



# Epiphany: Stories

*Ferrol Sams*

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## Epiphany: Stories Ferrol Sams

From the bestselling author of eight novels, including *Run with the Horsemen*.

Each of these novella-length tales focuses on an epiphany--a revelation born of an unlikely interchange. A quixotic old doctor who loves poetry and battles bureaucracy talks with his new patient, an ex-con whose story of racism and injustice changes them both. The mettle of a man's 40-year marriage is examined when he and his wife, on an expedition to gather wild plants, survive a series of odd accidents and strange encounters in the remote Georgia mountains. A group of smart-alecky high school seniors interviews the town's oldest citizen and learns a lesson or two about the not-so-good (but maybe not-so-bad) old days and the bonds that can bridge generations. In *Epiphany*, Ferrol Sams once again displays the warmth, humor, and wisdom that have delighted readers and earned him many a comparison to Mark Twain.

"In typical Sams style, the three stories . . . are written with humor and heart. He is a master storyteller."--*Macon Telegraph*

## Epiphany: Stories Details

Date : Published December 1st 1995 by Penguin Books (first published 1994)

ISBN : 9780140251821

Author : Ferrol Sams

Format : Paperback 320 pages

Genre : Fiction, Short Stories, American, Southern

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# From Reader Review Epiphany: Stories for online ebook

## Gill says

I have just finished reading the first of the three stories included in Epiphany. It seems to be the one that has given the book its title, although there may be a common thread to three stories.

Epiphany is an extremely powerful tale centred about the relationship between a doctor and one patient, although the doctor's relationship with the administrator of the clinic is also featured in the story.

I read Ferrol Sam's trilogy, Run with the horsemen, The whisper of the river and When all the world was young and enjoyed them to varying degrees. I enjoyed his short autobiographical book Christmas Gift too, but this has made the strongest impression on me of all the Sams I have read to date. He has a way of getting right inside the characters, and yet retaining the ability to surprise and involve the reader in what happens. I look forward to reading the conciser Harmony ain't easy next and finishing up with the longest of the three Relative and absolute.

I enjoyed the second story, but not as much as the two either side of it. It was the shortest, and I wonder if that had anything to do with it. Somehow the subject matter did not inspire me so much, but the third story was a real cracker, exploring the relationship between an old man and three teenagers who came to interview him about 'the old days' but returned to explore their changing perceptions of beliefs they had held to be absolute, and generalizations they were forced to challenge.

It is a book I would highly recommend, and probably my favourite Ferrol Sams to date.

I am going to pay for my pleasure in this book by reading a book I expect to be trite and trashy next, and that I got more by accident than design!

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## Richard Brand says

Three very different but very engaging stories

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## Marguerite Hedrick says

Funny!

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## Jan Haugland says

Three novelettes well written and with good humor. They probably were all about the author: #1=Dr./patient. #2=husband/wife. #3=old man and 3 high school students.

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## David Ward says

Epiphany: Stories by Ferrol Sams (Penguin Books 1994)(Fiction). Three novella length tales from the master

storyteller of Middle Georgia. They are all gentle, lyrical, and conversational in tone. My rating: 7.5/10, finished 1995.

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### **Ann Curry says**

As with his earlier works, Dr. Ferrol Sams is brilliant when it comes to painting a picture with words. I loved his semi-autobiographical trilogy and this was not a disappointment. I gave it to my mother (years ago) and her comment was "I laughed so hard I about peed my pants." Say no more.

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### **Mark Valentine says**

Sams has the narrative touch of a watercolor brushstroke, touching the parched paper of my imagination with his gentle grace and subtle elegance. Reading these stories reminded me of other such writers: Jon Hassler, E. B. White, Sarah Orne Jewett, and Willa Cather. Realistic characters in situations that require humor, grace and perseverance. Epiphany was my favorite story in this collection.

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### **Sterlingcindysu says**

Three short stories written in Southern dialect that focuses on an epiphany, a revelation born of an unlikely interchange. The author's style has been compared to Mark Twain. I really didn't see the epiphany in any of the stories.

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### **Richard Barnes says**

Excellent use of prose by Dr. Sams. He writes with a sense of humor I wish I could convey in my own writing. Of the three stories I enjoyed the first two the best:

- A physician's friendship with an illiterate ex-con.
- A seemingly biographical account of a road trip with his wife; hilarious.

Definitely worth reading.

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### **Rebecca Campbell says**

Three great short stories and all make you think.

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### **Christe says**

Read the first two (of three) novellas.

Read again, all three 10/7/2015. (Paul S. recommendation.)

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### **Shirley Lawton says**

Ferrol Sams is one of my favorite authors. I love the trilogy of books he wrote which are pretty much autobiographical, in my opinion.

The first of the three stories in this collection I found to drag on and on. The second story I loved. Dr. Sams at his best. The third story was very philosophical and had some great lines and simple, yet profound, insights. Well worth reading for the middle story alone.

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### **Mark says**

Great book by southern author. This seems like an autobiography I think it is based on the authors life. It is excellent hard to put down type book.

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### **Richard West says**

In "Epiphany" Ferrol Sams introduces the reader to Dr. Mark Goddard. Dr. Mark is near retirement, and practices medicine in a modern practice, with an administrator who monitors every facet of patient care. How many minutes a Doctor spends with each individual patient. How many Patients each Doctor sees in a work day. The administrator dictates patient care largely based on profitability.

Dr. Mark's epiphany is that he does not want to retire. Dr. Mark wants to practice medicine for the remainder of his life. Dr. Mark wants to practice medicine the way he was trained. Dr. Mark will not accept anyone dictating patient care solely based on profitability.

Dr. Mark's epiphany also addresses his favorite pastime. Dr. Mark will recite poetry whenever and wherever it pleases him to do so. Dr. Mark comes to realize that at the most basic level he is very simply a Doctor who recites poetry, and that to be himself, he needs to do both on a regular basis.

Dr. Mark's arrives at his epiphany largely thru the treatment of a single patient.

I think most adults will identify with Dr. Mark, and will recognize similar points in their own life where for a single moment in time decisions about our individual future's were chrystal clear. As we move forward from those decisions, it is necessary to reflect back on those single moments of clarity.

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### **Tommy says**

Sams has the gentle, confident way of the man who knows what he's able to do, and that he doesn't have to put on airs to show it off.

His writing style is conversational, lyrical. Lends itself very well to being read aloud. It's almost as if you're being told these tales on the front porch by the old neighbor across the way.

Auto-biographical and semi-autobiographical. That's his writing. Introspective, yet wry. Smart, but not afraid to write a beautiful passage that results in a fart joke.

Southern in the same vein as O'Connor.

Reminds me a lot of Virginia Woolf, believe it or not.

Only with more crap humor.

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