

## THE FOUNTAINS OF SILENCE

was an absolutely incredible book. It does start off a bit slow but it gets more and more interesting the more you read. The book has a few different points of view of the aftermath in Spain of the Second World War. Daniel is a boy from Texas who's family is very wealthy and he loves photography. Ana is a girl from Madrid who works at the Castellana Hilton hotel, her parent were killed because they were reds and her family is quite poor. Puri works at the orphanage and is Ana's cousin, she especially loves the baby at the orphanage that she secretly calls Clover. The story starts when Ana is assigned to Daniels family at the hotel, after a while they start to like each other more and more. There are lots of twists and turns in this book and things that you don't expect. I would really recommend more people read this book because it is fascinating and I never knew what happened after the Second World War in Spain. I would definitely give this book a 5/5 because it is fantastic. Rachel

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Although a slow start, I really enjoyed reading the fountain of silence. One of the main things I liked about it was how you seemed to be learning about Spain in the 1950's with Daniel. The ending was interesting because of the way Daniel left the suppressed country ruled by a dictator only to come back eighteen years later and find his love and a much more free country not living in fear. Caspar

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is very informative as well as very enjoyable. I wouldn't usually read this genre of book but I unexpectedly found myself enjoying this book the more I read. I loved the bits of Spanish in the text while I was reading it. While I was reading through this book I felt like I was actually the characters and I also felt the hardships they go through with them. Before I read this book I knew nothing of what Spain was like in the aftermath of WWII but now I feel like I know so much more. You can definitely tell how much effort Ruta Sepetys has put into this book and I think her time of research has definitely paid off because it has produced this extortionary book. Isaac

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is a wonderful and amazing book. I admire Ruta's creativity with the story and the characters. One of my favourite things is how the story changes perspective, since it changes character almost every chapter. The setting of the book is in Madrid (Spain) after the 2nd World War. Spain is financially struggling and is under a lot of pressure. Many people are struggling since the country is only held up by tourism. The 3 main characters are all inspirational and I am inspired by all of them. Daniel, his bravery and his perseverance. Ana, her bravery as well and her determination. And Puri, her curiousness and boldness. I would recommend this to 10+ since it can get a bit confusing. Zoe

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A beautifully written book with different plots and personalities delving into the secrets of Franco's Spain. It shows atrocities and other horrors through the view of a brilliantly crafted relationship. Tom

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is a slow-starting book, however after a few chapters, it gives a wonderful and accurate representation of Franco's Spain after the Second World War. The relationship between the 2 main characters grow subtly, and this works well because it doesn't tell you outright what is happening, meaning there is always a factor of mystery. Oscar

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I haven't read much historical fiction before, but this book has made me want to. I found it really interesting and thought-provoking. Set in Franco's Spain in the aftermath of the civil war, the book is fiction but the author has researched the period in great detail and interspersed the story with historical records from the time, making it feel very real and powerful. It shows the clash of two cultures (the rich American boy meeting the poor Spanish hotel maid), and the difficulties and horrors of life under a dictatorship. The characters are extremely vivid, even the minor ones. There's a love story, but it's not soppy (!) and some of the topics covered are really shocking and sad. Despite this, it's also a hopeful book. If I had one minor criticism, it would be that the ending felt a bit rushed and convenient, and I would have liked the last part of the story to be developed a little more. I would definitely recommend this book, particularly to older teenagers, and I'm going to read some of Ruta Sepetys' other books. Jacob

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is one of the most interesting historical fiction novels I have ever read. This book gave me an insight into what Spain was like after the second World War under Franco's rule, a subject I had once known nothing about. The book highlights the differences in society and shares many positive role messages. For example the contrast between the two main characters is immense. Daniel is the heir to a huge American oil firm so money, for him, has never been a problem, whereas, Anna's life revolves around her job and her need for money to keep her family alive and fed, a situation Daniel would not even be able to imagine himself in. This makes it very hard for them to form a stable romantic relationship in the first part of the book. The relationship between them is made possible in the second half of the book as Anna now has a reliable job and therefore does not hold herself back due to the fear of losing her job. The story also has many different episodes within it, such as Puri, who, as the book unfolds is an innocent young nun who finds out the truth of Franco's fascist regime in such a way that it makes you feel as if you are really there, working it out with her. When she discovers all of the clues, you yourself have to try and create a theory that makes sense. And it is only in part two of the book, when the characters have moved on by 15 years, that you find the truth confirmed. Although the book starts off quite slowly, as you get further into the story you are gripped more and more, making it almost impossible to put the book down. In conclusion, I very much enjoyed this book and would recommend it to anyone but I think they would enjoy it more if they enjoyed historical novels. Tom