

THE LONG WALK HOME

WHEN THE POWER DIES

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When every electronic device on Earth suddenly stops working, fourteen-year-old Tommy Ritterhouse finds himself stranded a thousand miles from home at Denver International Airport. With civilization crumbling around him and no way to contact his family in Sacramento, Tommy faces an impossible choice: wait for help that may never come, or begin an epic journey home on foot.

Joined by the kind Brown family he befriends in the chaos, Tommy witnesses firsthand how quickly society unravels without electricity. From dangerous gangs roaming the highways to a sinister cult preying on desperate travelers, the post-apocalyptic landscape tests Tommy's courage at every turn. When he rescues his former camp nemesis Charley—beaten and left for dead—their unlikely partnership becomes essential for survival.

The nearly 1,200-mile trek across Colorado, Utah, and Nevada transforms Tommy from a sheltered suburban teenager into a young man who understands the true meaning of loyalty, sacrifice, and family. As he navigates treacherous mountain passes, escapes cult captivity, and learns to trust former enemies, Tommy discovers reserves of strength he never knew he possessed.

Part wilderness survival story, part coming-of-age journey, *The Long Walk Home* captures the resilience of the human spirit when everything familiar disappears. With authentic outdoor survival details and genuine emotional depth, this gripping adventure will keep readers turning pages until Tommy finally reaches his front door.

If you liked *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen, *Life As We Knew It* by Susan Beth Pfeffer, and *The Testing* by Joelle Charbonneau, you'll love *The Long Walk Home*.



Michael H. Ritterhouse draws from a lifetime of outdoor adventure and wilderness experience to craft authentic survival fiction. Born in Denver, Colorado, he studied political science and history at Texas State University before pursuing careers that kept him connected to the natural world. From ski patroller to backcountry manager at Philmont Scout Ranch to general manager of a cross-country ski area, Ritterhouse has spent decades in the environments he writes about.

His passion for literature began with World War II histories and evolved through classic survival tales like *My Side of the Mountain* and the works of Jim Kjelgaard. Living in the American West with his wife—a charter school superintendent—and their two outdoor-loving children, Ritterhouse brings both professional wilderness expertise and genuine family perspective to his storytelling. *The Long Walk Home* represents his deep understanding of how young people can rise to extraordinary challenges when circumstances demand it.

