

Penmanship Practice

ENGL 445

Teresa Million

Dear Reader,

Between Shades of Gray was written by Ruta Sepetys. It follows the story of Lina Vilkas and her family through their deportation and exile in Siberia. This is a well-written, heart-wrenching story about a dark piece of history. While not a pleasant topic, stories like this need to be told. Those who lived through the horrors should never be forgotten.

On June 14, 1941, Lina and hundreds of thousands like her were marked as criminals, snatched from their homes, loaded into cattle cars, and spirited away to the desolate regions of Siberia. Why? Many of them were targeted because of their education, status, and political views. Entire families were removed solely on the actions of the fathers.

Lina and her family don't know anyone with whom they've been imprisoned, but they soon come to know all of them very well. Confined to such tiny quarters for so long under some of the worst conditions I can

imagine, they get to be quite close to their fellow prisoners. Some of them are warm, genuinely nice people, while others are rude and have bad manners.

I hope you read this book and enjoy it as much as I did. Once you have read it, if you would like to, you may post your impressions on my online forum.

Sincerely,

Teresa Million