



## River of Hidden Dreams

*Connie May Fowler*

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## **River of Hidden Dreams** Connie May Fowler

"HEARTBREAKING...COMPELLING...The story carries you like a slow, implacable current."

--San Francisco Chronicle

Forty-something Sadie Hunter is a loner. But more than that, she is afraid of not being alone. Ever since her mother and Native American grandmother died together when she was a child, dancing cheek-to-cheek in a saloon in the middle of a violent storm, Sadie hasn't let anyone get too close. Not even Carlos, a passionate Cuban who sees the rich soul that Sadie tries to hide from herself.

Cynical and loveless, she becomes obsessed with learning more about her unacknowledged identity, torn apart by tragic family legends she can't quite believe. And although she tries to fight it, she half suspects that with Carlos's help, she could find the truth of the past, and it could set her free....

"A fluid, fun read--a story of self-discovery told by a woman haunted by female forebears while struggling to learn love....A work of accomplished introspection."

--The Philadelphia Inquirer

## **River of Hidden Dreams Details**

Date : Published May 10th 1995 by Ballantine Books (first published 1994)

ISBN : 9780449983638

Author : Connie May Fowler

Format : Paperback 336 pages

Genre : Fiction

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## From Reader Review River of Hidden Dreams for online ebook

### Marianne says

Great book about a loner. The imagery was wonderful/beautiful and helped me to appreciate my new found love for natural Florida.

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### Deb says

Plane read rec from Emily H.

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### Robin says

Some writers have a knack of weaving a story that draws a reader in so seamlessly that it's difficult to put the book down. That is what Connie May Fowler did with *River of Hidden Dreams*. Her second novel, published in 1994, *River of Hidden Dreams* is the story of Sadie Hunter, a forty-something woman whose past haunts her, keeping her captive, even as she keeps Carlos, her passionate Cuban lover, at arm's length.

As a child, Sadie lived on the boat that her Mulatto grandfather built with her mother and Cherokee grandmother. Years after her women die, dancing, during a storm, Sadie is back living on the boat, giving tourists rides while spinning stories of her history. Even as she is afraid to let anyone close, fearing another unbearable loss, Carlos, a man who has experienced his own heartache, loves her, helping her to finally face her demons in order to heal.

Weaving Sadie's voice with those of her mother and grandparents into a beauty story, *River of Hidden Dreams* is a story that will haunt the reader well after the book is finished.

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### Denise says

A wonderful story, set in Florida.

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### Gina says

Loved the Florida setting! Crazy, emotional, superstitious, dysfunctional, foul mouthed characters - what's not to love? "Fate has a funny way of messing with both the finest and vilest of plans."

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### Elizabeth Neily says

Amazing imagery and quirky characters. this book sold me on Fowler's work.

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### **Marie says**

After reading just one Fowler novel, I was smitten by her story-weaving. She creates intense and endearing characters that stay with you after you close the book.

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### **Barbara Nutting says**

The ghost of Marjory Stoneman Douglas was constantly drifting in and out of the pages of this Florida novel. So beautifully written you see every sunset and feel every mosquito bite!! A poignant look at the plight of the American Indians from the viewpoint of a very angry woman. I give the author a big plus for using sea gull rather than seagull (there is no such bird) but she is a Floridian who knows better. As usual, there is nothing happy or uplifting in Fowler's writing but her stories are a compelling read. I am confused by her bio that says she is of a multi-cultural background - she is very fair and blonde and yet her characters tend to be black/mulatto/Indian etc. would love to know more about her. PS - when I finished the book I didn't read the story at the end - just thought it was a teaser for her next book. Glad I went back to it as it answered all my questions about her heritage.

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### **Daria says**

If this author wrote on a matchbook, I'd  
Read it!

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### **Kristal says**

Sadie Hunter lives a life of solitude. Both her women, mother and grandmother, were killed when she was only 9 years old. She now lives in Key West, Florida, taking people out on excursions in her fishing boat that also serves as her home. The excursions take her customers into the swamps and Sadie retells the stories that she heard while growing up. But after each trip, she deposits her cargo safely back to land, never getting close to anyone. Even her boyfriend, Carlos, is always kept at a safe distance. Yet she begins to wonder after telling all the folktales, if any of what her mother and grandmother have told her is true. Carlos is determined to help Sadie discover herself and together, the two of them set off on a voyage from Key West all the way around the tip of Florida up to St Augustine.

I absolutely loved this book! Ms Fowlers has created some truly memorable characters in not only Sadie but her kinfolk as well. This is a remarkable coming of age story as well as a uplifting love story.

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### **Rachel Pollock says**

The author takes a lot of bold, risky chances in the writing of this book, and even though i wouldn't say it was 100% successful, i finished it with admiration for her bravery in its writing.

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### **Gerry says**

Slow-starting, so much so that I almost gave up on it. But well-worth persisting -- Fowler has written a story out of her own family history, about several generations of women torn from their roots, and the journey back to acknowledge the past.

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### **Heather says**

This book knocked my socks off. I gave it to everyone I knew (at the time).

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### **Gale says**

This is a book you'll want to read every few years. On my second read, I saw so much more of myself in each character. If you read for a deeper understanding of your own roots and heritage, if you love Florida's once pristine world, if you want to travel there again, curl up with this beautiful novel.

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### **Vicki says**

This is a book that hit so close to home that I cried. First book I have done that with. Loved it!

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