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One Second After (A John Matherson Novel)



Synopsis

New York Times best selling author William R. Forstchen now brings us a story which can be all too terrifyingly real...a story in which one man struggles to save his family and his small North Carolina town after America loses a war, in one second, a war that will send America back to the Dark Ages...A war based upon a weapon, an Electro Magnetic Pulse (EMP). A weapon that may already be in the hands of our enemies. Months before publication, *One Second After* has already been cited on the floor of Congress as a book all Americans should read, a book already being discussed in the corridors of the Pentagon as a truly realistic look at a weapon and its awesome power to destroy the entire United States, literally within one second. It is a weapon that the Wall Street Journal warns could shatter America. In the tradition of *On the Beach*, *Fail Safe* and *Testament*, this book, set in a typical American town, is a dire warning of what might be our future...and our end. The John Matherson Series#1 *One Second After*#2 *One Year After*#3 *The Final Day* (forthcoming)Other BooksPillar to the Sky

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In this entertaining apocalyptic thriller from Forstchen (*We Look Like Men of War*), a high-altitude nuclear bomb of uncertain origin explodes, unleashing a deadly electromagnetic pulse that instantly disables almost every electrical device in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. Airplanes, most cars, cellphones, refrigerators—all are fried as the country plunges into literal and metaphoric darkness. History professor John Matherson, who lives with his two daughters in a small North

Carolina town, soon figures out what has happened. Aided by local officials, Matherson begins to deal with such long-term effects of the disaster as starvation, disease and roving gangs of barbarians. While the material sometimes threatens to veer into jingoism, and heartstrings are tugged a little too vigorously, fans of such classics as *Alas, Babylon* and *On the Beach* will have a good time as Forstchen tackles the obvious and some not-so-obvious questions the apocalypse tends to raise. Newt Gingrich provides a foreword. (Mar.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

In a Norman Rockwell town in North Carolina, where residents rarely lock homes, retired army colonel John Matherson teaches college, raises two daughters, and grieves the loss of his wife to cancer. When phones die and cars inexplicably stall, Grandma's pre-computerized Edsel takes readers to a stunning scene on the car-littered interstate, on which 500 stranded strangers, some with guns, awaken John's New Jersey street-smart instincts to get the family home and load the shotgun. Next morning, some townspeople realize that an electromagnetic pulse weapon has destroyed America's power grid, and they proceed to set survival priorities. John's list includes insulin for his type-one diabetic 12-year-old, candy bars, and sacks of ice. Deaths start with heart attacks and eventually escalate alarmingly. Food becomes scarce, and societal breakdown proceeds with inevitable violence; towns burn, and ex-servicemen recall "Korea in '51" as military action by unlikely people becomes the norm in Forstchen's sad, riveting cautionary tale, the premise of which Newt Gingrich's foreword says is completely possible. --Whitney Scott --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

A friend suggested I read this book as we were talking about *V for Vendetta* and she said read *One Second After*. The idea of the book is a frightening reality of what can happen in today's society with so much reliance on computers and electronics, and the division and fighting that takes place when it is all removed. Think of no running water, lakes get polluted, disease, no sanitary waste removal...on and on. It's a healthy reminder to keep "old school" items on hand, just in case. I loved the beginning, became a bit slow towards the end - as you get the purpose of the book early on.

I love a good post-apocalyptic story, and this is a really good one. There's nothing in this book that couldn't happen in the real world. The only "fictional" part of the story is the fact that an EMP strikes hasn't yet happened on American soil. And, of course, the actions of the fictional characters who

have to deal with the world collapsing around them. There's no magic and nothing about the collapse goes unexplained - this is no SM Stirling book (which isn't a complaint against SM Stirling's books, but those rely heavily on the unexplained). So start stockpiling your non-perishables. The end may be coming sooner than you think!

One Second After is a suspenseful "what-if" read about a very believable scenario, the aftermath of an EMP taking out everything electrical in the United States. The main character is well-rounded and developed enough for the reader to care about him and his family. Though it is easy enough to guess that he will survive it and (spoiler alert) one of his young family members will not. So, in that aspect it is on the predictable side. Lots of minor characters die and some of them seem like they're there for no other purpose than to die. But at the same time, it does illustrate how fragile life would be if the entire country lost power (and couldn't get it back quickly). The writing was good, flowed well, and was easy to understand. A number of characters in the book have similar names though, which can make the reader hesitate a bit to figure out just which person is which. At times, some of the characters seemed to lack common sense when trying to "rough-it" without electricity. Yes, life would be extremely difficult without it, but our ancestors did it (only a couple of generations ago) and much knowledge could be garnered from older people and resources such as libraries if this was a real-world occurrence (resources which aren't really tapped in the book). Overall, it's a good read and makes one ask "what-if" while considering that having a few candles on hand and more than a few days worth of food is always a good idea.

This book is a life-changer. Everyone seems to be talking these days about the alleged attempt to set off an EMP bomb recently over America. The threat is real and quite probable that one such attempt could succeed. America needs to protect its infrastructure from an EMP event. We are completely vulnerable. 90% of Americans would die within a year if such an event happened. knowing this, reading this book was spellbinding. Usually I mark and note pages of a book for a review, to make it interesting and to provide more information. No so this time. This book is imprinted in my mind like a movie, almost an event that already happened. Picture all the electricity going out instantly. Stranded cars clog the freeway. Hospitals have no life support. water cannot be pumped to your home, nor gas from the service station. You can only burn so much furniture in the cold winter. Grocery stores are gutted. Eventually people are eating their pets, and armed gangs go from town to town. Food is reserved for the stronger teenagers, who need the calories to bury the dead by shovels. In the book, China offers to send several hundred thousand soldiers to the west

coast to help the starving, but without communication, nobody really knows what is happening. It's an absolute nightmare. I wish for every American to have and read this book, and to demand steps are taken to protect us. Just one EMP bomb makes the open border look like peanuts.

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