at Salt Lake City giving Han and Taro their first glimpse of Mary and Joe in years. Sadly, their daughter, Laurie, was sick and could not join her parents for the visit. The visit is short, but happy as all sadness and regrets seem to melt away as Mary is reunited with her parents.
32. The final destination in Utah is the Sevier Desert, a flat, where only sagebrush broke up the endless miles of hot, sandy landscape. The housing is barely inhabitable. The mornings and nights are frigidly cold, yet the days are beastly hot. Food, when it isn't spoiled, is in short supply. The wind blows constantly and the choking dust is a constant problem. Hana and Taro receive a letter from Dr. Kaneda saying he has decided to return to Japan.
33. Kiku and her boys, now past their teens, are housed in the Amache Internment Camp in Colorado. By now, the US military was trying to recruit young American-Japanese boys for an All-Nisei military unit. Signing up would force these American citizens to renounce any ties to Japan. Furthermore, two questions on the military questionnaire, caused many young Asians a great deal of heartache and confusion. Answering yes to both of these led many Asian to believe they would end up essentially without any country at all to call home. These young Asians became known as the "[no-no boys](#)." Both of Kiku's sons, Jimmy and Kenny, sign up for the special unit are at the end of the chapter, they leave to fight in WW II.
34. The dust storms continue to plague the camp's residents. Kenji Nishima leads his congregation with a calming hand and steady leadership. Hana has finally given in to her urge to always be in charge. She is at peace with letting Taro be the leader for their family.

The two must decide if they will apply for “clearance” to leave the camp and restart their life outside in a hostile society while the war rages on.

35. Taro applies for him and Hana to be relocated. However, the question asking him to forsake any allegiance to the emperor of Japan who leave him as a man without a country at all, since he was ineligible for citizenship. He struggles with this internal conflict. Sadly and suddenly, one day, while Taro is away from their barrack, Hana is called to the medical barracks. Taro had walked near the barbed wire fence and not hearing the warning call from the tower guard, he was shot. Taro laid dying while word was sent to Mary to hurry to see her father before he passed. Mary, Joe, and Laurie make it to camp, but too late to say goodbye. In the end, they try to persuade Hana to come with them to Salt Lake City, but Hana is finally at peace with what life has dealt her. She decides to stay at the camp until she can take Taro’s remains with her to be properly buried. As for Mary, she tells her mother, “Oh, Mama, I’ve been a miserable daughter to you and Papa.” Hana, having learned from Taro the importance of forgiveness, says, “We must learn to forgive and be forgiven, Mary. I had to learn that, too.” In the final page, Kiku comes running into the camp, having received permission to relocate to Hana’s camp, Topaz, to be with her long-time friend. The two walk arm in arm leaning on each other for the strength they will need in the days ahead.