

(Download ebook) Water for Elephants: A Novel (English Edition)

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Von Sara Gruen

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Von Sara Gruen : Water for Elephants: A Novel (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Water for Elephants: A Novel (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A colourful novelVon SurlejThis book takes you to the world of the great circusses of the beginning of the last century in the US. The life of the artists, their luck and mishaps is very well shown. The story of the young vet student who loses his parents and money and then finds a new life in the circus is one of warmth and human touch. The heart of the

reader is nearly broken when the elephant Rosy suffers so much and the directors of the circus for money reasons are cruel with their personnel and with their animals. The writing is easy and it is hard to stop. Very recommendable fiction with a lot of plots. 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Sara Gruen's gorgeous new novel *Water for Elephants*, unfolds as a dual narrative, alternating between Jacob Jankowski's life as a nonagenarian, and his time spent working for a ragtag Depression-era circus as a young man. The plot is captivating (I missed two meals because I didn't want to put the book down) and Gruen's writing, as always, is transcendent. She deftly evokes a fascinating period in American history that deserves to be revisited, and her characters--human and animal alike--will stay with you long after you turn the last page. 0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Der Zirkus im Amerika der Prohibition... Von Karo adores... Als Jacobs Eltern bei einem Autounfall ums Leben kommen, steht Jacob vor dem Nichts. Er muss erfahren, dass seine Eltern hoch verschuldet waren, und er dadurch nicht wie geplant die Tierarztpraxis seines Vaters übernehmen kann. Hals über Kopf verlässt er sein Elite-College kurz vor der Abschlussprüfung und springt des Nachts auf einen Zug auf. Und schon befindet er sich im größten Abenteuer seines Lebens: Denn der Zug ist nicht irgendeiner, nein, er beherbergt die "Benzini Brothers' Most Spectacular Show on Earth", ein Wanderzirkus mit allerlei Absurditäten und exotischen Tieren. Dort verdingt er sich als Tierarzt und muss bald erkennen, dass der schöne Schein des Zirkuslebens nur oberflächlich ist: Es gibt eine strenge Hierarchie zwischen Arbeitern und Künstlern, und auch die Tiere zählen nicht viel. Als sich Jacob dann auch noch in Marlena, die wunderschöne Tierdompteuse des Zirkuses, verliebt, ist eine Tragödie vorprogrammiert: Denn August, ihr Ehemann, ist jähzornig und unberechenbar. Es dauert nicht lange, und die Situation eskaliert. *Water for Elephants* ist wirklich ein faszinierender Roman. Die Geschichte ist schillernd und bunt, ganz so, wie man sich auch einen Zirkus vorstellt. Sara Gruen schildert die Ereignisse leicht und ungekünstelt, ihre Charaktere sind zuerst interessant und haben alle etwas Geheimnisvolles an sich. Dass Sara Gruen die Geschichte aus Jacobs Sicht, und vor allem sozusagen in der Retrospektive schildert, macht die Geschichte nur noch glaubwürdiger, man fühlt sich noch näher am Geschehen. Es beginnt damit, dass man den 90-jährigen (oder vielleicht ist er auch 93, er weiß es nicht mehr so ganz genau) Jacob kennenlernt, der in einem Seniorenheim wohnt. Es kommt ein Zirkus in die Stadt, und das bewirkt, dass sich der alte Jacob an seine Zeit beim Zirkus erinnert. Der Großteil des Buches erzählt die Geschichte des jungen Jacob, aber auch dem alten Jacob sind durch einige Zeitsprünge mehrere Kapitel gewidmet, die noch einmal eine Geschichte erzählen. Diese Vorgehensweise ist spannend und außergewöhnlich, und ich fand es sehr angenehm, zwischendurch auch mal von den Geschehnissen der Haupthandlung aufatmen zu können. Ich mochte das Setting des Buches sehr, Zirkusse haben immer eine tolle Atmosphäre und gerade auch die Zeit der Prohibition in Amerika gibt dem Ganzen noch einen interessanten Kontext. Was im Zirkus der Benzini Brothers passiert, ist gleichzeitig faszinierend, wie erschreckend, was mich auch gleich zu meinem größten und vor allem einzigen Kritikpunkt bringt: Ich bin eine sehr sensible Haut, wenn es um Tiermisshandlungen geht. Die Schilderungen, wie August, Marlenas Mann, die Elefantendame Rosie, den neuen Star des Gespanns, durch Gewalt brechen will, waren mir teilweise einfach zu viel. Auch alle anderen Tiere werden nicht gerade artgerecht behandelt, und das war für mich wirklich schwer zu lesen. Ich bin da schon seit der Kindheit sehr empfindlich, und daher hat sich bei solchen Szenen für mich der Lesegenuss ein bisschen geschmälert. Nichtsdestotrotz bin ich mir vollkommen darüber im Klaren, dass das damals (und vielleicht ist es das auch heute noch) nun mal Alltag im Zirkusgeschäft war, daher kritisiere ich das nicht grundätzlich, sondern will nur warnen, dass es zuerst schwere Kost ist für solche, die genauso sensibel sind wie ich. Doch insgesamt betrachtet, ist das Buch dennoch eines der schönsten, die ich in der letzten Zeit gelesen habe, und ich finde es grandios, dass es demnächst als Film in die Kinos kommt. Ich denke, das Buch ist die perfekte Grundlage für einen wunderschönen Film, und ich finde die Besetzung mit Robert Pattinson, Reese Witherspoon und Christoph Waltz mehr als gelungen.

Kurzbeschreibung The international phenomenon - with over 10 million copies sold, made into a film with Reese Witherspoon and Robert Pattinson. 'Great story, loads of fun; hard to put down.' Stephen King The Great Depression 1929 - when Jacob Jankowski, recently orphaned and suddenly adrift, jumps onto a passing train, he enters a world of freaks, grifters, and misfits in the Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth a second-rate travelling circus struggling to survive making one-night stands in town after endless town. Jacob, a veterinary student who almost earned his degree, is put in charge of caring for the circus menagerie. He meets Marlena, the beautiful young star of the equestrian act, married to August, the charismatic but twisted animal trainer. He also meets Rosie, an elephant who seems untrainable until he discovers a way to reach her. *Water for Elephants* is illuminated by a wonderful sense of time and place. It tells a story of a love between two people that overcomes incredible odds in a world in which even love is a luxury that few can afford. deJacob Jankowski says: "I am ninety. Or ninety-three. One or the other." At the beginning of *Water for Elephants*, he is living out his days in a nursing home, hating every second of it. His life wasn't always like this, however, because Jacob ran away and joined the circus when he was twenty-one. It wasn't a romantic, carefree decision, to be sure. His parents were killed in an auto accident one week before he was to sit for his veterinary medicine exams at Cornell. He buried his parents, learned that they left him nothing because they had

mortgaged everything to pay his tuition, returned to school, went to the exams, and didn't write a single word. He walked out without completing the test and wound up on a circus train. The circus he joins, in Depression-era America, is second-rate at best. With Ringling Brothers as the standard, Benzini Brothers is far down the scale and pale by comparison. Water for Elephants is the story of Jacob's life with this circus. Sara Gruen spares no detail in chronicling the squalid, filthy, brutish circumstances in which he finds himself. The animals are mangy, underfed or fed rotten food, and abused. Jacob, once it becomes known that he has veterinary skills, is put in charge of the "menagerie" and all its ills. Uncle Al, the circus impresario, is a self-serving, venal creep who slaps people around because he can. August, the animal trainer, is a certified paranoid schizophrenic whose occasional flights into madness and brutality often have Jacob as their object. Jacob is the only person in the book who has a handle on a moral compass and as his reward he spends most of the novel beaten, broken, concussed, bleeding, swollen and hungover. He is the self-appointed Protector of the Downtrodden, and... he falls in love with Marlena, crazy August's wife. Not his best idea. The most interesting aspect of the book is all the circus lore that Gruen has so carefully researched. She has all the right vocabulary: grifters, roustabouts, workers, cooch tent, rubes, First of May, what the band plays when there's trouble, Jamaican ginger paralysis, life on a circus train, set-up and take-down, being run out of town by the "revenooers" or the cops, and losing all your hooch. There is one glorious passage about Marlena and Rosie, the bull elephant, that truly evokes the magic a circus can create. It is easy to see Marlena's and Rosie's pink sequins under the Big Top and to imagine their perfect choreography as they perform unbelievable stunts. The crowd loves it--and so will the reader. The ending is absolutely ludicrous and really quite lovely. --Valerie Ryan.com

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