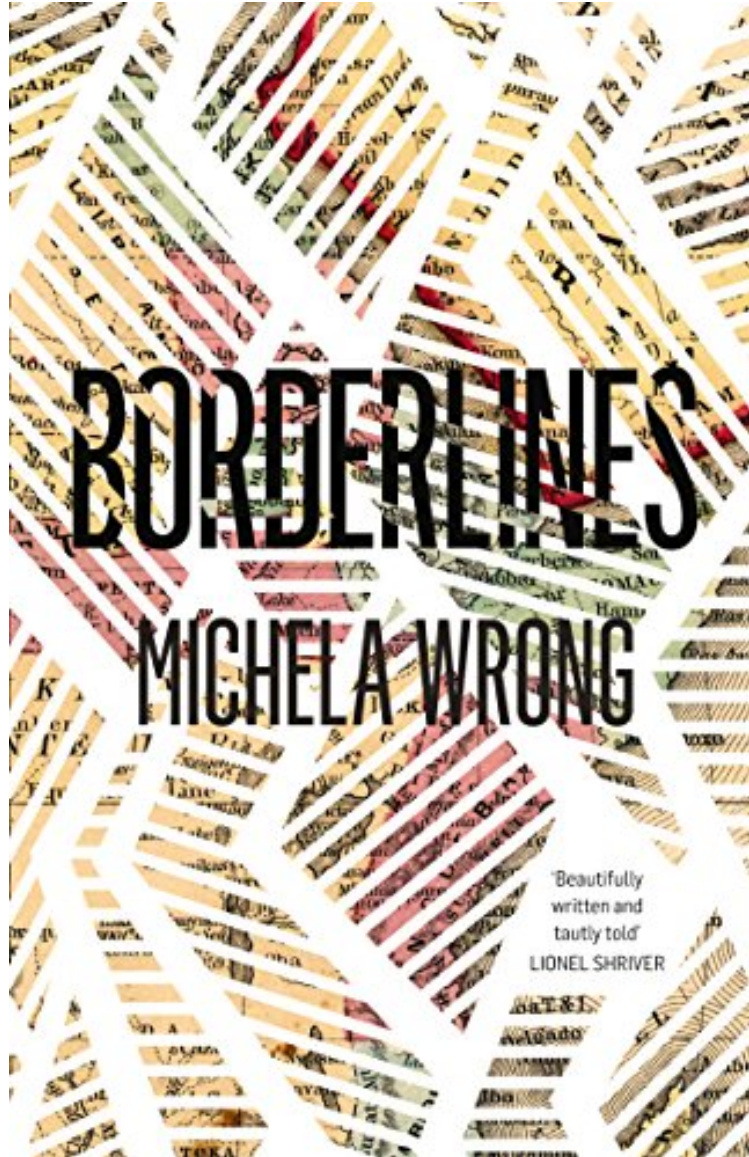


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## Borderlines

Von Michela Wrong

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**Von Michela Wrong : Borderlines** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Borderlines:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Grim stuffVon Anna LatzThis is obviously the work of a journalist who set out to deal with East African issues (which she described in great detail in her Eritrea book "I didn't do it for you") in fictional form. But while it was probably intended to shed light on the current situation rather than as a timeless Work of Art, the result is a novel like no other

and certainly well worth reading. Though nothing really extraordinary happens in it, the grimly realistic plot is quite compelling and once you get going it is hard to put down. Demonstrating how things go wrong is Ms Wrong's special calling, and therefore the characters we get to meet are neither heroes nor winners, except for the most callously self-serving careerists. All worthy projects fail, and all the more or less well-intended Western efforts to help a small East African country turn out to be ultimately pointless. (No wonder so many East Africans - Eritreans in particular - risk their lives to get away.) The one comforting feature at the end of the novel is the scene in which the somewhat obstreperous protagonist is finally able to remember her dead lover, who had also turned into a massive disappointment, with affection. So it seems that for most of us, at the bottom line, what gives meaning to our lives happens at the personal level. Altogether a very sobering tale. Nevertheless, the way it is told is often rather funny, and the writing is so vivid it saves you the actual trip to East Africa if you can't afford it. Some scenes one would not wish to witness in person; for example I have never read a more shocking description of a pile of dead bodies, the result of a totally justified prison uprising.

**Produktbeschreibung** The debut novel by a British writer with nearly two decades of African experience a compelling courtroom drama and a gritty, aromatic evocation of place, inspired by recent events. British lawyer Paula Shackleton is mourning a lost love when a small man in a lemon-coloured suit accosts her over breakfast in a Boston hotel. Winston Peabody represents the African state of North Darrar, embroiled in a border arbitration case with its giant neighbour. He needs help with the hearings in The Hague, Paula needs to forget the past. She flies to the states capital determined to lose herself in work, but soon discovers that even jobs taken with the purest intentions can involve moral compromise. Taking testimony in scorching refugee camps, delving into the colonial past, she becomes increasingly uneasy about her role. Budding friendships with a scarred former rebel and an idealistic young doctor whittle away at her pose of sardonic indifference, until Paula finds herself taking a step no decent lawyer should ever contemplate. Michela Wrong has been writing about Africa for two decades. In this taut legal thriller, rich with the Horn of Africa's colours and aromas, she probes the motives underlying Western engagement with the continent, questioning the value of universal justice and exploring how history itself is forged. Above all her first novel is the story of a young woman's anguished quest for redemption.