

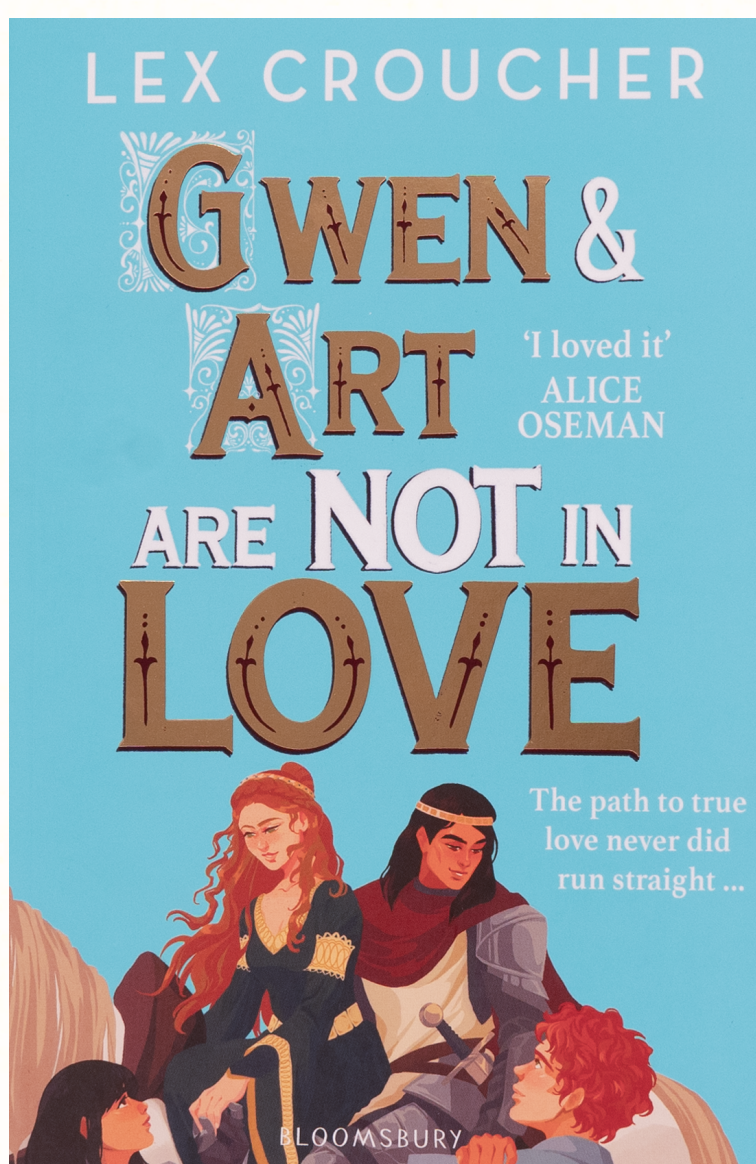
NERO

BOOK AWARDS

Reading Guides

Children's Fiction Shortlist

Gwen and Art Are Not in Love by Lex Croucher



Lex Croucher grew up in Surrey, reading a lot of books and making friends with strangers on the internet, and now lives in London. With a background in social media for NGOs, Lex now writes historical-ish romcoms for adults (*Reputation, Infamous, Trouble*) and historical fantasy romcoms for teenagers (*Gwen and Art Are Not in Love, Not for the Faint of Heart*).

'This is an effortlessly gripping and witty take on the heartaches and headaches of forbidden love, with dialogue sharper than Excalibur itself. This book feels like an instant classic of the genre.' - **Children's Fiction judges, 2023 Nero Book Awards**

'I'm stubborn,' Bridget said, immediately tossing the leaves into the flames. 'And I know who I am. Come on.' She took Gwen by the arm without another word, and they slipped from the glow of the firelight into the welcoming shadows beyond.'

In Camelot, King Arthur's pleasure-seeking descendent Art Delacey is betrothed to Gwen, the quick-witted Princess of England. Unfortunately, the only thing they can agree on is that they despise each other. When Gwen catches Art kissing a boy and Art reads Gwen's secret diary discovering that she has a crush on Bridget Leclair, the kingdom's only female knight, they become reluctant allies. Pretending to fall for each other provides the perfect cover story for their real romantic intentions but as things heat up at the annual royal tournament, will they be able to keep up the ruse?

Clever and entertaining, *Gwen and Art Are Not in Love* is a mischievous romantic romp. Readers will delight in the sword-fights, intrigue and witty dialogue and root for the characters to find their happy endings. Lex Croucher has taken the legend of King Arthur, his court at Camelot and the forbidden love between Guinevere and Lancelot and turned it upside down with a love story for our times.

A heart-warming and slyly subversive tale of youthful love, the path to owning your queerness and being your true self, this is a fresh new take on teen comedy romance.

Discussion points:

- Did you know about the legend of Camelot and King Arthur before you read this book? How has it enhanced the story and has it made you want to find out more about Camelot?
- Do you think that the story would work as well in another setting, or do you think that the historical setting is an important part of the book?
- The story is a romantic comedy, but it also covers many serious issues such as homophobia and struggles with mental health. Did you enjoy the fact that Croucher combined humour with these important subjects?