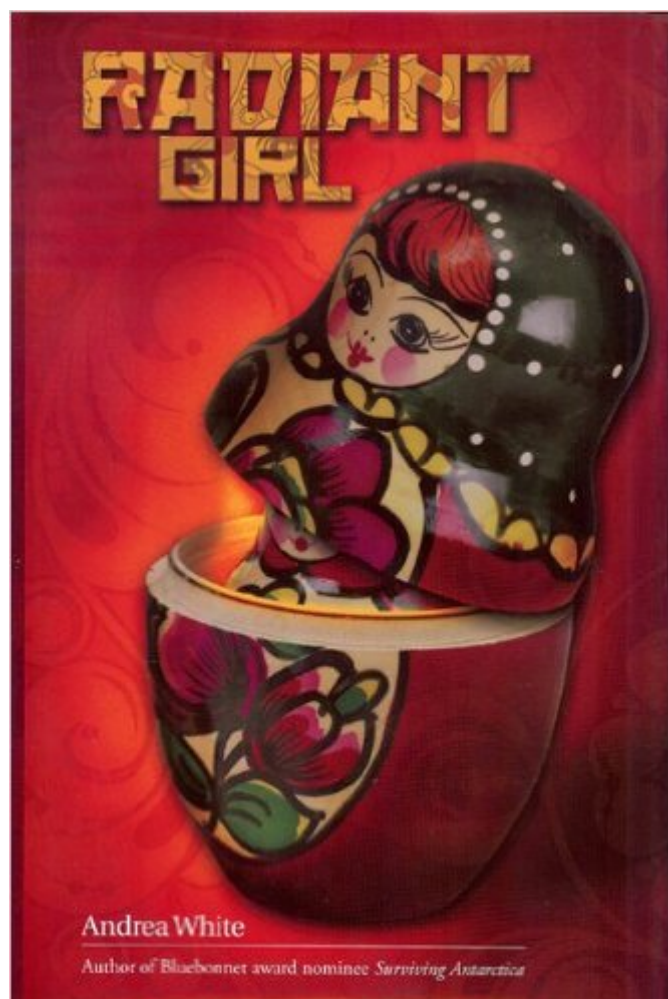


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# Radiant Girl



## Synopsis

A young girl's birthday is usually full of surprises and joy, but for Katya Dubko, it is truly the end of the world as she knows it. This coming-of-age story follows the life of Katya, an eleven-year old Ukrainian girl whose life is turned upside down after the Chernobyl disaster. Katya lives in a village near Chernobyl and her father works at the nuclear power station. Her family is steeped in Soviet patriotism and she believes that the station is a magical factory. When Katya is sent into the forest to play while her family prepares for her birthday, she meets a mysterious, other-worldly boy named Sammy, who tells her about the meltdown at Chernobyl. Sammy reveals the truth about the station and about blind Soviet patriotism, and Katya's innocent world is destroyed. With Sammy's help, she realizes she is no longer a little girl in a fairy tale but has become the author of her own life.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 710L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Bright Sky Press (September 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1933979232

ISBN-13: 978-1933979236

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 1 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (61 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,485,074 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #210 in [Books > Parenting & Relationships > Family Health](#) #2403 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Values](#) #6155 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Girls & Women](#)

Age Range: 8 - 10 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## Customer Reviews

A historical fiction based on true events, I really enjoyed this story. It's from the perspective of a child resident, Katya, who's father worked in the Chernobyl plant when the explosions happen. She recounts the reactions of the officials, residents, and workers when the explosions first took place and the progression of tragedy as the true nature of the damage becomes realized. The author did a good job of explaining the events so that to a certain extent, you can foresee some of the

tragedies before it happens which further connects the reader to the confusion and heartbreak of the character's lives. After it becomes clear the damage is done and not able to be contained, the residents are evicted from the town into nearby cities. The majority of residents end up in Kiev, including the girl. Not only did residents have to leave behind all of their belongings due to radioactive debris, they face many hardships in their new home as well. The residents of Kiev become increasingly apprehensive of the new immigrants from Prip'yat and Chernobyl, believing they could be infected with radioactivity by the immigrants themselves. This leads to turmoil and confrontations between the two groups, and a young girl who is trying to make sense of everything that is happening around her. In the wake of the turmoil in Kiev regarding the new residents and the explosion, her own family and friends of the family begin taking different sides. Her father, whose patriotism is completely unfaltering no matter what lies are spun by the government, transforms into a darker figure in attempt to keep his family on the side of patriotism. His life long best friend becomes the cloaked figure, attempting to spread the truth to people including Katya.

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