

'A horrible way to die', how Chernobyl recreated a nuclear meltdown

The job of Daniel Parker, head of makeup and **prosthetics**, had no such light touches either. His task was to recreate the effect of radiation burns on human skin. Ask Parker what radiation does to the body and he is **distressingly blunt**. "You melt, " he says. "The only way you can really describe it is putting salt on a slug. Tissue is breaking down. Skin just slips off. It'll just go. One day you move your arm and the skin will just fall off."

prosthetics 修复学

distressingly 悲惨地

blunt 迟钝的; 直率的

Surprisingly, Parker didn't look to photos of Hiroshima or **Nagasaki** victims for examples of radiation damage. He went instead to medical textbooks, and this allowed him to pioneer a technique for **Chernobyl** where he "layered" the skin: painting the actors' bodies with wounds, then putting a semi-**translucent** layer on top, giving the impression that sores are forcing themselves to the surface as the body degrades from within. The effect is dreadful to see. Yet, Parker was strict in saying these men must not be **relegated** to Hollywood "zombies", and he explains that the director made sure sympathy stayed with these characters: even as they lie **rigid** on the bed, gurgling and fading, they still speak, and a wife may still hold her husband's rotting fingers.

Nagasaki 长崎

Chernobyl 切尔诺贝利

translucent 透明的

relegate 贬职; 放逐

rigid 严格的; 僵硬的

"It's the worst way to die, " says Parker. "Beyond anything you can imagine. The most horrible way to die. I think it's the worst, in line with **medieval** torture." What makes it particularly **atrocious** is that the victims were denied pain relief. In the latter stages of radiation sickness you cannot inject **morphine**, he explains. "The walls of the **veins** are breaking down."

medieval 中世纪的

atrocious 残暴的

morphine 吗啡

vein 静脉; 血管