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Kascha Nord-Nordost

KASCHA NORTH-NORTHEAST

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Age 12 years and older

55,400 words / 340,300 signs

- The story of a vibrant girl searching for herself
- A glance into the world of the Sinti
- Movingly told by the author of the successful novel *Liverpool Street* (published as *My Family for the War in the USA*)

CONTENT

December 1978. Valentina Natzweiler, called Kascha, doesn't have it easy: her schoolmates want nothing to do with her, and all the neighbors look down on the Natzweiler family. They are Sinti, and the gadsche (the Germans) innately mistrust them. On top of that, Kascha's grandfather is very sick, her beloved older sister wants to move out – and what secrets about their family background are her parents trying to keep hidden?

An unexpected blizzard sets in. It snows and snows and snows until the only way to get out of the house is through a second story window. The electricity and water stop working. While this isn't a problem for Kascha's family, everyone else in the village is helpless. As the Natzweilers begin to invite neighbors over to warm up and eat with them and visit people who are too sick to get out, their attitude toward the Sinti family slowly changes. Cut off from the rest of the world, the small town bands together. During this time, Kascha realizes that she can anticipate certain events. Does she have "second sight?" When the warm weather comes and the snow thaws, however, they are disappointed to find that their adventures in the cold haven't changed anything. Kascha's new friends turn away



from her again. To make matters worse, her grandfather has to go to the hospital, her sister moves out, and Kascha learns how her ancestors suffered in concentration camps. Everything seems pointless.

Fundamental change only takes place when snow once again causes chaos. The mayor and a few neighbors speak up for the family and assure that they can hold a traditional wake for their grandfather, who has died. And when school starts again, for the very first time, a girl takes the seat next to Kascha on the bus.

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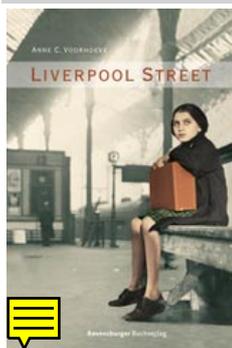
THE AUTHOR

Anne Charlotte Voorhoeve was born in 1963 in Germany. She studied Political Science, American Studies and Ancient History at the University of Mainz and Comparative Literature at the University of Maryland. She has worked as a newspaper and book editor, in public relations for a Lutheran monastery, and since 2000 as a freelance writer. Lilly unter den Linden ("Lilly under the Linden Trees"), her first screenplay, was nominated for the 2003 Prix Europa. The novel adaptation, enthusiastically received by reviewers and readers alike, was nominated for a number of young adult literature prizes in 2005. Her novel Liverpool Street has been sold to Belgium (Dutch), Canada, Denmark, France and French speaking countries, the Netherlands, Spain and Spanish speaking countries, the United Kingdom and the USA.

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