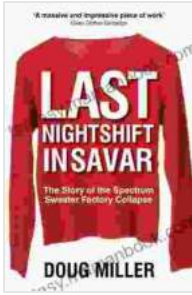


# The Spectrum Sweater Factory Collapse: A Tragedy Unfolding in Bangladesh



On April 24, 2013, the world witnessed a horrific tragedy that shook the garment industry and highlighted the appalling working conditions faced by millions of workers in Bangladesh. The collapse of the Rana Plaza building, which housed several garment factories, including Spectrum Sweater, resulted in the deaths of 1,134 workers and injuries to over 2,500 more. The disaster brought into sharp focus the urgent need for improved safety and labor standards in the global supply chain.

**Last Nightshift in Savar: The Story of the Spectrum Sweater Factory Collapse** by Doug Miller



★ ★ ★ ★ ☆ 4.1 out of 5  
Language : English  
File size : 3837 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 224 pages



## The Spectrum Sweater Factory

Spectrum Sweater was one of the largest garment factories operating in the Rana Plaza building. It employed over 3,000 workers, primarily young women from rural areas of Bangladesh. The factory produced garments for a number of international brands, including Benetton, Primark, and Gap.

## The Collapse

At around 9:00 AM on April 24, 2013, a series of cracks appeared in the walls of the Rana Plaza building. Workers reported hearing loud noises and feeling the building shaking. Within minutes, the entire eight-story building collapsed, trapping thousands of workers inside.

The collapse was a result of a combination of factors, including shoddy construction, overloading of the building, and a lack of proper safety measures. The building had been built illegally on unstable ground and had previously been declared unsafe by engineers.

## The Rescue Effort

Following the collapse, a massive rescue effort was launched by the Bangladeshi authorities and international aid organizations. Hundreds of workers were trapped in the rubble, many of them severely injured. Rescuers worked tirelessly to free the trapped workers, but the operation was hampered by the unstable structure of the building and the lack of heavy equipment.

The rescue effort lasted for several days, and the death toll continued to rise as more bodies were recovered from the rubble. The last survivor was rescued on May 10, 2013, after being trapped for 17 days.

## **The Aftermath**

The collapse of the Spectrum Sweater factory had a profound impact on the garment industry in Bangladesh. In the wake of the disaster, international brands came under intense pressure to improve safety standards in their supply chains. Several companies signed the Accord on Fire and Building Safety in Bangladesh, a legally binding agreement to ensure the safety of their garment factories.

The Bangladeshi government also implemented a number of reforms, including mandatory safety inspections, improved building codes, and increased minimum wages for garment workers. However, despite these efforts, safety concerns remain in the Bangladeshi garment industry.

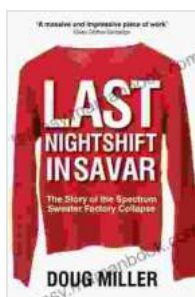
## **The Victims and Their Families**

The collapse of the Spectrum Sweater factory had a devastating impact on the victims and their families. Many of the victims were young women who were the sole breadwinners for their families. The families of the victims

were left struggling to cope with their loss and the financial hardship that followed.

International organizations and unions have provided support to the families of the victims, including compensation, healthcare, and education. However, many families have yet to receive adequate support, and the long-term impact of the tragedy will continue to be felt for years to come.

The collapse of the Spectrum Sweater factory was a preventable tragedy that highlighted the appalling working conditions faced by millions of garment workers in Bangladesh. The disaster forced the garment industry and the Bangladeshi government to address the issue of safety in the country's garment factories. While some progress has been made, significant challenges remain. It is essential that the industry and the government continue to work together to ensure that such a tragedy never happens again.



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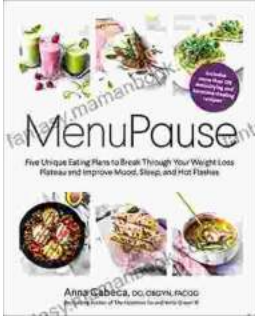
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