



"Ruta Sepetys acts as champion of the interstitial people so often ignored—whole populations lost in the cracks of history."

- *The New York Times Book Review*

"Ruta Sepetys is one of the best world ambassadors for human dignity. Her fight for fundamental human values, for democracy, and liberty deserve the highest respect, recognition, and gratitude. "

- *Marijus Gudynas*

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania

Ruta Sepetys (Rūta Šepetys) is an internationally acclaimed, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of historical fiction published in over sixty countries and forty languages. Sepetys is published in the U.S. by Penguin Random House and is considered a "crossover" novelist as her books are read by both students and adults worldwide. Winner of the Carnegie Medal, Ruta is acclaimed for giving voice to underrepresented history and those who experienced it. Her books have won or been shortlisted for over forty book prizes, are included on over thirty state reading lists, and are currently in development for film and television. Her first novel, which chronicles the Soviet atrocities in Lithuania, has been adapted into the renowned major motion picture, *Ashes in the Snow*.

Ruta is the daughter of a Lithuanian refugee. Born in Michigan, she was raised in a family of artists, readers, and music lovers. Ruta is passionate about the power of history and story to foster global dialogue and connectivity. She has been invited to present at NATO, European Parliament, the U.S. Capitol, the Library of Congress, and Embassies worldwide. She was awarded The Rockefeller Foundation's prestigious Bellagio Fellowship for her studies on human resilience.

Ruta was recently bestowed the Cross of the Knight of the Order by the President of Lithuania for her contributions to education and memory preservation and was honored with a postage stamp containing her image. She is intensely proud to be Lithuanian, even if that means she has a name no one can pronounce.

Ruta lives with her family in the hills of Tennessee.

www.rutasepetys.com

