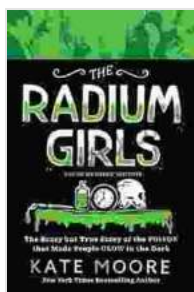


# The Scary But True Story Of The Poison That Made People Glow In The Dark

In the early 20th century, a new industry emerged that promised to revolutionize the way we live. Radium, a radioactive element, was discovered to be able to make things glow in the dark. This discovery led to the development of a wide range of products, including luminous paint, watches, and even food.



## The Radium Girls: Young Readers' Edition: The Scary but True Story of the Poison that Made People Glow in the Dark by Kate Moore

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 7774 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 372 pages



But radium's glow came at a terrible price. The workers who handled the radium were exposed to dangerous levels of radiation, and many of them developed serious health problems, including cancer. In the United States, the most famous victims of radium poisoning were the Radium Girls, a group of young women who worked in a factory that made luminous watch dials.

The Radium Girls were exposed to radium dust and fumes on a daily basis. They breathed it in, they ingested it, and they even painted it onto their skin. At first, the women thought that the radium was harmless. They even joked that they were "ghost girls" because they could see their own hands glowing in the dark.

But as time went on, the women began to develop health problems. They suffered from anemia, fatigue, and bone pain. Some of them developed cancer of the bones, the lungs, and the face.

The Radium Girls' story is a tragic example of the dangers of industrialization. It's a story that shows how unchecked greed and a lack of regulation can lead to devastating consequences.

## **The Discovery of Radium**

Radium was discovered in 1898 by Marie and Pierre Curie. The Curies were studying uranium ore when they發現 a new element that was even more radioactive than uranium. They named the new element radium, after the Latin word for "ray."

Radium was quickly recognized as a valuable scientific tool. It was used to study radioactivity, and it was also used to develop new medical treatments. But it wasn't long before radium's dangerous properties became apparent.

## **The Radium Girls**

The Radium Girls were a group of young women who worked in a factory that made luminous watch dials. The factory was owned by the United States Radium Corporation, and it was located in Orange, New Jersey.

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### **The Fight for Workers' Rights**

The Radium Girls' story helped to raise awareness of the dangers of radium poisoning. It also led to the development of new regulations to protect workers from exposure to radioactive materials.

In 1928, the United States Congress passed the Radium Dial Painters Act. This law required radium dial painters to be tested for radiation exposure and to be provided with protective gear.

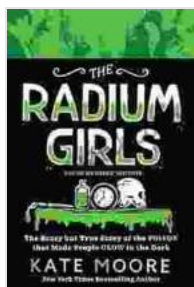
The Radium Dial Painters Act was a major victory for workers' rights. It helped to protect workers from exposure to dangerous levels of radiation, and it also helped to raise awareness of the importance of workplace safety.

The story of the Radium Girls is a fascinating and horrifying tale of the dangers of industrialization and the fight for workers' rights. It's a story that's still relevant today, as we continue to grapple with the risks and rewards of new technologies.

The Radium Girls' story is a reminder that we must never take the safety of our workers for granted. We must always fight to protect workers from dangerous exposures, and we must always demand that our workplaces are safe and healthy.

### Alt attributes for images:

\* Image of the Radium Girls: A group of young women working in a factory, painting luminous watch dials. \* Image of a radium dial: A watch dial that glows in the dark, due to the presence of radium. \* Image of a cancer victim: A woman with cancer of the face, caused by exposure to radium. \* Image of a safety poster: A poster warning workers about the dangers of radium exposure.



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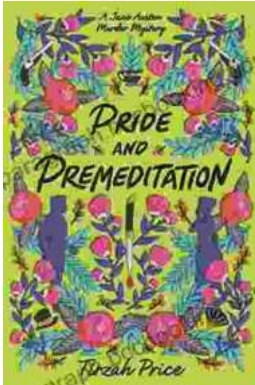
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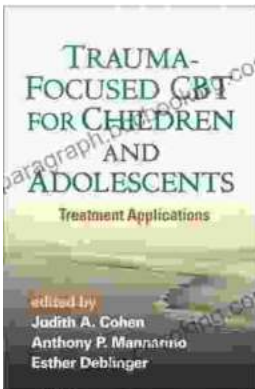
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