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# **The Last Thing I Remember (The Homelanders)**



## Synopsis

Charlie West just woke up in someone else's nightmare. He's strapped to a chair. He's covered in blood and bruises. He hurts all over. And a strange voice outside the door just ordered his death. The last thing he can remember, he was a normal high-school kid doing normal things--working on his homework, practicing karate, daydreaming of becoming an air force pilot, writing a pretty girl's number on his hand. How long ago was that? Where is he now? Who is he really? And more to the point . . . how is he going to get out of this room alive?

## Book Information

Series: The Homelanders (Book 1)

Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Thomas Nelson; Reprint edition (June 7, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1595545867

ISBN-13: 978-1595545862

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.9 x 8.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 157 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #140,767 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 7-10 • Charlie West lived the life of an ordinary teenager • good student, black belt in karate, motivated • until he wakes up strapped in a chair next to a table of blood-splattered instruments of torture. He manages to escape from his unknown captors only to discover that an entire year has passed, of which he remembers nothing. Finding himself pursued by those he perceived as the "good guys," he must run to save himself and to discover the truth. Yet when Charlie learns of a plot to assassinate a government official, he risks all to save a stranger. This first book in the series may lack cohesiveness, but it remains a compelling thriller. The first half unfolds in painstaking, if not excruciating, detail, while the second half speeds to an ending with no real resolution. Readers presumably will have to hope that the sequel will explain more fully this tightly wound mystery. Klavan spends a good deal of time aptly portraying Charlie and other key figures, but some patriotic characters may come across as overzealous and

off-putting. --Tara Kehoe, Plainsboro Public Library, NJ Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Charlie is a squeaky-clean high-schooler who gets good grades, dreams about joining the Air Force, and loves practicing his karate --and it's this last skill that comes in especially handy when he wakes up tied to a chair next to a tableau of torture instruments. In an attempt to understand how he landed in such dire straits, he flashes back to the last thing he remembers: a seemingly typical day at school. So begins the fantastic first half of this post-9/11 thriller in which each bit of recovered memory directly informs how Charlie deals with his mysterious captors. The excitement plateaus once Charlie escapes and realizes that he's wanted by more than just a band of terrorists, but the chase scenes, gunfire, and fistfights never let up. The rah-rah patriotism may put off some readers, particularly given Charlie's apparent unwillingness to moderate his black-and-white views. On the other hand, this is just the first book in the Homelanders series, so there is still plenty of time for Charlie to develop shades of gray. Grades 8-11. --Daniel Kraus --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Awesome book The Last Thing I Remember.. Needed it for a school project.. the book was so good I read it in a day.. definitely recommend..

Mr. Klavan's gift for keeping us on the edge of our seats continues in this novel of a teenager trapped in a nightmare, no longer sure what is true. Charlie West's story raises the question: "What if I woke up in a world I didn't recognize, accused of crimes I don't remember, hunted by an organization I have no memory of joining?" The book manages to weave together the common details of everyday life with an extraordinary adventure.

This book brings together the importance of a humans values. Countless times Charlie has to decide what he values in life, and act accordingly. This includes his country, his family, and the love of his life to name a few. Along with a regular teen life alot of us can relate to, it doesn't take long before becoming a page turner. Being the first book in a series of four, you won't learn about the whole story in this first read. At first, i thought it was a little too simple and spectacular, almost like a fantasy when you read about the miraculous things he does. But at the end, it leaves an incredible cliff hanger that eventually made me read the next three. As you go through the series, you will

appreciate the first book more as the story unravels and reveals the true meaning for Charlie's actions.

I got the second book in the series first— The Long Way Home (The Homelanders)— and was so caught up in Charlie's Adventure that I had to go and get this one from .Charlie West is a normal High School kid who is worried about grades, and girls. He likes to hang out with his friends. He likes to go to Church. He likes to take Karate and enjoys the mentorship of Sensei Mike. He loves his Country and loves his family, even his snooty sister.Charlie wakes up one day to find himself a prisoner of a group called the Homelanders a group of American citizens helping the Islamists overthrow the country. He is being tortured by some of them to find out what he knows about them but he can't answer as his last memory is going to bed after a day where he did a Karate Demonstration at school and had a fight over a girl with his former best friend.Charlie west finds himself in the middle of a nightmare situation and desperately tries to remember everything that happened on the last day he remembers. He is desperate to escape his captors and the truth of what he is facing will shake him to his very core.I enjoyed the first book in the Series very much. Charlie has some exciting adventures and he ends up with a lot of unanswered questions that further the mystery. I enjoyed Book 2 very much and am looking forward to the publication of book 3.The book is written for a teen christian audience. There are both Christian and Patriotic messages in the book. You may find one or two cliché characters but they don't take away from the excitement. The violence is subdued (the torture occurred before the action began)and there is no foul language. There is a scary moment when Charlie has a climatic confrontation with his captors but overall nothing to scare the psyche.I have enjoyed the series so far and look forward to the next chapter.

MY DAUGHTER, AND HER FRIENDS, LOVED IT. NOW SHE WANTS THE WHOLE SERIES. CAN'T AFFORD IT RIGHT NOW, BUT SOON I HOW.MY PRIZE UNLIMITED MEMBERSHIP, IS PROVING TO BE USELESS WITH ALOT OF BOOKS I WANT.WONDERING IF I NEED TO CANCEL THE SCRIPT. I HAVE TO PAY FOR A LOT OF BOOKS ANYWAY.WE LOVE TO READ.

I got the book on the earliest date they said it would be. It was in VERY good condition. On the bottom of the book there is a tiny rip. But not on the pages themselves. There are no pages missing. The book itself is very good. I enjoyed it so much that I finished it in less than one week. It was very hard to put down. I would read it while I was on my 15 minute break and was so into it that my break

lasted a half hour. I still didn't want to put the book down! It got my heart pumping, my brain contemplating, and my imagination blooming. I was able to picture every scene without problem. The only thing I got aggravated with was deciding on what I wanted Sensei Mike to look like! You'll find out about him if you read the book. Andrew Klavan is such an amazing author, I would recommend this book to anyone and everyone!

This is my first Andrew Klavan book and even though it's marketed to young adults I found it to be very entertaining and quite the page-turner. By no means is it preachy as some critics have stated nor is it contrived. The Christian message is very thin but the pro-American view is strong. We follow first perspective through the eyes of a teenage boy. Not just any kid but an upstanding student, son, athlete and a kid who loves his country and God. Some say youth like this boy Charlie do not exist but in my circles they do and I'm pleased Andrew has chosen to write about one of them. Looks like it was a lot of fun to write. You'll enjoy this book and so will your teenager. I've already started book two. Please keep in mind that this series was written for teen and young adults. It is not intense and serious like Steven James' FBI series or of fine literature such as Athol Dickson's novels. It is simple yet entertaining and well written but not high-brow literature. Get a copy for a teenager. 1 Star = Pathetic 2 Stars = Fair 3 Stars = Good 4 Stars = Excellent 5 Stars = Life changing

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