



Chapter Four — by Russ and Kay Hively

As Larry entered the living room, Uncle Chuck stood up and walked over to meet him. Even though he was a Boy Scout and was supposed to be prepared for anything, Larry did not know what to do. He thought his uncle was in Europe. Should he run and give his uncle a hug or just shake his hand like a man?

Larry stepped up to his uncle and stretched out his hand. Uncle Chuck laughed a big laugh, reached down, grabbed his nephew, and slung him over his broad shoulders. He carried Larry around the living room like a sack of potatoes, while both of them laughed and yelled.

Uncle Chuck's dark hair was cut short and he still had a big smile. His uniform had all kinds of medals and patches. He told Larry that he had been sent back to the United States for more training. He said he had a three-day pass and would be spending two days in Cleveland.

Larry was so happy. He asked all kinds of questions about where Uncle Chuck had been and what had happened to him. He asked about all the patches and medals. Uncle Chuck answered all Larry's questions and explained what he had seen and done in the Army. He then asked his nephew how he had done in school last year and how the Indians were doing at the ballpark this summer.

The family talked and talked late into the night. Finally Larry's mother sent him to bed. Soon after he crawled under the covers, both his mother and Uncle Chuck came into his room and said goodnight. In the dimly lit room, Larry looked at his mother and Uncle Chuck. He had never realized how much they looked and sounded alike. But after all, he thought, they were brother and sister.

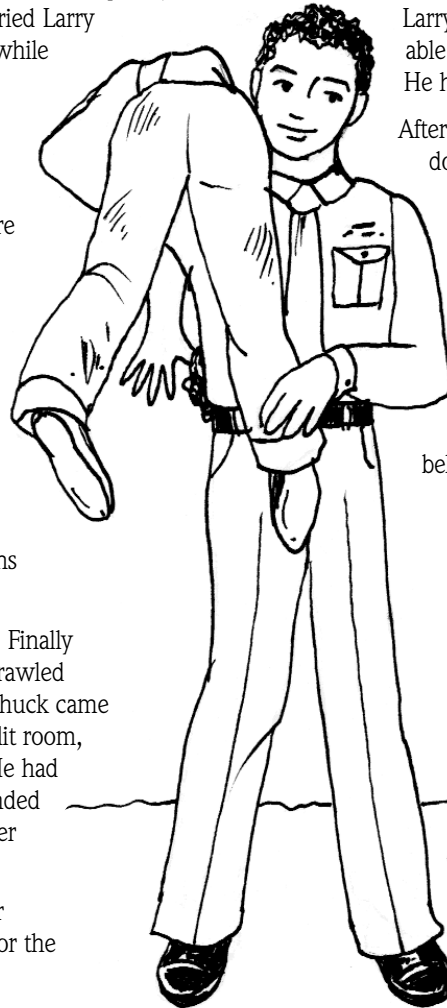
The next morning after breakfast Larry's mother went to work. This left the men on their own for the

whole day. Uncle Chuck and Larry spent time working in the victory garden. They played catch and talked about all kinds of things. Larry told his uncle about playing ball and said that he and his friends were down to their last good baseball. He told Uncle Chuck that his patrol had done a good job setting up their tent the night before. He also told him about the Boy Scouts collecting scrap metal.

Larry also told his uncle that he had not been able to collect much scrap metal for the troop. He had less scrap than any other boy.

After lunch, Uncle Chuck asked Larry for the garage door key. Uncle Chuck had stored his things in the garage when he had gone into the Army. Now, he said he wanted to check on his things. Uncle Chuck was gone for a long time. When he came out of the garage, Uncle Chuck called to his nephew and said he had something for him.

Uncle Chuck always had great surprises, so Larry was eager to see what was hiding behind his uncle's back.



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Learning Extensions — Things to Think About and Do

- The Greens lived in Cleveland, Ohio. Locate Cleveland on a map and find out: what county it is in, what river runs through the city, and what lake it is beside.
- Uncle Chuck and Larry worked in the garden. List five chores that people do in a garden to raise vegetables. Look up the best time to plant a "victory garden" in your region.

Next Week: Chapter Five — Uncle Chuck's gift