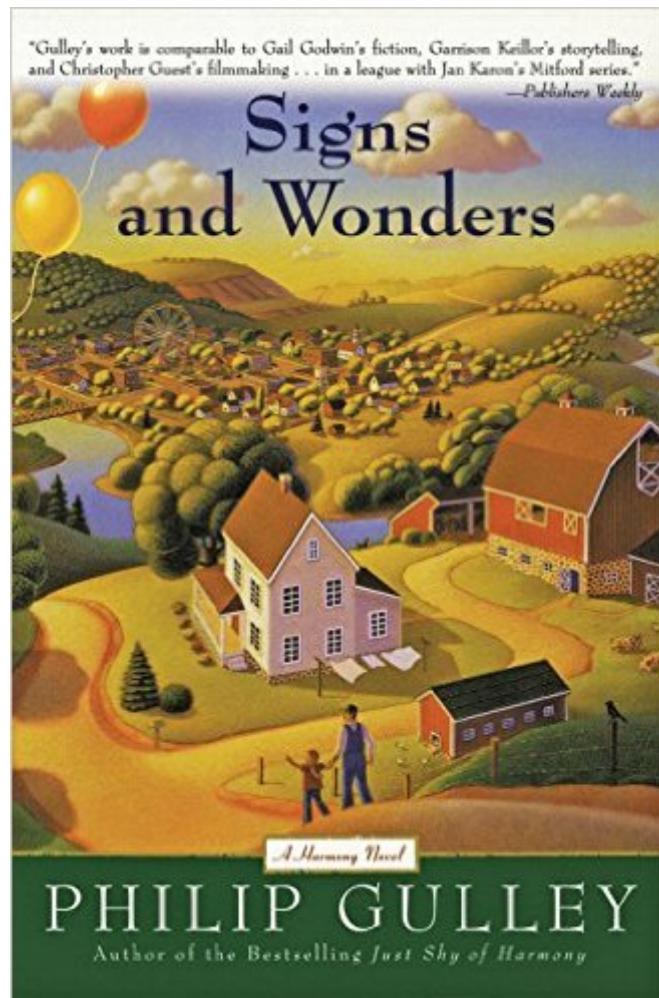


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Signs And Wonders: A Harmony Novel



Synopsis

A Year of Laughter and Grace in harmonyMaster storyteller Philip Gulley returns to the winsome ways of Harmony, Indiana, in the third installment of the beloved Harmony series.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I really enjoyed Signs and Wonders. I discovered Philip Gulley about a year ago, and have been hooked ever since. His Harmony series is a wonderful collection of small town ancedotes and home spun tales. The characters are true to life: you'll find a Dale Hinshaw or Sam Gardner in every town across America. His true to life stories are filled with sentiment for the easier days, and a love of God. The only thing that really turned me off this book was Dale Hinshaw. In the previous Harmony novels, he was a likable dolt. Now, to me anyway, he seemed like a bigot. He was preaching and yelling and just not accepting anyone opinions but his own. It was annoying and by the end of the novel he really started to grate on my nerves. In Home To Harmony and Just Shy of Harmony, he was a person who always seemed to learn a lesson by the end of the novel, finally coming to understand something regarding religion and life. In Signs and Wonders, he seemed ignorant and rude and generally annoying. Other than that it was wonderful to meet up with the characters again. I really want to see Deena meet a guy, almost as bad as the Friendly Women's Circle, and seeing Harvey accept his son's lifestyle and love him for it was nice. Gulley didn't try to press the issue of homosexuality, never saying whether it was wrong or right, but he did stress that love was important, and that was what I enjoyed. He really had a bigger lesson in this novel. There were

plenty of funny moments in the novel too: the pumpkin toss and the Furnace Committee and other moments. Overall, another great book by Gulley. I look forward to hearing more stories from the simple, welcoming town of Harmony, Indiana.

he is witty and funny, very light-hearted reading as long as you don't mind "spiritual fiction" that is very humanistic in its agenda. While enjoying the writing itself, I had to stop reading because it became frustrating at just how slanted the books are against other denominations other than quaker....especially Baptist...they seem to be the hardest hit denomination, and made to sound "nuts". So if you're a Christian looking for Christian fiction to enjoy, this is NOT the book for you.

The first two books in this series are wonderful. Although Dale and other pious members grate on you as they take advantage of and press Sam into following tradition rather than the leading of the Lord, you are hoping they will be refined as the series continues. Not so. It is a pastor's job to humbly lead and to, with grace, reprove those who are wrong. Sam does not fulfill this role as pastor. He is a weak leader who will not confront people, and depends entirely too much on Miriam Hodge to be his guts and stand up for right. Though he is annoyed with the behaviors of those in leadership, he does nothing to challenge them or help them grow. As hard as it is to hear that you are wrong, God can work even in the hardest and most stubborn of hearts, if bathed in prayer. The fact that Sam is afraid of losing his position if he rocks the boat bothers me. One should do right and let God sort out the results. Dale is given entirely too much grace, and has no concept of how to minister to others. No one likes him, he is not a truly spiritual person, and yet he is allowed to remain in a leadership position. Just too much for me. While I thoroughly enjoy the way Gulley interweaves touching and spiritual lessons amidst the silly and outrageous, they are too few and far between in this book to be redeeming. I will not be continuing this series.

This had to be my favorite "Harmony" book by Phillip Gulley! I laughed out loud in several places. This is a book of FICTION and it pokes fun at various aspects of a typical congregation, from the well-meaning but misguided people who judge others more harshly than themselves to those who truly do have Jesus in their hearts, but are overpowered by the strong voices of other church members. Poor Deena Morrison is still single, and everyone is trying to marry her off! Dale Hinshaw now has his "scripture balloons" sailing off to convert the heathens in Chicago, and Sam's wife wants the vacation she's never had. Oh, and then there's the replacement of the "memorial oven" in the kitchen where the annual Chicken Noodle Dinner is made! I hope Phillip Gulley continues to

write about Harmony and it's inhabitants!

I have loved all of the previous Gulley books, but this one was not as good as the others, due mostly to the preaching on so-called "bad theology" by Phillip Gulley. He seems to be determined to "put down" fundamentalist Christians, but in a sort of cutesy, condescending manner, which is grating. He used a translation of a very well known scripture on the last page of the book (that I have been unable to find in any of the several translations of the Bible to which I have access) which waters down the message considerably. I am sensing a smugness in the writing which was not so evident in the last books, which is unfortunate, because what has made the other books so wonderful was the honesty and openness and non-judgementalism towards Christians.

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