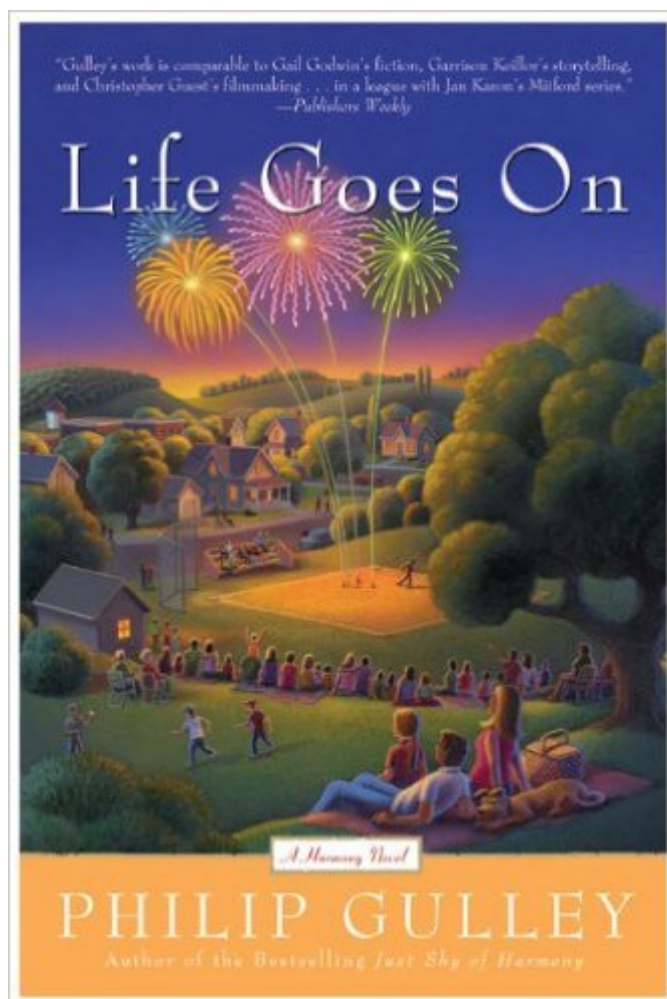


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# Life Goes On: A Harmony Novel



## Synopsis

Squarely in the crosshairs of the Church's heresy hunters, can Pastor Sam survive? It's a madcap year in Harmony, Indiana, as Sam Gardner struggles through his fourth year as pastor of the Harmony Friends Meeting. Join the thousands of readers who have fallen in love with the charming small town that hosts what BookPage calls "the biggest collection of crusty, lovable characters since James Herriot settled in Yorkshire."

## Book Information

Series: A Harmony Novel

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## Customer Reviews

Each time I read one of Philip Gulley's books, I take a deep breath before I start--certainly this one can't possibly be as funny, rich, and satisfying as the one before. I can tell you that I've never been disappointed in any of Gulley's books. While reading this latest title my long-suffering husband banished me from my comfortable prone reading position in bed and sent me downstairs because I was giggling too loudly and keeping him awake. Truly, I don't think that Mr. Gulley could write a bad book if he tried. If you have worked in a church in any capacity whatsoever, you will recognize the marvelous personalities that he's created. I'm a librarian and a voracious reader and his books are a true banquet for this reading gourmet. Sue-Ellen Jones Fort Collins, Colorado

This book is another excellent addition to the series. I loved that Gulley is making Sam more human, and fleshing out his character by showing the things he struggles with inside. The usual vignettes

about small town life and pastoring are here, and religion is dealt with so lightly that I think people of any religion would enjoy the book. Gulley has a light touch when talking about God and religious beliefs, and his beliefs are inclusive and inspiring to even non-believers in ways that Jan Karon and other churchy small town writers can't always pull off.

Philip Gulley is not only a great story teller, he is a resource for spiritual enlightenment. There is a "lesson(s)" in every chapter! Readers will see themselves in the characters because all of Gulley's "people" are human--open/closed minded, loving/hateful, confused/focused, assertive/passive; Pastor Sam realizes that he has not been honest with himself--haven't we all been there at one time or another? The fourth novel about the little imaginary town in Indiana called Harmony and its parade of characters is a wonderful read. .The book lifts up the "human condition" and helps us understand that our pains, sorrows, joys, frustrations, and loves all have value in shaping who we are and what we are becoming. Every page is spiced with Gulley's humor that warms one's heart and brings laughter and chuckles to the reader. The last two pages of the book is full of love. .God's love.

I bought this book because I felt that the story was good and I liked reading about this pastor and his church of hard to get along with parishioners. I have worked at a church before and know what goes on in the day to day world of churches. I felt that the politicizing that went on and equalling a true Christian with being a liberal thinker, and that conservatives were narrow minded and like Dale Hinshaw was a slap in the face. There are those of us who are conservative and believe in the Grace of our Lord and do not judge everyone they meet. We all sin and in the Lord's eyes our sins our equal. I would like to say I won't share this book, but then I would be considered just like the characters in the book who read the book but were narrow minded. I want everyone to read this and see how this writer has made this more a political book cutting down Conservative Christians.

This the fifth title of the much loved Harmony series is another delightful collection of small town anecdotes which transport the reader into a land of yesteryear. A town where larger than life characters (sometimes caricatures) populate the quaintest of locations and generally live what most of us would call a idilic ilife But scratch just below the surface and the dear folks of Harmony have just as many issues and hangups as the rest of us.Quaker Minister Sam has more than most sitting in his congregations every Sunday morning. Dale Henshaw is a particular case in point. HeÃ¢ÂÂÃ¢ÂÂÃ¢ÂÂ preach against anything that moves and finds fault in all. But when his world caves in

and his wife leaves him (albeit temporarily) it's Sam who steps in and despite plenty of run ins with Dale, is there to literally get him out of bed in the morning, dressed and hopefully in his right mind. The rest of the townsfolk have their own humorous moments sprinkled through out the book and it's fun after previously reading about these folks to catch up on their current situations. My only criticism is the the last portion of the book does take some fairly pointed swipes at the fundamentalist and Bible believing church that I found a little jading. These, unlike previous books, where we could collectively laugh at our quirks and foibles, this was more cutting and person. I see other readers have also highlighted this so it wasn't just sensitive me. That being said will it stop me from reading the rest of the series? I'm not sure. It did leave a unusual taste in my mouth and has given me pause. But I'm just curious enough to want to see what the rest of life has in store for the good folks of Harmony and if this book was just an isolated case. I can only hope so. Otherwise visiting Harmony is a wonderful thing to do on a rainy afternoon.

Each of Philip Gulley's works paint a picture. Deep convictions, typical small town frustrations, heart-warming tales and strong midwestern attitudes are exhibited with each chapter. Once again a great escape for folks who enjoy reading wholesome stories with moral messages. Raised in small, midwestern town, I can say I wish my town was like Harmony, even though mine wasn't close! Philip Gulley has provided us another snapshot of escapism in a truly sentimental novel.

The story of a well meaning minister's own flaws and those of his congregation. Watching him grappling with his place and authority in the church and small town was quite entertaining and heartfelt. Getting to know the characters was amusing but I, as a reader, was most satisfied and entertained when the minister looked around and found God's strength. Pleasing people soon took a back seat to honoring God. This surprised a few folks. Finding his place took a while (years) because these people were "in his head" along with his own doubt. And they and it were a noisy lot. It's always satisfying when someone "finds their legs in life".

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