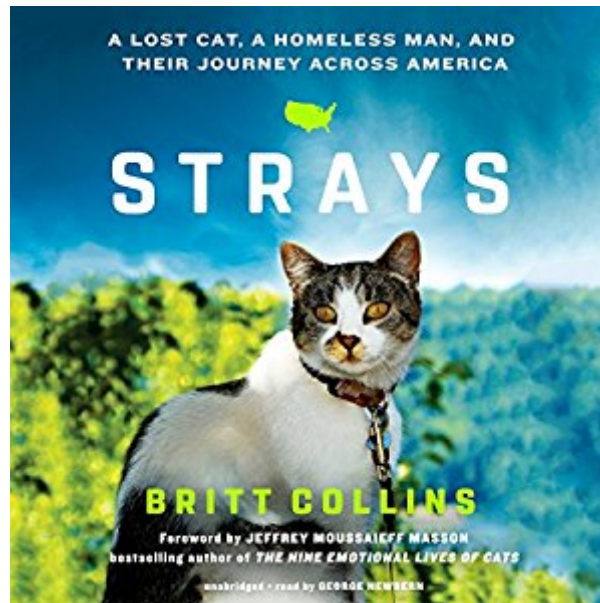


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Strays: A Lost Cat, A Homeless Man, And Their Journey Across America



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 and 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

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours 44 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Blackstone Audio, Inc.

Audible.com Release Date: July 18, 2017

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B073X5ZPZL

Best Sellers Rank: #187 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Lifestyle & Home > Animal Care & Pets #195 in Books > Travel > Specialty Travel > Travel with Pets #547 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Nonfiction > Travel

Customer Reviews

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.

Get your tissues!! Beautiful, sad, sweet and inspiring. Everything you want with a CAT!!

TOTALLY ENJOYED THE JOURNEY! Ok, I admit it, I'm a sucker for animal stories....especially those about cats! But what actually drew me to STRAYS (besides being non-fiction) was finding out how in the world a cat travelled across the country sitting atop the shoulder and/or backpack of a distraught homeless man who likes his drink. With strangers about....while panhandling....with cars and semi's zooming by, Tabor the cat bears it all...and speaking of bears...yep! there's a couple close encounters, but no worries: "The homeless had a code of ethics.....they always took care of their animals first." I'm not saying there aren't a few scary moments here and there...like surviving a blizzard or the extreme heat; but animal lovers, do not shy away from STRAYS because there are two fully grown men here who would lay down their lives for one remarkable and unforgettable feline companion who brings hope and healing to lost and lonely souls. While I commend Ron for taking in abandoned cats, feeding them, loving them, and caring for them medically, allowing them to roam free outdoors is cause for concern as he learned the hard way.....twice. PLEASE....."RESCUE AN ANIMAL.....DON'T BUY."

I need to start this review by saying that I lost an extremely special dog in 2003 who was microchipped but never was found. I miss that dog every day. So I know precisely how it felt for "Tabor"'s owner, not knowing where his furry friend was. That said, I found the book to be very interesting in the way in which the cat made such a huge impact on Michael (the homeless man). I was surprised, frankly, that Michael immediately agreed to return Tabor to his owner. But, in the vet's office when the microchip was found, Michael muttered to himself something about "if that cat has a chip". OK, so Michael knew about microchips and failed to have Tabor checked for one when he found him? Then it got a bit interesting for me. He returns Tabor, and Tabor does not seem to recognize (or be overjoyed to see) his owner after less than a year. Then, Michael returns months later for a visit and the cat instantly recognizes him and climbs all over him and follows him as he leaves. It makes me wonder who Tabor really wanted to be with. However, I do admire Michael for returning him and perhaps realizing that he could not provide a safe home for the cat. Having known

a lot of cats, I feel that Tabor is one of those animals that can pretty much immediately bond to anyone he wants to, as he so readily did when first meeting Michael and his friends. So, I'm guessing, Tabor had a delightful time with Michael and could have a delightful time with anyone he chose. It must have been very hard for Michael to return Tabor; and it must have been somewhat hard for Tabor's owner, Ron, not to let Tabor stay with Michael. But I honestly wonder if Ron really did think hard about it. It was very clear how much the cat meant to him. It was really a quandary for me, because I often wondered if I got a call that my lost dog had been found and was living happily with someone if I would have broken them up even though I loved my dog with all my heart. It's about what's best for the animal, and I hope that was the right decision made in this case. The bottom line here, for me, is the importance of checking for a microchip whenever you find an animal. Just because there isn't a collar doesn't mean someone isn't desperately looking for the animal. It's so easy to do- any vet or shelter will be happy to do it. That was my only hope for my dog, Jackson, but it never happened.

What a fascinating story - and so well written. I don't want to spoil the plot, but this real-life story follows the tale of a lost cat, her devastated companion who never stops looking for her, a homeless man and travels around America. It's full of twists, turns and unexpected outcomes. Heart-warming, gut-wrenching and a joy to read.

Strays tells the story of a man in the middle of something who selfishly does the right thing. A man who was lost and didn't want to be found but understood what was right for his furry friend and acted upon. It's a story of hope and enduring love delicately written by Miss Collins. It doesn't have to be Disney for a story to have a happy ending and Strays proves just that. There are incredibly inspiring tales out there and this book is the perfect combination of the right story, the right writer at the right time.

I picked up this book because of the cat on the cover. I am a cat lover and enthusiast. It took me a chapter or two to really get into the book but from then on, I was totally hooked. I couldn't wait to read what happened next. Full disclosure: I had seen a post on Facebook telling the story of Michael and Tabor but, fortunately, it did not give away the ending. I admit that I had leaky eyes at the end and for quite a while afterward but it left me with such a good feeling. I think I might have to read the book again but not right away. I want to let it settle in my mind for a while. I highly recommend this book to anyone who has been loved and owned by a cat in their life. Don't be put

off by the fact that the main human character is an alcoholic homeless guy. He is a good guy. And he does some very good stuff for others.

Better than "A Street Cat Named Bob." This is my new favorite book!

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