



I wish I'd Written: Sam Gayton

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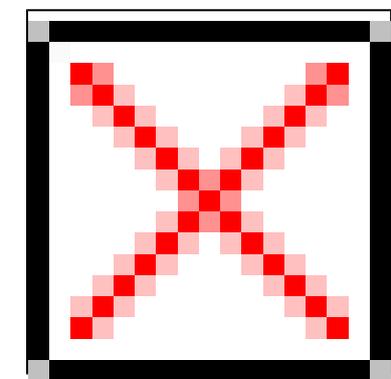
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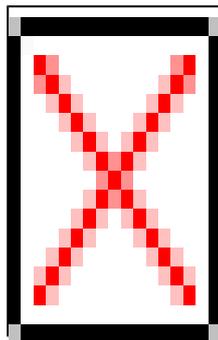
Sam Gayton is exhilarated by the brilliance of Terry Jones.



A few years ago, I picked up an old Terry Jones story at a boot fair. I loved his fairy tales when I was a kid, and this one looked fun too: **The Saga of Erik the Viking**.

I started to read it on my way back home. I never made it through my door. I sat on the front step outside my flats and devoured chapter after chapter. When it was done, I put it down feeling exhilarated but also a little bit jealous ? the way I feel when I read any author who has just written something brilliant.

It?s not just the breath-taking number of adventures ? across seas, through snowstorms, and over the edge of the world.



It's Erik?s many battles ? against the terrifying Dogfighters, against his own men, and even against Death Himself. It?s the fact that Terry Jones manages to say important things about leadership, and colonialism, whilst telling a rollicking good adventure story. And he does it all whilst being very funny.

A book that?s both serious and funny, timeless and modern, trivial and profound? How I wish I'd written Terry Jones?s **The Saga of Erik the Viking!**

[The Saga of Erik the Viking](#) [3] (978-0140322613) by Terry Jones, illustrated by Michael Foreman is published by Puffin, £6.99

Sam Gayton?s latest book [Hercufleas](#) [4] (978-1849396363) is published by Andersen Press, £6.99.

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