



One Brooklyn
Tuesday, August 30, 1940

Charlie Banks starts another

New York third baseman Charlie Banks caught Banks, long noted for his quickness, in a short fight over what appeared to be a routine call during a doubleheader with Cincinnati yesterday at the Polo Grounds. The fight was promptly broken up by the umpire.



Goodbye Charlie

Written by Steve Kluger
Adapted and illustrated by Bri Castellini

used your...
They are needed to...
cooperate with your local Salv...
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BASEBALL.

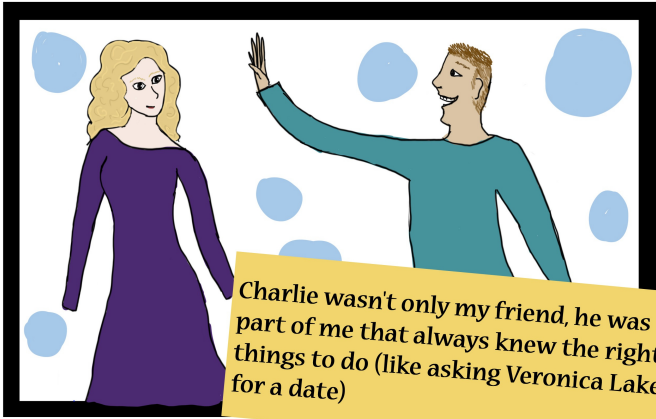
Baseball team of the Y.A. & A.C. were defeated on Saturday by a nine from the Tokyo School, being out-manoeuvred at all points. Geo. Rice was scorer.

Tokyo Higher School.		Y.C. & A.C.	
Pos.	Runs, Outs	Pos.	Runs, Outs
1 B.	4	1 B.	0
2 B.	3	2 B.	1
3 B.	4	3 B.	1
L.P.	1	R.F.	1
		C.	1
		S.S.	1
		P.	1
		L.F.	1
		C.F.	1
		Total	7

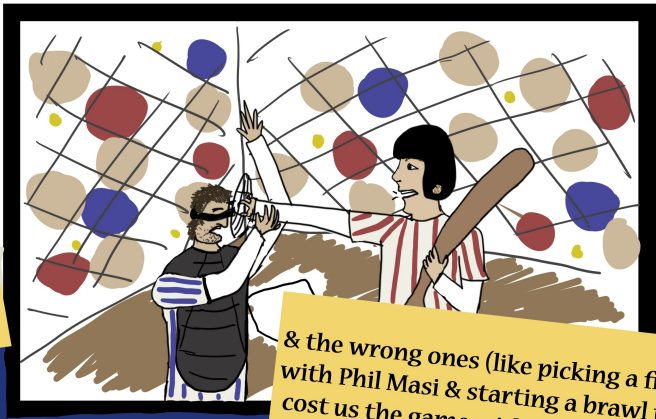




Dear Sprout,
I guess this is what it must feel like to lose a leg
or something, when you know you're never going
to be in one piece again no matter how well they
teach you how to walk.



Charlie wasn't only my friend, he was the
part of me that always knew the right
things to do (like asking Veronica Lake
for a date)



& the wrong ones (like picking a fight
with Phil Masi & starting a brawl that
cost us the game with the Braves).



But even when I gummed up the works, he never
got sore. All he said was "See? Don't let it happen
again." And I watched him do the same thing for
you. That was our buddy, Sprout.

I wanted you to know how it happened because you were the one he was thinking about at the end.



It was d-day plus 2 when me & a patrol of eight other guys got ambushed on the beach- they had us pinned behind a log on our bellies & there was no way for us to get out. So Marantz radioed back to the Farragut but they couldn't send in any reinforcements because the shell fire was too thick.



Then Charlie found out about it.

...snitched a Higgins boat, and buffaloeed his way through 70 tons of heavy artillery like he was dodging raindrops or something.



And when he did, he clipped a corporal on the chin...



When he finally rolled up onto the beach I asked him "What took you so long?" and he said "I couldn't find a place to park, move your ass." Just like when he used to bat me home from third so I wouldn't jinx the dirt. And all I remember about crawling back to the boat was thinking "I sure hope Dorothy Lamour appreciates this" when from behind me Charlie whispered "Say Stuke? Whatever you do, don't tell Joey about this. Otherwise he'll want to try it himself." Then there were two shots and the ball game was over. But the rest of us made it back alive.

You had it figured out right when you called him a hero. But you only knew the half of it. When you're old enough so that you & me can go out and get crocko together, I'll tell you the other half myself. That's a promise.



Your pal,
Stuke



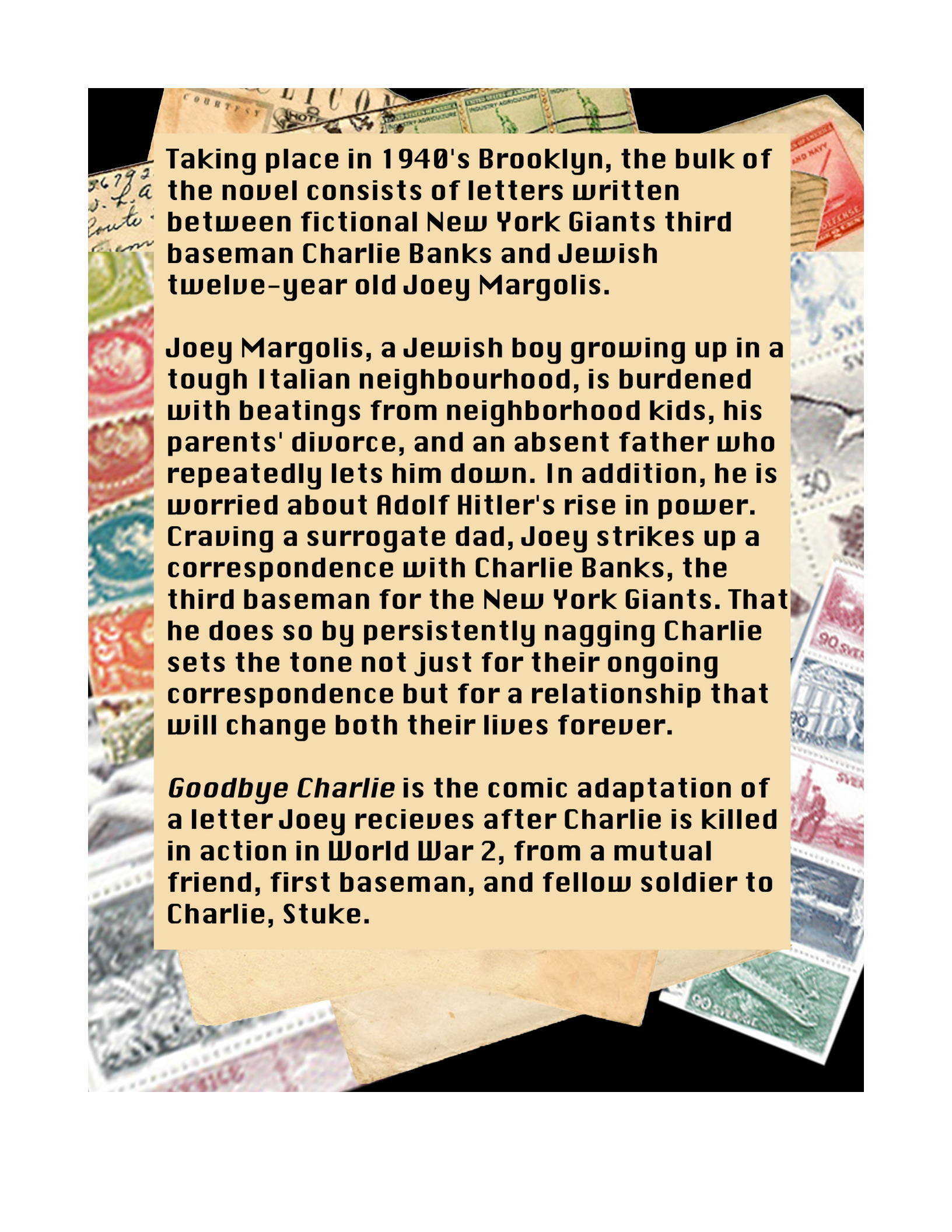
STEVE KLUGER shook hands with Lucille Ball when he was 12. He's since lived a few more decades, but nothing much registered after that.

Kluger is a novelist and playwright who grew up during the Sixties with only two heroes: Tom Seaver and Ethel Merman. Few were able to grasp the concept. A veteran of Casablanca and a graduate of The Graduate, he has written extensively on subjects as far-ranging as World War II, rock and roll, and the Titanic, and as close to the heart as baseball and the Boston Red Sox (which frequently have nothing to do with one another). Last Days of Summer was published in 1998.



BRI CASTELLINI once met the guy who made the Chocolate Rain video. It's only been a few years since that, but she's pretty sure that's as good as it's gonna get.

Castellini is an aspiring novelist and creative writing major at Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. She blogs and vlogs (video-blogs) extensively on her website, www.BrisOwnWorld.com, and has done so for almost seven years. Her interests include writing spy novels for young adults, arguing about inane things, watching YouTube videos, and rereading (and subsequently sobbing her eyes out at) the novel Last Days of Summer by Steve Kluger.

The background features a collage of vintage postcards and envelopes. On the left, a postcard has handwritten text: "36792", "S. L. A", "Route", and "Comm". At the top, a postcard says "COURTESY" and "HOT". Another postcard at the top right has "EXPANDED" and "INDUSTRY AGRICULTURE". A red postcard on the right says "AND NAVY" and "OFFENSE". At the bottom, a green postcard says "90".

Taking place in 1940's Brooklyn, the bulk of the novel consists of letters written between fictional New York Giants third baseman Charlie Banks and Jewish twelve-year old Joey Margolis.

Joey Margolis, a Jewish boy growing up in a tough Italian neighbourhood, is burdened with beatings from neighborhood kids, his parents' divorce, and an absent father who repeatedly lets him down. In addition, he is worried about Adolf Hitler's rise in power. Craving a surrogate dad, Joey strikes up a correspondence with Charlie Banks, the third baseman for the New York Giants. That he does so by persistently nagging Charlie sets the tone not just for their ongoing correspondence but for a relationship that will change both their lives forever.

***Goodbye Charlie* is the comic adaptation of a letter Joey receives after Charlie is killed in action in World War 2, from a mutual friend, first baseman, and fellow soldier to Charlie, Stuke.**