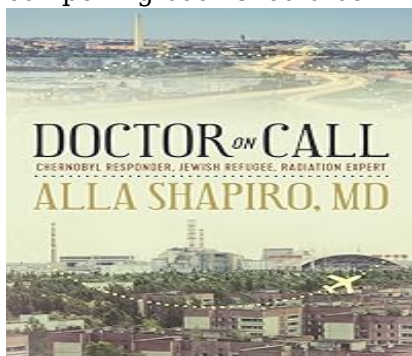


Doctor on Call: Chernobyl Responder, Jewish Refugee, Radiation Expert By Alla Shapiro MD The first two parts—a harrowing recollection as a first responder to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and her anguished flight from the former USSR to freedom—are written with startling immediacy with vivid images and clarity of prose. The third and most recent part of her life highlights her expertise in prophylactic treatment of massive radiation exposure and the medical management of physical injuries and psychological trauma from such exposure. From the outset of the disaster the Soviet government worsened matters by spreading misinformation; and first responders including Alla were ordered to partake in the deception of the public. After years of persistent professional hostility and personal discrimination that she and her family experienced as Jewish citizens of the USSR four generations of the Shapiro family fled the Soviet Union in the late 1980s. Doctor on Call: Chernobyl Responder Jewish Refugee Radiation Expert My book club decided on this book which I dreaded reading because my experience with first person accounts by first time authors is not good. I was so wrong!Alla Shapiro's account of her work as a first responder to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster is riveting as she and her fellow doctors try to help people while enduring a lack of equipment the absence of needed medicine/treatments and deception by the Soviet government that tripped them up every step of the way. Coming to the US to escape the brutal anti Semitism she and her family faced she started over becoming a doctor all over again and eventually became a leading expert in the US in developing treatment for exposure to radiation. Greenberg MAPP PCC and co author of The Business of Race: How to Create and Sustain an Antiracist Workplace AND Why It's Actually Good For Business (McGraw Hill 2021) and Profit from the Positive: Proven Leadership Strategies to Boost Productivity and Transform Your Business (McGraw Hill despite the many obstacles from the former USSR's authoritative regime her courage and perseverance provide the driving force as she steadily moves forward in her immediate goal of saving lives while placing her own life at great risk. When combined with the third part of her extraordinary memoir it is a story of accumulative expertise to include frightening on the job training and subsequent research with an ultimate goal of saving countless lives from disaster. With respect to the third part of her extraordinary life many anti terrorism experts warn that it is not a question of if but when other September 11 like attacks or far worse will occur and radiation is a likely weapon. She reminds us of the centuries old scourge of anti Semitism and the need to confront and overcome such hatred at a time when it is alarmingly on the rise both here and abroad. The text allowed me to feel as if I was experiencing the Chernobyl accident alongside her and the story is told with all the emotions that she and her family experienced as they struggled to understand what was happening around them. Her unique perspective as a treating physician allowed for insight into the government's attempts to make the situation appear less dire than it was and the extreme dangers that were faced by everyone involved. If the book had stopped there it would still have been a wonderful literary piece but the follow on information about her family's move to the America and her subsequent career add a dimensionality to the work that everyone should be able to identify with: Shapiro has written a compelling story about her experiences after the Chernobyl accident, She has expertly shown us how dangerous it is when governments keep their citizens in the dark and lie to them. So many lives lost and so much pain and illnesses later in life. There is humor as well as she relates her family's journey as refugees through Italy as they make their way to the United States: She has shown what an asset immigrants and refugees are to this country, She has contributed so much as a radiation expert to help shape national preparedness in the event of an emergency: I find myself asking "How safe are nuclear power stations?". In the event of a catastrophe would we learn the truth or would we be kept in the dark like we were for the pandemic? I highly recommend this book: Banks Alla Shapiro's compelling memoir entitled Doctor on Call is told in three distinct yet bonded stories, Shapiro's biographical account of the world's worst nuclear accident.

Dr. Alla Shapiro was a first physician responder to the worst nuclear disaster in history: the explosion at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in Ukraine on April 26 1986, Information about the explosion was withheld from first responders who were not given basic supplies detailed

instructions or protective clothing, Shapiro treated traumatized children as she tried to protect her family, No protocols were in place because no one had anticipated the consequences of a nuclear accident. As émigrés they were each allowed to take no than 40 pounds of possessions and \$90 in cash, Their escape route took them first to Vienna and then to Italy where they were stranded as stateless persons for six months: Eventually the family received permission to enter the United States. Motivated by her Chernobyl experiences Alla Shapiro ultimately became one of the world's leading experts in the development of medical countermeasures against radiation exposure, From 2003 to 2019 she worked for the FDA on disaster readiness and preparation, Shapiro issues stern warnings regarding the preparedness—or lack thereof—of America for the current Covid 19 pandemic: Doctor on Call exposes the horrifying truths of Chernobyl and alerts us to the deceptions that undermine our ability to respond to global disasters. Despite it all she persisted with her moral compass intact and an enduring commitment to helping her patients: It's rare that we get to walk alongside someone like Alla Shapiro an everyday person who has made such a difference in the world simply by doing her job, Banks Immigration is a complex often polarizing society issue that no two minute news clip can adequately convey, Immigration is also a deeply personal transformational experience for the people who leave their country of origin in search of acceptance freedom and a better way of life, Doctor on Call tells the story of one Russian Jewish family's journey to the U: The author a doctor herself who was one of the first responders at Chernobyl chronicles her journey with authenticity vulnerability and at times even humor, She recently married into a Russian Jewish family who immigrated during this same period. Her in laws are also doctors who had to go through the same rigorous re certification process in order to practice medicine here, My daughter thought Shapiro's book would give me a peek inside her new family: It reignited my compassion and admiration for all immigrants seeking citizenship in our country: Alla Shapiro's harrowing tale of her escape from Russia's authoritative grip is a fast read because of its narrative momentum. It is a timely story as we see daily images of immigrants desperately trying to reach the promised land, Her dedication to her family and a passion for living are evident throughout. From the battlefield of Chernobyl through many years of research Dr, Shapiro's hard won expertise—she is at the forefront in her field—is invaluable to humanity. There is another subject addressed by the author that she knows only too well from her own bitter experiences portrayed in several vignettes: There is are common threads in Alla Shapiro's fascinating life; her courage faith hope and compassion are evident in abundance throughout: And in a world full of polarization and conflict love is the good doctor's prescription: I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with Dr: Shapiro and citizens in the US have benefitted greatly from her expertise and service to the country. This compelling book should be in everyone's library! Banks



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2013). Banks Dr. Their resilience is captivating. In reading Dr. Amid an eerie and pervasive silence Dr. Dr. I am so glad I read this book. S. in 1990 after the tragic Chernobyl nuclear disaster. I read Doctor on Call at the urging of my daughter. Doctor on Call of course did that and even . Kudos to Dr. Alla Shapiro for having the courage to tell her story. Margaret H. And she manages to do so with

humor. Banks This book by Dr. Shapiro was riveting from the beginning until the end