

No one recognized the flashes of bright light that filled the sky. Survivors described colors they couldn't name. The blast wave that followed seemed to strike with no sound. In that silence came the dawn of atomic death for two hundred thousand souls.

On August 6, 1945, twenty-nine-year-old naval engineer Tsutomu Yamaguchi was on the last day of a business trip, looking forward to returning home to his wife and infant son, when the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. He survived the atomic blast and got on a train to Nagasaki, only to be bombed again.

Jacob Beser, a Manhattan Project engineer, looked down on Hiroshima and saw the ground boiling. Years afterward, he referred to what he witnessed as “the most bizarre and spectacular two events in the history of man’s inhumanity to man.”

Based on years of forensic archaeology combined with interviews of more than two hundred survivors and their families, *Ghosts of Hiroshima* is a immediate account of ordinary human beings thrust into extraordinary events, during which our modern civilization entered its most challenging phase—a nuclear adolescence that, unless we are very wise and learn from our past, we may not survive.

Charles Pellegrino is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Her Name, Titanic*; *Ghosts of the Titanic*; and *To Hell and Back: The Last Train from Hiroshima*, along with other acclaimed books. He was a technical advisor to James Cameron on *Titanic* and *Avatar* and the recipient of the Isaac Asimov Memorial Award for Science Writing. Michael Crichton credits Pellegrino’s work and research as a paleontologist as part of the inspiration for *Jurassic Park*.

READ BY MARTIN SHEEN

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