

Britta Keil

Milas Lied

MILA'S SONG

160 pp	Hardcover
Format	14.3 x 21.5 cm
ISBN	978-3-473-35324-8
October 2011	EUR 14.99
Age	Young Adults
29,500 words / 181,900 signs	

A novel about a street musician living illegally in Berlin, but also about friendship and betrayal.

CONTENT

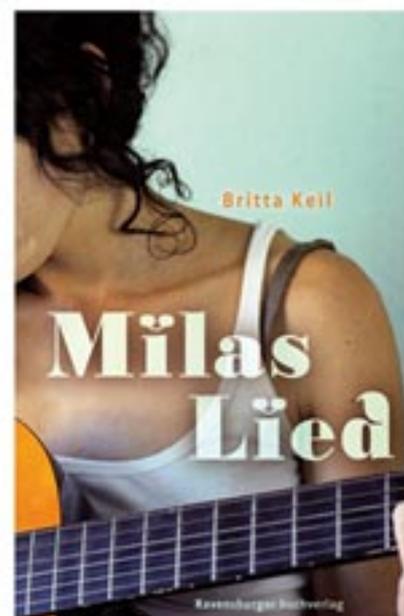
Nineteen-year-old Frederica has moved from a small town to Berlin to study at the university, but she doesn't really feel at home there yet. Theo, her roommate, seems to be easygoing, and is trying to teach her what she needs to know to make it in the big city.

On New Year's Eve, Frederica meets the street musician Mila for the first time.

Mila is 17 and comes from Ukraine. For her, Berlin is a wellspring of opportunities, while her hometown in Ukraine is a lost cause. Poverty, alcoholism and unemployment are the determining factors of everyday life in Mila's family.

Mila and Frederica become friends. Mila talks to Frederica about her dreams and fears, and her desire to be free, no matter what. Frederica is fascinated, and her roommate Theo is even crazy about Mila. What neither of them know is that Mila is living the life of an illegal immigrant, struggling mightily for financial independence and to find a way to be able to stay in Berlin. She is constantly on the run. Mila only shares her true feelings in her diary and in her songs.

When Mila defends herself against the sexual advances of an older man, he threatens to betray her. Mila flees - to Frederica, and then tells her the whole truth: that her visa expired long ago and she's in Berlin with forged documents. Frederica takes Mila in. But when Frederica notices that Mila and Theo are getting closer, she tells Theo Mila's story. Theo feels like he's been used, and kicks Mila out of the



apartment. There's a confrontation between Frederica and Theo and Theo takes off. And so only Frederica hears the message Mila leaves on their answering machine: she had been caught riding the subway without a ticket and couldn't show valid ID - now she's in a detention center awaiting deportation. Frederica visits Mila in jail. She accepts Mila's diary and promises to give it to Theo. She doesn't have the courage to admit that she doesn't know where Theo is. When Frederica finally decides to visit Mila in jail again, she's told that Mila is already back in Ukraine.

THE AUTHOR

Britta Keil was born in 1980 in Erfurt, Germany and has been writing stories ever since she learned to write. At the age of nine she produced her first newspaper (14 subscribers!), and later began to write poetry, then short stories. During her study of German literature in Jena, she was an editor for a pedagogical magazine. When she isn't writing, she sings with a band. The written word is her best friend and an ongoing temptation.

www.foreignrights-ravensburger.com

Florence Roux, e-mail: florence.roux@ravensburger.de, or

Lucia Borrero, e-mail: lucia.borrero@ravensburger.de, or

Maike Heinemann, e-mail: Maike.Heinemann@ravensburger.de

Ravensburger