



Between Shades of Gray

By Ruta Sepetys

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Between Shades of Gray By Ruta Sepetys

"Few books are beautifully written, fewer still are important; this novel is both."--*The Washington Post*

From *New York Times* bestseller Ruta Sepetys, author of *Salt to the Sea*

A *New York Times* notable book

An International Bestseller

A Carnegie Medal Nominee

Fifteen-year-old Lina is a Lithuanian girl living an ordinary life--until Soviet officers invade her home and tear her family apart. Separated from her father and forced onto a crowded train, Lina, her mother, and her young brother make their way to a Siberian work camp, where they are forced to fight for their lives. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing. Risking everything, she imbeds clues in her drawings of their location and secretly passes them along, hoping her drawings will make their way to her father's prison camp. But will strength, love, and hope be enough for Lina and her family to survive?

A moving and haunting novel for readers of *The Book Thief*

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Between Shades of Gray By Ruta Sepetys Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Sepetys' first novel offers a harrowing and horrifying account of the forcible relocation of countless Lithuanians in the wake of the Russian invasion of their country in 1939. In the case of 16-year-old Lina, her mother, and her younger brother, this means deportation to a forced-labor camp in Siberia, where conditions are all too painfully similar to those of Nazi concentration camps. Lina's great hope is that somehow her father, who has already been arrested by the Soviet secret police, might find and rescue them. A gifted artist, she begins secretly creating pictures that can--she hopes--be surreptitiously sent to him in his own prison camp. Whether or not this will be possible, it is her art that will be her salvation, helping her to retain her identity, her dignity, and her increasingly tenuous hold on hope for the future. Many others are not so fortunate. Sepetys, the daughter of a Lithuanian refugee, estimates that the Baltic States lost more than one-third of their populations during the Russian genocide. Though many continue to deny this happened, Sepetys' beautifully written and deeply felt novel proves the reality is otherwise. Hers is an important book that deserves the widest possible readership. Grades 7-12. --Michael Cart

Review

Praise for *Between Shades of Gray*:

"A superlative first novel. A hefty emotional punch."--*The New York Times Book Review*

"Few books are beautifully written, fewer still are important; this novel is both."--*The Washington Post*

"Beautiful...a superb though grueling novel."--*The Wall Street Journal*

"An eye-opening reimagination of a very real tragedy written with grace and heart."--*Los Angeles Times*

"An engrossing and poignant story of the fortitude of the human spirit in a dark time in Lithuanian history."--*Associated Press*

"Brave Lina is a heroine young and old readers can believe in."--*Entertainment Weekly*

"Please read this small window into a tragedy."--*NPR*

"Beautifully written and researched, it captures the devastation of war while celebrating the will to survive."--*Family Circle*

* "A harrowing page-turner."--*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

* "A gripping story."--*School Library Journal*, starred review

* "Bitterly sad, fluidly written...Sepetys' flowing prose gently carries readers."--*Kirkus*, starred review

* "Beautifully written and deeply felt...an important book that deserves the widest possible readership."--*Booklist*, starred review

"A haunting chronicle, demonstrating that even in the heart of darkness 'love is the most powerful army.'"--*The Horn Book Magazine*

“Stalin deported and murdered millions, but he could not destroy the seeds of memory, compassion, and art that they left behind. From those seeds, Ruta Sepetys has crafted a brilliant story of love and survival that will keep their memory alive for generations to come.”--Laurie Halse Anderson, bestselling author of *Speak* and *Wintergirls*

“In terrifying detail, Ruta Sepetys re-creates World War II coming of age all too timely today. *Between Shades of Gray* is a document long overdue.”--Richard Peck, Newbery Award-winning author of *A Year Down Yonder*

“*Between Shades of Gray* is a story of astonishing force. I feel grateful for a writer like Ruta Sepetys who bravely tells the hard story of what happens to the innocent when world leaders and their minions choose hate and oppression. Beautiful and unforgettable.”--Susan Campbell Bartoletti, Newbery Honor-winning author of *Hitler Youth*

“Sepetys has penned a harrowing and heartbreaking novel. Beautifully written and important.”--Harlan Coben, international bestselling author of *Shelter*

— **Ruta Sepetys**

About the Author

Ruta Sepetys (www.rutasepetys.com) was born and raised in Michigan in a family of artists, readers, and music lovers. She is the award-winning, bestselling author of *BETWEEN SHADES OF GRAY*, *OUT OF THE EASY*, and the upcoming *SALT TO THE SEA*. Ruta lives with her family in Nashville, Tennessee. Follow her on Twitter at @RutaSepetys.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

William Martin:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in each way. By being competitive at this point, people have do something to make these individuals survives, being in the middle of the actual crowded place and notice by means of surrounding. One thing that at times many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a guide your ability to survive improve then having chance to stand than other is high. In your case who want to start reading a new book, we give you that *Between Shades of Gray* book as beginning and daily reading guide. Why, because this book is greater than just a book.

Leonard Dail:

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Francis Gibbs:

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