

## Cottonwood Winter (Pages 1-2)

### The Adventures Resume

**Jase begins *Cottonwood Winter* by recalling his *Cottonwood Summer* and *Fall* adventures with Danny and then previewing what lies ahead in *Winter*: His humble narration provides a sampling of the tone and tenor of these novels.**

The last winter of World War II would prove to be a challenging time for all Americans. In the worst winter weather on record, our brave soldiers were slugging it out in Europe against a greatly weakened Nazi enemy who surprised the world by counterattacking with overwhelming force and unexpected ferocity during the Battle of the Bulge.

These difficult times called upon my best friend, Danny Tucker, and me to accept our patriotic responsibility. While the army and the navy dealt with the enemy overseas, we preserved and protected our country from the enemy on these shores. Our adversaries were dangerous Nazi POWs, spies, and saboteurs. We also helped the police apprehend normal criminals like murderers, arsonists, and thieves who came to our attention as we guarded our community.

For our efforts, in the summer and fall of 1944, we were recognized as town heroes on numerous occasions. Perhaps our greatest honor was when our close friend, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, on behalf of the American people, awarded us Medals of Courage. That's when newspapers across the country called us National Heroes.

Winter would present grave challenges to test the very limits of our courage and fortitude. In the end, our response to these challenges would bring us the highest form of international acclaim. I won't elaborate further at this point in the story. Instead, I'll defer to Danny who has reminded me on numerous occasions that "Modesty is a paramount virtue for heroes like us."

**Excerpted from *Cottonwood Winter* by Gary Slaughter.  
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