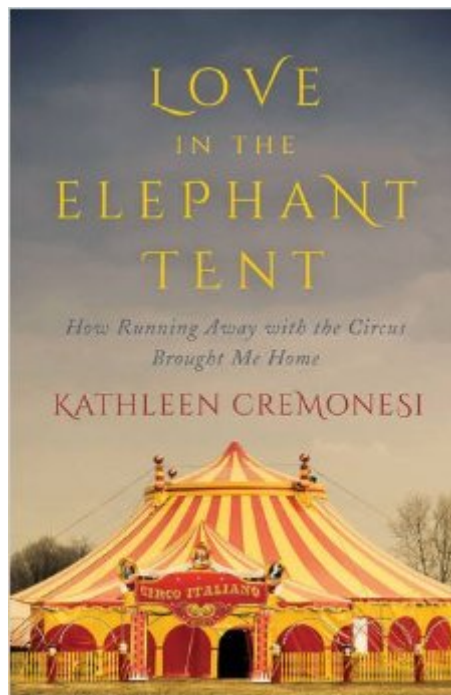


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Love In The Elephant Tent: How Running Away With The Circus Brought Me Home



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

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! It's 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 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".

What a wonderful, delightful, entertaining read. This book has made me crave homemade tomato sauce (I've cooked it several times while reading it and after). Kathleen Cremonesi brings to life the magic and mundanity of circus life in a compelling story of her travels as a young adult, looking for herself and her way forward in life. It's not at all navel-gazing and I was charmed by Kathleen's spunk and spark that got her into -- and through -- her adventures

Have you ever dreamed of running off to be in the circus? I never did, but in reading this book, I could imagine what it would be like. It is a true story of a young woman who drove across the US, following the Grateful Dead and then on to Europe where she found herself, and love, in an Italian circus. It is a very well written book that delves into the lives of circus people, and also, into the lives of the animals. It certainly made me think more about how circus animals are treated. She goes on to do whatever she can to raise awareness of animals held in captivity. It is a fascinating book that is easy to read. I highly recommend that you read it!

I absolutely loved this book! Kathleen Cremonesi's memoir of life in her early twenties is a compelling tale. Like many young people she goes traveling, wanting to find her way in life and experience adventure. Here is where her story differs from most.....she joins the circus!! From the very beginning her writing pulls you in. The description of her childhood home (a re-purposed motel) and the fracturing of her family. I appreciated the description of her mother, who loved her children enough and was strong enough to hold her family together on a shoestring. Kathleen then spends a year and a half living in her VW bus following the Grateful Dead, followed by a quick stint at a straight job where she earns just enough to hit the road again. She travels to Europe where her life will be changed forever. At the center of this tale is a love story that has immense passion and heartache. Kathleen falls hard for Stephano, the handsome elephant keeper, but their path to happiness is a winding one. She illustrates beautifully how two people in love can come together despite their differences to create a beautiful life. Her vivid descriptions of life in a traveling Italian circus are fantastic. You really get a good look behind the velvet curtain. I appreciated the balance of her youthful impressions and adult convictions towards the treatment of animals. This story is multi-layered with wonderfully crafted characters and a great sense of humor. I highly recommend it.

I enjoyed Cremonesi's willingness to say "YES" to life with such descriptive writing. Her painful first ride on Raya the elephant made my pelvic bone hurt just reading it! Better yet is the courage she's taken to describe new love with all its trials and tribulations "and with such humor! I can still see her in a funky old robe in-between circus performances in the Beala's kitchen cooking as crisp fish carcasses piled up, sweat smearing her eyeliner while her costume eyelashes hung crooked off her lids" just as her mother-in-law-to-be steps into the doorway of the cook trailer! How hilarious is that??

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