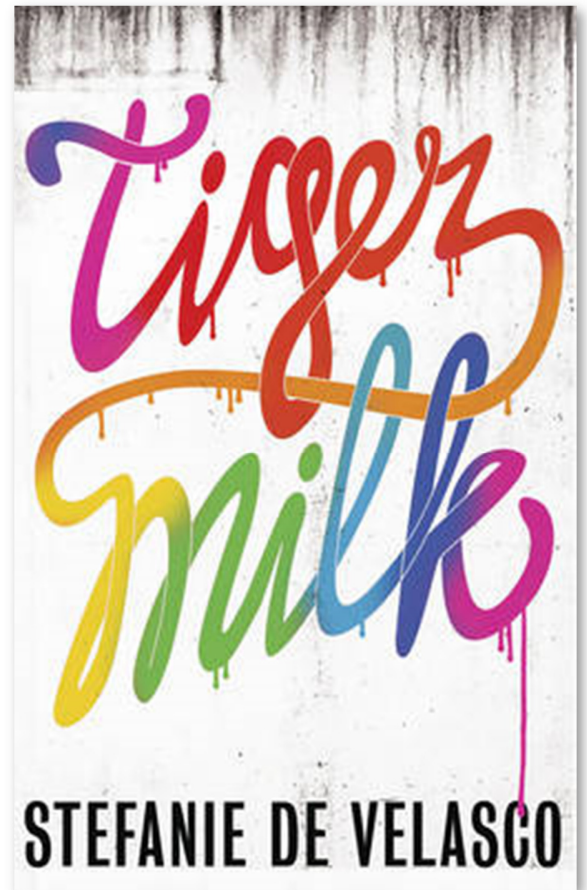


LoveReading Reader reviews of Tiger Milk by Stefanie De Velasco

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Catherine Jenkins

This is a book to be downed all in one go - knocked back like a shot of the "tiger milk" cocktail of the title, perhaps! It would be impossible to experience this book a few sips at a time, as it really is unputdownable. Set in Germany, it shows us the experiences of two teenage girls as they experiment with life during a fatal summer of change for them both. The conversational style and realistic dialogue instantly had me hooked, and ensured that the pages slip easily by as we follow the girls through their ups and downs - and their implication in a shocking event. The strength of this heady mix of rebellion and realisation is centred on its social commentary: the world we live in, after all, is just like tiger milk: sweet, but frighteningly quick to sour.



Linda Benner

I got involved with 'Tiger Milk'. The atmosphere is palpable.

On reading this book I felt as though I was picked up on a whirlwind and thrown into the lives of the characters. I landed, bewildered, among them. Clinging to Nini and Jameelah I hurtled through the book not wanting to be noticed for fear of being drawn into their bleak lives and dysfunctional families.

But drawn in I was.

Nini and Jameelah are best friends. It is a hot summer in Berlin and they are

planning to lose their virginity whilst getting high on drugs and drinking "Tiger Milk". Their (loose) morals however, are put to the test when they witness a murder of and by members of their circle of friends. When an innocent party confesses to the murder Nini has to decide whether to risk her friendship with Jameelah by going to the police.

Many such dilemmas are explored by the author along with other serious issues as well as murder, but she deals with them using sensitivity and without being patronising or flippant.

The imagery throughout puts you right in there with these people.

Not a light-hearted book but well worth reading if only for the sheer relief that your teenage years are behind you.

Rachael Evason

'Tiger Milk' is a gripping, funny and emotional story about young teenagers in Berlin. *The story was gripping at the start, delving straight into the mind of the protagonist, Nini.*

'Tiger Milk' is a gripping, funny and emotional story about the lives of young teenagers in Berlin.

The story was gripping from the beginning as it delved straight into almost 'taboo' scenarios involving young people. I couldn't put the book down and it took me only two days to read it. The book didn't get boring at all as new dilemmas were added in all the way through and there was a deep and careful insight into all of the characters lives so you felt like you knew all of the characters not just the main two.

The emotional ending tied the book together nicely giving it a realistic feel marking the end of summer and all the things that happened.

Julie Bertschin

This brutal observation of teenage life, set in the melting pot of immigrant communities in Berlin could be described as a modern day Romeo and Juliet; a stark portrayal of love, angst and murder.

Nini and Jameelah are school friends, they secretly drink "Tiger Milk", a home made cocktail and shoplift. They are teenagers who cannot wait to grow up and fall in love. They hang out in the red light district and prostitute themselves as a form of "practice" for future sexual encounters. This story is a stark

portrayal of teenage life, with a background tension of immigration issues. The girls try to find love and both have designs on boys in the area. Whilst they are performing a love spell ritual in a local playground they witness the murder of a friend. The murder becomes the pivotal point in the story as the girl's cannot agree whether to report their knowledge to the authorities. Whether to tell, or not to tell the Police, becomes the breaking point of their relationship. Questions of loyalty to friends and loyalties to one's family are the central issues of this story. When a brother kills his sister for loving someone he thinks she shouldn't, the lives of these teenagers changes forever.

Jacki Moorcroft - Twitter @moorcoftj

A thought provoking book about friendship, young love, teenage rebellion and growing up in Berlin.

This is not a love story, rather a touching story of two fourteen year old girls and the summer when they grew up. Nina and Jameelah have been friends forever and spend their 14th summer trying to become adults. This book gives us their thoughts, laughs and tears. It is a gritty reflection of normal life in Berlin and the diversity of races there.

It is an interesting book to read and the relationship between the two main characters is touching together with their fierce protection of their raggedy bunch of friends. However a tragedy threatens all of this and can life be the same afterwards? ***An exciting debut novel by Stefanie de Velasco who captures the rawness of life in Berlin.***

Ann

Disturbing story about teenagers in Berlin that might shock but leave you wanting to reach out to them.

This a story of teenage friendships in Berlin. Nini and Jameelah have created their own cocktail that they sup as they smoke in a long hot summer in Berlin.

At first I didn't think I was going to enjoy reading this novel as it was about a world I don't understand and about people who are far removed from my comfort zone but the more I read the more I wanted to continue reading.

Nini and her friend are immigrants living in an impoverished immigrant community. They obtain money from somewhere enabling them to purchase the alcoholic ingredients of the cocktail they drink. Neither of the girls has what we

might term a 'normal' family life and no restraints are imposed upon them. They dream of experiencing sex with men they fancy and tipsy on their 'tiger milk' go to the red light district pretending to be prostitutes preparing for their first sexual encounter. Having little money they also shoplift.

Then they witness a crime that will have devastating consequences on them.

This is a story of love and rebellion and is about a generation I do not understand but this book has drawn me closer to their troubles and anxieties.

Susan Walsh - Twitter @truckermercedes

A tale of two 14 year olds growing up in Berlin, their friends & families.

A book which younger readers will maybe enjoy.

'Tiger Milk', tells the tale of two friends growing up in Berlin. Their friends, families & loved ones.

It witnesses girls who want to have fun, lose their Virginity & the boys they think they are in love with.

Follow them through their crazy shoplifting, petty thieving & daily pranks.

The murder of a girl is witnessed & eventually one of them reveals the horror of what they saw.

The friends stay together through thick & thin.

A multi-cultural insight into friendships made & lost.

Helen Lowry

Two best friends spend the summer in Berlin, hanging out, drinking and shoplifting. After witnessing a murder their lives are set to change. Their friendship is tested to the limit. A tale of loyalties, love and teenage traumas.

'Tiger Milk' tells the story of two teenage girls spending the summer in Berlin. Nina and Jameelah spend their days drinking, shoplifting and anything to escape their empty lives. Tiger Milk is their amber nectar, their very own homemade cocktail, another release from realism.

One night, they witness a murder, a brutal act even by their loose standards. But then their loyalties, a central theme of the whole book, to each other are

tested as to whether they tell the police what they know.

The writing is quick and the pace moves on with the short, punchy sentences. Never a dull moment! The characters and imagery are believable and make the book an interesting read.

Catherine Price

Nini's and her best friend Jameela are streetwise and bored. Her Berlin neighbourhood is run-down and dangerous. One hot summer night a spark is lit - their lives will never be the same again.

Nini is fourteen and bored. By the time summer term finishes she is ready for some fun with her best friend Jameelah: shoplifting and hanging out with their gang at the outdoor pool, or drinking alcohol-laced 'tiger milk' while watching prostitutes on the streets. Their opportunities for fun are limitless, and despite the dangers in the city's darker corners, they can't wait to try every new experience, no matter how risky.

But this is multicultural Berlin. Nini's run-down neighbourhood is stiflingly hot and restless, with residents who a few months ago were living in countries torn apart by civil and religious unrest. It is not long before tensions rise to the surface, particularly between their Bosnian and Serbian neighbours. One night Nini and Jameelah witness something that will change their lives forever, which forces them to confront some hard adult choices about the realities of their lives.

Stefanie De Velasco's style is fast-paced and gritty, with two central characters placed within an all-too-believable situation of cash-strapped dysfunctional families where fathers disappear overnight and deportation is a daily reality. *Inevitably horrible things happen, and no amount of tiger milk can take away the horror of what Nini and Jameelah have seen. Deciding what to do – and the results of that decision – will test their turbulent friendship to the limit.*

Alison Greenacre

An urban tale of two young girls growing up in Berlin. It takes quite a dark path... and a word of warning there are no speech marks!

The story starts well, we meet to girls looking for adventure on the streets of Berlin. When adventure finds them, the story really begins. Very interesting subject matter, but in my opinion the story fizzled out towards the end, the

author not knowing what to do with the ending.