



by Lena Gorelik
Rowohlt

February 2017 / 256pp
Children's & Young Adults'

This book is outside of the five-year window for guaranteed assistance with English language translation. We suggest getting in touch with the relevant funding body for an informal conversation about the possibility of support. Please refer to our recommendations page for books that are currently covered by our funding guarantee.

More Black than Purple *Mehr Schwarz als Lila*

review

Lena Gorelik is an accomplished writer of literary fiction and with her Young Adult debut, *More Black than Purple*, she proves herself a major talent on the YA literary scene. This is an outstanding coming-of-age novel about friendship and first love, set in contemporary Berlin but perfectly pitched to travel well in English translation.

Her brightly-coloured odd socks aside, seventeen-year-old Alex would rather wear black than purple. She seeks refuge from her dysfunctional home life in her close-knit friendship with classmates Paul and Ratte. The trio are outsiders who form their own alternative family unit, until the balance of their friendship is disturbed by the arrival of a cool new assistant teacher, nicknamed 'Johnny'. The tensions between the friends explode on a school trip to Auschwitz when Alex kisses Johnny in public. The kiss is caught on camera, provoking a storm of indignation on social media and huge repercussions for the three friends and their teacher.

Gorelik's brilliant writing – allusive and full of imagery – really gets under the skin. *More Black than Purple* is a high quality novel with crossover appeal for adult readers and will resonate with fans of Louise O'Neill.

press quotes

Lena Gorelik's novel speaks to both teenage and adult readers, [...] a cleverly unpredictable coming-of-age story.
– die tageszeitung

about the author

Lena Gorelik was born in 1981 in Saint Petersburg, and came to Germany in 1992. She was hailed as a major new talent after her debut novel *Meine weißen Nächte* ('My White Nights', 2004). Her subsequent novel was nominated for the German Book Prize in 2007. *Die Listensammlerin* ('The Collector of Lists', 2013) won the Ravensburger Foundation Book Prize.

rights information

Rowohlt Verlag GmbH

Hamburger Str. 17

21465 Reinbek

Germany

Contact: Tatiana Jandt

Tel: +49 (0) 40 / 72 72 – 222

Email: tatiana.jandt@rowohlt.de

www.rowohlt.de

With offices in Reinbek near Hamburg and in Berlin, **Rowohlt** celebrated its 100th birthday in 2008. As in the beginning, the founder's high standards continue to apply today: to publish easy-to-read literature of the highest quality. The publishing house with its various divisions – Rowohlt Verlag, Rowohlt Taschenbuch Verlag, Wunderlich, Kindler, rotfuchs and Rowohlt Berlin – is part of the Holtzbrinck group. Rowohlt publishes both literary fiction, non-fiction and children's books. Authors include Wolfgang Borchert, Daniel Kehlmann, Imre Kertész, Klaus and Erika Mann, Robert Musil, Eugen Ruge, David Safier and Martin Walser.

