

I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys.

Published in Great Britain in 2022 by Hodder & Stoughton Limited.

Bucharest, Romania. 1989. Cristian Florescu, a 17 year old, lives in a town ruled by fear. As a foul man turns his life into misery, Florescu comes under pressure, trying to save the people he loves. However, Cristian is being watched from every angle, and is unable to present the truth. This is a story about whether Cristian is a saviour or a survivor.

I Must Betray You is a heart-breaking thriller that kept me on the edge of my seat, not wanting to put it down.

Ruta Sepetys wrote with a constant theme of violence and in depth descriptions of wounds and injuries. Many deaths in war were included in this book. There were multiple moments of uncertainty and intrigue; trust and betrayal was a central aspect of this novel. The characters in this story were very developed and give a very good picture of the characters in your mind.

Main Characters:

Cristian Florescu - book was from his perspective.
Lilliana Pavel - love interest of Cristian
Luca Oprea - Cristian's best friend
Cici - Cristian's loving sister
Bunu - Cristian's grandfather, big influence to Cristian

I liked the use of language and description in the book; it was very well structured and had a good story-line. I enjoyed the fact that it had many twists and turns and gave the reader a false sense of security, however, I personally prefer a non - violent book. For the audience with a taste for gory violence it was very detailed in that aspect. Death and war are a repeated theme in this novel.

I give this book a 3.5 - 4 because of the beautiful language and good description. I recommend this story to any readers who like thrillers packed with gore and violence. People who enjoy reading about betrayal and loss will love this novel.

By Imogen, Year 7

