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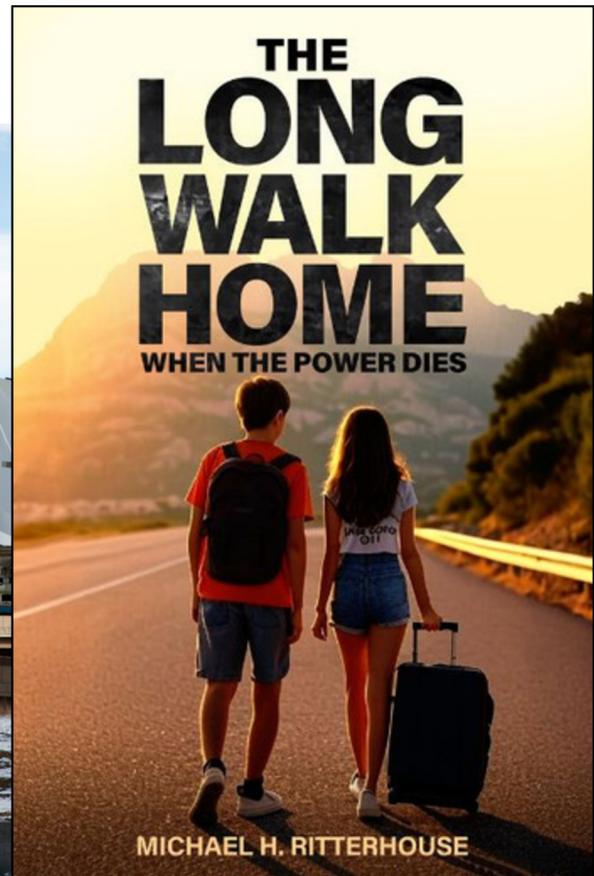
Michael H. Ritterhouse

Media Kit

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Michael H. Ritterhouse draws from a lifetime of outdoor adventure to craft authentic survival fiction. His career spans ski patrol, backcountry manager at Philmont Scout Ranch, and cross-country ski area management. Born in Denver (where the story begins), he brings professional wilderness expertise and genuine family perspective to his storytelling. His wife is a charter school superintendent, and their two children love the outdoors.





THE LONG WALK HOME

When the Power Dies

A Gripping Young Adult Survival Adventure

THE STORY

When every electronic device on Earth suddenly stops working, fourteen-year-old Tommy Ritterhouse finds himself stranded at Denver International Airport, a thousand miles from his Sacramento home. With civilization crumbling and no way to contact his family, Tommy faces an impossible choice: wait for rescue that may never come, or begin an epic 1,200-mile journey home on foot.

From dangerous highway gangs to a sinister cult preying on desperate travelers, the post-apocalyptic landscape tests Tommy's courage at every turn. When he rescues his former summer camp nemesis Charley—beaten and left for dead—their unlikely partnership becomes essential for survival.

The 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. Part wilderness survival story, part coming-of-age journey, *The Long Walk Home* captures the resilience of the human spirit when everything familiar disappears.

WHY READERS LOVE THIS BOOK

Authentic Survival Details – Author's real-world outdoor experience shines through

Page-Turner Pacing – Readers can't put it down

Character Growth – Compelling redemption arcs and unlikely friendships

Timely Themes – Technology dependence, resilience, leadership under pressure

Educational Value – Wilderness skills, geography, ethical decision-making

Clean Content – Realistic situations without gratuitous content (ages 12+)

PERFECT FOR READERS WHO LOVED:

Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
Life As We Knew It by Susan Beth Pfeffer

The Testing by Joelle Charbonneau

The Road by Cormac McCarthy
(for older teens/adults)



PRAISE FOR THE LONG WALK HOME

"A page-turner that keeps you on the edge of your seat."

"Finally, a post-apocalyptic story that feels realistic and teaches valuable lessons."

"Perfect for reluctant readers—especially boys who love adventure."

"The camping and survival details are incredibly accurate."

KEY THEMES

Wilderness Survival • Leadership Development • Redemption & Forgiveness
Family Bonds • Resilience • Coming of Age • Outdoor Skills
Ethical Decision-Making • Cult Awareness • Friendship Under Fire

KEYWORDS FOR DISCOVERY

post-apocalyptic fiction • young adult adventure • wilderness survival • coming of age • electromagnetic pulse • teenage protagonist • friendship • camping skills • bicycle journey • Western United States • character growth • teenage resilience

BOOK DETAILS

Title:

The Long Walk Home:
When the Power Dies

Key Details:

1. **Genre** – Young Adult Fiction - Thrillers & Suspense for Teens; Teen & Young Adult Science Fiction Action & Adventure
2. **Publication Date** – November 18, 2025
3. **Page Count** – 221 pages
4. **Words** – approx. 85,000 words
5. **Reading Level** – Grades 7-8
6. **Age Range** – 12-17 (with adult crossover appeal)
7. **Publisher** – Defiance Press & Publishing, LLC
8. **Audiobook**
9. **Paperback**
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10. **eBook**
 - a. ISBN: 978-1-966625-39-1
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 - a. Ingram (bookstores and libraries)
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 - c. All major online retailers