

# The Choice Between Love And Death Of ' A Lone Human Voice' In Svetlana Alexievich's Chernobyl Prayer

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History of disaster has began  
- Svetlana Alexievi

**Abstract:** *Chernobyl Prayer, A Chronicle of the Future by Svetlana Alexievich presents a collection of monologues from citizens who have been devastated by the Chernobyl tragedy. Svetlana saw the Chernobyl tragedy firsthand. The public anticipated that she will write a book from a Belarussian viewpoint. Belarus is Svetlana's native land, located near Chernobyl. Ms. Anna Gunin and Mr. Arch Tait initially wrote the work in Belarussian and translated it into English. Penguin Classics published the novel for the first time in 2016.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Chernobyl is the world's worst industrial tragedy of the twentieth century. The tragedy has resulted in a global catastrophe. The accident was caused by a sequence of explosions in reactor No. 4 of the nuclear power plant. The power plant became a Shelter Object at 01: 23 hrs 58 seconds on April 26, 1986. Around fifty million curies (Ci) of radioactivity is emitted into the environment by the reactor. Belarus, a tiny world with a population of ten million people, received 70% of the nuclear waste. One of every five Belarussians, or 2.1 million inhabitants, reside in the affected region. There are 7,00,000 children among them. Radiation is the primary source of Belarus's population loss.

Properties, farmlands, lakes, meadows, ponds, and other natural artefacts are polluted with toxic contaminants emitted from the reactor's explosions. People in Belarus are constantly exposed to radiation, which causes tumors, mental retardation in children, neuropsychiatric conditions, and genetic mutation.

According to Belarussian newspaper articles (online) from 2002 to 2005, cancer cases in Belarus increased seventy-four-fold, from eighty-two per thousand to six thousand per lakh, following the Chernobyl tragedy. By the end of May 1986, the Chernobyl tragedy has been a global problem. "In the environment, large amounts of radiation, gaseous and hazardous matter have been detected. The radiation effect spreads to the countries'... on April 29, 1986, in Poland, Germany, Austria, and Romania, on April 30, 1986, in Switzerland and Northern

Italy, on May 1st and 2nd in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Northern Greece, and on May 3rd in Israel, Kuwait, and Turkey... on May 2nd in Japan, May 4th in China, May 5th in India, and May 5th and 6th in the United States”. (CP.p.2)

The Reactor No-4 shelter object is a one-of-a-kind system intended to last “.. for thirty years. The framework is built using a remote assembly process, with its parts connected together by robots and helicopters: thus the gaps... According to the results, the breaches and cracks cover a total area of more than 200 square meters, and aerosol radioactivity is constantly leaking through them... In the south, traces of Uranium, Plutonium, and Cesium can be found”. ( CP. p.3)

According to some hidden and outrageous numbers, 1, 15,493 employees have been registered as cleanup staff at the disaster site in Belarus alone. According to the “Belarusian Ministry of Health,' 8,553 cleanup staff died between 1990 and 2003, an average of two per day”.(CP, pp. 3&4)

People in the Chernobyl area were severely affected as a result of the catastrophe. There were immediate consequences, such as deaths from radiation burns, as well as long-term consequences from contamination. People's lives have been thrown into disarray as a result of accidents and disabilities. People have been traumatized by displacement, relocation, and loss of life.

An experience that induces physical, mental, moral, or psychiatric damage is referred to as a traumatic accident. When the subject sees or when it happens to someone else, or whether the subject is participating in the process of the job, the experience becomes stressful. Trauma is described as "a psychiatric disorder induced by extreme shock, especially when the harmful effects persist for a long time..." 2 Event, Experience, and Impact are the three symptoms of trauma, i.e., an overwhelming ability to manage (Event), through the eye of the beholder (Experience), and attempts to cope and endure (Effect). 3. Svetlana emphasizes mental distress, which is one of the most underappreciated, undiagnosed, and unreported types of trauma. Accidents are one kind of traumatic event. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) affects both men and women .

Chernobyl Prayer, a fictional stories by Svetlana Alexievich, depicts the victims' painful testimonies. Many people have died as a result of the Chernobyl crisis. Chernobyl Street is the name of the street where they stayed. Vasily Ignatenko is one of the Chernobyl catastrophe staff who died. 'A Lone Human Voice' is the title of one of the victims' testimonies. The evidence was grouped into a few themes by Doris Scribner. The structure of 'Lone Human Voice' is excellent. The themes are as follows:

1. “A first sentence”
2. The circumstances of the husband's call to action
3. The husband's disease is getting worse.
4. Immediately after death
5. Living in a state of bewilderment afterward”

Lyudmila Ignatenko's detailed and elaborative testimony serves as a preface to Chernobyl Prayer. She's a 23-year-old young lady who is the widow of a dead firefighter. Ignatenko, Vasily. The evidence covers every aspect of the Chernobyl disaster from beginning to end. Death and passion are the same to her. Vasya, a firefighter, was injured while attempting to contain the fires at a nuclear power plant. When he is in the ward, Lyudmila pays him a call. He is violently ill with radiation when she discovers him. "He was all puffy and bloated, his eyes were almost hidden," she notes. (7) (CP.p. 7)

Despite his pain, Vasya begs his pregnant wife to stay away from him in order to protect the baby from the radiation impact. "Get out of here!" he exclaims. Simply go! You're expecting a child?... Get out of here! 'Save the boy!" (CP. p. 7) . Lyudmila was unable to abandon him. She joins him as Vasya and the other 28 men and women are transferred to Hospital No. 6 at Shchukinskaya metro station, a separate radiation hospital. Only emergency personnel are allowed to access the hospital wards, with signs warning that "it's a state secret, top secret." (See CP. p.9)

Dr. Guskova, the director of the radiation section, is persuaded by Lyudmila. Lyudmila is told by the doctor that her husband's "central nervous system is seriously compromised, as is the bone marrow... if you start weeping, I'll take you straight back, no touching or kissing". "You do not approach" (CP.p.10).

When Lyudmila enters the ward where Vasya is being examined, the doctor advises her not to be emotional when she looks at her husband. She was unable to comfort her husband in his fragile state due to a lack of anonymity. "It is said that energy healing philosophy or contact therapy is used to help the body cure itself." 6 'He tried to give me a hug... I really tried to be alone with him for a minute or two, but the guys picked up on it, made excuses, and walked out into the hallway. I embraced and kissed him after that.' (See CP. pp. 10-11) As he returns, he warns her to stay away from him. Ludymila wants to know how the tragedy happened. 'Are you the first people there?' Probably hacking. Someone has simply done so on purpose...' (p.11, CP)

"I was smitten by him! I didn't realise how much I adored him! We had just just married and couldn't get enough of each other. He'd take me in his arms and turn me around as we walked down the highway. And kisses all over me. The passers-by will grin". (See CP.p.12) Is it possible that the lives of such a happy couple have devolved into tragedy? "Everyone was so happy and cheerful. It was our last day on this planet. We were so content before Chernobyl". (See CP.p.18)

"What if you had to chose between love and death?" (CP.p.33) She shares their affection for one another. Vasya's health deteriorates day by day. His body undergoes many physical and biochemical modifications as a result of the radiation effect. "Every day, I met a new guy,' she says. His burns were beginning to show... Tiny sores appeared within his mouth, on his tongue, and on his cheeks, and then they grew. His skin... his body... turned grey, red, grayish-brown". (Page 12 of CP)

Vasya gives his lovely wife an Orange in the pressure chamber, but it is made pink rather than orange. The nurse, though, forbids Ludymila from consuming the orange and, horrified, tells her, "This isn't your guy, it's not the guy you love; it's a highly polluted radioactive item." (p.15 of CP)

On the 9th of May, at 9 p.m. in Moscow, 'Victory Day' is commemorated with fireworks. Vyasa wished to one day teach his wife the beauty of fireworks. Today, his dream has become a reality. "I raised the doors," she says. We were on the eighth landing, with the whole city in front of us! A burst of fire erupted in the atmosphere. 'Wow, that's impressive!' I promised to take you around Moscow. I told you that I will always send you flowers on special occasions. He pulled three Coronations from behind his pillow when I turned around. He'd offered a nurse some money to purchase them. I dashed over to him and kissed him. My sweetheart! 'You are my true love!' What did the doctors think, he grumbled? And don't hug me! There will be no kissing! (See CP.p.13) The hospital incident demonstrates how deeply the pair cared about one another. About the fact that his pain is endangering her and the child in her womb, she is unconcerned for her own existence. She treasures the time she spends with her husband right now. Nothing could get in the way of her passion for him.

She's crazy. She is unconcerned. She does not break from his embrace; however, she takes his hand in hers and refuses to let go. "I adore him!" she exclaims. It was just him and him alone. As if I were deaf!" (p.16 of CP) In order to spare her life, the nurses advise her to stay away from him because she is already vulnerable at her age. 'You are too tiny,' the nurse says. What the hell is wrong with you? He's no longer a person; he's a nuclear reactor. You're not going to get tangled up with each other. Oh, for the love of God, let it go! "You're crazy". (p.16 of CP) Lyudmila is so angry that she screams at the medical workers. "I wanted to throw them all away!" she said. I wanted to yell at them and slap them in the face! They couldn't have done it!"(p. 17 of CP.)

As Vysya's situation worsens, the nurses are hesitant to help him because his body is oozing blood and his skin has become oily. They took photographs of his condition, claiming that the photographs were needed for scientific purposes. Lyudmila reminds the duty nurse of her husband's fragile and terminal state. The nurse expresses regret and inquires, "What do you expect?" He had 1600 roentgens, which is 400 times the fatal dosage". (See CP, p. 17). He was her sweetheart and her passion. Whatever or however her husband's illness is, she loves him. Nothing will take away her feelings for him.

Tanya Kibenok, a family acquaintance, asks Lyudmila to follow her to the graveyard where their deceased relatives are buried. Meanwhile, Vyasya passes away, and the nurse reminds Lyudimala of his last words and how she consoled him. "Lyusya! My Vysya!" she tells her. She's just gone for a moment, so she'll be back in a flash', He frowned and walked away" (CP. p.18). Vyasya, her beloved, has passed away.

The practice of burying the dead in general, and Vyasa in particular, is fraught with controversy. Rather than using a standard method of packaging corpses, the organisers used a scientific method to bag the victims' bodies and arrange them in a mortuary. They stuffed him and his dress suit into the plastic bag and wrapped it up, as she describes. The bag was then put inside a wooden coffin. Then they stuffed the whole package wound into a zinc coffin, narrowly fitting it in. Just a service cap remained on his head... and he was buried in a Moscow cemetery. Under the concrete slabs, in lined zinc coffins.'(See CP.p.19.) "They were public property, belonged to the state, took over them as official assets could not give us the bodies of our husbands or sons, they were highly radioactive and would be buried in a special method... and we had to sign any paperwork, they needed our consent... the dead were buried in a special method... the dead were buried in a special method... the dead were buried in a special method... the dead were buried in a (CP.



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