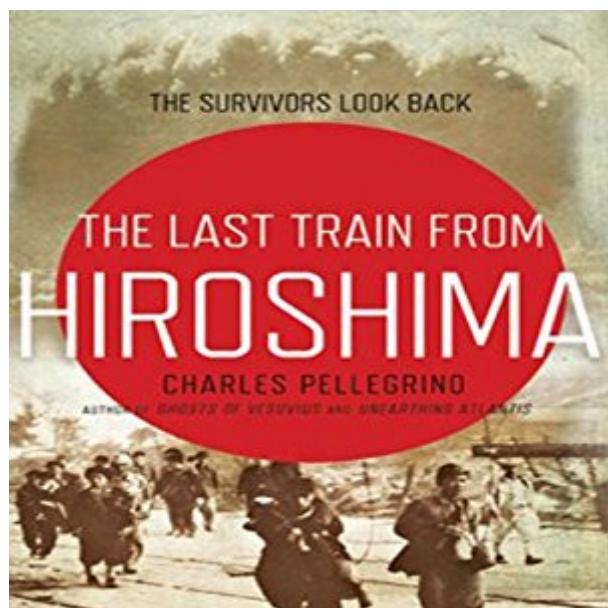


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The Last Train From Hiroshima: The Survivors Look Back



Synopsis

Drawing on the voices of atomic-bomb survivors and the new science of forensic archaeology, Charles Pellegrino describes the events and aftermath of two days in August when nuclear devices detonated over Japan changed life on Earth forever. Last Train from Hiroshima offers readers a stunning "you are there" time capsule, gracefully wrapped in elegant prose. Charles Pellegrino's scientific authority and close relationship with the A-bomb survivors make his account the most gripping and authoritative ever written. At the narrative's core are eyewitness accounts of those who experienced the atomic explosions firsthand—the Japanese civilians on the ground and the American flyers in the air. Thirty people are known to have fled Hiroshima for Nagasaki—where they arrived just in time to survive the second bomb. One of them, Tsutomu Yamaguchi, is the only person who experienced the full effects of the cataclysm at ground zero both times. The second time, the blast effects were diverted around the stairwell in which Yamaguchi had been standing, placing him and a few others in a shock cocoon that offered protection, while the entire building disappeared around them. Pellegrino weaves spellbinding stories together within an illustrated narrative that challenges the "official report," showing exactly what happened in Hiroshima and Nagasaki—and why.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My ancestors were only that: ancestors. People without faces or history. This book turned my faceless ancestors into real people and this book gave me back my history. Pellegrino's incredible presentation with his talent for descriptive writing, is a must read so we who speak of wanting a

war-free world for our children, will do more than wishing them in poetry and song. Until we are able to personalize that part of our history that is destructive and inhumane, we will repeat history. This book does that for us, putting faces and real people into that part of history that cannot be forgotten and cannot be repeated. For writers out there, read this book, not only for the content, but for the structure of how the story is presented. Pellegrino's books have become my source on "How to Improve your Own Writing."

A good read about the individuals who survived the nuclear bombings both at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. A bit difficult to follow because of numerous characters with unfamiliar Japanese names. Not for the faint-of-heart.

A very good book. especially the ending with the summation. Great price.

Amazing book! A window into the Japanese culture of this era. Very interesting details of the atomic changes by the microsecond of the changes wrought by the unleashing of this powerful weapon.

my dad loved this book as he is a WW2 decorated veteran.

Good book. Accuracy in question though.

I thought at first, on reading the New York Times exposure of Pellegrino's false sources, that at least his narrative of some of the survivors was important to read. But after finding that Pellegrino faked his credentials, and after checking on a few of his factual claims, I am in doubt about the veracity of everything in the entire book. The book is worthless. Pellegrino should not be named among historians. One example: He claims that the USS Indianapolis, the cruiser that delivered the atomic bombs to Saipan, was sunk by a manned torpedo -- a kaiten -- launched from a Japanese submarine. Sorry, but I'll take the testimony of the sub's skipper over Pellegrino's. The skipper testified that he used a standard unmanned torpedo. Just google "USS Indianapolis" and see for yourself. No doubt one could make a sport out of beating dead horses by exposing dozens of falsehoods in this book, but I'll be happy enough to see it correctly cataloged as fiction.

As a physicist I was astonished by some of the physics revealed in this book. I did not know that the Hiroshima bomb was a "fizzle" yielding only about 9 kilotons of explosive force when it was planned

for 20kT. The Nagasaki bomb actually missed Nagasaki and took out the neighboring city. And the medical descriptions are far more detailed than anything I have ever read. Amazing to read that at least 30 people were "double survivors" of both Hiroshima and Nagasaki

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