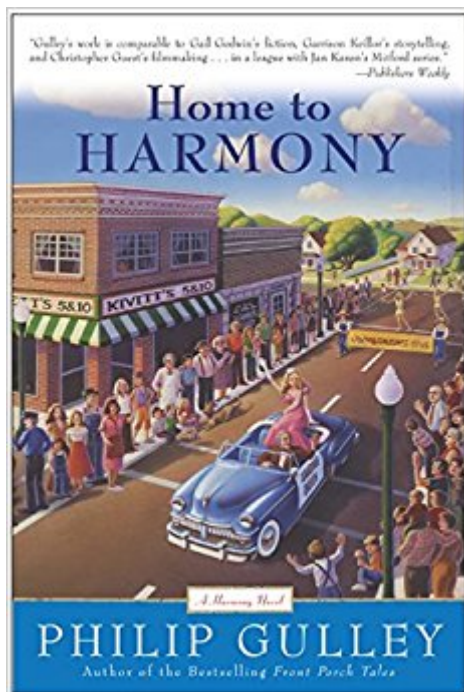


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Home To Harmony



Synopsis

Welcome to Harmony ...In this acclaimed inaugural volume in the Harmony series, master American storyteller Philip Gulley draws us into the charming world of minister Sam Gardner in his first year back in his hometown, capturing the essence of small-town life with humor and wisdom.

Book Information

Paperback: 220 pages

Publisher: HarperOne; Reprint edition (March 16, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060727667

ISBN-13: 978-0060727666

Product Dimensions: 5.3 x 0.5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 11.7 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 224 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #124,124 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Christian Denominations & Sects > Protestantism > Quaker #3899 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Contemporary #4273 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Literature & Fiction

Customer Reviews

Occasionally, a simple book feels like home, and its characters become cherished friends. These vignettes will doubtless become favorites, not only for the quarter of a million people who enjoyed Gulley's *Front Porch Tales*, but also for new readers who will respond to the Garrison Keillor-style humor and pathos of fictional Harmony, Ind. The town's characters include the wise Quaker pastor who narrates the book; a childless couple who spend their life savings (and then some) to wrest their niece from the grip of her alcoholic parents; and the narrow-minded church elder who "knew just enough Scripture to be annoying, but not enough to be transformed." This book is pure joy.

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Gulley's funny *Front Porch Tales* (1997) was much admired, selling a quarter of a million copies. Sometimes, the ironies of *Home to Harmony* rise to guffaws, but more often gentle and nostalgic would be better words to describe the anecdotal sermons of Gulley's alter ego, Quaker minister Sam Gardner of Harmony, Indiana. Typical is "The Aluminum Years," in which self-effacing Sam mulls over what aluminum item to give his wife for their tenth anniversary; he settles on diet soda--

attached to a diamond ring. As funny but more cautionary is his tale of the World's Shortest Evangelist, a former pro wrestler who comes dressed in fatigues to preach of spiritual warfare. Gulley is one of a kind. John MortCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This was such a pleasant, interesting, charming and funny book. It brought back memories of growing up in mid-America in the 50's. It reminded me of the books by James Herriott. They both have the knack of taking an incident or a person that might have driven them mad and be able in retrospect to turn it into something funny. I just loved this book.

Love, love, love Philip Gulley's books! Always brings on the belly laughs and brightens my day. We've all had a Dale Hinshaw or Fern in our own churches at one time or another so it's easy to relate to these stories. I find myself shaking my head in the spirit of " yes, oh my gosh, yes" with each predicament.

Home to Harmony is a pleasant little read, but characters are shallowly developed and the plot line is thin and at times tedious. The book is a nice way to pass time in a doctor's waiting room but nothing more. If you're looking for something like this but with more substance, read Jan Karon's Mitford series or Ann B. Ross' Miss Julia books.

A light hearted read that is perfect for the beach or a long plane trip. The characters are well developed and I found myself actually laughing out loud in some parts. I was sorry when it ended. It felt like a great vacation coming to an end.

What an endearing and humorous novel! A well written story featuring imperfect, quirky, but lovable characters dealing with the ups and downs of modern, small-town life. Told from the point of view of a Quaker pastor, the book is engaging and unputdownable -- all without the use of the foul language and explicit scenes used by so many authors to bait and hook readers interest more and more often (like all the time) lately. If you love beautiful and sentimental stories that feature faith, family, and friends, make you laugh and cry at the same time, and make you feel inspired at the end instead of feeling as if you've just been dragged through a sewer, please read this book. It is a gem! I can't wait to read the next in the series.

would be as great as the Jan Karon's Mitford series which I started/purchased reading in September (along with listening/purchased all in Audible), and had finished the series for a second time, all the reviews gave me hope that it would be another winner, but I couldn't get through the first book "Home to Harmony". It had much of the same premise as the Father Tim tales, but the story and writing is just not there in this book.

Home to Harmony is the perfect book if you're looking for some good, wholesome, clean entertainment, humor and depth. Similar to Mitford in it's southern writing feel, and the small town, where everybody knows everyone, like Mitford it is also a feel good book. However, this is not a Mitford knock-off, it has a completely different writing style that stands on it's own. To me it seemed like a blend of At Home in Mitford and Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten. Each chapter can be read as it's own short story, but they build upon one another, completing a picture of life in Harmony. Told in the first person by a Quaker pastor, Home to Harmony is a delightful, charming read about small town life. There are many laugh out loud moments, solid Christian roots, and real perspective on how we should all approach life. Harmony is a town that shouldn't be passed over, but savored with an extended stay~

Homey and heartwarming writing - very refreshing in these coarse-edged times. However, I don't agree with Publisher's Weekly comparison that it is "in a league with Jan Karon's 'Mitford' series". Her novels follow a story line which progresses forward and develops a plot, whereas Mr. Gulley's writing is more like a series of essays on life in a small town. He jumps around in time throughout the book; past to present and back. Both authors' character descriptions are similar, agreed. I'm not familiar with the Quakers, but learned some interesting things about their faith.

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