

In Conclusion

Between Shades of Gray was an excellent book about a deplorable time in history.

Sepetys did a wonderful job of capturing what that time must really have been like. While there were heart-wrenching moments and moments of disgust, I still encourage you to read the book. Yes, it was just a story, and you could certainly read it as such, but I hope that you will take away some value as well.

Joseph Stalin did in fact exist, and he did to millions of people what Sepetys captured in her book. I enjoyed the book because I got to see in depth the story of one family and a small band of individuals with them. It was so much more touching and rewarding than just reading the broad facts about that time.

I leave you with one final thought. Humans are capable of doing the most horrible things to other humans. While humanity is more good than bad, down through the ages there have been many very bad people who have brought pain, harm, torture, and death to millions of others. Let us never grow immune to these atrocities. As Andrius Arvydas said, “Evil will rule until good men or women choose to act” (Sepetys, 338).