

Angels of the Pacific by Elise Hooper

Angels of the Pacific is historical fiction set in the Philippines in 1941. The book is focused on US Army nurses, who served beside the US Troops in the Philippines during World War II. Hooper combines the story of the troops and nurses, with the lives of the Filipinos living in Manila during the occupation of the Japanese army.

On December 8th, only a few hours after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese army attacked the Philippine Islands. Nurses and soldiers were quickly moved from the city of Manila to the front lines. The situation rapidly disintegrated as continuous air attacks destroyed buildings and transportation routes, killing and injuring both nurses and soldiers, and cutting off all supplies and food for troops and nurses.

Tess, a young nurse from the state of Washington serves with a small group of nurses committed to providing care for the troops. The nurses will endure everything with their troops, including the US surrender, the Baatan Death March, and life as prisoners of war. One of the other nurses in Tess' unit, Flor, has family in Manila, and the book carries a second storyline about the Japanese brutality and resiliency of the Filipinos as they protect their home and lives during the Japanese occupancy.

This book has many graphic moments as the author writes using the memories shared with her by the real "Tess", who is called by name in the story.