

## **Salt to the Sea**

**Ruta Sepetys**

**Reviewed by: Anika 16**

**Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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It's World War II, and thousands have died. Not only soldiers, but starving and poor refugees trying to flee the war itself. Fortunately, many refugees and civilians board the Wilhelm Gustloff as it sails towards safety. Florian, Alfred, Emilia, and Joana will find that their lives will come together on this very ship in hopes of survival. Each one of them has a secret to hide, but they may find that there are worse things to come. Something that could cost them their lives.

Salt to the Sea was a very eye-opening read. Many know of the of the Holocaust during World War II, but no one has ever heard the tragedy of the Wilhelm Gustloff. This book taught me much about the worst casualty of World War II. And through the changing perspectives in the book, I learned about so many other aspects of the war as well. The characters had their own backstories and some very shocking secrets to tell. Their flaws and suffering made them seem real. They all made you feel things. And I feel many people will enjoy the short and suspenseful chapters. They certainly encourage me to keep reading.

Despite this, there are a few things in this book to watch out for. Violence is present through many parts of the story. There also is a little bad language, but not enough to take away from the story's greater lesson. Salt to the Sea is a story of suffering and humanity, which is why I recommend it for anyone 13 or older. Salt to the Sea would make great gift for anyone who wants to learn more about the history of World War II.

### **Recommended Titles:**

Code Name Verity by Elizabeth E. Wein

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

The Boy in Striped Pajamas by John Boyne

Night by Elie Wiesel