



Chernobyl Murders

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In a western Ukraine wine cellar in 1985, Chernobyl engineer Mihaly Horvath discloses the unnecessary risks associated with the power plant to his brother, Kiev Militia detective Lazlo. Spawned by a desire to protect his family, Lazlo investigates—irritating his superiors, drawing the attention of a CIA operative, raising the hackles of an old KGB major, and ultimately discovering his brother's secret affair with a Chernobyl technician, Juli Popovics. After the explosion, the Ukraine is not only blanketed with deadly radiation, but also becomes a killing ground involving pre-perestroika factions in disarray, a Soviet government on its last legs, and madmen hungry for power. With a poisoned environment at their backs and a killer snapping at their heels, Lazlo and Juli flee for their lives—and their love—in this engrossing political thriller.

Chernobyl Murders Details

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Author : Michael Beres

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From Reader Review Chernobyl Murders for online ebook

Dee Renee Chesnut says

This ebook was free when I downloaded it to my Nook library from Barnes and Noble in 2012.
"His fiction reflects our age of environmental uncertainty and political treachery." It was suspenseful, and its antagonist was unlike most in the mysteries I read.
I recommend it for all readers.

Samantha says

I really enjoyed this novel because it has an air of historical fiction to it. The Chernobyl incident lends itself to a certain air of intrigue and mystery. Michael Beres did an excellent job answering 'what happened after Chernobyl exploded'. At times the novel moved a little slow for my tastes but the build up was worth it! By the end of the novel I could barely put it down; I just had to know what happened to the characters. If you like historical fiction and mystery, you will like this book.

Paul Dubal says

A really good read - great depth of characters, lots of action and extensive research on one of the pivotal events of the 20th century.

Ashley says

NC
Own on Nook.

FS: "Kiev is usually warm for May as a noon crowd thickens with workers on their lunch break."

LS: "The red eyes of the predator, momentarily taken by the music, blinking to clear away its tears."

stormhawk says

Story is set around the time of the nuclear accident at Chernobyl. Rambles about quite a bit, pacing is uneven.

Jenni says

Chernobyl Murders was a surprising diamond in the rough. When I first started reading the book I didn't have very high expectations but I pushed on as it was set against the backdrop of the Chernobyl Disaster. I quickly was hooked by the believable technical details and the intriguing plot; this resulted in me finishing the book in a few hours, despite the story being slow to start.

The book follows Lazlo Horvath, a police detective in Kiev as he tries to clear his brother's name from involvement in a supposed terrorist attack on the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station before the KGB arrest him and his brother's mistress for involvement in the attack. This gives the story good pace once it gets going and provides plenty of action.

The book is unfortunately let down by the writing. The characters, despite having moments of tangibility, are often predictable, wooden and their voices are stereotypical; at times merge into one. This is particularly seen in the case of the two PK officers who, for most of the book, are interchangeable and woefully unbelievable. The prose is also awkward at times and in places incredibly dull.

The ending was something that really puzzled me. Set in the present day, it involves an encounter between Horvath's niece and a spy in modern day Kiev. It left me confused and cheapened the ending. Therefore I felt the book would have been better ending with the previous chapter.

Overall, Beres should be praised for his research and fantastic plot; these points on their own make this a great read for those with an interest in nuclear disasters, Chernobyl in particular. It would also appeal to those who like novels based around the fall of the Soviet Union, as this political change is regularly referred to for context. However the poor writing style and one dimensional characters mean that some of the trill is lost and the book leaves you feeling slightly disappointed at end.

Heather Firebaugh says

I am fascinated by the Chernobyl stories. This one puts you in the middle of it. Easy read.

Michael Frazier says

This story had a LOT of promise/potential. The plot was pretty twisted; not in like a disturbing, grotesque way, but in a way where you could honestly say "I couldn't have created this if I tried." The author took an historic event and wrote a suspense novel around it. You know the premise of the Chernobyl disaster at this point; in the most Soviet Russia move ever, they constructed some massive conspiracy theory surrounding the explosion at the power plant. While I understand the title of the novel was "Chernobyl MURDERS", there was just a lot of unnecessary killing in here. I will say that it did end nicely, but everything else in this just seemed too outlandish, even for fiction. I feel very fortunate I only paid \$9.00 for this at Powell's. "Chernobyl Murders" has earned the right to collect dust on my bookshelf for the rest of time.

Kimberly says

wish we could rate with 1/2 stars as well, this is really a 3 1/2 star book. i'd give it a 4, but it's slow to get going. once it gets going though, it's a really good read.

April (The Steadfast Reader) says

Eh. This novel is okay. It is perhaps made more enjoyable for those with a minor background in radiation, the machines involved with checking it (dosimeters, geiger counters), terminology (roentgens 'RANK-ens'), and an idea of what radiation poisoning can do. An interest in the meltdown at Chernobyl probably helps as well. I have all of these things.

Still, it's fast paced with lots of action, less intrigue. Not awful, but not groundbreaking either.

If you have the time.

Probably worth the \$3.99 it costs for the Kindle.

Rebecca says

Ugh. This book could have been so good. It has a promising storyline, but the flat characters and ridiculous dialogue killed it for me. I had a chapter left and could not finish it because I no longer cared what happened to the characters. Why? They are boring.

International Cat Lady says

Meh. This book had a lot of potential. Unfortunately, it also had a pretty lame writer. The prose was mundane, the characters wooden. It's a pity, as the story itself - had it been told well - could've been great. As someone currently in Kiev (where a lot of the action in the book takes place), who has been to many of the places mentioned - and who will be going to Pripjat/Chernobyl in a few weeks, I did find the book interesting. Had I not been so personally invested in Kiev and Chernobyl, however, I'm not sure I would've been able to finish the book. Yawn.

Eric Mathis says

I'm almost halfway done reading this book, and the quick pace, engaging characters, and the descriptive and engrossing writing style of Michael Beres keep me wanting to read more after each turn of the page. The events of the horrific 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster are craftily interwoven into the plot of this spy thriller.

Rebecca McNutt says

This creative and unique novel was vibrant, suspenseful, detailed and well-written, with complex characters and vivid descriptions of the scenery and settings.

Robert says

I do not like to shell out the 5 stars to any old book and that is why this one goes to 5 stars. This is not like the others. I am a sucker for a good Russian story to begin with and then I get hit with this one. Set against the backdrop of the Chernobyl disaster Beres weaves a tale that pulls the reader right into the story. This was still a time in Russia when you had the Communist regime sowing paranoia and fear among its citizens even as it was on it's last legs. The story is that a KGB Major is assigned to investigate the Chernobyl disaster. He quickly comes up with an intricate plot of his own that includes a Militia Detective and his brother, a senior technician at Chernobyl. This KGB Major is clearly creating this fabrication in hopes of advancing his career and will let no one get in his way. The book starts off a bit slowly but does so to establish the large cast and all supporting characters. This was also a time in Russia when change was coming to the old style of government and Beres uses his charcters to show up the old and the new changes occuring. Very well written and magnificently researched.
