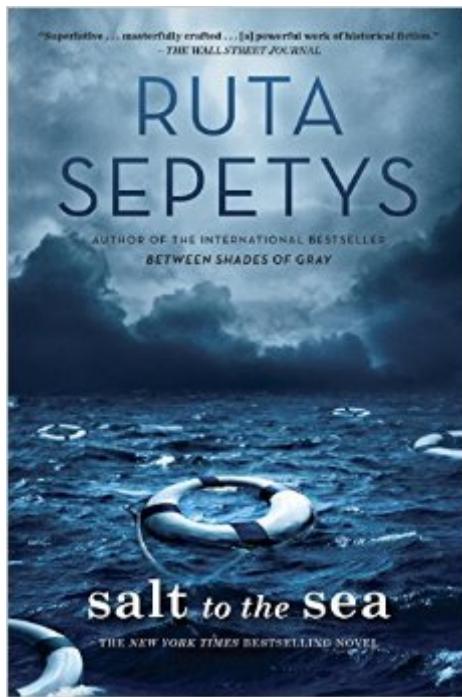


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# Salt To The Sea



## Synopsis

New York Times Bestseller! "Masterly crafted" "The Wall Street Journal For readers of *Between Shades of Gray* and *All the Light We Cannot See*, bestselling author 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 a 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" | "oe[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" | "oeCompelling for both adult and teenage readers. "New York Times Book Review" | "oeIntimate, extraordinary, artfully crafted" | brilliant. "Shelf Awareness" | "Historical fiction at its very, very best." "The Globe and Mail" | "oe[Haunting, 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" Praise for *Between Shades of Gray*: A New York Times "Notable Book" | "A" Wall Street Journal "Best Children's Book" | "A" Publishers Weekly, "School Library Journal", "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" | "oeFew books are beautifully written, fewer still are important; this novel is both." "The Washington Post" | "A" "[An] important book that deserves

the widest possible readership. "Booklist

## Book Information

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Best Sellers Rank: #3,700 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #1 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Europe #2 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military #4 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Ruta Sepetys is one of the finest writers, young adult or otherwise, writing today. Her two previous novels, *Between Shades of Gray* and *Out of the Easy*, held me enthralled through every page. Now comes *Salt to the Sea*, and it is everything and more than the others are. But a word to the wise up front...have tissues close by. There are four points of view telling the story of *Salt to the Sea*, and each is distinctive, secretive, and profound. We have Emilia, a young Polish girl of fifteen who has faced untold horrors of World War II, and is saved early on by the "knight", Florian. Florian has a major secret of his own; he is carrying something very valuable and is trying to get away to safety while simultaneously exacting revenge on those with whom he worked. Distracting Florian, however, is the young nurse, Joana, a Lithuanian who is leading a rag tag group to the safety of a ship leaving Germany now that Hitler has deemed it all right in the final months of the war. Finally, there is Alfred, a young sailor in the German navy who "writes" letters in his head to his love, Hannelore, while avoiding work and planning a dazzling future. Though these are the voices we hear, there are so many others involved and each one will wrap themselves around your heart, in particular the Shoe Poet and the Wandering Boy who are assisted in getting on the liner Wilhelm Gustloff along with the others. They are stunning examples of man's inhumanity to man and yet the power of hope and the determination to survive. Sepetys gives them lives that represent so many more who

experienced as much trauma or even worse.

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