

Hiroshima

John Hersey

Reviewed by: Antonella Risi, 18

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Hersey's *Hiroshima*, written in 1946, follows six survivors of the bomb dropped on the city of Hiroshima at the end of World War II. The six characters are Mrs. Hatsuyo Nakamura, Reverend Mr. Kiyoshi Tanimoto, Dr. Masakazu Fujii, Father Wilhelm Kleinsorge, Dr. Terufumi Sasaki, and Miss Toshiko Sasaki. The book starts with the dropping of the bomb and what these people were doing at the moment the bomb was dropped, and ends with the survivors one year after the dropping of the bomb and where they ended up. The book is relatively small, but the topic of Hiroshima and the bomb's true consequences back when it was first published made a huge impact. The media at the time had interpreted the bombing in a different manner than the book presented, and Americans could let go of some of their guilt knowing that the people of Hiroshima did not blame them for the dropping of the bomb.

In school, I personally did not learn much about Hiroshima besides the fact that it was one of the cities where a bomb was dropped near the end of WWII. This book, however, taught me how the people of Hiroshima had their lives completely transformed because of the bomb, and how those who survived suffered a great deal, whether from familial deaths or from radiation. It is a gruesome book with hard truths, but it is an important book for the public to read. I would recommend this book to teenagers and older.

Recommended Titles

A Bell for Adano by John Hersey

Fallout: The Hiroshima Cover-up and the Reporter who Revealed it to the World by Lesley M. Blume

Hiroshima Diary: The Journal of a Japanese Physician by Michihiko Hachiya