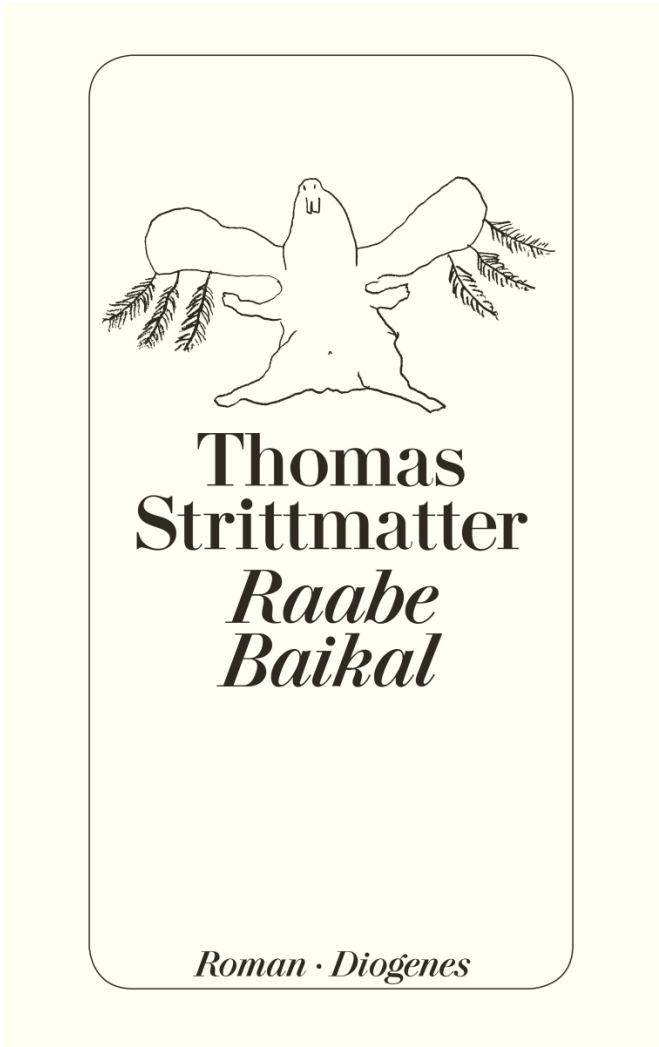
Diogenes

Book factsheet

Thomas Strittmatter
Raven

Published by Diogenes as *Raabe Baikal*
Original title: *Raabe Baikal*



This is the story of Raab, a boy dogged by misfortune and the darkness around him, hence dubbed Raabe (Raven). Having casually lost his father somewhere along the line, it has never really sunk into him that his father is actually dead. Raabe is sent to boarding school. There he meets the offspring of the nouveauriche Liebherr hotel dynasty, who soon becomes known as Fieber (Fever) after having faked high temperature and being caught. Another classmate, Andrea, has rejected the feminine connotation of the 'a'- ending in her first name because she does not want to be a girl. Then there is Taubman (Deafman) whose handicap prevents him from being taken seriously. Raabe is fascinated by Deafman's sensitivity and so the two share a silent friendship. The Stonemason and the Pharmacist (Raabe's grand-uncle) are also two taciturn friends in our tale. After boarding school Raabe first does an apprenticeship with his grand-uncle, then with the Stonemason, where he works like a dog. The Stonemason dies - twice. Whereupon Raabe - a distant relative of Voltaire's Candide - in an attempt at liberation leaves the countryside and settles into the wild city.

Contemporary Literature, Compulsory Reading
296 pages
September 1990

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Movie adaptations

1999: Viehjud Levi
Director: Didi Danquart
Cast: Bruno Cathomas, Caroline Ebner, Ulrich Noethen, Martina Gedeck

1995: Bohai-Bohau, eine badische Geschichte
Director: Didi Danquart
Screenplay: Thomas Strittmatter
Cast: Robert Hunger-Bühler, Natalie Körner, Georg von Manikowsky

1990: Winckelmanns Reisen
Director: Jan Schütte
Screenplay: Thomas Strittmatter
Cast: Wolf-Dietrich Sprenger , Susanne Lothar, Traugott Buhre

1987: Drachenfutter
Director: Jan Schütte
Screenplay: Thomas Strittmatter
Cast: Bhasker Patel, Ric Young, Buddy Uzzaman

1986: Der Polenweiher
Director: Nico Hofmann
Screenplay: Thomas Strittmatter
Cast: Willi Adam, Ursula Cantieni, Manfred Epting

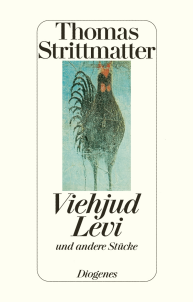
Awards

1992 Aufenthaltsstipendium für junge deutschsprachige Autorinnen und Autoren des Berliner Senats.
1991 Literaturförderpreis der Freien Hansestadt Bremen für ›Raabe Baikal‹.
1991 Staatlicher Förderungspreis für junge Schriftsteller des Freistaates Bayern für seine Theaterstücke.
1991 Springer & Jacoby-Preis der Hamburger Kulturstiftung für das Drehbuch zu Jan Schüttes Film ›Winckelmanns Reisen‹.
1990 Hessischer Filmpreis für ›Winckelmanns Reisen‹ von Jan Schütte (Drehbuch: Jan Schütte und Thomas Strittmatter).
1989 Literaturpreis ›Kranich mit dem Stein‹ des Deutschen Literaturfonds für ein Kapitel aus dem Roman ›Raabe Baikal‹.
1988 Literaturpreis der Landeshauptstadt München.
1987 Stipendium des Deutschen Literaturfonds.



Photo: © Volker Derlath

Born in 1961 in St Georgen in the Black Forest. He has written a number of plays and film scripts, and received the ›Kranichstein Literature Prize‹ in 1989. He died in 1995 in Berlin.



Viehjud Levi
368 pages
1992

Awards (cont'd)

1987 Stipendium der Kunststiftung Baden-Württemberg.
1985 Preis beim Prosawettbewerb des Bayerischen Rundfunks.
1984 Erhart-Willner-Stipendium beim Ingeborg-Bachmann-Wettbewerb, Klagenfurt.
1983 Landespreis für Volkstheaterstücke.
1981 Landespreis für Volkstheaterstücke.