

# A Slow Death: 83 Days of Radiation Sickness - Official Manual

## INTRODUCTION

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This manual provides comprehensive information regarding the book *A Slow Death: 83 Days of Radiation Sickness*. The book details Japan's most severe nuclear radiation accident, which occurred at a uranium reprocessing facility in Tokaimura on September 30, 1999. The incident involved the depositing of a uranyl nitrate solution, exceeding critical mass, into a precipitation tank, leading to extreme radiation exposure for three workers.

One of these workers, Hiroshi Ouchi, was transferred to the University of Tokyo Hospital Emergency Room three days post-accident. Initially, his condition appeared relatively stable, with only a swollen and red right hand. However, his health progressively deteriorated as radiation damaged the chromosomes in his cells. Medical professionals faced unprecedented challenges due to the rarity of such cases and the limited established treatments for radiation poisoning. This book meticulously documents the 83-day treatment period until Ouchi's passing, offering detailed descriptions and explanations of the radiation poisoning's progression and the medical efforts undertaken.



*Image: Front cover of the book 'A Slow Death: 83 Days of Radiation Sickness'.*

## **ABOUT THE BOOK**

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This publication is compiled by the NHK TV Crew, representing NHK (Nippon Hoso Kyokai), Japan's public broadcaster. It is based on an original television documentary produced by NHK, which first aired in May 2001. The documentary received the Gold Nymph Award at the 42nd Monte Carlo Television Festival in 2002.

- **Author:** NHK TV Crew (Compiler)
- **Publisher:** Vertical
- **Publication Date:** December 8, 2015
- **Language:** English
- **Print Length:** 160 pages
- **ISBN-10:** 1942993544
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1942993544

## UNDERSTANDING THE CONTENT

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The book serves as a detailed account of the Tokaimura nuclear accident and its profound human cost. It focuses on the medical and ethical challenges faced by the team treating Hiroshi Ouchi, whose body progressively failed due to radiation exposure. The narrative highlights the limited understanding and treatment options for severe radiation poisoning at the time, making Ouchi's case a critical study in medical history.

Readers will gain insight into the physiological effects of extreme radiation, the dedication of the medical staff, and the broader implications of nuclear incidents. The book maintains an informational tone, presenting facts and medical observations without sensationalism, allowing for a clear understanding of the events and their consequences.

## KEY THEMES AND INSIGHTS

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The book explores several critical themes:

- **Medical Ethics:** The narrative raises questions about the extent of medical intervention in hopeless situations and the balance between preserving life and prolonging suffering.
- **Impact of Radiation:** It provides a stark, detailed look at how radiation devastates the human body at a cellular level, leading to organ failure and systemic breakdown.
- **Human Resilience and Dedication:** The book showcases the unwavering efforts of the medical team to provide care under extreme and unprecedented circumstances.
- **Nuclear Safety:** It serves as a cautionary tale regarding the dangers of mishandling nuclear materials and the importance of stringent safety protocols in nuclear facilities.

Editorial reviews commend the book for its grim yet essential chronicle of Ouchi's deterioration, demonstrating the humanity and psychology of the medical profession. It is noted for its ability to simplify complex scientific facts for a general audience and its contribution to understanding radiation injuries and their management.

## SPECIFICATIONS

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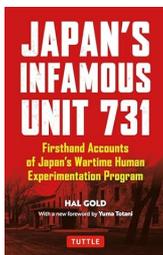
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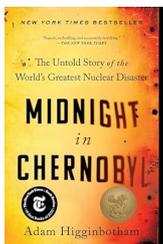
## FURTHER READING

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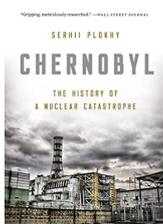
For those interested in related topics, the following books are frequently purchased alongside *A Slow Death: 83 Days of Radiation Sickness*:



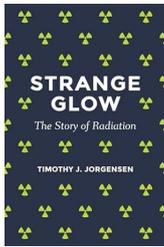
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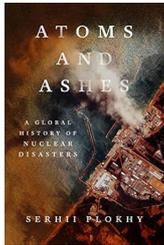
Midnight in Chernobyl



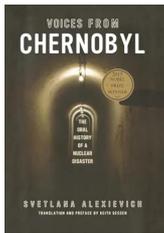
Chernobyl: The History  
of a Nuclear Catastrophe



Strange Glow: The Story of Radiation



Atoms and Ashes: A Global History of Nuclear Disasters



Voices from Chernobyl

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As this product is a book, standard product warranties for electronic devices or machinery do not apply. For information regarding returns or exchanges due to manufacturing defects or shipping damage, please refer to the retailer's return policy where the book was purchased.