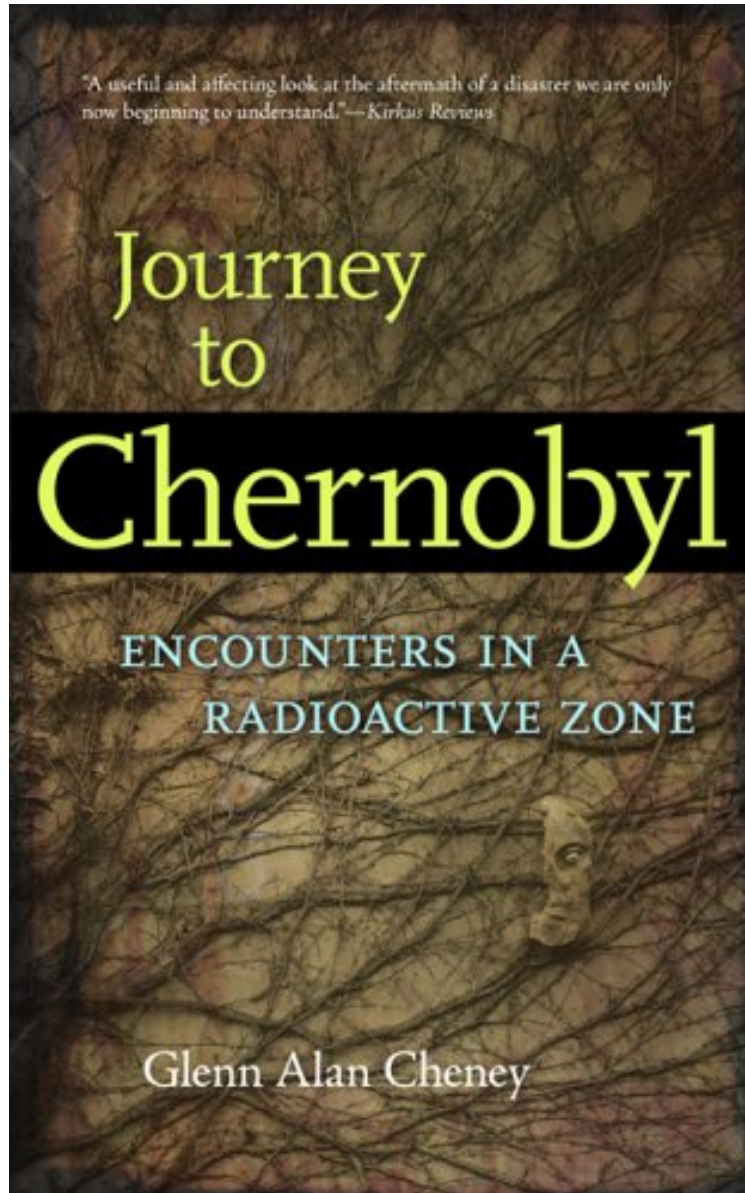


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Journey to Chernobyl: Encounters in a Radioactive Zone

Glenn Cheney

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Glenn Cheney : Journey to Chernobyl: Encounters in a Radioactive Zone before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Journey to Chernobyl: Encounters in a Radioactive Zone:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The name of this book is misleading, but...By I.T.If you're looking to read a scientific, non-biased account on the Chernobyl disaster or a story of one's life or trip through the 30-km

exclusion zone, you might want to settle for a different book instead, such as *Wormwood Forest: A Natural History of Chernobyl*. If you're, however, just wishing to see a glimpse of the Ukraine a couple of months after the fall of Soviet Union viewed through the eyes of someone who lived a much more stable life and the said someone adopting to it to a certain extent - then give it a go. The title of the book is misleading. The author travels to the exclusion zone in a single chapter of the book, spending the rest of his time in Kyiv/Kiev; making friends with various people who are willing to share the very last bits of their food if necessary, go great distances to make their foreign friend happy and help him get what he's searching for. That's the spirit of us Slavs for you; or at least that's what most of us were like before the mass-consumerism era. In addition to that, a significant portion of the book is describing Cheney's complications with visas and travels. I would strongly suggest everyone to read this book. There are so many misconceptions about "eastern Europe" in the "western" media, especially from the said period, given the Soviet collapse and the Yugoslavian wars. The cyrillics-using people are not necessarily scammers and guerilla warriors out to get you. On the contrary.

0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Perspective, clarity, honesty
By A. Hodge
Glenn Cheney's voice raises questions, exposes uncomfortable truths, and propels the reader into forbidden places, from the recesses of his own brain to the Prohibited Zone near the reactor. Three stories are going on here -- the meltdown of the nuclear reactor, the meltdown of life for those around the reactor, and the reaction of a journalist from somewhere else. Read this book.

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Awful
By Dmitriy Kostyuchenko
I've read many books on the subject of the Chernobyl accident, and I've seen references to this title pop up every now and then. It only seemed natural for me to read it. With a couple of exceptions, this book is a complete waste of time. This book's main offense is the author, who seems to be completely unable or unwilling to write from a neutral point of view. Having written many general-interest books and articles on the dangers of nuclear power, nuclear testing, and nuclear proliferation, Glen Alan Cheney pounces on every opportunity to throw in a gratuitous attack on every subject dealing with nuclear industry. While Chernobyl was a catastrophic event, florid descriptions of the world's plight on every other page are unnecessary, and insulting to the reader's intelligence. Perhaps even worse is Cheney's attitude to his host country and its populace. Every description of a place, person, or action is seasoned with a snide remark, thrown in for no apparent reason other than to add further despair and misery to his narrative. Most telling is the fact that the author is completely unwilling to even attempt to learn the local language, and is proud of it! In this, Cheney is the stereotypical "American tourist." Lastly, Cheney travels to Ukraine more than seven years after the disaster with a complete ignorance of the events that occurred, the medical and ecological consequences of the radioactive fallout, the government's response to the accident, or really anything pertaining to Chernobyl. One does not have to read between the lines to detect this ignorance; his words say exactly that - in black and white - right in the first chapter. Personally, I prefer to read books written by people who are smarter and more knowledgeable than me on the given subject. The above reasons cause one to lose all confidence in the author's objectivity, which can make the actual information contained in the book untrustworthy. In general terms, his stories are consistent with information available from other sources, so I have no reason to doubt the broad strokes of Cheney's narrative. However, any specific information present in the book is not given from a position of authority and becomes utterly worthless for the purposes of research. Not recommended. If anyone wants my copy, feel free to ask.

Glenn Cheney arrived in Kiev during those first days when the Soviet Union ceased to exist and Ukraine was reborn. Almost immediately he found himself talking with scientist, journalist, refugees, engineers, top-level government officials, doctors, environmentalists, parents of sick children and people living just a few kilometers from the Chernobyl complex. He heard stories about the disaster that went far beyond what had appeared in the Western press. The reports of atrocities, epidemics, tyranny and despair blend with a most unusual travelogue, considerable humor and KGB intrigue.

From Publishers Weekly
In 1991, Cheney, who teaches writing at Connecticut College, went to Ukraine to learn the circumstances of the world's deadliest nuclear accident and to interview the people who were affected by it. In this brief, informal report, this self-appointed investigator describes his travel adventures (with an expired visa) and his encounters with officials and victims of the Chernobyl catastrophe. Cheney made a daring visit to the nuclear ghost town of Propyat, originally built for Chernobyl's workers, and relates how they were forced to abandon their homes and possessions to escape the effects of nuclear radiation. The statistics are not yet confirmed, but evidence Cheney gathered indicates that at least 8000 people died as a result of the meltdown, with another 30,000 presently suffering from diseases related to radiation. His poignant account humanizes the events of April 26, 1986, at Chernobyl. Photos. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Library Journal
Cheney (composition, Connecticut Coll.) traveled to Russia and Ukraine on a UN-sponsored mission in December 1991, at the time the USSR formally split apart. The ensuing confusion made it easier for him to come and go as he pleased and to talk freely with persons near Chernobyl who were eager to share their experiences of the 1986 explosion and their fears for their futures. Neither a nuclear nor a Soviet expert, he discerns no pattern among these stories except a probable government cover-up; his evidence for this allegation is nothing new. Even the medical personnel he interviewed admitted that the health

problems they saw could have been caused as much by poverty, malnutrition, and alcohol abuse as by radiation exposure. At times Cheney's primary interest in describing his arduous travels causes his focus to drift from the effects of radiation exposure on the populace. Not recommended. [For another account, see Alla Yaroshinskaya's Chernobyl, reviewed on p. 204. ?Ed.] ?Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New Yor.- ?Marcia L. Sprules, Council on Foreign Relations Lib., New YorkCopyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Publishers WeeklyIn 1991, Cheney, who teaches writing at Connecticut College, went to Ukraine to learn the circumstances of the world's deadliest nuclear accident and to interview the people who were affected by it. In this brief, informal report, this self-appointed investigator describes his travel adventures (with an expired visa) and his encounters with officials and victims of the Chernobyl catastrophe. Cheney made a daring visit to the nuclear ghost town of Propyat, originally built for Chernobyl's workers, and relates how they were forced to abandon their homes and possessions to escape the effects of nuclear radiation. The statistics are not yet confirmed, but evidence Cheney gathered indicates that at least 8000 people died as a result of the meltdown, with another 30,000 presently suffering from diseases related to radiation. His poignant account humanizes the events of April 26, 1986, at Chernobyl. Photos.Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc.