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# Once Upon An Apocalypse: Book 1 - The Journey Home (Volume 1)



## **Synopsis**

The Day The day was like any other day--until it became "The Day." At 4:05 p.m. the United States was attacked with an Electro-Magnetic Pulse (EMP) weapon. A 20 mega-ton nuclear warhead was detonated high in the atmosphere above Kansas, blanketing most of the contiguous United States and parts of Canada and Mexico with an electro-magnetic pulse that damaged nearly all microprocessors and electronic controls beyond repair. Nearly every system that depends on computers and electronics has ceased to work. The electrical grid goes down. The water system goes down. The sewer system goes down. The phone system goes down. The cellular system goes down. Cars stop. Tractors stop. Radio and TV stations go dark. The internet is no more. No more ambulance services. No more emergency services. No more government services. No more 911. In the twinkle of an eye America is sent back deep into the 19th century. Jill Barnes, a single mom, finds herself stranded on the side of Interstate 485 near Birmingham, Alabama. Jack Chance, a bank vice-president, is stranded on Interstate 85 near Montgomery, Alabama. John Carter, a contractor, finds himself stranded near Leeds, Alabama. Each must travel home to Clarke County in rural southwest Alabama. Follow them as they each make their decisions and journey home while the fabric of American society is torn asunder and criminals run amok. The story is exciting and enlightening, compelling and fast moving, infuriating and redemptive, heart-rending and heart-warming. Keep some tissue close to hand, just in case . . . .Authors note: This book is written from a 2nd person point of view for each chapter's main character. Take note of which character leads the chapter title. This will help make the flow of thoughts smooth. Writing in the 2nd person is unusual for novels. I choose the 2nd person in an attempt to place you, the reader, directly into the shoes of the characters. It may take some adjustment to get the hang of this format, but if you do, I don't think you will be disappointed. This is not a book on religion or religious ideology, however, two of the main characters are Christian. They pray often and acknowledge God's influence upon the events taking place. If you find acknowledging God offensive, then I suggest you do not read this book. There are plenty of books in this genre that make no mention of God at all. These are strong characters, who I think many can relate to. I hope you enjoy the book. You can send me a PM on Facebook should you want to discuss the book's content further.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

The phrase that keeps coming up when I talk with friends about this book is: thought-provoking. I was fully prepared to be disappointed with this book when I realized it was the author's first effort. Halfway through the second chapter, I was hooked. I am not seeing this as a "how-to" book, but there is some of that at a certain level. What this book did for me was to really get my wheels turning as we see three main characters step through a nightmare scenario. Each of the three have a different level of preparedness and each bring a different mindset to the situation. That mindset will largely determine their fate. On a macro-level, I am re-evaluating the way I have prioritized some things. On a micro-level, this book has motivated me to assemble a car kit for my daughter. Regarding the story being told in the second-person. Yeah, it's different; but that is a stylistic approach that the author chose for a reason. Once I noted that each chapter heading indicated who was speaking, any issues with that style were resolved. This book may not be the most polished piece of literature extant, but it will get you thinking, and hopefully, moving in the right direction. Get it. Read it.

I met Jeff and bought his book when I attended a local homesteading and preparedness expo. I am a dedicated fan of the disaster, prepper, and survival genre. As I am reading books, especially first-time-author books, I am greatly disturbed by spelling and grammatical errors. If there are enough errors, the book doesn't get read. What a pleasant surprise to find a first time author book that is such a delightful experience. Yes, there is tension and disturbing situations related in the book, but it also has very real, very useful information that might save your life. It isn't often that I read books in this genre where I take notes as I read the book! God forbid that we should ever need

this preparedness, but like the male character says, being prepared is not unlike having life insurance, or auto insurance. It is very much appreciated that Jeff Motes has included a strong female character. In some parts she seems a little wimpy to me, a little weepy, but that is based on my own personality and experience. As the story unfolds, it is the strength of the wisdom and experiences of the male character, John, that ensures their survival. In his book, Jeff relates a few times the calming effect that Jill, the female character, has on the male character's emotions. It is thusly, acting synergistically, that they are most effective. The worst part about this book? I can't immediately download the second in this series.

Well done and a very good read. While following a common story line (Good guy vs. bad guys, finds romance, and such) the author has twists and turns that keep it fresh and interesting. The author developed the characters extremely well by making them very real people, not some sort of unrealistic super characters. The reader is drawn into the story with very realistic situations, challenges, responses, and events. The individual arms and tactics were accurate, realistic, and very well done. I enjoyed the book very much.

First of all, I do not know the author personally, but have connected with him since purchasing this book. I consider myself to be an authority on apocalyptic fiction, having read literally hundreds of books in this genre. The basic premise applies, a momentous event occurs, which causes the breakdown of machines and civilised society. The main characters, John and Jill, meet up on the road while both are trying to get home to their families after the event occurs. The book follows them through their various "adventures" let's just say. First off, to address the big elephant: 2nd person POV. To me, this was not a problem at all, in fact, it made me feel as if I were experiencing the same scenarios as John and Jill. There is a tremendous amount of detail about the gear and firearms the characters use, and it was useful to me, as some of it I didn't know or hadn't thought of. There was a lot of praying by the characters, both together and separately, but believe me, if something like this happens, everybody with sense will say some prayers asking for deliverance. Again, not a problem for me. I don't want to give away details or spoilers, so I will just say this: it's been a very long time since I enjoyed a book of this genre as much as I have *Once Upon an Apocalypse*, *The Journey Home*. I liked it so much that I limited myself to one chapter a day to try and make it last longer. ( I tried, anyway, some days I was forced to read at least one or two more, to see what happened next. All of that to say this, if you don't buy the book, you are truly missing a great read, and you will likely learn something that could help you if you were to find yourself in a

dire situation. Don't get anxious about the POV, it seems strange at first, but after a couple of chapters, you don't realise it's any different from what you are used to. I loved it, I can't wait for more. I'd give more stars if I could. Truly remarkable work.

I came upon this novel by chance and ended up looking for the second book in the series (which is in the works now). The story is written from the point of view of each of the 2 lead characters. This was initially a bit confusing, but once I realized that was what was happening, I found it interesting. The perspective of a female who is about to be attacked would be different than that of a man who comes across the situation and intercedes, so the 2 points of view adds depth to the story. The author uses the varying POV to clearly show both sides of the various experiences the characters share. While this is written as a novel, it is thought provoking and informative, causing the reader to think out of the box. I found myself wondering how well I am prepared in the event of a life threatening situation. Could I get home to my family? Would I die along the way? What could I do to be better prepared? Do I have what it takes? Do you?

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