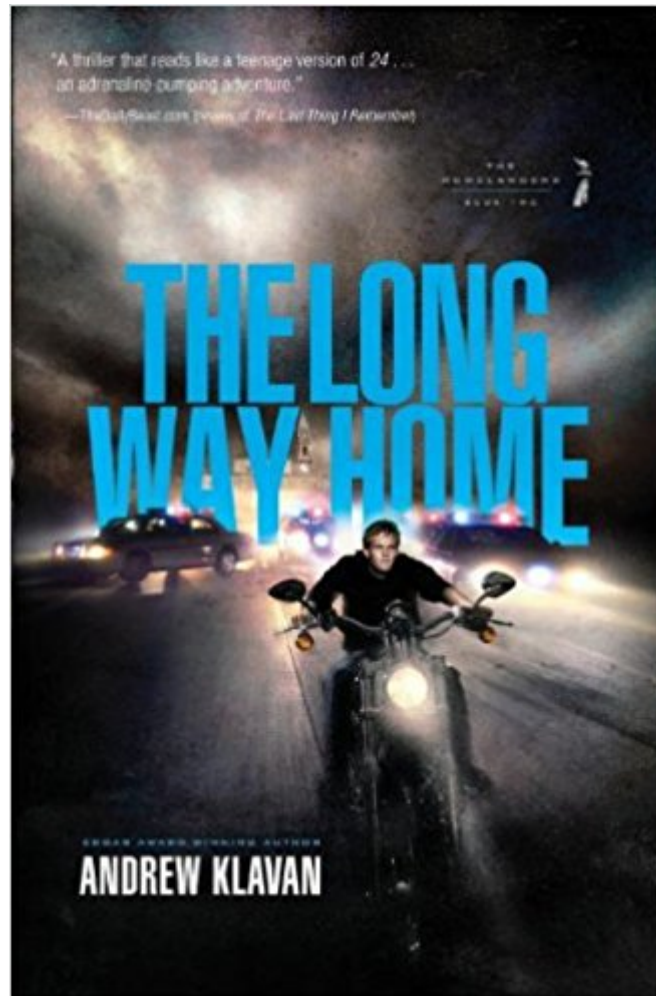




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# The Long Way Home (The Homelanders)



## Synopsis

Sometimes you have to go home to find out who you really are. Charlie West went to bed one night an ordinary high-school student. He woke up a hunted man. Terrorists are trying to kill him. The police want to arrest him for the stabbing death of his best friend. He doesn't know whose side he's on or who he can trust. With his pursuers closing in on every side, Charlie makes his way back to his hometown to find some answers. There, holed up in an abandoned mansion, he's joined by his friends in a desperate attempt to discover the truth about a murder he can't remember and the love he can never forget.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 7-10 • In this fast-paced sequel to *The Last Thing I Remember*, Charlie West is a fugitive on a mission to discover the truth about the year he can't remember. He heads home to search for some answers after a harrowing escape from both the police, who believe he murdered his friend Alex, and a terrorist group known as the Homelanders, who believe he has betrayed them. While the book begins mid-action, his backstory is provided through flashbacks and first-person inner monologues, allowing the audience to be brought up to speed quickly. Covert interactions with his friends also offer glimpses into his lost year, providing both Charlie and the listeners with clues that could help solve the mystery of his past. While the intense, thrilling narrative will keep the audience on the edge of its seat, it's Charlie himself who propels the story. Passionate and loyal, he

loves his country and God, and while his patriotism and religious conviction could have come across as over-the-top, they instead make him more realistic; his beliefs are a large part of who he is and what motivates him, yet they don't define him. Narrator Joshua Swanson's well-modulated voice perfectly conveys Charlie and his struggles as he fights to clear his name, and his youthful sound lends authenticity to the performance. Action-packed and suspenseful, the audiobook will have listeners eagerly anticipating the next installment. —Audrey Sumser, Cuyahoga County Public Library, Mayfield, OH --This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

Unfortunately for Charlie, little has changed since the climax of *The Last Thing I Remember* (2009). He is still on the run from both the cops (who think he killed his friend Alex) and a group of terrorists known as the Homelanders (who may have brainwashed Charlie during his yearlong fugue state). Eager to clear his name, Charlie heads back to the most dangerous spot of all, the hometown where it all happened, and takes up residence in an abandoned house. Soon his old buddies as well as the girlfriend he doesn't remember are pledging to help him operate covertly. Some readers may chafe at Klavan's apparent conservative leanings, which come off more strongly in this volume. Also stronger, however, is everything else: Charlie's ache for a normal life, action sequences that never let up, and showy set pieces (escaping a library, investigating a haunted house, even downloading software) that are wrung for every possible drop of nervous sweat. Best of all, unlike many second chapters, this one pays off with some seriously heavy revelations. Grades 8-11. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

The continuation of *The Last Thing I Remember* is just as thrilling as the first. The story continues and now Charlie West is running with a little more information but just as much confusion. Charlie now knows the crime he was committed for and what day it is, but there still many holes in his past. Where are his parents, how did the girl of his dreams become his girl, how was he found guilty in a crime he is sure he didn't do, and who are the goons trying to kill him. Charlie decides the best way to get answers is to go back to the beginning of this mess. He heads home. This book gives only a few answers. We now know who is chasing him, but we are not really sure why. We know that there was evidence stacked up against him that made it hard for a jury to find him innocent. We know the story between him and his girlfriend. We also find out a more about the people from his past including his friends, his teachers, and his karate instructor. Charlie is still a great character in my mind. I love his commitment and his moral compass. He doesn't give up and tries to do things the

right way. The only problem Charlie struggles with is that running from the cops is the right thing but also may be the wrong thing. We do get to meet his friends in this book. I really liked all of them. I like that they stick by him, they know him well enough to believe he never killed Alex. They will do what they can to help him out. This leads them straight to danger. Charlie does what he can to keep his friends out of it, but they insist on helping and land themselves right in the middle of a very dangerous game. Charlie now has to worry about getting himself out of a sticky situation while saving the life of another. The first part of the story was a little slower than the first book but when it picked up it really picked up and I couldn't get the pages read fast enough. I am looking forward to getting to the last two books to see how it all ends.

In *The Long Way Home*, Charlie West is trying to search for answers about what happened to him and why he can't remember the past year of his life. He can't even remember falling in love with his crush, Beth Summers. The police are after West trying to capture him and put him back in jail for the murder of his best friend, Alex. An undercover Islam group called the Homelander is also trying to hunt down West and have him killed. He has to be constantly on the run from the police and the Homelander. West is heading back to his hometown in search for the answers of who killed Alex and why. West is trying to protect his family, his lover, and his friends from getting into any trouble. He must prove his innocent before it is too late! He must not get killed or taken back to prison but the police and the Homelander are coming for him! Will he find out the answers that he is seeking? Can he handle the truth? Will he be capture or killed in the process of finding out the truth? I enjoyed book two in the Homelander series! I would recommend this book to anyone who loves action and an adventure. The book is written for the Juvenile audience but my Granny has even read the series and loved it! So doesn't let the word Juvenile scare you into not reading it, adults can read it too! It will keep you reading along trying to help West figure out the truth. I can't wait to keep reading the series and enjoying the answers that are revealed. The book is hard to put down and it has a lot of action. This book series needs to be made into a movie or a TV series! I would watch it, for sure!

This is the only item I have ever had rush-ordered from . The previous book in this series, *"The Last Thing I Remember,"* was quite a page-turner. This book is one, too, which is why I hate to give it only four stars. I must do it, though, because of it's well-spaced lines and wide margins. The writing itself is great, but these first two books in the series have about as much combined content as two-thirds of a typical novel. If you read the first book, then you just got started. If you didn't read it yet, then start there. In Book One, Charlie West wakes up in a torture chamber with no memory of

how he got there. Through a series of tense moments and narrow escapes, he manages to figure out that he was tried and convicted for the murder of his friend, got a girlfriend and escaped from prison, and that all happened in the previous year, which he does not remember at all. The first book ends with him blowing up a bridge, and it was just getting started. By the end of the second book, he comes a long way toward understanding who he really has been over the previous year and why he seems to have been not only a murderer but a domestic terrorist. He ends with figuring out who his arch enemy really is, which leads to the typical plot exposé, where the villain spills the beans to the captive protagonist. After finishing this book I was still disappointed that the sequel to this one hadn't been released yet, but I was beginning to get the idea that I might be in for more than a few purchases before I get the complete storyline. The Long Way Home involves a cast of characters around the age of seventeen and eighteen, and it does seem to be written for that age group, or a little younger (never mind that I'm much older). It seems to be marketed as Christian fiction, but, like most Christian fiction it doesn't really have anything especially religious in it, other than to say that it lacks some of the lewd elements found in much of secular fiction.

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