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The Long Shadow of Chernobyl

Gerd Ludwig

ISBN	9783901753664
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Binding	Hardback
Territory	World excluding Germany, Switzerland, & Austria
Size	310 mm x 290 mm
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- In **The Long Shadow of Chernobyl**, acclaimed photographer Gerd Ludwig selects his very best images of the most significant political and socio-economic event of our times, taken over a period of 20 years
- Presents an unparalleled body of work of a committed photographer, prepared to take personal risks to document the lives of the victims of the worst nuclear disaster to date - showing his love for the people while taking an unflinching look at the Chernobyl aftermath
- A testimony to the irresponsible use of technology, linking the tragedy of Chernobyl to the nuclear catastrophe of Fukushima 25 years later

Opening with an essay by Mikhail Gorbachev, the last head of state of the Soviet Union, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1990, this is a deeply personal journey into a landscape forever changed. *National Geographic* photographer Gerd Ludwig, made nine visits to Chernobyl over a period of 20 years; this is his powerful record of an environmental and human tragedy. Through the perspective of the victims living with the emotional and physical aftermath, to the Exclusion Zone created by a massive evacuation (more than 350,000 people by the year 2000), to the abandoned neighbouring city of Pripyat, once a scientist's dream in terms of quality of life yet now uninhabitable, it is a record of almost unbelievable suffering and desolation. Working under enormous time and radiation pressure, Ludwig ventures deeper into the belly of the beast than any other photographer, repeatedly documenting the destroyed reactor No.4, which will disappear under a New Safe Confinement for at least 100 years. This book does not always make for easy viewing. It is however, an emotive, thought-provoking and necessary testament to one of the twentieth century's worst nuclear disasters. Using documents that until recently have been classified, from the CIA, U.S Government Foreign Press Monitoring, Department of Energy, Deparment of Defense, GAO and United States Congress of the disaster, it becomes an even more important voice in the continuing political, environmental and economic arguments around the safety of using nuclear energy, particularly in light of the Fukushima disaster in Japan twenty-five years later. Winner of the 2014 Dr. Erich-Salomon Award, the lifetime achievement award of the German Photographic Association. *"As engaged photographers, we often report about human tragedies in the face of disaster, and take our cameras to uncharted areas with the understanding that our explorations are not without personal risk. We do this out of a deep commitment to important stories told on behalf of otherwise voiceless victims."* Gerd Ludwig. Text in English and German.

Gerd Ludwig has worked primarily for *National Geographic* since 1989. His focus on environmental issues and the socio-economic changes following the dissolution of the Soviet Bloc resulted in a retrospective exhibition and book (2001), *Broken Empire: After the Fall of the USSR*. In 2006, he was awarded the *Lucie Award for International Photographer of the Year*.



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