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Sommario/riassunto	Bearing witness to the encounters of American soldiers and Japanese civilians in the aftermath of a savage war, the memoir of Mrs Yumi Goto is poignant testimony to the capacity of ordinary people for mutual curiosity, learning and generosity. In the summer of 1945, a contingent of 1,800 American soldiers was posted as a garrison force in the country town of Muramatsu, where they lived alongside a community feeling 'depressed and fearful' at the prospect of foreign occupation. Mrs Goto, an English-speaking graduate of one of Japan's top universities for women, had relocated to Muramatsu with her family after their house in Tokyo was destroyed in a bombing raid. She became an interpreter while the Americans were in Muramatsu, and recorded light-hearted but perceptive observations of the Japanese-American encounter. Written in English for an American audience who 'would like to read how their young men behaved in Japan', and revealing 'the thoughts and sentiments of a 26-year old girl in war-devastated Japan', her memoir is a charming and uplifting account of a woman's journey, and how ordinary people from very different backgrounds found common ground in difficult circumstances.

