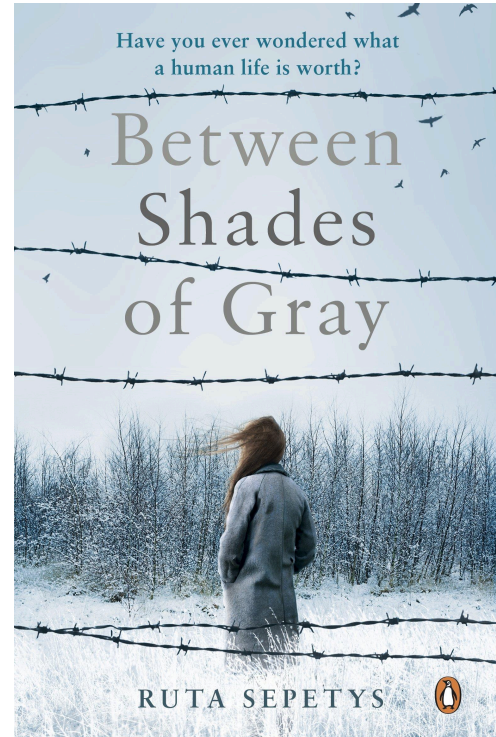


# Between the Shades of Grey by Ruth Sepetys

Between the Shades of Grey, a New York Times best seller, is a moving fictional story of extraordinary loss that nevertheless, is filled with hope. This debut novel takes us through the Stalinist repressions of the mid-20th century and it's partly based upon the stories Sepetys heard from survivors of Soviet repressions in the Baltic States.

This horrific cruel story has us following a 15 year old girl, named Lina, with a first person perspective,- we see the fusion of tyranny, evil, suffering, death, compassion, generosity, and change of heart which is what makes the story come to life and one of the reasons of how it's hauntingly unforgettable. Their home is invaded by Soviet officers and they tear her family apart. Along with her mother and younger brother they are separated from their father and forced onto a crowded train. They are deported from their native Lithuania to a labour camp in Siberia- where they are forced to fight to survive. Lina finds solace in her art, documenting these events by drawing her surroundings and secretly passes the drawings along, hoping they will make their way to her father's prison camp.

Between the Shades of Grey is one of those books that draws you in on the first page, as it illuminates an often overlooked chapter in history.... as it draws comparisons to the misery inflicted by the Nazi regime. The story of Lina and her family is both heart-wrenching and beautifully written - a powerful yet haunting novel which tells us the story of heartache, atrocity and death from the Lithuanian/ Soviet perspective. The book is a worthwhile read for everyone, as the novel plays with your heart strings, so much so , that at times you aren't sure whether to laugh ,cry or both! Between Shades of Gray is a riveting novel that steals



your breath, captures your heart, and reveals the miraculous nature of the human spirit. If you are one to watch rather than read, the novel has also been adapted into a film with the title of “Ashes in the Snow.”

*Other books by Ruta Sepetys:*

- *Out of the Easy*
- *The Fountain of Silence*
- *Salt to the Sea*

*Similar books to Between the Shades of Grey:*

- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas by John Boyne*
- *The Book Thief by Markus Zusak*
- *The Ragged Edge of the Night by Olivia Hawker*
- *A Night Divided by Jennifer A. Nielsen*
- *Goodbye Days by Jeff Zentner*