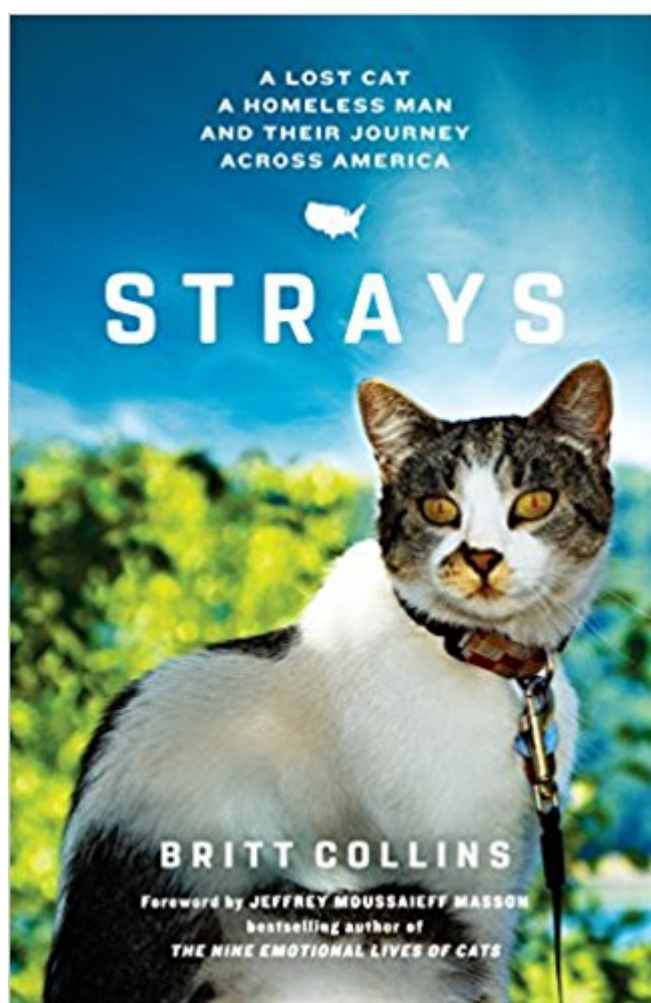


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# Strays: A Lost Cat, A Drifter, And Their Journey Across America (Thorndike Press Large Print Popular And Narrative Nonfiction Series)



## Synopsis

For fans of *A Street Cat Named Bob* and *Dewey: The Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*, *Strays* is a compelling true story of a man who rescues a stray, injured cat and how they save each other. Homeless, alcoholic, and depressed, Michael King lives in a UPS loading bay on the wrong side of the tracks in Portland, Oregon. One rainy night, he stumbles upon a hurt, starving, scruffy cat and takes her in. Nursing her back to health, he names her Tabor and she becomes a bit of a celebrity in southeast Portland. When winter comes, they travel from Oregon to the beaches of California to the high plains of Montana, surviving blizzards and bears, angry steers and rainstorms. Along the way, people are drawn to the spirited, beautiful cat and moved to help Michael, who cuts a striking figure with Tabor riding high on his backpack or walking on a leash. Tabor comforts Michael when he's down, giving Michael someone to love and care for, and inspiring him to get sober and to come to terms with his past family traumas and grief over the death of his life partner. As they make their way across the West Coast, the pair become inseparable, healing the scars of each other's troubled pasts. But when Michael takes Tabor to a veterinarian in Montana, he discovers that Tabor has an identification chip and an owner in Portland who has never given up hope of finding his beloved cat. Michael makes the difficult choice to return to Portland and reunite Tabor with her owner. Now Michael must create a new purpose in his life after Tabor. The authentic tale of an adventurous and charismatic cat and her compassionate human admirers, *Strays* proves the healing power of love and the profound bond between humans and animals.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

A touching, in-depth look at the lives of a remarkable stray cat and a remarkable down-and-out man who brought each other joy and unexpected adventure. This lovely, luminous story will warm your heart, make you laugh and want to share your life with a rescue cat. --Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, author of *The Nine Emotional Lives of Cats* -A touching, in-depth look at the lives of a remarkable stray cat and a remarkable down-and-out man who brought each other joy and unexpected adventure. This lovely, luminous story will warm your heart, make you laugh and want to share your life with a rescue cat. - ----Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, author of *The Nine Emotional Lives of Cats* -Britt Collins's accessible and empathetic new book, *Strays*, portrays the close bond between Michael and Tabor as they traveled through America, facing the challenges of living on the road, both from nature and from circumstance. The story continues to linger in my mind and reminds me that the care of an animal really can motivate and make change possible. -----Claire Bessant, CEO of International Cat Care -At times heart-wrenching, *Strays* held me captive, eager, and anxious for little Tabor to find her way back home. And at the end, I was reminded of the ultimate price of loving an animal--the moment of loss, the moment when you have to say the pain was worth the gift of loving another of the world's creatures. -----Barbara Bennett, author of *Soul of a Lion* -*Strays* is the affectionate telling of a remarkable story. There is much more here than the healing power of the human/animal bond or a tale of survival and adventure on the margins of society. *Strays* reminds us that there is no such thing as a small or insignificant life and that every life has intrinsic value. -----Francis Battista, Co-Founder of Best Friends Animal Society -This is the rock n roll version of a cat book. It got me hooked from the first page. ---Shane MacGowen "Britt Collins's accessible and empathetic new book, *Strays*, portrays the close bond between Michael and Tabor as they traveled through America, facing the challenges of living on the road, both from nature and from circumstance. The story continues to linger in my mind and reminds me that the care of an animal really can motivate and make change possible." --Claire Bessant, CEO of International Cat Care "At times heart-wrenching, *Strays* held me captive, eager, and anxious for little Tabor to find her way back home. And at the end, I was reminded of the ultimate price of loving an animal--the moment of loss, the moment when you have to say the pain was worth the gift of loving another of the world's creatures." --Barbara Bennett, author of *Soul of a Lion* "Strays is the affectionate telling of a remarkable story. There is much more here than the healing power of the human/animal bond or a tale of survival and adventure on the margins of society. *Strays* reminds us that there is no such thing as a small or insignificant life and that every life has intrinsic value." --Francis Battista, Co-Founder of Best Friends Animal Society "This is the rock n roll version of a cat book. It got me

hooked from the first page."--Shane MacGowan"No doubt Strays will be seen as a cat book, but make no mistake, this is a book about humans, and how animals, especially cats, can reach a paw into our hearts and pull out the best of us. Part love story, part adventure epic, part travelogue, part social commentary, Strays will give you insight into the kindnesses of strangers, the healing capacity of our furry friends, and the resilience of both man and cat in the face of blizzards, long nights on sidewalks, wild beasts, and dark memories. On top of that, Strays is a galloping read that you won't put down."--Caroline Paul, author of Lost Cat, A True Story of Love, Desperation, and GPS Technology"This is the rock 'n' roll version of a cat book. It got me hooked from the first page. Stunning."--Shane MacGowan"Strays is a window into another world, and gives a compassionate and honest account of what it feels like not to have a place to call 'home', and to seek comfort in unexpected places. And any cat lover will fall head over heels for little Tabor!"--Ruby Warrington, author of Material Girl, Mystical World"A powerful tale of a drifter saving, and being saved by, a stray feline. This book is a reminder that the animals that shadow us in our lives help to make us more human."--Scott Carney, New York Times Bestselling author of What Doesn't Kill Us"A touching, in-depth look at the lives of a remarkable stray cat and a remarkable down-and-out man who brought each other joy and unexpected adventure. This lovely, luminous story will warm your heart, make you laugh and want to share your life with a rescue cat." --Jeffrey Moussaieff Masson, author of The Nine Emotional Lives of Cats

Britt Collins is a British journalist and writes for The Guardian, Sunday Times, the Independent, Harper's Bazaar, Conde Nast Traveller, and is a contributing editor for Billionaire.com. She has volunteered at sanctuaries around the world, from tending big cats and baboons in Namibia to wild horses in Nevada, that have inspired features for The Guardian and the Sunday Times. While writing for the British tabloid, the Sunday People, she has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for many international charities through her investigative animal-cruelty stories; as an activist, she has help shut down controversial breeders of laboratory animals. She lives with her cats in London.

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