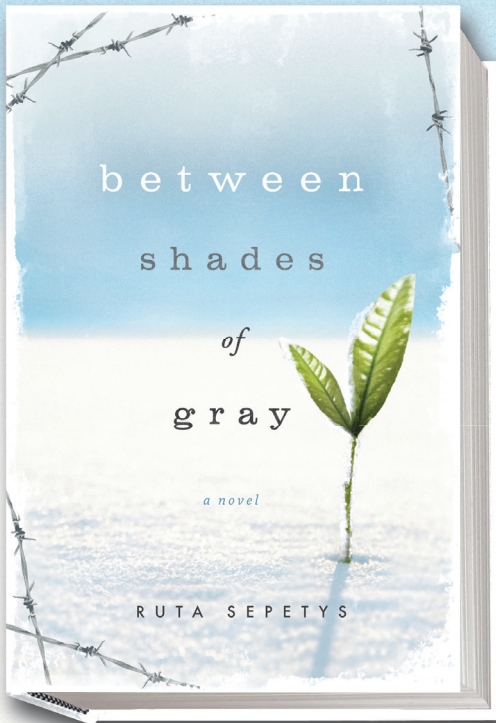


The perfect Book Club selection



Between Shades of Gray
by Ruta Sepetys

978-0-399-25412-3 • \$17.99 (\$22.50 CAN)

Coming March 22, 2011

The nations of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia disappeared from maps in 1941 and did not reappear until 1990. As this is a story seldom told, author Ruta Sepetys wanted to give a voice to the millions of people who lost their lives during Stalin's cleansing of the Baltic region.

Lina and her family live a happy and comfortable life in Lithuania...until the night Soviet officers tear them forcibly from the life they've known. Separated from her father, Lina, along with her mother and younger brother, are deported to a Siberian work camp. It is a long and harrowing journey. Along the way Lina, a young artist, buries sketches using whatever materials she can find in hope that someone will pass word to her father of their whereabouts. It is only their incredible strength, love, and hope that pull Lina and her family through each day. But will love be enough to keep them alive?

Themes for discussion:

- The story of the Baltic people's genocide is a relatively unknown but important event in world history. Discuss why such an event could have so little awareness.
- Meticulous research is revealed in the vivid details providing many moments for discussion throughout the novel.
- Themes of survival, sadness, hope and oppression provide clear topics for review.
- The simple and eloquent voice of the narrator, as well as flashbacks to life before Stalin's invasion, allow readers an intimate portrait of the characters and proves an interesting topic for exploration.
- The combination of the author's personal connection and the history promote discussion between personal feelings and response to the story itself.
- Readers can compare the story and themes found in *Between Shades of Gray* with that of the universally known *The Diary of Anne Frank*, including the distinctive qualities of each book, the use of art and journal to reveal history, and the settings.

For more reviews, information, and discussion questions visit
BetweenShadesofGray.com

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