



Barbara Frischmuth

# THE BEAUTY OF BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

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These small masterpieces of the imagination are also an impassioned plea against the human exploitation of nature.

Dazzling blue beetles, furry moths, bold grasshoppers and shimmering dragonflies are the heroes of Barbara Frischmuth's new short stories. Yet when we look more closely, we realise they are about more than just carefully observed insects: they are about the delicate symbioses between humans and nature, about rare hybrid beings, half girl and half beetle, about talking dragonflies and about what we can learn from the ingeniousness of grasshoppers. Written with affectionate humour, these stories reveal how profoundly human beings are a part of nature. As gardener and poet Barbara Frischmuth never tires of repeating: our only chance of survival is to develop a relationship with nature based on respect and mindfulness.

## BARBARA FRISCHMUTH

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born in 1941 in Altaussee, studied Turkish, Hungarian and Oriental Studies and has been a freelance writer ever since. The multi-award-winning author has lived in Altaussee again since 1999. Her greatest successes include the novels "Die Klosterschule" (1968), "Die Mystifikationen der Sophie Silber" (1976) and "Kai und die Liebe zu den Modellen" (1979), as well as her numerous gardening books. Most recently published by Residenz Verlag: "Natur und die Versuche, ihr mit Sprache beizukommen" (2021), "Schaufel, Rechen, Gartenschere" in the series "Dinge des Lebens" (2023) and "Die Schönheit der Tag- und Nachtfalter" (2025).