



Salt to the Sea

By Ruta Sepetys

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New York Times Bestseller and winner of the Carnegie Medal! "Masterfully crafted"—*The Wall Street Journal*

For readers of *Between Shades of Gray* and *All the Light We Cannot See*, **Ruta Sepetys** returns to WWII in this epic novel that shines a light on one of the war's most devastating—yet unknown—tragedies.

World War II is drawing to a close in East Prussia and thousands of refugees are on a desperate trek toward freedom, many with something to hide. Among them are Joana, Emilia, and Florian, whose paths converge en route to the ship that promises salvation, the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. Forced by circumstance to unite, the three find their strength, courage, and trust in each other tested with each step closer to safety.

Just when it seems freedom is within their grasp, tragedy strikes. Not country, nor culture, nor status matter as all ten thousand people—adults and children alike—aboard must fight for the same thing: survival.

Told in alternating points of view and perfect for fans of Anthony Doerr's Pulitzer Prize-winning *All the Light We Cannot See*, Erik Larson's *Dead Wake*, and Elizabeth Wein's Printz Honor Book *Code Name Verity*, this masterful work of historical fiction is inspired by the real-life tragedy that was the sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*—the greatest maritime disaster in history. As she did in *Between Shades of Gray*, Ruta Sepetys unearths a shockingly little-known casualty of a gruesome war, and proves that humanity and love can prevail, even in the darkest of hours.

Praise for *Salt to the Sea*:

Featured on NPR's Morning Edition ♦ "Superlative...masterfully crafted...[a] powerful work of historical fiction."—*The Wall Street Journal* ♦ "[Sepetys is] a master of YA fiction...she once again anchors a panoramic view of epic tragedy in perspectives that feel deeply textured and immediate."—*Entertainment Weekly* ♦ "Riveting...powerful...haunting."—*The Washington Post* ♦ "Compelling for both adult and teenage readers."—*New York Times Book Review* ♦ "Intimate, extraordinary, artfully crafted...brilliant."—*Shelf Awareness* ♦ "Historical fiction at its very, very best."—*The Globe and Mail* ♦ "[H]aunting, heartbreaking, hopeful and altogether gorgeous...one of the best young-adult novels to appear in a very long time."—*Salt Lake Tribune* ♦ *"This haunting

gem of a novel begs to be remembered."—Booklist ♦ *"Artfully told and sensitively crafted...will leave readers weeping."*—School Library Journal ♦ *A PW and SLJ 2016 Book of the Year*

Praise for Between Shades of Gray:

***A New York Times Notable Book ♦ A Wall Street Journal Best Children's Book ♦ A PW, SLJ, Booklist, and Kirkus Best Book ♦ iTunes 2011 Rewind Best Teen Novel ♦ A Carnegie Medal and William C. Morris Finalist ♦ A New York Times and International Bestseller ♦ "Few books are beautifully written, fewer still are important; this novel is both."*—The Washington Post ♦ *"[A]n important book that deserves the widest possible readership."*—Booklist**

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Salt to the Sea By Ruta Sepetys Bibliography

- Rank: #6486 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-02-02
- Released on: 2016-02-02
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 9 Up—While the Titanic and Lusitania are both well-documented disasters, the single greatest tragedy in maritime history is the little-known 1945 sinking by Soviet torpedoes of the Wilhelm Gustloff, a German cruise liner that was supposed to ferry wartime personnel and refugees to safety. The ship was overcrowded with more than 10,500 passengers—the intended capacity was approximately 1,800—and more than 9,000 people, including 5,000 children, lost their lives. Sepetys (*Between Shades of Gray*) crafts four fictionalized but historically accurate voices to convey the real-life tragedy. Joana, a Lithuanian with nursing experience; Florian, a Prussian soldier fleeing the Nazis with stolen treasure; and Emilia, a Polish girl close to the end of her pregnancy, converge on their escape journeys as Russian troops advance; each will eventually meet Albert, a Nazi peon with delusions of grandeur, assigned to the Gustloff decks. Small hiccups aside, most obviously that characters' voices change from one narrator to another, e.g., Florian as voiced in Emilia's chapters doesn't sound like Florian in his own chapters, Jorjeana Marie, Will Damron, Cassandra Morris, and Michael Crouch perform mesmerizing narration worthy of Sepetys's spectacular novel. VERDICT Libraries with even the most limited audio budgets will want to invest. ["Artfully told and sensitively crafted, Sepetys's exploration of this little-known piece of history will leave readers weeping": SLJ 12/15 starred review of the Philomel book.]—Terry Hong, Smithsonian BookDragon, Washington, DC

Review

Praise for *Salt to the Sea*:

A #1 *New York Times* Bestseller

An International Bestseller

Winner of the Carnegie Medal

Featured on NPR's Morning Edition

"Ruta Sepetys acts as champion of the interstitial people so often ignored — whole populations lost in the cracks of history."—*The New York Times*

"*Superlative...masterfully crafted...[a] powerful work of historical fiction.*"—*The Wall Street Journal*
[*Sepetys is*] *a master of YA fiction...she once again anchors a panoramic view of epic tragedy in perspectives that feel deeply textured and immediate.*"—*Entertainment Weekly*

"[A] riveting novel . . . Sepetys skillfully weaves history into her story, here grounding her nuanced characters in the events of winter 1945. Vivid details punctuate the spare prose."—*The Washington Post*

"[H]aunting, heartbreaking, hopeful and altogether gorgeous...one of the best young-adult novels to appear in a very long time."—*Salt Lake Tribune*

"Ruta Sepetys is a master of historical fiction. In *Salt to the Sea* the hard truths of her herculean research are tempered with effortless, intimate storytelling, as her warm and human characters breathe new life into one of the world's most terrible and neglected tragedies." —**Elizabeth Wein, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Printz Award Honor Book Code Name Verity***

"A rich, page-turning story that brings to vivid life a terrifying—and little-known—moment in World War II history." —*Steve Sheinkin, author of Newbery Honor and National Book Award finalist Bomb*

"Brutal. Beautiful. Honest." —*Sabaa Tahir, New York Times bestselling author of An Ember in the Ashes*

"Ruta Sepetys is more than just an author — she's history's answer to CSI." —*Mashable*

"[A] stunning historical novel." —*Hypable*

* "Sepetys excels in shining light on lost chapters of history, and this visceral novel proves a memorable testament to strength and resilience in the face of war and cruelty." —*Publishers Weekly, starred review*

* "This haunting gem of a novel begs to be remembered, and in turn, it tries to remember the thousands of real people its fictional characters represent. What it asks of us is that their memories, and their stories, not be abandoned to the sea." —*Booklist, starred review*

* "Artfully told and sensitively crafted, Sepetys's exploration of this little-known piece of history will leave readers weeping." —*SLJ, starred review*

"The inevitability of the ending (including the loss of several characters) doesn't change its poignancy, and the short chapters and slowly revealed back stories for each character guarantee the pages keep turning. Heartbreaking, historical, and a little bit hopeful." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Intimate, extraordinary, artfully crafted...brilliant." —*Shelf Awareness*

"This book includes all the reasons why teens read: for knowledge, for romance, for amazing and irritating characters. This novel will break readers' hearts and then put them back together a little more whole." —*VOYA*

"Sepetys's...scene-setting is impeccable; the penetrating cold of the journey is palpable, and she excels at conveying the scope of the losses while giving them a human face....[T]his elegiac tale succeeds with impressive research, affecting characters, and keen, often unsettling insights into humans' counterposed tendencies toward evil and nobility. Readers will be left to discuss which impulse triumphs here." —*The Horn Book*

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* and *Out of the Easy*. Ruta lives with her family in Nashville, Tennessee. Follow her on Twitter at @RutaSepetys.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Edward McCain:

Hey guys, do you really want to find a new book to study? Maybe the book with the subject Salt to the Sea suitable to you? The actual book was written by popular writer in this era. The particular book untitled Salt

to the Seais the one of several books that everyone read now. This specific book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this publication you will enter the new way of measuring that you ever know ahead of. The author explained their thought in the simple way, so all of people can easily to understand the core of this guide. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. So that you can see the represented of the world on this book.

Salvatore Anthony:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family or their friend. Did you know? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or perhaps playing video games all day long. If you wish to try to find a new activity here is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a publication. The book Salt to the Sea it is quite good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book has high quality.

Elbert Lupton:

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because if you are reading a book specifically book entitled Salt to the Sea your head will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe not known for but surely can become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a guide then become one contact form conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get previous to. The Salt to the Sea giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful data for your better life within this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished studying it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

Christine Cote:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you, why because this Salt to the Sea book written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who also read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, dripping every ideas and producing skill only for eliminate your personal hunger then you still doubt Salt to the Sea as good book not just by the cover but also by the content. This is one publication that can break don't judge book by its deal with, so do you still needing yet another sixth sense to pick this specific!? Oh come on your reading sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to one more sixth sense.

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