



The Widow's Mite

Ferrol Sams

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In Ferrol Sam's Georgia, there are Southern eccentrics and Southern tragedies, scatterbrained spinsters and coldhearted husbands. In the title story, the young widow Higbee teaches the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Faceville a hilarious lesson about tithing. Young Mamie Kate learns about "Fulfillment" when she sits on Miss Addie's front porch and pretends not to listen to the adult conversation. In "Porphyria's Lover," a scheming bisexual's double life brings catastrophe and death. And the "Big Star Woman" plans to sue her friend Dr. Glass after the operation she requested to improve her sex life has an unexpectedly tragic effect on her marriage.

Through these tales of everyday life and death in the South, Ferrol Sams, one of America's most beloved storytellers, illuminates the human mind and the human spirit.

The Widow's Mite Details

Date : Published March 1st 1989 by Penguin Books (first published 1987)

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Author : Ferrol Sams

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From Reader Review *The Widow's Mite* for online ebook

Richard West says

For the most part, this is a collection of very memorable, and pleasantly familiar, Southern characters. However, the closing story "Pyrophoria's Lover" depicts an unfamiliar, almost alien, character that I immediately wanted to forget. Over twenty years have passed since I read the story, but the memories persist. Unfortunately, I still vividly remember the behavior of this true sociopath.

I have read all of Ferrol Sams fiction, and the lead character in "Pyphoria's Lover" simply does not fit. Was Dr. Sams trying to shock readers? If that was his goal he definitely succeeded.

Elsie says

Not as good as the other Sams books I have read.

David Ward says

The Widow's Mite by Ferrol Sams (Penguin Books 1989) (Fiction - Southern) is a collection of eight short stories by one of my favorite Southern authors. My rating: 7/10, finished 1993.

Katherine says

Not as good as some of his short stories, but the one about the Southern widow and her friends is a jewel.

Chris Antenen says

This was a re-read looking for a short story for discussion. Southern short story writers write so similarly, half true depictions, half making fun of the characters, and half reality. Yup. Southern short stories are 150% fun and just a little bit weird. Always a twist.

Suzanne says

Nice to read short stories for a change. The book is divided into sections - Air, Earth, and Fire. The stories are categorized by each section. The Southern aspects are somewhat dated, yet remain relatable.

Dick says

A short book of short stories - by one of my favorite authors.

Jessie says

This is a collection of short stories about life in the South, specifically Georgia. Each tale is interesting in its own way, and most have some humor to them. I enjoyed this collection.

Gill says

Variable in subjects for each of the eight stories nominally divided into three sections, air earth and fire. Also I enjoyed some immensely, disliked one enormously and found some 'take-it-or-leave-it'. I do prefer his novels, where there is more space and time for character development, but some of these 'vignettes' were very acute, others humorous, and some more like caricatures. A mixed bag.

Johnnelle Walker says

The "southern" talk was a little too much for me. The stories were more what I would call corny instead of the quaint I think some would label them.

Blair says

I was reluctant to read this book because I feel like I don't like "Southern fiction"--but when it's done right, I love it! I laughed out loud at nearly each one of these stories. I believe I enjoyed the book more because of my familiarity with the 20th century South. I enjoyed reading the stories of those who struggled to let go of their prejudices as well as those who clung desperately to them. I recognized the church ladies and the outcast ministers. This book is highly comic but also deeply touching. I recommend it.

TheRealMelbelle says

These are very well done but contain a story that will be too shocking and offensive for many people. Ask me.

Katy Wood says

There were some gems in this collection.

Anna says

I have fallen in love with Ferrol Sams' writing and I've only read two books. He understands Southern people, y'all. His stories are hysterically funny, incredibly realistic, and as you read you find that you know a hundred people like these characters. SO GOOD. Although, a few of these stories were, as life will be, very sad in the endings.

Teo smite says

this one was a roller coaster for me. A good mix of stories and some great characters. Not all hits. I would certainly recommend Run with the Horsemen first though.
