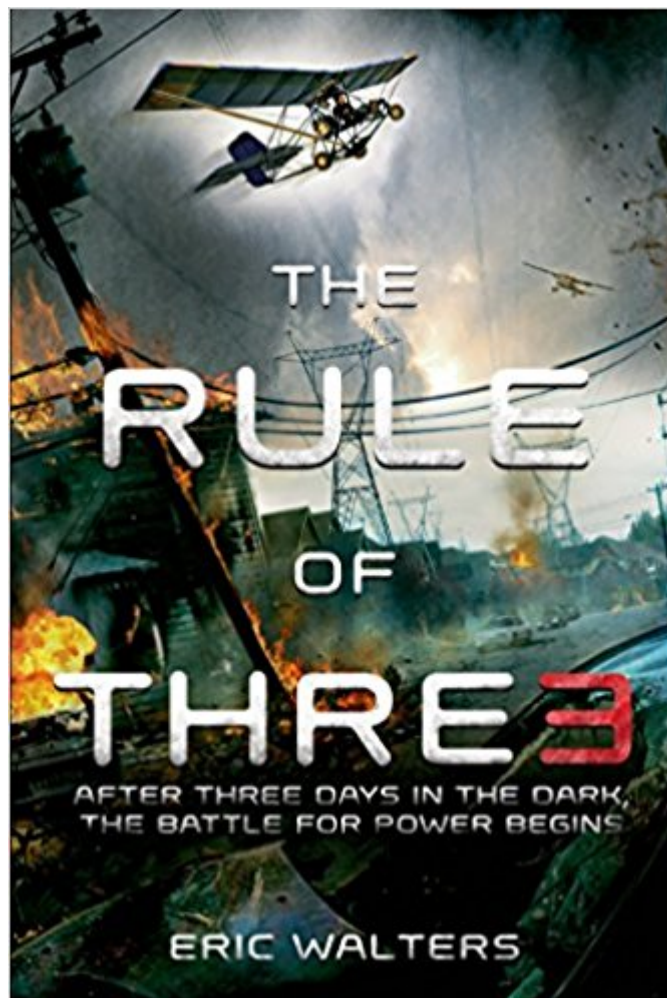


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The Rule Of Three



Synopsis

One shocking afternoon, computers around the globe shut down in a viral catastrophe. At sixteen-year-old Adam Daley's high school, the problem first seems to be a typical electrical outage, until students discover that cell phones are down, municipal utilities are failing, and a few computer-free cars like Adam's are the only vehicles that function. Driving home, Adam encounters a storm tide of anger and fear as the region becomes paralyzed. Soon as resources dwindle, crises mount, and chaos descends he will see his suburban neighborhood band together for protection. And Adam will understand that having a police captain for a mother and a retired government spy living next door are not just the facts of his life but the keys to his survival, in *The Rule of Three* by Eric Walters.

Book Information

Series: *The Rule of Three* (Book 1)

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Age Range: 12 - 17 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up • Adam, 16, is helping his friend Todd work on a computer project at school when everything shuts down. At first, it seems like a run-of-the-mill blackout, but then they notice that anything with a computer has been affected. Luckily, Adam drives a '79 Omega and therefore is able to travel around town. Things are a bit tougher than usual, but everyone is hopeful that things will get back to normal soon. Adam's neighbor Herb, a retired and secretive government paper

pusher, is helpful as the situation unravels but is also aware that things may never be the same again. Between Herb's inside knowledge and Adam's mother being police captain, a lot of the truth about what is going on is revealed to Adam. This story shows what happens to people and society when everyday rules go out the window and everyone is struggling to survive. Some of the characters lack depth, but Adam is a relatable protagonist. The story tends to drag at times as the main action doesn't occur until the very end, but key moments will propel readers forward. Rule of Three maintains a realistic and frightening look at what happens when technology is lost and modern society begins to fall apart. —Kristyn Dorfman, The Packer Collegiate Institute, Brooklyn, NY --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

One afternoon, as teenage Adam and his best friend, Todd, are working in their high-school computer lab, all computers and anything relying on them to run shut down. As the alarms sound, Adam, his mother (the local police chief), and their neighbor Herb, an elderly former government operative, become the center of the neighborhood's efforts to survive the technological meltdown. They erect walls, stockpile supplies, and convert the lawns into farmland, hunkering down to face the growing unrest. However, as is often the case among sci-fi in general, Walters' (Tagged, 2013) female characters are often relegated to merely romantic or administrative roles. Adam's mother is naive and ineffective, and Herb repeatedly subverts and manipulates her authority. And despite the fact that she's one of the few people in the community with knowledge of farming, Adam's girlfriend, Lori, is his first choice for day-care provider. In spite of those shortcomings, Adam's ethical qualms about the ruthless decisions that Herb insists they must make — turning people away from their sanctuary, treating unknown people as threats — make for nuanced reading. Grades 8-11. --Paula Willey --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

I was sucked into the story and liked the plot and characters. I have about 2500 hours in single engine airplanes, instrument, commercial and instructor rated. The description of the ultra light aircraft is beyond my knowledge, but I did fly a hang glider that had a conventional wing. Aircraft have throttles, not accelerators. A fuel tank in the tail? The center of gravity would be so far off it would not fly. Stalling an airplane does not stop the engine as described in the book. Recovery is made by lowering the nose and adding power. A level on the instrument panel in pitch darkness would not tell you the plane is level. A properly executed 45 degree banked turn would show the bubble in the center of the level. If the plane is level and skidding the bubble in the level would not

be centered. Normally a gyro is required to show that the wings are level. the most primitive instrument flying is needle, ball and airspeed. The needle is part of the gyro driven turn indicator. It is painful to see an author rely on imagination rather than research or instruction.

then got boring. My 14 year-old enjoyed it, so I decided to read it. The teen characters engage in cutesy, but fairly well done dialogue at the beginning. They are likely to appeal to young adult readers. Then the story petered out and focused only on Adam, the teen protagonist, and his "mysterious" older neighbor, Herb. These characters are not well-developed, and all the other characters are just props. The "story" degenerates into action/battle sequences. I guess Herb is supposed to be a little ambiguous - some of his past may be questionable. But he just comes off as an arrogant creep. Adam is boring and so is the story. There are no real surprises, just what Herb "predicts" - either before or after the fact. And everyone does what they are told. I don't mind serialized novels, but this one suffered from it. I feel a little ripped off, because it wasn't just BAD, it wasn't really a whole book.

I haven't been hooked on a survival book this bad since the Hunger Games! My fellow Librarian read and reviewed and immediately recommended this one to me before my vacation....I couldn't put it down even after her warning about the ending as she knows how I like finality.....can I be on auto download to my Kindle?? Or better yet, just send me a publishers copy and I'll review for you I.O.I.! I am not giving up one secret tidbit of this gut clenching storyline. I will highly recommend to Jr. High and High Schoolers and any adults that were hooked on the H.G. series like I was!!!

The kids and I are reading this together, and they love it so far. It's great for ages 11/12 and up, as younger children may be a bit too scared by the ideas presented.

When the power goes out for a few days, we get a real taste for how dependent we are on our technology, but if all technology crashed... and there was no end in sight? Then we would really witness just how thin our veneer of civilization truly is. In Eric Walters' *The Rule of Three*, suburban America gets a makeover it never asked for. When Adam's school releases the students after a power failure, he hops into his old jalopy to pick up his kid brother and sister. It starts right up (which is a miracle), but as he scans around the parking lot, he sees a lot of cars that won't start. In fact, all the new, computerized cars are completely dead. When he gets home, he is surprised to find the entire neighborhood without any power- even cellphones, laptops, cars, etc. that should run in a

blackout are down. When his neighbor, Herb, comes to his house, he is skeptical of Herb's need for an emergency trip to the pool store... especially since Herb doesn't even have a pool! Quickly, however, Herb's decision to stockpile chlorine tablets becomes the start of a whole new way of living: pure survival. As the local police captain, Adam's mother has a lot more responsibility on her shoulders than the rest of the neighborhood, but her trust in Herb, even if she doesn't fully know the extent of his involvement in the government before his retirement, gives her the opportunity to take care of her precinct knowing her kids are safe at home. Herb knows things are going to get ugly, though. And fast. When he starts sharing more and more of his useful knowledge about how to protect themselves and prepare for longterm survival, not everyone is comfortable with his decisions. What they can't deny, however, is just how different their world has become. And in a ruthless world like this, there are tough decisions to be made if anyone is going to survive. I read a couple of reviews of this book after I finished it, and I was actually surprised so many people thought it was so derivative. Yes, I mean, we can't deny the deluge of disaster books out there anymore than we can deny the existence of a bazillion supernatural tales on the shelves, but still, I thought this was a really good book with some key surprises that made it even better than I originally thought it was going to be. For instance, Herb is your typical ex-"Black Ops" (or so they assume- he never tells!) government retiree who just happens to know how to survive a disaster. Convenient? Yep. Stereotypical? You would think so, but there is more to Herb than meets the eye. Instead, he is actually very keen on negotiations and finding ways to defuse the situation in a way that is mutually beneficial for everyone. In addition, he is willing to admit his notions might not be the best way. Even though he knows survival, he is willing to admit the cold heartless reality of their new world can truly be mitigated by friendship and a sense of community. And all that comes from his time with Adam. Usually you have the youngster learn from the old, wise man, but here we really see a shift in who Herb is as well, and that is pretty unique. I actually really enjoyed this story of the new apocalypse and survival, but there were some obvious plot holes that weren't fully explored. I did a little research and realized there is going to be a sequel, so I am looking forward to the caulk that takes care of these holes (like Adam's dad). Still, the story itself is pretty good in a league of many of its kind. Adam is an interesting kid who transitions just enough while not losing the type of person he was before the disaster, and Herb is a fascinating character. Since the story ends in a way that leaves you hanging and a little perturbed, I am grateful for the upcoming sequel! Adam and Herb's story isn't over, and I can't wait to see where this technology-less world takes them!

Most excellent post apocalyptic type trilogy....great, fast paced read....highly recommend the series

to those who like the genre.

Thank you! I needed a hardback in my library!

This book is a perfect example of how just simple power outages make people turn on each other, the situation in the book is more severe so the reaction is greater. I would like to say if sometimes like this happened I wouldn't freak out, but I know I would react the same way.

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