**The Perseid Collapse Series**

**WORLD PRIMER**

**Steven Konkoly on the Kindle Worlds experience**

As a contributor to Kindle Worlds (Wayward Pines and Atlantis: The Origin Mystery), I am keenly aware of the immense satisfaction experienced by taking another author’s world and “running with it.” It’s intensely rewarding on a number of levels, and I’m thrilled to open this the same opportunity within The Perseid Collapse Series.

Post-apocalyptic survival fiction inspires exploration, posing the question “what would you do?” I believe this single question drives the popularity of the genre. From the zombie apocalypse to a solar flare shutting down the electrical grid, we have a fascination with end of the world scenarios—and it has everything to with our own personal survival instinct.

Opening The Perseid Collapse Series will allow fans, authors and new writers to tap into their “inner survivor” in a familiar world, where they don’t have to recreate the setting or characters. They can hit the ground running with their own story.

**The Perseid Collapse Series Kindle World Description:**

2019. The United States is under attack. Six years after the Jakarta Pandemic killed twenty-eight million Americans, a new nightmare has been unleashed. In the blink of an eye, more than three hundred million Americans lose power, nine out ten cars are rendered useless and anything connected to the power grid is instantly destroyed. Most are blissfully asleep when it happens, unaware that their lives have been forever changed by a sinister, high-tech conspiracy aimed at destabilizing the United States.

In the northeast, rumors of a nuclear detonation surface, followed by confirmed reports of tsunami waves sweeping several miles inland near Boston. With the nation’s communications grid down, reliable information is non-existent. The government is nowhere to be seen. Panic swiftly follows.

In the wake of the collapse, new heroes will rise and unthinkable evils will emerge. The prepared will survive—the rest will be left to the mercy of the harsh aftermath.

From the windswept steppes of western China to low-earth orbit aboard the International Space Station. From the rocky coast of Maine to the rubble strewn streets of a post-apocalyptic Boston. The Perseid Collapse World offers a diverse platform to tell a thrilling story from any perspective. You pick the genre. Whether it’s technothriller, prepper-themed, dystopian, military, political, medical or new adult fiction; The Perseid Collapse world provides fertile ground to develop a rich, rewarding story for readers.

**List of Titles Included in The Perseid Collapse World Canon**

1. The Jakarta Pandemic (Prequel to The Perseid Collapse Series) –to be used as reference to characters.
2. The Perseid Collapse (Book One)
3. Event Horizon (Book Two)
4. Point of Crisis (Book Three)
5. Dispatches (Book Four) – Launch in February 2015.

**Synopsis Information:**

**Setting Information**

The primary settings include southern Maine towns, rural roads and highways, New England areas (towns, rural roads and highways) between Maine and Boston, and Boston (multiple settings). Secondary settings include northern and central Maine towns, greater New England (Massachusetts, central/northern New Hampshire, Connecticut). Other settings seen in the canon include China, Norfolk, Virginia, a prison in Maine and a U.S warship (USS GRAVELY). There should be no limitations to the settings presented by contributors, as the disaster that unfolds in the series directly affects the United States (all parts to varying degrees) and has an indirect, but often severely adverse effect on the international community.

**Plot Information**

**Quick Summary:** The Perseid Collapse Series (TPCS) is a follow-on series to The Jakarta Pandemic (TJP). Based mostly in northern New England, six years after the events of TJP, TPCS reintroduces the protagonist family from TJP (The Fletchers), on the eve of an inconceivable “mass event” designed to collapse the United States. Like TJP, TPCS deeply explores the apocalyptic theme of preparedness, embodied by the Fletcher’s, who have taken the difficult survival lessons learned in TJP and expanded them to prepare for the next disaster. A new theme emerges in TPCS and will be perpetuated throughout the series—distrust of the government. While the reader will be given enough clues to figure out what happened during the event, the characters within TPC have little to no information. What they see firsthand will often conflicts with what they have been told by authorities, fanning the flames of civil disorder.

**Long Summary:**

**Book One —The Perseid Collapse**

Timeframe: August 2019 Event Zero Hour to +48 Hours

Synopsis:

The book opens with several build-up chapters providing external glimpses into the cause of the impending “mass event.” A Chinese cyber warfare station, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty headquarters in Switzerland, a U.S. warship assigned to Theatre Ballistic Missile Defense near Washington D.C. and the International Space Station.

Anchored in a sheltered island cove off the coast of Maine, the Fletcher family wakes to a brilliant flash of light, followed by an eerie purplish-red aurora high in the southeastern sky. Much of the sailboat’s electronics gear fails to function. Suspecting damage from an electromagnetic pulse (EMP), they prepare to leave, eager to get home and figure out how to rescue their son, Ryan, who just entered his freshman year at Boston University.

Several minutes later, a shock wave hits the island, followed by a tsunami that sweeps them out of the cove. Alex barely saves the boat from the powerful wave, and they motor toward Portland harbor.

They find the Portland waterfront devastated by the tsunami, much of it swept into the harbor, along with their yacht club and car. After hiking through several miles of devastation to reach their house, they find their neighborhood intact, but severely damaged by the tsunami.

Neither of their cars functions, casting serious doubt over their ability to reach their son. Ed Walker’s Jeep survived, and he agrees to drive Alex to Boston to rescue Ryan and his own daughter, Chloe, who is located a few miles away at Boston College. Charlie Thornton volunteers to go with them.

The three families (Fletchers, Walkers and Thorntons) devise a two-pronged plan to evacuate the neighborhood and deliver everyone to safety. Alex, Ed and Charlie will take the Jeep and travel south to find Ryan and Chloe, while Kate will lead the women and teenage children on a thirty mile bike ride to the Fletcher family compound in western Maine.

Alex’s group finds the interstate blocked by State Police and National Guard units.

They seek an inland route, pushed westward by police roadblocks, until they reach an obscure border crossing controlled by the Maine Liberty Militia. They make a grisly discovery about the militia’s activities at the border and decide to ambush the blockade, killing most of the militia group and securing passage south.

Several miles from the Fletcher compound, Kate’s group is stopped by a pair of drunk, armed men claiming to have been granted full law enforcement authority over the area by the Maine Liberty Militia. The confrontation quickly spirals out of control, and the women kill the men, taking their SUV to complete the trip. Kate’s group arrives safely at the Fletcher compound to the relief of Alex’s parents, Tim and Amy Fletcher.

Both Alex and Kate are unaware that their deadly skirmishes will have far reaching consequences. Alex’s border attack left Eli Russell’s (Maine Liberty Militia commander) brother dead, and Kate’s shooting killed Eli’s nephew (son of Eli’s dead brother). Unstable and purely psychotic, Eli Russell vows to tear southern Maine apart searching for the killers.

Alex’s group confronts increasing evidence of blast and seismic damage as they near the outskirts of Boston, coupled with a growing exodus of panicked citizens. They hide the Jeep in a charred forest reservation north of the city and proceed on foot, leaving Charlie behind to guard the jeep.

Alex and Ed are captured several hours later by a United States military patrol and taken to the unit’s headquarters in Harvard Yard. Alex is reunited with one of his former Marine platoon commanders, who is now a Marine Reserve infantry battalion commander. The battalion, stationed nearby at Fort Devens, Massachusetts, was deployed immediately after the “event” to maintain order, in accordance with a nebulous, standing Homeland Security directive.

The Marines agree to help Alex cross the Charles River at night, near Boston University. Ed choses to stay with the Marines, recognizing that he will be a hindrance to Alex in the confirmed hostile zone south of the river. Alex swims the river and fights through several small groups on his way to his son’s dormitory building. Students on his son’s floor confirm that Ryan Fletcher left with a large backpack, shortly after the “bomb’s” shockwave struck, 48 hours earlier.

Book Two will chronicle the second half of Alex’s journey through Boston and his return to a tenuous situation in Maine.

**Book Two —The Perseid Collapse: Event Horizon**

Timeframe: August 2019 Event +48 Hours to +144 Hours

Synopsis:

The book opens with a flashback, showing us the morning of the “event” from Ryan Fletcher’s (Alex’s son) perspective. Recognizing the severity of the situation, Ryan grabs the survival pack given to him by his parents and heads west through the chaos to meet up with Chloe Walker. He narrowly avoids being swept away by the tsunami.

Alex leaves the dormitory and evades “hostile” patrols on the way to Chloe’s apartment. He starts to get the sense that the groups of armed citizens are more of a community-based militia than a criminal gang like the Marine’s suggested.

He finds Ryan and Chloe barricaded in her apartment, low on supplies and water. He decides to wait until the next evening to try and cross back into Marine occupied territory.

The Marine headquarters in Harvard Yard comes under attack by an unknown force just before dawn. With the Marines losing control of the city, Alex decides to leave in the afternoon during an unexpected rainstorm.

Alex’s group fights their way onto one of the bridges spanning the river, where they are pinned down by gunfire. Ryan Fletcher demonstrates extreme heroism under fire on the bridge, when he refuses to abandon Chloe, who panics and refuses to cross. They manage to cross the river once the Marines identify Alex and provide supporting fire. Ryan is wounded in the battle.

Chloe is reunited with her father in Harvard Yard, while Alex reports the truth about the hostile force beyond the river. He suggests that the Marines seek to establish a dialogue with the group and demonstrate that they are not part of a U.S. government military coup.

The commander agrees, but the plan falls apart when the militia group breaches several bridges at once, and the Marines refuse to fire on civilians. Harvard Yard comes under attack again and the Marines evacuate north to the National Guard armory in Melrose, MA, taking Alex’s group with them.

At the armory, Lieutenant Colonel Grady is faced with the likely disintegration of his unit. Battalion elements roll in slowly over the course of the next few hours, but it is clear that at least a third of his Marines are MIA. He asks Alex to lead a squad of Marines back to Maine to establish fact to face contact with other reserve elements of the battalion and liaison with possible friendly militia units in southern Maine. Alex is spot promoted to Captain, under provisions of the Homeland directive, and supplied a uniform (this may happen later). It becomes clear that the battalion commander wants Alex to play a role in the next stage of the Homeland plan.

Alex’s group travels under the protection of the Marines to the Fletcher Compound in Maine, but Ed’s Jeep is spotted near the border by Eli Russell’s Maine Liberty Brigade and followed.

The families are reunited at the Fletcher compound, and the Marines leave to link up with the battalion’s Maine contingent. When Alex learns that Kate’s shooting incident involved the Maine Liberty Militia, he puts the compound on high alert, and preparations are made to repel an attack

Less than a day later, Eli Russell’s militia group launches a full-scale assault on the compound, but they are miraculously repelled. The unexpected return of the Marine squad prevents the wholesale slaughter of the compounds occupants. Eli Russell escapes and many of the compounds occupants are wounded.

Alex is put in contact with the Marine battalion commander and ordered to form a reserve Marine Infantry Company in Sanford, Maine, just thirty minutes from the Fletcher compound. He complies, negotiating one condition. The Fletcher compound will serve as his headquarters, under the protection of the Marines.

The book ends with Eli Russell inspecting a field full of recruits, all of which were either tricked into thinking the government was responsible for the EMP or had been forced into conscription.

**Book Three —The Perseid Collapse: Point of Crisis**

Timeframe: Late August-Early October 2019

Synopsis:

While Alex struggles to form a provisional Marine infantry company from new recruits and Marine veterans, Eli Russell’s ranks swell with disillusioned citizens angry with the lack of government response to the swelling humanitarian crisis. Training commences within each group. Ryan joins Alex’s Marine infantry company.

The Marine presence at the Fletcher compound is expanded. The road to Gelder’s pond is blocked by a Marine checkpoint. The families living at the Fletcher compound start to feel imprisoned.

In the face of an overwhelming civilian crisis, Lieutenant Colonel Grady, Alex’s new commanding officer, withdraws the remaining elements of 1st Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment to Maine. His orders are to assist regional government authorities in creating a safe haven for reconstruction efforts and delivery of humanitarian aid. His units reinforce border crossing points and start patrolling southern Maine.

Because of its easily managed southern border and low population density, Maine is designated by an emergent joint Homeland Security/FEMA Directive as the primary Regional Recovery Zone for northern New England. Information about the “event” is still scattered and mostly unavailable. AM broadcasts start to return, but mainly contain government sponsored messages about humanitarian aid and advice for survival.

Massive refugee camps start to form in New Hampshire near the Maine border, away from the coast. The Seabrook nuclear plant meltdown has rendered coastal NH uninhabitable.

Limited humanitarian aid (foreign and domestic) starts to flow into the area via airlift, and is distributed by state and local authorities. Marines protect distribution efforts. Sanford, Maine is the center of activity. Alex put Harrison Campbell’s York County Readiness Brigade to work helping with this effort in an attempt to reestablish trust with citizens.

Eli Russell orchestrates a few high profile attacks against civilian activist groups and functioning infrastructure projects, blaming military special operations teams assigned to disrupt recovery efforts and keep the populace subdued for an inevitable invasion.

Life at the Fletcher compound is strained with Alex’s new role. The families are under the constant threat of reprisal by Eli’s Maine Liberty Militia. The Thornton’s and Walker’s ask to be transported to their camp in central Maine, and Alex considers sending his own family with them until Eli’s group can be neutralized.

Eli Russell’s attacks grow more brazen, culminating in a simultaneous attack on Alex’s compound and the Regional Recovery Zone headquarters at the local airport. The attack is a complicated and costly diversion designed to lure Alex into the open, while eliminating most of his own militia. Eli has come to the realization that maintaining a militia is far more difficult than he imagined, especially in light of the fact that he has no way to feed them over the winter.

His attacks fail to kill Alex Fletcher, but succeed in reducing his militia to a trusted handful. He decides to forget about Alex, instead opting to kill Alex’s friends in northern Maine.

Sensing a larger implication to Eli’s large-scale, nearly suicidal attacks, Alex starts to unravel the truth, stumbling upon the realization that his friends are in immediate danger from Eli. Calling in all of the favors he has collected over the past few weeks, he manages to quickly assemble a team of revenge-thirsty Marines to fly north in a co-opted/hijacked helicopter to stop Eli Russell.

Finally managing to put an end to Eli Russell’s reign of terror, Alex is now faced with the most difficult decision of the series. Does he stay in Maine and try to make a new life in the north with his friends, or does he sail south to another continent, away from the United States and upcoming humanitarian disaster? He decides to stay in Maine with his friends.

**Book Four —The Perseid Collapse: Dispatches**

Timeframe: Late April-Early May 2020

Synopsis available soon. Book will be launched in early February 2015.

**Character Information**

**Major Characters**

1. a. Name: Alex Fletcher

b. Age: 48

c. Race: Caucasian

d. Gender: Male

e. Personality: Ex-military, persistent dry sense of humor, laid back, rationale, pragmatic.

f. Physical appearances: Dark hair, blue eyes, muscular, lean.

g. Likes and dislikes: Loves coffee.

h. General storyline: Alex led his family through The Jakarta Pandemic (TJP), nearly dying in the process. He’s fiercely protective of his family. He was a fairly serious “prepper” before TJP, but now he’s over the top serious, which pays dividends when “the event” arrives in The Perseid Collapse (TPC). He leads the group (Ed Walker and Charlie Thornton) that heads to Boston to rescue his son and Ed Walker’s daughter (both are in college when the “event” strikes). During the journey, he is recruited to help the government (Marine battalion) and strikes a deal to with the Marines to hopefully keep his family safe. He also has a deadly encounter with a local militia group that will come back to haunt them later in the story.

i. Love interest: Wife, Kate Fletcher

1. a. Name: Kate Fletcher

b. Age: 48

c. Race: Caucasian

d. Gender: Female.

e. Personality: Cautious, practical, humorous, warm, less forgiving than Alex.

f. Physical appearances: Longer black hair, blue eyes, athletic.

g. Likes and dislikes: Loves coffee.

h. General storyline: Kate has taken an increasingly involved role in the family’s disaster readiness, having experienced the benefit of it in TJP. She leads the women and children in their survival groups (Fletchers, Walkers and Thorntons) to the Fletcher’s “compound” in southwestern Maine. Along the way, they run into trouble with members of a local militia group (same group that Alex encountered), which puts their compound at risk.

i. Love interest: Alex Fletcher

1. a. Name: Ed Walker

b. Age: 46

c. Race: Caucasian

d. Gender: Male

e. Personality: Quiet, reserved, hesitant, worrier, competent.

f. Physical appearances: He’s not overly described in the canon. Lean, average.

g. Likes and dislikes: Dislikes confrontation.

h. General storyline: Ed has been a valuable, if not hesitant ally of Alex’s since TJP. He saved Alex’s life at the end of the TJP. In TPC, he joins Alex to travel to Boston to find their children. Along the way, he perceives Alex’s actions to be reckless and frequently disagrees or argues with Alex. They eventually arrive in Boston, where Ed realizes he doesn’t have what it takes to cross the Charles River and enter the most chaotic part of the city. He plays an important role in helping Alex from a distance.

i. Love interest: Wife Samantha Walker.

1. a. Name: Charlie Thornton

b. Age: 52

c. Race: Caucausian

d. Gender: Male

e. Personality: Brash, suspicious, loud, funny, conspiracy theorist, friendly

f. Physical appearances: Overweight, but not obese. Not in the best of health.

g. Likes and dislikes: Loves hunting. Suspicious of foreigners.

h. General storyline: Charlie became on of Alex’s best friends because of their unlikely alliance during TJP. In TPC, Charlie volunteers to help Alex and Ed find their kids in Boston, instead of heading to his summer cottage (aka prepper enclave) in northern Maine. He plays a critical role in getting them to the outskirts of Boston, but can’t enter the city due to his inability to keep up (out of shape). He guards their car until Ed and Alex return with the kids.

i. Love interest: Wife Linda Thornton

1. a. Name: Eli Russell

b. Age: 53

c. Race: Caucasian

d. Gender: Male

e. Personality: Angry, violent, unpredictable, opportunistic, gruff with his own people, charismatic with the public.

f. Physical appearances: Not overly described in the canon. In shape.

g. Likes and dislikes: Hates the government. Loves violence.

h. General storyline: Eli Russell is ex-military. He’s the leader of a small civilian militia group called the Maine Liberty Militia. At the very outset of “the event” in TPC, he springs into action, taking control of a portion of southern Maine—by murdering several county sheriff’s and controlling a key entry point into Maine. He discovers the death of his brother (killed by Alex in a gunfight) and his nephew (same brother’s son-killed by Kate’s group) at the same time and vows revenge. He spends most of the story trying to kill Alex Fletcher’s group. Eli’s militia group is comprised mostly of rejects from the more mainstream and purposeful militia groups in Maine and New England.

i. Love interest: None

1. a. Name: Lieutenant Colonel Sean Grady

b. Age: 44

c. Race: Caucasian

d. Gender: Male

e. Personality: Commanding, intelligent, decision maker, Marine, business-like.

f. Physical appearances: A long, lateral scar extended from the top of his cheek to the middle of his ear. His head was shaved clean. His skin was weathered and cracked, thick crow’s feet extending past the corners of his eyes. Brown eyes. Lean, muscular.

g. Likes and dislikes:

h. General storyline: Grady served in Iraq (2003) as one of Alex’s platoon commanders (Alex was his company commander-one rank level higher). Grady is now the commander of 1st Battalion/25th Marines, a reserve battalion based out of New England. He had been in the field with half of his battalion (summer reserve training) when “the event” hit, and was ordered to head into Boston to maintain order. He makes Alex an offer to be part of the battalion, hoping that Alex’s knowledge of Maine militia groups will help ease his battalion’s new assignment to head north into Maine.

i. Love interest: Wife.

1. a. Name: Ryan Fletcher

b. Age: 18

c. Race: Caucasian

d. Gender: Male

e. Personality: Serious, introspective, confident

f. Physical appearances: Young. Dark hair. Blue eyes. Lean.

g. Likes and dislikes:

h. General storyline: Ryan was dropped off at Boston University for his freshman year two days prior to the EMP/Asteroid event. He travels on foot in the aftermath to meet up with Chloe Walker, who is a few miles away at Boston College. They wait in her apartment for Alex Fletcher to arrive and escort them back home.

i. Love interest: Chloe Walker

1. a. Name: Harrison Campbell

b. Age: 60’s

c. Race: Caucausian

d. Gender: Male

e. Personality: Wise, patient, deliberate, suspicious

f. Physical appearances: No limiting description given in story

g. Likes and dislikes:

h. General storyline: Harrison Campbell is the leader of a long-standing southern Maine militia group, the York County Readiness Brigade. The group is well organized and poised to help authorities in the event of a local disaster. After “the event,” he assembles the militia and they start to assist county officials. Alex approaches him in book three and asks for the militias help with easing the populations fears about a government conspiracy. Harrison’s militia is well regarded by the community thanks to Harrison’s efforts to demystify what a militia should stand for.

i. Love interest: Wife.

**Secondary/peripheral characters**

1. Chloe Walker (Ed and Samantha Walker’s daughter-college), 19
2. Samantha Walker (wife to Ed) 45
3. Daniel and Abby Walker (younger Walker children- middle teens) 17,14
4. Emily Fletcher (daughter to Alex and Kate Fletcher) 15
5. Linda Thornton (wife to Charlie Thornton) 51
6. Allyssa and Sydney Thornton (twins-children to Charlie and Linda-older teens) 18,18
7. Tim and Amy Fletcher (Alex’s parents-live at the Fletcher compound-early 70’s)
8. Ethan and Kevin Fletcher (Alex’s nephews-orphaned during Jakarta Pandemic-live with Tim and Amy Fletcher) 13, 11
9. Kevin McCulver-Second in command of Maine Liberty Militia under Eli Russell. Bomb maker. Late 30’s
10. Corporal Lianez-Alex’s Marine driver. 21
11. Staff Sergeant Evans-Marine assigned to Alex’s group. Late 20’s
12. Staff Sergeant Taylor-Marine assigned to Alex’s group. Works with Harrison Campbell. Late 20’s
13. Jeffrey Brown-member of Eli’s militia. Conflicted about Eli’s actions. Eventually turns on Eli’s group. Early 40’s
14. Governor Medina- Regional Recovery Zone leader based at Sanford Airport Headquarters. 38