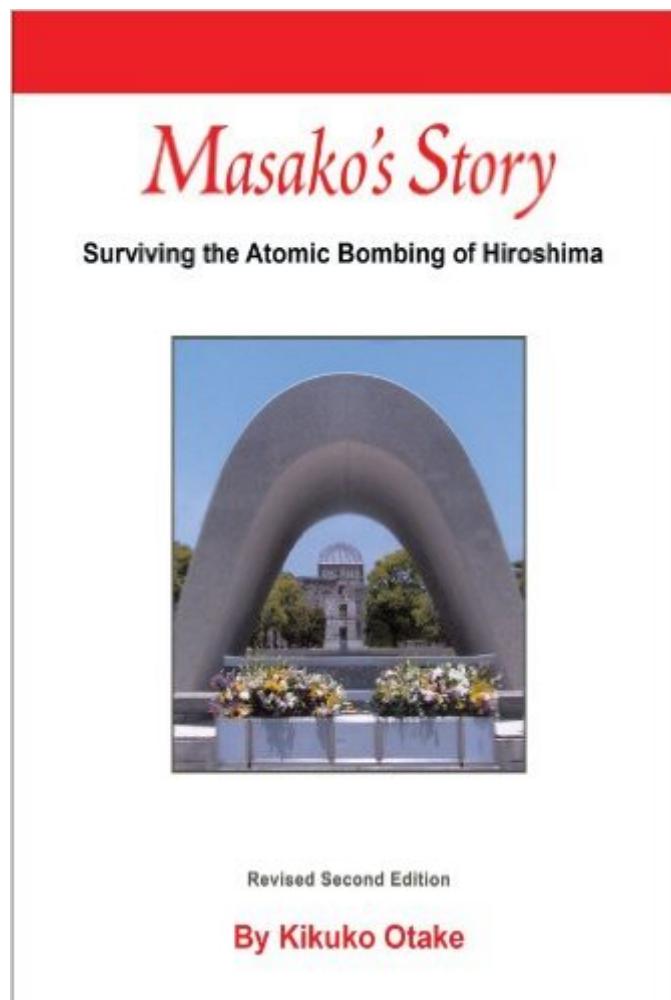


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Masako's Story: Surviving The Atomic Bombing Of Hiroshima



Synopsis

On August 6, 1945, when the world's first atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, the Furuta family was living one mile away from the hypocenter. Five year old Kikuko, her mother, Masako, and her two brothers barely escaped with their lives. However, their soldier father was not so fortunate. Masako never talked about her family's experiences on that day and the grim days following the bombing. Then one day, Masako started to talk about what happenedâ "breaking a silence of nearly fifty years. Written by Kikuko (Furuta) Otake, now a retired assistant professor of Japanese in the United States, Masako's story is a collection of prose-poetry, based on the true story of her family's tragedy. It is written with an "Objectivist" lineation similar in its understated power to Charles Reznikoff's Testimony. Kikuko Otake's Masako's Story is a powerful addition to the literature of the Atomic Bomb, and yet more evidence that we should all work together to stop the Nuclear madness.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

To commemorate the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1995 the Smithsonian Institution assembled an exhibition of photos and artifacts including the actual Army Air Forces bomber, the Enola Gay, which had dropped the bomb. A controversy arose when the museum planned to include some movie footage of the devastation taken soon after the explosion. The old black-and-white film had been shot from a moving vehicle and showed all too graphically the bodies of civilian victims lying along the street, mile after mile of charred and roasted human remains: women, children, senior citizens. Although this presentation of the stark reality of nuclear death would appear to be a critical centerpiece for an historic memorial of this importance, official

objections to showing the long-suppressed film were persuasive enough to convince the Smithsonian curators to remove it from the display. In his Pulitzer Prize-winning book, *The Making of the Atomic Bomb*, Richard Rhodes reports that the death toll from that August 6 explosion reached 140,000 by the end of 1945 and a total of 200,000 within five years, additional victims killed slowly by the effects of nuclear radiation. As the Holocaust has its deniers, there are those in the U.S. who would like to "cover up" the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Of course it can't be covered up, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum bears all-too-powerful witness to the event, but they prefer the human element be downplayed, the raw suffering papered over. This turn-your-face-away attitude makes eyewitness survivors all the more important. A five-year-old girl who was there -- who was wounded, irradiated, and survived -- is here today to testify to the horror of the atomic bomb. Listen to her.

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