

Water for Elephants author makes a Splash in the High Country

Written by

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Sarah Gruen, author of New York Times number one bestseller *Water for Elephants* stayed in Blowing Rock last night.

Today, despite a head cold, she made an appearance in West Jefferson at Skyland Books. The bestselling author is thrilled to be in North Carolina.

"It's lovely," she said.

Customers like Hanke Dehaviland were thrilled to have her. Dehaviland just finished *Water for Elephants*.

It was her number one summer read, she said.

Shop Manager Jennifer Pepe was more excited than some of the customers. The store full of Gruen fans kept her busy- too busy at times.

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There were so many people in the store that Pepe was having difficulty getting her own copy signed.

The book takes place both in a present day rest home and a 1930s circus. Copies of the bestseller, as well as copies of her other books, will be for sale.

Over a million copies of *Water for Elephants* have been sold worldwide.

Gruen's next High Country stop is Boone where she will be the guest speaker at tonight's annual Carol Grotnes Belk Library Advisory Board fundraising dinner. She plans to talk about the writing and research that went into *Water for Elephants*, as well as her forthcoming novel, *Ape House*, scheduled for release next fall.