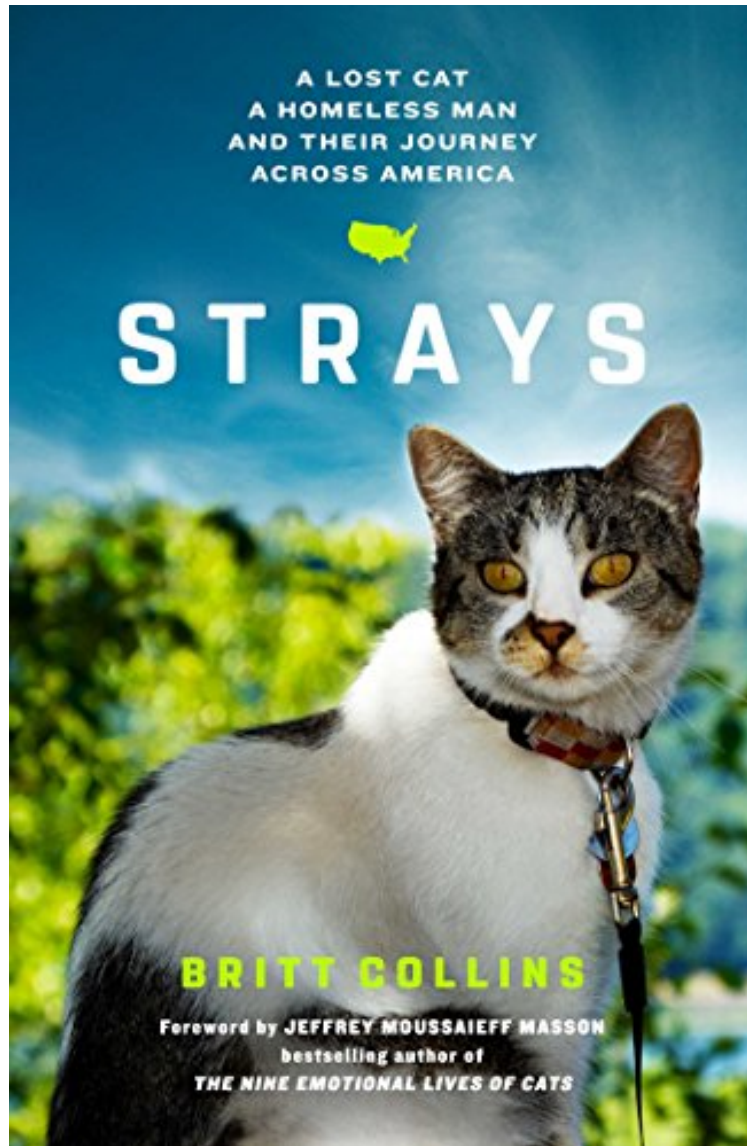


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Strays: A Lost Cat, a Homeless Man, and Their Journey Across America

Britt Collins

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Britt Collins : Strays: A Lost Cat, a Homeless Man, and Their Journey Across America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Strays: A Lost Cat, a Homeless Man, and Their Journey Across America:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. a great read.By Melvin R. ReadThis was a sometimes funny,

sometimes sad and definitely educational book. I love cats so that caught my attention to purchase this book. Given the other main character, Michael, was homeless it gave me a view into what life is like for the homeless and their daily struggles. How a small kitten found by Michael changed his life so that he took on the responsibility of feeding and protecting her despite his many challenges. Good read. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful and heartbreaking. By Mrs. Tracy R. Buck This book was great. It is even more touching because it is true. I felt bad that Michael gave up Tabor. She was his world and he was hers. I hope Michael continues to be touched by his 10 months with Tabor. They saved each other. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very touching and moving - your heart is stolen by the subject and cat, in this book. Tears might follow, but good. By zachary Alexander This is a very touching and moving story about a homeless man, and the stray kitten he has reluctantly fallen in love with. Subject, and cat grow inseparable through their journey in the Pacific Northwest, and California. Very moving, and touching, you will cheer for both of them.

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.

When a homeless man met a stray feline, it led to an odyssey that changed their lives forever. (New York Post) A tearjerker of a movie waiting to happen. (Bustle (16 best nonfiction reads)) "Readers who empathized with the honesty and humility of James Bowen's *A STREET CAT NAMED BOB* will be moved by this healing love story." (Library Journal) Beautifully written and with great sensitivity by a gifted writer. . . . Its a story about doing the right thing, even when it rips your heart out to do so. (The Conscious Cat) Written in a highly detailed, narrative style, this is both a heartwarming tale of animals ability to transform people and a humanizing depiction of the factors leading to homelessness. (Booklist) Tabor's journey is a wonderful reminder of how animals can help create extraordinary circumstances, which help people join together even in the toughest of times. The prose is beautiful, the story compelling. (Amos Lassen, founder of Literary Pride) *Strays* will certainly appeal to fans of *Bob the street cat*, but offers a fascinating and complex twist on an old plot. You'll laugh, you'll cry and most likely be an emotional wreck at the bittersweet ending. But it'll be well worth it! (Purrington Post) An inspirational story about love, loss, redemption and the transformative power of the bond that develops between humans and animals. (Ocala Style magazine) 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. 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*) "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*) "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*)

About the Author
Britt Collins is an English journalist who writes for the *Guardian*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Independent*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *Cond Nast Traveller*, and *Billionaire.com*. She has volunteered at animal sanctuaries around the world, from tending big cats and baboons in Namibia to wild horses in Nevada a labor of love that has inspired features for the *Guardian* and the *Sunday Times*. While writing *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 helped shut down controversial breeders of laboratory animals. She lives with her cats in London.