Diogenes

Book factsheet

Martina Borger & Maria Elisabeth Straub
Cats' Tongues

Published by Diogenes as *Katzenzungen*
Original title: *Katzenzungen*

Really, it was supposed to be a carefree jubilee outing. For the tenth time, three women friends in their early forties set out on their short annual excursion, this time to Bruges in Belgium: Dodo, impulsive and energetic, a single parent, frequently in financial difficulties; the beautiful, reserved Claire, who has made a career as a gallery owner in Munich; and the down-to-earth Nora, a mother and the wife of a lawyer, the only one of the three to have stayed where they all come from, in Pinneberg in northern Germany. That is where they grew up together, went to school, passed through adolescence and first love affairs, shared joys and sorrows – and cats' tongues, the symbol of a careless, intensive friendship.
But the outing which began so lightly develops into a journey into the past which, as it soon transpires, was nothing like as carefree as it had seemed. Long and carefully guarded secrets come to light, and the much-mooted friendship is sorely tried.
Cats' Tongues tells the story of three women who are closely bound up with each other from three different perspectives. Gradually, a picture forms out of the different points of view, a picture that is as multi-faceted as life and the three protagonists themselves – in turn witty, sad, hurtfully callous, and surprisingly loving.

Contemporary Literature
368 pages
11.6 × 18.4 cm
September 2001

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Awards

Martina Borger

2002 ›Frauen-Krimi-Preis‹ der Stadt Wiesbaden für *Kleine Schwester*

Maria Elisabeth Straub

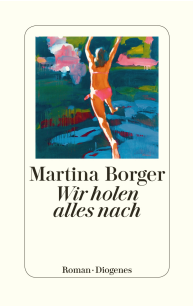
2002 ›Frauen-Krimi-Preis‹ der Stadt Wiesbaden für *Kleine Schwester*

Photo: Maurice Haas / © Diogenes Verlag

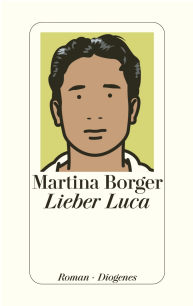
Martina Borger, born in Bavaria in 1956, worked as a journalist, script editor and film critic, before turning to screenwriting. She has worked as a storyliner and head writer on several tv series. In collaboration with Maria Elisabeth Straub she published her first novel, *Cats' Tongues,* in 2001, followed by *Little Sister* (2002), *In the Ring* (2004) and *Summer with Emma* (2009). She is the sole author of her 2007 novel *Dear Luca*. Martina Borger lives in Munich.

Photo: © Regine Mosimann / Diogenes Verlag

Maria Elisabeth Straub was born in 1943 in Schleswig-Holstein. She studied art history and German philology and has worked as a freelance author since 1970. Together with her co-author Martina Borger, she has published three novels so far. Maria Elisabeth Straub lives in Germany's far north.



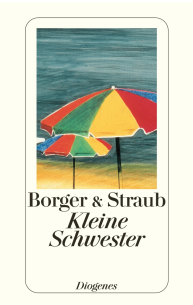
We'll Catch up on It Later
304 pages
2020
Bestseller



Dear Luca
208 pages
2007

The Gift
336 pages
2006

In the Ring
384 pages
2004
Movie Adaptation



Little Sister
224 pages
2002
Award winner