

PREFACE

They were called the Greatest Generation. They grew up during the Dust Bowl and Great Depression. They came of age during the most prodigious and bloodiest war the world has ever known. Many of their young lives and stories ended on desolate beaches in the Pacific, or the beaches of Normandy, or countless other battlefields.

Those who did make it back returned to a new America, which had risen from the ashes of Pearl Harbor like a Phoenix to become the most powerful nation in the world. Their generation would bare witness to the United States' most expansive and illustrious time. But it would not last. After years of relative peace, advancement, and prosperity, the nation would be cast into its darkest and most divisive days since the Civil War.

Within a decade's time, America would experience the assassinations of John F. Kennedy, Martin Luther King, Jr., Robert Kennedy, unparalleled protests, deadly riots, Vietnam, and the first and only resignation of a president, Richard M. Nixon. The nation would be brought to the brink of self-destruction and its resolve tested like never before.

Frank Keller was only seventeen when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. After graduation, he had planned on working fulltime at his father's hardware store, perhaps one day even taking over the business. Once eighteen, he dreamt about asking his girlfriend's hand in marriage so they could start a family of their own. But those plans would have to wait, as like millions of other young men across the country, Frank first had to help save the world.

Frank was one of the fortunate ones who made it back home from the front lines. He was part of that Great Generation to live through, and benefit from, America's vast expansion and prosperity. But in time, he and

his family will be plunged into the chaos and division of the Sixties and early Seventies.

While Vietnam was fought with guns and bombs in the battlefields of Southeast Asia, its ideology was fought in the streets, campuses and homes across the United States. It pitted sons against fathers, brothers against sisters, the government against its citizens.

The Keller household will be no exception. As the world around him starts to unravel, Frank will travel on his own dark journey of conflict, grief and regret. And like America itself, he will try to make sense of it all and find redemption.