

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 18: NUMBER 2

MARCH/APRIL 2023

Disaster Story

On April 26, 1986, the unthinkable disaster occurred. A nuclear reactor at Chernobyl in the USSR exploded wreaking devastation on 1,000 square miles of land and altering forever untold numbers of lives.

Featured this Month

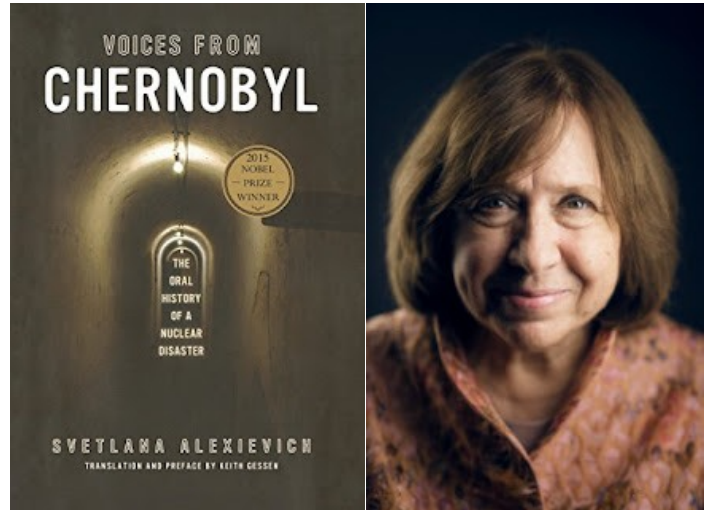
Voices from Chernobyl by Svetlana Alexievich
Chernobyl series produced by HBO

The 2019 Emmy award winning HBO 5-part series *Chernobyl* tells the story of the aftermath of the explosion and investigations into the cause. No more chilling and heartbreaking story could be told about what can happen when a society is “led” by people more interested in loyalty to the status quo and elevation of non-expert toadies into the technologically complicated world we have built.

The series follows scientist Valery Legasov as he works to contain the damage and investigates the incident with Soviet politician Boris Shcherbina. We see the frustration of Legasov as he tries to convince the bureaucracy of how grave the situation is and his building sense of horror in his own role in the disaster.

We also see how the disaster affects those most closely affected, those who lived in the area and the liquidators, hunters, miners and others who worked to contain the worst of the damage while preventing additional disaster. In the HBO series those stories rely heavily on the book *Voices from Chernobyl* by Nobel Prize winning author Svetlana Alexievich.

Alexievich’s writing has been described as “polyphonic,” a style of music made up of many independent voices in harmony. This is an excellent description of *Voices from Chernobyl*. Alexievich stands like the conductor before the orchestra of witnesses, barely noticeable but arranging the voices in harmony. The core of this narrative contains a prelude and coda of the love stories of two women



whose husbands had been sent to work as “liquidators” and subsequently died terrible deaths from radiation exposure.

Alexievich’s sonata is arranged in three parts, each part focusing on a different group of witnesses. In the first part, “The Land of the Dead”, we hear the voices of the ones who lived in the vicinity of the reactor. Many are farmers, the providers of the nation’s sustenance. Most are confused and have no understanding of the dangers of radiation. You can’t see it, feel it, taste it. How can it hurt?

The second part, “The Land of the Living”, concentrates on the voices of those who were sent in to confront the worst of the disaster, the clean up. The third part, “Amazed by Sadness” brings in more voices from beyond the immediate catastrophe, parents and spouses and children, those who have lost loved ones and those who have been physically and psychically damaged by the event.

While the HBO series can easily be binge-watched, *Voices from Chernobyl* is better read in small pieces. It takes time to make sense of the experiences of so many. The weaknesses and strengths of human nature are on display in all their melodies.

Introduction and review by Deb Nicholl

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New at the Library

Fiction

The German Girl by Armando Lucas Correa
Leopard Springs of Ussat by Karl H. Schlesier
Stella Maris by Cormac McCarthy
The Passenger by Cormac McCarthy

Nonfiction

Two Trees Make a Forest by Jessica J. Lee
Regenesi - Feeding the world without devouring the planet by George Monbiot

Audio CDs

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Benediction by Kent Haruf

DVDs

Grey's Anatomy Seasons 2-13 and 15-16

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

Library Hours:

Sunday, Monday: closed
Tuesday ~ 3:00pm - 6:00pm
Thursday~ 3:30pm - 5:30pm
Friday ~ 10:00am -1:00pm
Saturday ~ 12:00pm - 2:00pm

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Notes from the Library Board

The annual meeting of the Hillsboro Community Library was held on February 25, 2023, at 11:00 am in the Betty Reynolds Reading Room.

The current members of the Board were re-elected to their respective positions. Current services were reviewed and suggestions discussed for further opportunities to provide for the Hillsboro community.

Thank you to those who attended.

Bake Sale

The Library Bake Sale is on for
Saturday, April 1
10:00am -1:00pm
Come and get your goodies!

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesdays: March 22 - April 19
Lil Abner's, Caballo 9:45am- 11:00am
Hillsboro Post Office 1:00pm – 2:00pm
Kingston Fire Station 2:30-3:30 pm

<https://nmstatelibrary.org/bookmobiles/west-bookmobile/>