



# The Walk

*Richard Paul Evans*

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"My name is Alan Christoffersen. You don't know me. 'Just another book in the library,' my father would say. 'Unopened and unread.' You have no idea how far I've come or what I've lost. More important, you have no idea what I've found." —Prologue

What would you do if you lost everything—your job, your home, and the love of your life—all at the same time? When it happens to Seattle ad executive Alan Christoffersen, he's tempted by his darkest thoughts. A bottle of pills in his hand and nothing left to live for, he plans to end his misery. Instead, he decides to take a walk. But not any ordinary walk. Taking with him only the barest of essentials, Al leaves behind all that he's known and heads for the farthest point on his map: Key West, Florida. The people he encounters along the way, and the lessons they share with him, will save his life—and inspire yours.

Richard Paul Evans's extraordinary New York Times bestsellers have made him one of the world's most beloved storytellers. A life-changing journey, both physical and spiritual, *The Walk* is the first of an unforgettable series of books about one man's search for hope.

## The Walk Details

Date : Published April 6th 2010 by Simon & Schuster (first published 2010)

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Author : Richard Paul Evans

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## **From Reader Review The Walk for online ebook**

### **Linda says**

Another one of those books you can't put down ... Mr. Evans is fantastic at what he does ... I am really enjoying this book, fast, easy read, on page 105 and I just started it yesterday. I am determined to read ALL of his books in 2012!!

I just read it for the second time ... it is even more awesome the second time around ... read March 30th, 2012!! I highly recommend this book to anyone that loves a great storyline. You won't be disappointed!!

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### **Chris Mara says**

I loved this book! The story is one that will resonate with pretty much everyone. Those that may be in a similar situation as Alan, or those that are not, but all are able to experience and feel the hardship, the rise to success and the desperation and unfulfillment. It's a story that comes from the soul. It's one of those stories where there are signs that are not heeded, bad and hurtful impulses that are given into without a second thought, good advice from a friend or loved one is blatantly ignored. All these things are set into motion of a life that becomes rich, successful, but is not happy, is not satisfying, lessons from the past are not realized and used to get through to the future.

It is a story of loss, an untethering, sadness, loneliness, self-absorption, the loss and happiness of...feeling. The only way for this guy Alan, to find his way back to finding his heart and his soul is to pretty much shed his former self, his possessions and thoughts and start all over again. He begins "The Walk" to Key West, Florida and along the way, keeps a diary, recalls memories, and learns lessons all along the way from the people he meets, to the places he goes, to the experiences he has. It's as if he trying to do a re-programming of himself. A re-boot.

It's a tough journey, physically, mentally and emotionally. I give Alan so much credit for coming up with this plan and actually going through with and surviving it (?) to find his true self. He was so dissatisfied with his life and abused love, friendship and family and took them all for granted.

I hated that it ended the way it did! I wanted to read MORE MORE MORE right away because he had only just begun his transition and I wanted to find out what his journey entailed and what kind of redeeming man he ended up being in the end and how he survived. Gosh, what a big step in a re-awakening, not knowing how it will finally end. I wished Alan well on his personal journey.

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### **Diane Challenor says**

I listened to this story as an audio book. It reads like a book of non-fiction, so I had to keep reminding myself that it was fiction, not that it mattered. I enjoy books about slow travel, walking being one of the methods of slow travel I've read about in the past such as Bill Bryson's "A walk in the woods". I love the walker's musing and gleaning lovely bits of wisdom shared as the walker walks along. The author of this story is also

the audiobook's narrator and I warmed to his gentle American accent. It's not a long book; it is part of a three book series. The walker in this story is walking from Seattle to Florida after a major trauma. In actual fact I think the character has Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) which is like "shell shock" soldiers experience. I enjoyed the walk, and will walk again with the author. While I'm here, typing up this little review, I couldn't help but mention something that has been troubling me. When I was learning more about the book, I read the reviews on Amazon. There were quite a few positive ones, but the ones that were considered "most helpful", showing prominently on the web page, were extremely negative, unreasonably so. Considering the quiet and meandering subject of the book, it seems to me that this author, for some very unlucky reason, has attracted some "trollish" like reviews. It must give authors the shudders, when, after several years of work, they publish, and then, they're spotted by a troll or trolls. It must be devastating. I enjoyed the book and hope soon the positive reviews will push the trolls off the Amazon page, so readers will not be deterred from reading this story.

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### **Donna says**

They say that everyone experiences grief differently. Seattle ad exec Al Christoffersen had it all and loses it. He loses his young wife and his entire ad agency. Once his cars are repossessed and his home is foreclosed upon, he decides to end it all. He has the pills to do it and has nothing left to live for... except he hears a voice telling him to live. Funny, that's the same thing his wife made him promise as she was dying, that he would live. He decides that there is nothing left in Seattle for him and he doesn't want to go back to California with his dad, so he decides to take a walk. Why not? He may find healing in nature. So, where should he walk? He sets out to walk from Seattle to Key West Florida. Now that's a walk. This leg of the journey is part one of four. I'll definitely be reading the other three. He has met some interesting people along his way and I need to follow his journey on to Key West now.

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### **McKenzie says**

3.5/5 Stars!

This book was a really quick read for me! Overall, I think the characters were interesting. But the story didn't blow me away entirely. I read this awhile ago, and usually, after reading a book I can remember small details, with this book, I can't. But I do think it's a great book for a quick read. Also, I didn't enjoy the ending of the novel, and I don't want to discuss spoilers but I thought the way the author ended it wasn't the best -- The whole point of the story and the ending just didn't fit well together, in my opinion.

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### **Maeleah says**

Richard Paul Evans has an amazing way of telling a fictional story that seems so real you think it really did happen. Infused in the story are these threads of wisdom that inspire you to think about things in a different way. This story is about a man named Alan Christoffersen who marries his childhood sweetheart, McKale. He starts his own advertising company which takes off and he lives the high life with a million dollar home and luxury cars. But then everything literally comes crashing down when his wife is in a severe accident, dies, and his business partner, literally steals his clients and starts his own business while Alan is being with

his wife in the hospital. Left with nothing and despaired to the point he thinks about ending his life, he then remembers the one promise he made to McKae before she died-- she said, "Live." So he packs up a few things and starts walking--- to Florida from the state of Washington. This story describes Alan's physical walk but also his emotional walk through the anger, bitterness and sadness of what happened to him. I love at the end he says, "This is what I've learned. We can spend our days bemoaning our losses, or we can grow from them. Ultimately the choice is ours. We can be victims of circumstance or masters of our own fate, but make no mistake, we cannot do both."

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### **Kimberly Smith says**

I'm not usually a reader of Richard Paul Evans' books, but a friend basically ended up placing it in my hands saying you HAVE to read this, and I must say, I was pleasantly surprised. Even though it bogs down a little when the walk actually begins, It was still a very quick read, a good story, & full of little nuggets of truth.

Here are a couple favorite quotes from the book:

"You can tell a lot about a man by watching how he treats those he doesn't have to be nice to."

"We can spend our days bemoaning our losses, or we can grow from them. Ultimately the choice is ours. We can be victims of circumstance, or masters of our own fate, but make no mistake, WE CANNOT BE BOTH!"

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### **?Susan? says**

I liked this story and the characters there in even though parts were a bit hard to believe. A short inspirational peek at the inside of a mans life as it is crumbling and how he handles it.

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### **Tim Chavel says**

This is the first book in "The Walk" series. I actually read the third one first and thought it was a true story of someone walking across the country. This book explains why Alan decides to walk from Washington State to Key West, FL. His one true love his wife has an untimely death, his partner steals his clients and Alan loses everything. This is why he starts his walk. This is the best book series I have ever read. I have now read the first three books in the series. If you enjoy a short read you will enjoy this book. I highly encourage everyone to read this book! The second book in the series, "Miles To Go," I will include lots of quotes.

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### **Starjustin says**

Every reader can take a lesson in life and living from this first in a series, easy read book. To attempt to see

how our decisions and our actions, r/t our experiences in life can decide our future and ultimately can determine our fate in life.

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### **Vicki says**

The author did a great job of letting the reader feel Alan's love for his wife McKale, and his pain over her accident and loss. He also did a great job of letting us go on Alan's journey with him. The people were real, the places were real, and every thing/one was alive on the pages.

Now I know we all have different ideas as to what we like and don't like in books, but really, how could anyone not like this book? I thought it was SO GOOD! I read some of the negative reviews that said the book didn't have enough action, was boring, was only about the people he met and that they were all too nice. Did they forget about the "bad" people he met? They were about as bad as you can get. Anyway, the book is not a thriller, suspense or murder mystery. It's a book about a man on a walk across the U.S. to clear his head and heart of some very bad stuff. Of course it's not going to be full of action. After all, he spends his days walking, What else could the book be about other than the people he meets, where he eats/sleeps, and the scenery? And the way the author writes the story, that's enough.

I loved that Alan met Angel. I don't know yet, but I'm thinking they'll be friends for life.

The book was a quick read, but I didn't want to put it down for anything. It was so good that even though it was 3:00 am when I finished it, I got up, went to my TBR shelf, got book #2, Miles To Go, and started reading it. I'm now on book #3, The Road To Grace, so check back for my reviews on these two books.

I was getting sad because I thought the series ended with book #3, but I just learned that there will be a #4, and it's coming out in May! Hopefully there will be #'s 5, 6, 7, ....

I'm giving this book 5 stars. I'd give it more if that was an option.

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### **Robin Meadows says**

I actually enjoyed reading the first book in this series and had given it a high rating. however, after trudging through the next 3 books and almost quitting during the 4rd, I went back and changed my rating. What began as a promising premise has quickly turned into a definite disappointment. The encounters made by the walker are so deeply contrived, they are unconvincing, and I grew very weary of what he saw and what he ate at every meal. Then, never heard what he was thinking or the inner conflict of his heart or his thoughts until the last chapter in book 4, which, ironically begins with these words: "A good read should introduce new drama in each chapter. But that's just in books. What may be enjoyable in literature is not so in real life."

I cannot recommend this series to anyone. It will be a waste of good reading time. And there is a 5th book coming in May. I don't even care how the journey ends.

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## **Michelle Devine-Traxler says**

Fast, easy read. Words are fast flowing and I finished this book in one sitting.

Alan, the main character loses everything in this tale of woes. His job, his cars, his house, then.. his wife dies - all in six weeks.

In his grief, he decides to walk - from Seattle to Key West, Florida. Walk. Yep. I suppose that is why the book is called THE WALK.

His journey on the walk was actually REALLY interesting.

I always include a passage (something, anything) from the book that resonates with me.

"Life Hugger"

Isn't that a great word?

Here's the definition from the authors point of view.

"They're people who hang on to this life because they think this is it. But they're fools, thinking they can hold on to this life. Everything in this world passes. Everything. You can't hold on to a single thing. But God knows they try. Some people even freeze their bodies so they can be woken up at some future time. Fools. All they have to do is look around and they can see that nothing here lasts."

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## **Chelsey says**

My husband listened to this book on CD thinking it was just one book, not realizing it is part of a series. He loved it and suggested I read it. The very first thing I did, was go online and read all the negative reviews. The two complaints were that this book was a waste of money because it is part of a series (I don't care because I will just get it from the library) and the second complaint was that it was too much writing about food...all the bed and breakfast food, cafes and small diners. Neither of these complaints were offensive to me. I am very picky about reading books on grief. I would hate the complaints to be over simplified the devastation a person feels when losing a loved one or unrealistic romances shortly after etc. I actually find it interesting that a book about grief would center a lot on food but from my own personal experience, food was not something that was helpful but for others, it was. So I read it and found it was very interesting, an easy read, a well written and thought out story line with just enough drama to keep it real and interesting. I think most people would enjoy it.

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## **Tracy says**

This is an excellent book about a man who loses his wife abruptly and decides to abandon everything and walk away, starting a trek from one end of the country to the other. There are many parts of this book that resonate with me and I love the adventure of the story. I do not know what personal experience the author has had but he makes some very true statements about grief. This is a physical and spiritual journey and the author is careful not to make it too cheesy.

I have wanted to read this book for some time after I saw an interview Richard Paul Evans did on a cable show about the research he did for this book. He talked about going out on the road and carving a route for

his character. Some of the places and diners he visited are included in the book.

This is an excellent book and I highly recommend it. However, I am giving it one star on principle. The author set this book up as a first in a series and while the storytelling and character development is excellent it's a short book. Clearly, he is trying to milk the series into as many books as possible. The audio book was barely 4 hours, pretty quick. It did not seem to me anything had major had happened yet, there was no climax and the book is still developing characters and plot. I will read the next very soon, but won't pay for it for this reason. Shame on Evans, a new or young author would not have gotten away with this, but he has the well known name to play these games.

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## Dave says

In 24 hours, I have digested the 290 pages that comprise this book. To some, this is no extraordinary feat. For me, it is certainly not the norm. I have read several good books over the years. There are books that tell a good story. This book is one of those books. However, it went much further than that. This book grabbed me and sucked me in emotionally opening my eyes to things that have been buried for far too long. There are so many messages that are conveyed as a part of this story line. Some of these are direct and to the point. Others are much less obvious and perhaps only comprehended on a subconscious level. This is the first book I have read from this author, but I immediately felt connected to the main character in the book (Alan) along with the challenges and emotions that he experiences along the beginning of his journey. Everyone will have their own take on each book they read and I would never suggest that any one book will be life changing for everyone. But, it is certainly possible that this book can be life changing for someone. I don't know if it has been life changing for me, but it certainly has set me out on the first step of my own "Walk" and time will tell if this step helps me learn to live every moment to the fullest.

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## Tempo de Ler says

*«Não fazeis ideia de onde cheguei nem do que perdi, mas sobretudo não sabeis o que encontrei. (...) Se, no relato da minha viagem encontrar alguma coisa que o ajude na sua, guarde-a.»*

De forma **única** e **memorável**, A Caminhada, traz-nos a comovente história de Alan Christoffersen, um homem que perdeu, literalmente, tudo.

Perseguido pela dor, a amargura e o desespero, Alan decide tornar este desespero no seu companheiro de viagem e inicia uma caminhada com destino ao ponto mais longínquo a que poderá chegar a pé.

Escrito num tom **simples**, **honesto** e **confidente** este livro leva-nos a compreender o quão poderoso pode ser o toque de outros na nossa existência...para o bem...ou para o mal...

Richard Paul Evans avança rapidamente na narrativa, enriquecendo este trabalho com diálogos estimulantes em que cada personagem traz as suas próprias percepções sobre a vida, e a morte, de acordo com experiências pessoais...algumas bastante dolorosas e marcantes.

Pejado de mensagens poderosas, A Caminhada é um trabalho muito especial e inspirador; uma busca por



esperança e uma verdadeira aventura pela exploração dos sentimentos e do sentido da vida - e eu estou desejosa de voltar a acompanhar Alan na sua caminhada, no próximo livro.

**Frases preferidas:**

«O adiamento é o ladrão dos sonhos.»

«Nada é mais terrível do que esperar pelo veredicto...excepto, talvez, ouvir o veredicto.»

«Não te iludas. As coisas podem sempre piorar.»

«A única forma de expurgar a dor da morte é expulsando o amor da vida.»

«Por vezes, o lugar mais assustador é dentro da nossa própria pele.»

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**Nicole says**

I would rate this a 2.5 (It was okay/I liked it). At 25% in I didn't know if I would finish, but I enjoyed the second half more than the first. I don't feel a connection to any of the characters, and I don't understand many of the motives. Perhaps I'm different than others, but I don't kiss many people (friends or strangers) on the cheek or otherwise, and I found some of the scenes strange.

The book "felt" to be written by a man, not just from the main character's (Alan's) perspective (who is male), but that there were seemingly many women who were kissing (friendly) him, rubbing his feet, breaking up with a boyfriend after seeing the way Alan interacted with HIS wife. It felt that people were worshipping Alan in a sense, and I didn't find his character believable.

The Walk is easy to read with short chapters; I enjoy the description of meals and landscapes. I'm interested enough to continue the series (I've finished book #2 as well), but I don't think these will be books I'll cherish and look back to as an inspiration.

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**Robyn says**

Mostly positive review, pardon a few of my negative but honest thoughts...I still love you Mr. Evans!

I wondered what could possibly keep a man who loses EVERYTHING from simply ending it all himself? I could totally envision the "Rock 'em Sock 'em Robot" life or death struggle, where he ultimately remembers that his wife's wish for him was to LIVE. "Walking away from it all" sure takes on a new meaning as Alan decides to walk as far away from his home in Seattle as he can, and stay in this country, anyway.

Rick pulls you in for about the first half of the book, but then it starts getting a little laden with cliches. Somewhere in the middle it also becomes a bit like one of those shows on the Food Network where they drive from diner to diner and let us know the results (except he is walking). But really how else would you fill in a series about a man's journey across the country on foot. I would have to stop and try the "World Famous/World's Best...", too. (His research for this series could spark a whole new book in diner fare and

B&B's, I'm sure.) The story is saved, for me, as we learn more about the people in Alan's path. Learn of their own stories and what he learns from them. The beginning and end and overall message of hope are great. I think I will follow the series to see what becomes of Alan and the people in his path on his walk.

My favorite quote of the book: On the heels of Kierkegaard's "We understand our lives backward, but must live them forward", Richard says through Alan, "He was right, of course; but in looking back on the hammer strikes that chisel and shape our souls we understand more than our lives and even ourselves--we begin to comprehend the sculptor."

Other LTJOAM:

"We can deny reality, but we can't deny the consequences of denying reality."

"You can tell alot about a man by watching how he treats those he doesn't have to be nice to."

"Some people have stopped looking for beauty, then wonder why their lives are so ugly...Look for beauty in everyone you meet, and you'll find it."

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## Jennifer says

Maybe I should be ashamed to admit that I generally love Evans' novels. But, I do. This one gets one star because of it's shameless marketing ploys (ironic since the main character is an ad exec). So, Alan loses everything and decides to walk across the country. Fine. The book is fairly interesting. We see Alan dealing with grief, learning from people, meeting people who are kind to him, tenuously reaching out to others. I could do with far less narration of Alan's food choices, though, just for the record. Anyway, I start to notice that Alan is still in Washington state when he is supposed to be walking to Florida. I am 3/4 of the way through the novel. My suspicions are raised, and I finish only to find that this is part of a series. Moreover, the novel just cuts off. There is zero sense of finality or closure, very little emotional resolution. It's like Evans just decided, hmmm... that's long enough for a book. I'll stop there and use the rest of the story to write another one. Then, I make twice as much money. Um... you are breaking the rules! You are intentionally chunking up your already stretched-thin story into a money-making series. I have no problem with series that also function as individual books or functional cliff-hangers (Narnia, Harry Potter, Lord of the Rings). I have a major problem with essentially chopping a novel in half and selling it in two parts. Not to mention, half of this novel is blank pages...chapter headings take up a whole page. There is a page with each chapter that contains one quote and nothing more. Most chapters are engineered to end in such a way that there is at least a page and a half of blank space before the chapter heading. I have taught college students, and Evans has essentially turned in a ten page paper in a size sixteen font with two inch margins. There is no reason, other than money, that Evans couldn't have cut all that crap and written a single self-respecting novel rather than an ode to publishing and the sheep who will buy this crap. Had I paid for this novel, I would be seriously aggravated...oh wait, I already am.

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