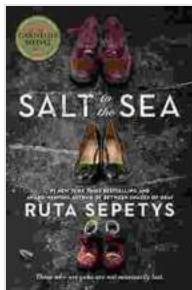


# Salt to the Sea: A Haunting Historical Novel Filled with Unforgettable Characters

Ruta Sepetys' *Salt to the Sea* is a powerful and moving historical novel that tells the story of four young people who are forced to flee their homes during World War II. The novel is beautifully written, with rich and evocative descriptions that bring the characters and their experiences to life.

The story is set in January 1945, as the war is drawing to a close. The four main characters are:



## Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 9780 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 402 pages
X-Ray for textbooks	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported



- Joana, a Lithuanian nurse who is fleeing with her family from the advancing Soviet army
- Florian, a German soldier who is deserting his unit
- Emilia, a Polish girl who is being forced to work in a German factory

- Alfred, a Jewish boy who is hiding from the Nazis

The four characters meet on a ship called the Wilhelm Gustloff, which is evacuating German refugees from East Prussia. The ship is overcrowded and unsanitary, and the passengers are living in constant fear of being attacked by Soviet submarines. Despite the hardships they face, the four characters form a bond of friendship and support.

On February 10, 1945, the Wilhelm Gustloff is torpedoed by a Soviet submarine. The ship sinks in less than an hour, and over 9,000 people are killed. The four main characters are among the few survivors.

Salt to the Sea is a haunting and unforgettable novel that tells a powerful story of courage, resilience, and hope. The novel is a must-read for anyone who is interested in World War II history or who enjoys historical fiction.

## **Character Descriptions**

**Joana** is a strong and resourceful young woman who is determined to protect her family. She is compassionate and caring, and she always puts others before herself.

**Florian** is a complex and enigmatic character. He is a skilled soldier, but he is also disillusioned with the war. He is kind and caring, but he is also capable of great violence.

**Emilia** is a brave and determined young woman who is struggling to survive under Nazi occupation. She is resourceful and independent, but she is also vulnerable and in need of help.

**Alfred** is a young boy who is full of hope and resilience. He is a talented artist, and he dreams of a better future for himself and his people.

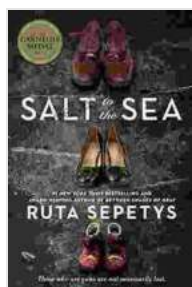
## Themes

Salt to the Sea explores a number of important themes, including:

- The cost of war
- The importance of hope
- The power of friendship
- The resilience of the human spirit

The novel shows how war can destroy lives and tear families apart. It also shows how even in the darkest of times, there is always hope. The novel's characters are all flawed and imperfect, but they are also strong and resilient. They face unimaginable challenges, but they never give up hope.

Salt to the Sea is a powerful and moving novel that tells a story of courage, resilience, and hope. The novel is beautifully written, with rich and evocative descriptions that bring the characters and their experiences to life. The novel is a must-read for anyone who is interested in World War II history or who enjoys historical fiction.



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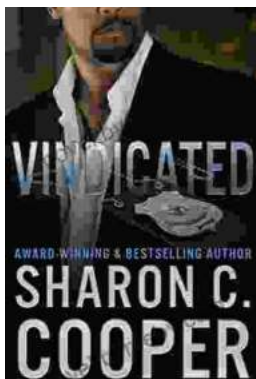
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