

JOHN MICHAEL LAYNE

Post-Apocalyptic Fiction Rooted in Appalachia

Author of *Seasons of Ash*

John Michael Layne is a West Virginia author who writes post-apocalyptic fiction grounded in real places, practical survival, and the quiet strength of ordinary people. His novel *Seasons of Ash* imagines a world reshaped by a catastrophic volcanic eruption and follows survivors navigating an ash-covered America while fragile communities struggle to endure.

A former U.S. Marine, Layne brings a grounded perspective to stories about leadership, resilience, and the difficult choices people must make when systems fail. Drawing on Appalachian settings, real geography, and technical research, his work explores how communities rebuild and what it means to remain human in the face of collapse.



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Interview Topics

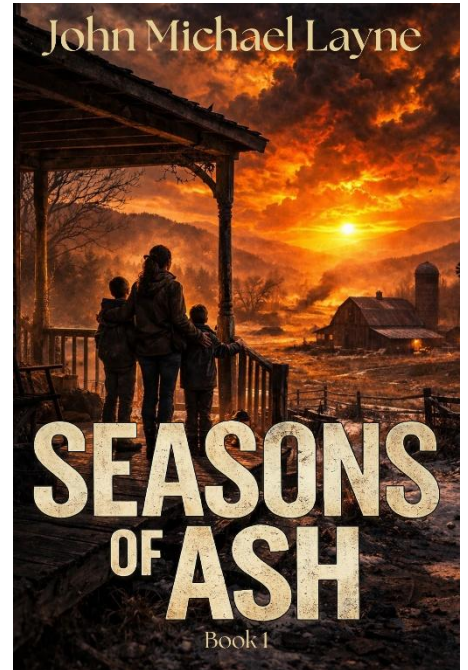
- The real eruption of Mount Tambora and its global consequences
- Writing realistic post-apocalyptic fiction grounded in science
- Appalachia as a setting for survival and rebuilding society
- Why survival stories resonate during uncertain times
- Independent publishing and building a reader community

Seasons of Ash

When the world begins to dim, Matt Anderson is thousands of miles from home. Stranded in the Nevada desert after a catastrophic volcanic eruption, he begins the long journey east through a country slowly falling silent—roads abandoned, cities dark, and supply lines collapsing. With only a pack, a bicycle, and the memory of his family waiting in West Virginia, he pushes toward a home he can no longer be sure still exists.

In the mountains of Green Bank, Laura Anderson gathers her sons on her in-laws' farm as ash clouds poison the water and winter presses in early. When a charismatic preacher begins framing the disaster as divine judgment, fear and suspicion threaten to fracture the fragile community she's trying to hold together.

Across a collapsing America, husband and wife move toward each other through seasons of darkness—one on the road, one at home—each discovering what must be protected, what must be sacrificed, and what it means to remain human when the world is falling apart.



Quick Facts

Genre: Post-Apocalyptic Survival Thriller

Series: The Tambora Series

Setting: Appalachia / United States

Formats: Paperback • Hardcover • Ebook • Audiobook (coming)

Author Location: West Virginia

Podcast Interview Starter Questions

1. What inspired the idea behind *Seasons of Ash*?
 2. Why did you base the story around the eruption of Mount Tambora?
 3. What life experiences do you weave into your storytelling?
 4. Why did you choose Appalachia—and Green Bank specifically—as the setting for surviving a catastrophic event?
 5. What do post-apocalyptic stories reveal about human nature?
 6. How does the novel balance realism with storytelling?
 7. What lessons about resilience and community appear in *Seasons of Ash*?
 8. What can readers expect next in the Tambora series?
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WEBSITE & SOCIAL LINKS

Website

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Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61581959286995>

TikTok

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Available For

- Podcast interviews
- Media interviews
- Speaking engagements
- Book clubs and reader events