The Last Train from Hiroshima: The Survivors Look Back (John MacRae Books) by Charles Pellegrino

The Power Of Pellegrino's Pen Leaves An Indelible Impression.

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’s 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.

**Personal Review: The Last Train from Hiroshima: The Survivors Look Back (John MacRae Books) by Charles Pellegrino**

An outstanding book! Pellegrino writes with beauty and heart. To pair his prose with such an evil event is a profound juxtaposition, similar to Tim O’Brien's short stories on Vietnam. Prior to "Last Train" my reading interest only danced around the subject of Hiroshima. What an incredible initiation. Pellegrino tackles and simplifies the complexity of nuclear fusion to explain the atom bomb in "Freshman 101" terms. He also conveys the will and the stunned reaction of the surviving Japanese people from both cities. Pellegrino achieves authentic intimacy by selecting a few family members and a doctor and pairing their real life horror with the chaos of their instantly bleak surroundings. Curiously, he also goes into detail describing the two flight teams that dropped the two bombs. I assume he did so in an effort to humanize the two squads. A big warning; the power of Pellegrino's pen will leave indelible impressions in your mind. His brutal and wrenching stories need telling and retelling across the ages. You will never read another book like this one.

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