

Namie Padasas, 9/K5

1st Letter, Tori Rosaria to Angie Rosaria.

*“Camotes Islands,
November 18th, 1963.*

“Dearest Angie,

I can see the island from the boat, and it is all very exciting! I’m very thrilled to meet *Tito* Joshua and *Tita* Christie, as I was only eight when I saw them last.

It’s beautiful here, such a shame you couldn’t come. Apologies for the short letter, though I must go - I have almost arrived!

Yours truly,
Tori.”

2nd Letter, Tori Rosaria to Angie Rosaria.

*Camotes Islands,
November 20th, 1963.*

“Dearest Angie,

Only two days have passed, and yet I must write again..

On the boat I saw something stir in the waters - the ocean staining green for only a moment. While I was not immediately alarmed, I remembered a story Papa told me-

He said what lurks beneath the waters are *Siyokoy* - animalistic creatures, with scales of green.. was that not what I saw?!

I must sound foolish to you, but why else - if not a haunted place, would they keep bottles of salt on standby in their house? That surely cannot be normal?

Yes, it could be for cooking - but salt in those quantities are used to ward away witches like the *Manananggal* and *Aswang*, correct? I’m sure **that wasn’t supposed to happen...** the rush of green - the suspicious amount of salt?

Surely I am overreacting... and yet, I am terrified. Please do write immediately, your presence in writing shall at least comfort me.

Yours truly,
Tori.”

P.S. – “For safety, I shall keep salt in my pockets as I wander.”

3rd Letter, Tori Rosaria to Angie Rosaria.

*Camotes Islands,
November 21th, 1963.*

“Dearest Angie,

I don’t think I can last two more months here..! I have bitten my fingers until I tasted blood! Why? Well, it all started when I went on a dreadful walk...

I drew *Tita* Christine’s attention to a tree, pointing at it, she seemed to turn white, and she gripped my hand - shoving it back into my face.

‘Bite your fingers, you have awoken the *Kapre*..’ - she had said.

Goodness, don’t *Kapre*’s steal girls as their brides? There are so many trees here, one may be lurking just in the backyard! Dear God, help me!

Angie, please write to me soon... In the meantime, I refuse to leave this house at night.

Yours truly,
Torie.”

Response letter, Angie Rosaria to Tori Rosaria.

*Manila,
February 9th, 1964.*

“My dear Tori,

I’m so sorry, I have simply lost track of time to respond. Mama and Papa have put me to work in the business - and only now have I the time to write back.

I do hope those myths didn’t frighten you that much... Remember, Tori, those are merely stories! Mama and I had a good laugh reading your letters, how terribly funny of you. Send my love to *Tita* and *Tito*!

Your sister, Angie”

P.S. — “Say hi to Fulgencio, the Kapre, for me - I believe he abides in the Acacia tree behind Tito’s house ;)”