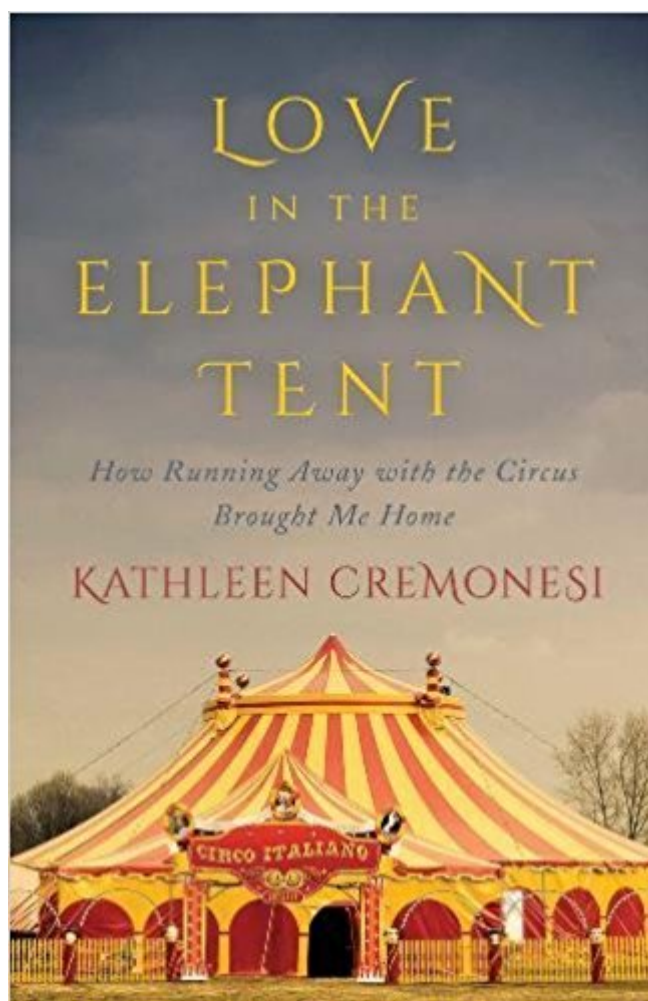


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Love In The Elephant Tent: How Running Away With The Circus Brought Me Home



Synopsis

If you live life without a net, what happens when you fall? Kathleen Cremonesi knew early on she wanted to be different. Determined to avoid following in her mother's footsteps to an ill-fated marriage, Kathleen left Oregon in her early 20s to travel across Europe. On a whim, this former administrative assistant with wanderlust took a job as a dancer in an Italian circus and, working her way up, became an ostrich-riding, shark-taming showgirl. Kathleen bonds with the exotic animals that could strike and kill at any moment, but instead bring her a peace she has never known. And when she stumbles into the arms of Stefano, the sexy elephant keeper, she finds a man who understands her wild spirit. With thrilling prose and vivid descriptions, Kathleen takes the reader around the Mediterranean, where she discovers unexpected friends and learns how to cook, forgive, and love; across language barriers. **AWARDS** GOLD, Autobiography/Memoir, 2016 IPPY Awards

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Customer Reviews

"Kathleen's journey toward self-discovery is enthralling . . . the descriptions of life in the circus, the animals, and the spectacle put on every night vividly take readers into the experience." • Publishers Weekly "Cremonesi's memoir is saturated with descriptive language and emotion . . . Readers looking for stories of self-discovery, as well as fans of Sara Gruen's *Water for Elephants* (2006), will enjoy this title." • Booklist "Brave and heartfelt, this book is an inspiration if you're looking for a push to take your own walk on the wild side. Lots of

fun! • Family Circle Magazine; Cremonesi's memoir will captivate readers as she embarks on this unexpected adventure. But there is also much here to think about as she reveals the sobering reality of circus life: the mistreatment of animals and workers. •

Booklist; One of the most invigorating descriptions of backstage life that I have ever read . . . Whatever your views on circus animals, Cremonesi's experiences will definitely provide food for thought. Her book is recommended reading for anyone who wants to know what life in the circus is really like. •

Blasting News; Love in the Elephant Tent is a perfect coming-of-age memoir filled with beautiful scenic descriptions, fascinating adventures, and an emotional journey through the human heart that will have you engrossed until the very last page. •

A Cup of Tea with that Book, Please; This story is strong with ethical vs emotional content. Having both the circus and Europe as backdrops fills this memoir with many layers . . . I loved getting a backstage view of this unique lifestyle. •

Always Packed for Adventure; A memoir, but far from just presenting the facts. I'd call it a true adventure book! I truly, honestly and really loved this book. And would recommend it with my whole heart! •

Book Bug; If you love memoirs and travel writing, then Love in the Elephant Tent is a great book to put on your reading list for the summer. •

The Book Binder's Daughter; This is definitely a good read. It depicts the trials and tribulations of having a romance while trying to live such a nomadic lifestyle. . . I found it hard to believe that this was a real story as it would make a perfectly interesting fiction book. The only way I truly believed this was indeed a memoir was through the wonderful pictures the book contained. •

Caffeine and Books; This was such a fantastic book. Whatever preconceived notions you may have about memoirs, just let them go. Cremonesi's book is nothing like any memoir I have ever read. Usually reading memoirs is like slogging through muddy marshes, but this one grabbed me from the beginning. It reads like a novel, thanks to Cremonesi's incredible story-telling skills. . . If you've enjoyed reading memoirs in the past, or have any particular affinity for coming-of-age adventure type stories, then I highly recommend this book. Honestly, I think there must be very few people who would be unable to enjoy it at least in some capacity. •

Fictional Read World; If you love the circus, you will love this memoir. If you hate this circus, you will still love this memoir. . . Her writing voice is as interesting and rich as the experiences she shares in the book. She may have found love in the elephant tent; I found a fascinating woman in the pages of a book. •

Bibliotica; It is quite a treat to read such a richly descriptive book, with so many honest insights into characters and thoughts. [Cremonesi] touches on so many issues that we are all, at some stage, coming to terms with. •

Blue Wolf Reviews; Love in the Elephant Tent: How Running Away with the

Circus Brought Me Home mingles a charming love story with interludes of grubby reality concerning circus life and the care of large animals. • #151; New Zealand Listener• #147;Who hasn't dreamed of running away to join the circus? No doubt your giftee has, and Love in the Elephant Tent by Kathleen Cremonesi is the right book to wrap. • #151; Q Salt Lake• #147;Overall an amazing read. I have had a dramatic change of heart on memoirs, and all because of Love in the Elephant Tent. • #151; Top of the Bookshelf• #147;I could actually see everything she described in my mind's eye; her vivid descriptions are there to give readers a wonderful reading experience throughout the rest of the book. . . I absolutely recommend this book to circus fans, romance novel junkies, and just about everyone who loves animals. • #151; Reader's Favorite

Kathleen Cremonesi lives near Eugene, Oregon, with her husband and a family of cats and dogs. She had the honour of volunteering at a Thai elephant sanctuary that she still supports with charitable contributions. This is her first book.

I am always looking for a good read, and rarely do I find a book I can ease into and resonate with as much as this one. Kathleen's background is similar to my own, and she writes with such a fresh and direct style that reading it is true pleasure. Her story of traveling with the Grateful Dead, then on to Europe, and the Italian circus may be an unusual path, but her telling of it makes it truly relatable. Her experience of falling in love with an Italian elephant trainer in the circus is beautiful, and she totally captures the emotions of finding love at a young age-(23 years old). The setting of the memoir is so interesting, and I appreciate how she incorporates her mature reflection on circus reality with her first impressions of the time. The stories of the people and animals in the circus are so fascinating, and told sensitively. And I want a Stefano of my own! Its a beautifully crafted book, and very romantic. The photo section in the middle is a great touch, too. I've laughed, and I've underlined passages I know I will return to for help with my daily perspective. This book is well worth a read!

There is far more than love in the elephant tent at the Circo Moira Orfei! This memoir beautifully describes the humor, passion, energy, vulnerability, fear and the intensity of how it feels to fall madly in love in young adulthood. Kathleen Cremonesi chose a a colorful, exquisitely entertaining Italian circus for her adventure that is much more than a love story about her relationship with Stefano. Kathleen paints a vivid picture of her traveling home, her foray into cooking great food, descriptions of each European town the circus travels to, the circus animals she meets and comes

to love and her bizarre jobs in the circus; gleefully risking her neck riding an ostrich and swimming with Billy Bob the shark. Kathleen's descriptive writing will involve all your senses and the lasting impact evoked memories of my youth. It's a wild ride in every way. I encourage anyone who wants to relive the feeling of fresh young love combined with an exciting real-life version of running away and joining the circus to read "Love in the Elephant Tent".

Love in the Elephant Tent should be on every bestseller list--I couldn't put it down, and yet, the farther along I got, the more I slowed down--so I could savor every word. A story of coming home to one's heart, Kathleen shows us the inside of the Italian circus, her love of and respect for animals (her friendship with Baros the giraffe is remarkably sweet), and her struggle to set aside childhood pain over broken love in order to allow love--in its imperfections--into her life. Her descriptions of Italian men and culture are priceless, as are her insights into the side of circus life outsiders never see. Parts of Kathleen's story are laugh-out-loud funny (her description of her multi-faceted "courage" before entering the shark tank for the first time, her description of her changing appreciation of her "ample bosom" among others), parts are incredibly poignant--all worth the read. From landscapes to Italian cooking, Love in the Elephant Tent also delighted my senses and evoked my imagination. Kathleen Cremonesi is a brilliant writer and Love in the Elephant Tent is pure delight. The development and ultimately maturation for her love with her soulmate Stefano is an inspiration. I highly recommend this book!

I bought this book because Kathleen's mom is a friend and found myself reading it, with delight, in two days. Kathleen's writing style is charming and funny and her honesty in telling her story, warts and all, is admirable. She writes with wit, sympathy and a delightful style, pulling the reader along to the next event. I couldn't stop reading! Her descriptions of life in the circus sent me to the internet to see what Circo Moira Orfei looks like and that added to my sympathy for all that goes on behind the scenes. I got a kick out of her cultural observations and tales of misunderstandings, language struggles and compromises. (I've lived overseas and had some similar experiences.) Reading of her developing love with Stefano and of their ups and downs was my favorite part of the book, and the photos in the center of the book make their attraction obvious. Her honesty about her own shortcomings in relationships along with his as well made their eventual marriage all the more gratifying. I'm happy for them and happy that I had the privilege of sharing in their story.

I loved this book! Beautifully written descriptive details that soon engaged me. Was interested that

gifted author is one who followed her heart and not her head,...i.e. leaving college, confidently curious, seeking adventure and open to opportunity. Who of us could imagine riding an ostrich, an elephant or swimming with sharks. The author's words create visual images that put us there. Although this is a love story, Instant sympathy for the animals, particularly the elephants develop early and I am deeply touched that a portion of the sales will go to elephant sanctuaries. Most books do not include photographs I am delighted that this one does. I have purchased another copy as a gift. Seeing pictures of Kathleen and Stefano, then and now is important. Choices do change one's path but can still lead to a satisfying, productive life that couldn't have been imagined. I hope this book will inspire young people who are not clear about their pathway and would be wise to take a year off before college. That the author found "running away with the circus brought her home" will most likely resonate with many. I highly recommend the book.

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