



by Lena Gorelik  
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Children's & Young Adults'

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## 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

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