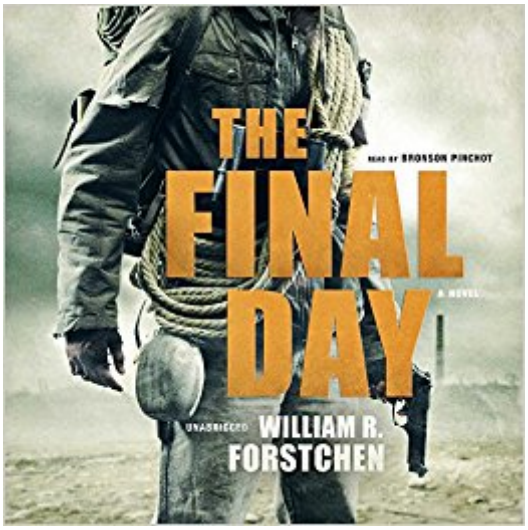
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The Final Day (One Second After Series, Book 3)



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Synopsis

FromÃ Â New York TimesÃ Â bestselling author William R. Forstchen comes the third installment in the smash hit One Second After series.Months before publication, William R. Forstchen'sÃ Â One Second After was cited on the floor of Congress as a book all Americans should read. This third book in the series immerses listeners once more in the story of our nation's struggle to rebuild itself after an electromagnetic pulse wipes out all electricity and plunges the country into darkness, starvation, and death.After defeating the designs of the alleged federal government, John Matherson and his community have returned their attention to restoring the technologies and social order that existed prior to the EMP attack. Then the government announces that it's ceding large portions of the country to China and New Mexico. The Constitution is no longer in effect, and what's left of the US Army has been deployed to suppress rebellion in the remaining states.The man sent to suppress John is General Bob Scales, John's old commanding officer and closest friend from prewar days. Will General Scales follow orders, or might he be the crucial turning point in the quest for an America that is again united? When news breaks that members of the federal government knew an EMP attack was coming long before it hit, the government might get exactly what it fears: revolution.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ã¢â ¬Å“A fine postapocalyptic thriller, with richly drawn characters and the kind of story that we can easily imagine happening.Ã¢â ¬Â• --Booklist, on One Year AfterÃ¢â ¬Å“Forstchen is the prophet of

a new Dark Age. The wise will listen.Ã¢â ¬Â• --Stephen Coonts, New York Times bestselling author, on One Year After Ã¢â ¬Å“True storytelling that only the rarest of writers ever master . . . Bill has perfected his talent.Ã¢â ¬Â• --David Hagberg, New York Times bestselling author, on One Year AfterÃ¢â ¬Å“A riveting cautionary tale.Ã¢â ¬Â• --Booklist, on One Second AfterÃ¢â ¬Å“An entertaining apocalyptic thriller.Ã¢â ¬Â• --Publishers Weekly, on One Second AfterÃ¢â ¬Å“The only thing more terrifying than this masterfully crafted story is the possibility of it actually happening--and not a damn thing being done to protect us.Ã¢â ¬Â• --W.E.B. Griffin & William E. Butterworth IV, New York Times bestselling authors, on One Second AfterÃ¢â ¬Å“Civilization slides into the abyss of a new dark age in this horrifying apocalyptic novel. Forstchen has put Bin Laden's dream on paper and, in the process, taken civilization straight to the rack.Ã¢â ¬Â• --Stephen Coonts, New York Times bestselling author, on One Second AfterÃ¢â ¬Å“Forstchen did such a damned fine job with One Second After that shortly after the first page, I had been reeled in hook, line, and sinker." --David Hagberg, New York Times bestselling author, on One Second After --This text refers to an alternate Audio CD edition.

William R. Forstchen has a PhD from Purdue University with specializations in military history and the history of technology. A faculty fellow and professor of history at Montreat College, he has authored over forty books, including the award-winning young adult novel We Look like Men of War. Forstchen coauthored the New York Times bestselling Gettysburg and has written numerous short stories and articles about military history and military technology. He resides near Asheville, North Carolina, with his daughter and their dogs.

In this, the final installment of William Forstchen's post-apocalyptic trilogy, the author does not disappoint. And while the first installment (One Second After) was a classic in its own right, this last, The Final Day, comes nearest to achieving that hallowed status. Wearied after 2-1/2 years of no electricity, running water, and all the other things we take for granted in 21st century America, former Army Colonel & History Professor John Matheson is just now beginning to see signs of rebuilding. Hope for better days ahead. Tempered, as always, by the tremendous losses suffered by the community in battles against marauders, cannibals, and elements of our own military. At this very moment it all changes once again as an old friend from Army days leaves him feeling threatened & puzzled by his actions. Though, through a complicated & dicey adventure to uncover the truth behind "the day", forces are set in motion they hope will reconstitute the former United States. But not before more blood is shed, needlessly. More intrigue occurs, and the outcome is

very much in doubt. Dr Forstchen has written a novel filled with emotion, intrigue, historical parallels, drawing the reader in carefully and handily as the tale unfolds. And while I often felt it went on a bit too long, I also didn't want it to end. For this is writing which fully embodies the American spirit, its history & traditions, without all the petty political quandaries. If you have any love at all for your nation, you'll be touched, your heart warmed, your eyes misty throughout the reading of this novel. And that's as it should be. If you don't feel that way about it - I pity you. More importantly, I pity our nation which sorely needs to be reminded of such things regularly.

The "One Second After" trilogy, or as the publisher prefers to call it, the John Matherson series, has kept me captivated ever since the first book was published back in 2009. My only complaint has been that Forstchen kept us waiting several years before writing the second book "One Year After," and now, the release today of the third book, "The Final Day." I downloaded this one the instant it was available and as a result have had a sleepless night!Why am I giving this five stars? First of all it is a darn good read. At times an emotional rollercoaster with plot twists that are unexpected, excellent character development and a powerful strong message. This is more than just a fun read novel, Forstchen's intent is to deliver a message about a true existential threat to our country. Take the message with utmost seriousness. His books got me thinking about the issue of infrastructure security. I did the follow up research on just how real was his scenario about EMP and find that he is dead on with the thesis behind his book: that our power grid is highly vulnerable to a devastating attack which could result in upwards of 90% of all Americans dying once the electricity is turned off and does not come back on. He has some good links on his website onesecondafter.com. Heed the advice he offers, again this is more than just an exciting series of books, it conveys a powerful message as well.Buy the book, if it simply entertains you, it is well worth the money. If it gets you thinking about being prepared even better. Transcend politics. I've read a few snarky reviews that put the series down because Newt Gingrich wrote the foreword to the first book. Come on people, it is a new year today. Let's get the political infighting behind us. Forstchen's message is that regardless if you are liberal or conservative, on the Left or Right, we are all Americans and should be united behind a goal of securing our nation's infrastructure, to insure our survival and that of our children. Beyond all of that, this series is, as well, a truly wonderful read.

I did not have high hopes for this book. But I was wrongÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •this is an outstanding book. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s way better than the middle book of the trilogy (ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“One Year AfterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•), which was overly talky and seemed like filler. Sure, itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not

as awesome as FortschenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s first book, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“One Second AfterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •but itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s hard to capture lightning in a bottle once, much less twice. So you should read this book, because unlike most ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“prepperÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• literature, which tends to be, um, not ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“literature,ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• this book both engrosses the reader and makes the reader think.The plot here turns around the hero of the series, John Matherson (an obvious stand-in for the author, but hey, itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s his book). I wonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t let slip any spoilers, but the action centers primarily not around the small towns in North Carolina that took the focus of the earlier books, but around strategic considerations and larger-scale military action. All this is well-drawn, although it does mean that the emotional impact on the reader is lessened, because much of the force of ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“One Second AfterÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• came from that each of us could see ourselves, overnight and unexpectedly, in the same situations as the characters, facing the same hard choices. We thought: that could be us. It feels less like it could be us in this book, but the reader is still drawn in.Sure, the book isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t perfect. It does have what I regard as a major plot hole. Without giving too much away, the plot revolves around the possible detonation of another EMP. This is treated by all as the true End, that would utterly destroy everything and make societal recovery in the United States impossible. But that makes no sense. Any electronics that survived the initial EMP because they were hardened or well-placed would survive. Anything that was destroyed would still be destroyed, not more destroyed. The tentative steps made by the characters toward new electricity generation from hydropower and so forth would similarly not be affected. So itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s just a plot device to add urgency to the charactersÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ actions. Other than that, though, the plot hangs together very well.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Final DayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is a very realistic book. That is, were there to be an apocalypse of the EMP type, this book (and the trilogy) is a plausible interpretation of the longer-term aftermath, reconstruction and resulting conflicts. Fortschen understands what many apocalypse writers do notÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •that a vacuum in social order is abhorrent and will for certain be filled by something, because people will give up nearly anything to avoid anarchy; and that the new order is not likely to be filled by the second coming of George Washington and the Founding Fathers. Too much apocalyptic fiction (e.g., Rawles) believes that a decentralized, spontaneous, virtuous society would spring from the ashes, if we merely prioritize our guns, our Bibles, and our Madison. Not that thereÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s anything wrong with any of those three, or prioritizing them. But it makes the mistake of believing ingredients lead to results. ItÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s just like those 1950s experiments with running electricity through a cocktail of

chemicals duplicating the atmosphere early Earth to see if life results. It doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t.Another way in which ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Final DayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is realistic is that is emphasizes a frequently missed pointÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •that in any disaster, those with power will mostly do anything to help themselves, whether on a small scale or a national scale, the little people be damned. As one character notes, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“DonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t we, the ordinary citizens of our country who are aware of the [EMP] threat, realize the elites will take care of their own no matter what happens?ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The same would be true, in many cases, of local elites. Or, using MiltonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s words several times, Fortschen notes that many would rather reign in hell that serve in heaven. Oftentimes, in this Age of Trump, average, workaday people are bitterly criticized by the elites for not trusting those elites. But why should they, given what history, human nature, and recent events show about the utter corruption of those elites? This book merely logically extends what we already know, to show what would result.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Final DayÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is, fortunately, not realistic in the other sense that so much prepper fiction isÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •as a how-to guide. It does not describe how, why, and from what online store Joe Blow purchased his phased plasma rifle in the 40-watt range, how he cared for it, and how well it shot enemies, under the guise of plot. The reader is thankful, or at least this reader is thankful.There are only a few jarring notes, typos and so forth, and FortschenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s addiction to the word ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“indeed.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The most jarring note is actually not in the book itself, but at the very beginning, in the Acknowledgements. In the third sentence, Fortschen thanks his daughter, who he says has now graduated from college. In the next sentence, he thanks his ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“true loveÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •whom he ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“recently married.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• He is divorced from his first wife. Now, I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t know any of these people, nor do I know the circumstances or who initiated FortschenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s divorce. But given that one of the major themes of the entire trilogy is the love the central character has for his (dead) first wife, and simultaneously for his new wife, as well as constant invocations of religion and character, this jars the reader. Not that people donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t get divorced, often for good reasonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •but why insult his first wife and mother of his daughter, by implying that he never loved her the way he loves now, in a way that John Matherson would never do over a drink to a friend, much less to an audience of millions of strangers?In any case, this is a minor problem. Not only is the plot good and the writing excellent, Fortschen shows a nuanced grasp of history and uses it expertly to serve his book, rather than to lecture the reader (though he comes close at times, but never over the line). He does not push a political angleÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •lÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m

sure heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s conservative, but that doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t come through explicitly. The only political issue that does come through is FortschenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s self-declared role as an EMP evangelistÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •like John the Baptist, a voice crying in the wilderness to make ready. He is clearly unhappy, and says as much in his Acknowledgements, that America has not taken action against the EMP threat, even though itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s more recognized today (in large part due to Fortschen himself). He probably fears that heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s CassandraÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â •doomed to know the future but unable to convince others. He probably hopes heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Jonah, to whom the doomed ultimately listened, and changed their ways. I certainly hope itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the latter, and we should thank Fortschen both for his books and for his efforts to ensure the collective good.

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