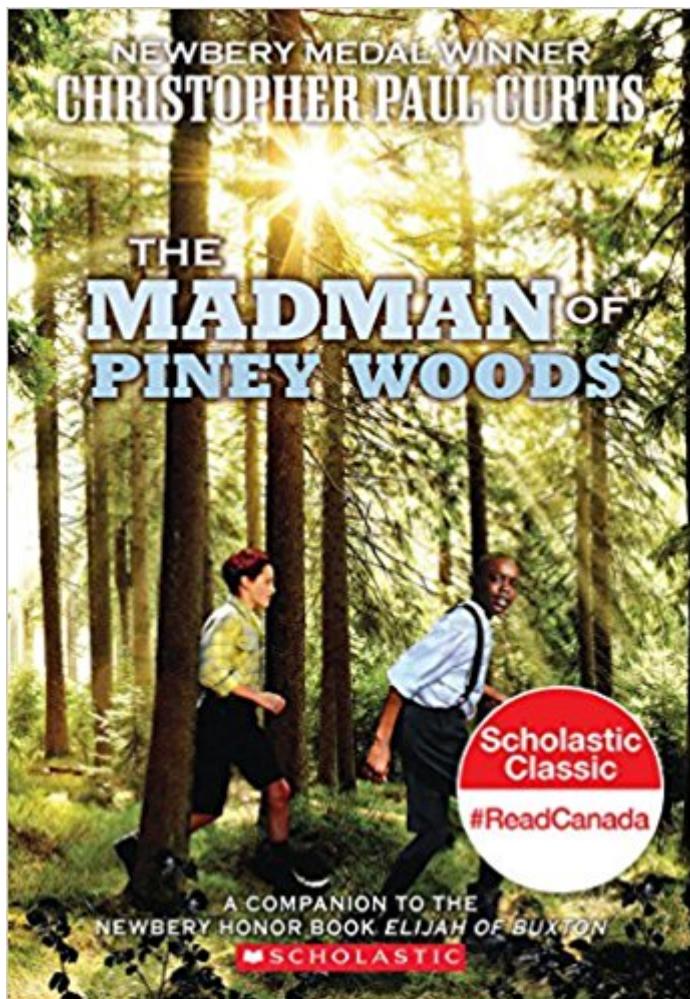


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The Madman Of Piney Woods



Synopsis

Benji and Red couldn't be more different. They aren't friends. They don't even live in the same town. But their fates are entwined. A chance meeting leads the boys to discover that they have more in common than meets the eye. Both of them have encountered a strange presence in the forest, watching them, tracking them. Could the Madman of Piney Woods be real? In a tale brimming with intrigue and adventure, Christopher Paul Curtis returns to the vibrant world he brought to life in Elijah of Buxton. Here is another novel that will break your heart -- and fill it with joy and laughter, too.

Book Information

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Inc.; Reprint edition (January 26, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0545156653

ISBN-13: 978-0545156653

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 27 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #289,624 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada #1470 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories #2096 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Gr 4-6 •This companion novel to Elijah of Buxton (Scholastic, 2007), set 40 years after its conclusion, is a powerful testimony to the joys of friendship and the cost of unresolved hatred. The lingering effects of prejudice and unbelievable hardship weigh heavily in the lives of Benji, the descendant of American slaves, and Red, the grandson of an Irish immigrant to Canada. A chance meeting at a forensics competition brings these two different boys together; their initial conversation, in which they talk about their physical differences, is awkwardly charming and sincere. Although their communities are different, they have both grown up with the legend of a crazed former slave, a hermit called "The Madman of Piney Woods." Their friendship is complicated by the

fact that Red's grandmother is extremely racist and fearful. The strong father-son relationship between Red and his father is tenderly and honestly created. Relationships between family and friends are realistically complicated, changing, and complex. The horror of Ireland's potato famine, the "coffin ships" that carried Grandmother O'Toole to Canada, and the prejudice faced by Irish-Canadians are brutally brought to life, as is the constant tension felt by the few remaining original settlers of Buxton. Although occasionally somber and heartbreaking, there is great humor, hope, and adventure from Benji and Red. The conclusion may be less powerful if readers are not familiar with Elijah, but it is stunning nonetheless. An author's note on the inspiration and creation of the story is included. -- Jennifer Schultz, Fauquier County Public Library, Warrenton, VA
--This text refers to the Audio CD edition.

"Curtis deftly makes what might have been simply heart-rending hopeful and redeeming instead... a pleasure to read." -- New York Times Book Review* "A delight, featuring the author's obvious love for his characters, his skillful use of sentiment, and his often hyperbolic humor... quintessential Curtis." -- Booklist, starred review* "A journey of revelation and insight... profoundly moving yet also at times very funny." -- Horn Book Magazine, starred review* "Beautiful storytelling as only Curtis can do it." -- Kirkus Reviews, starred review* "Curtis masterfully interweaves goofy family vignettes, memorable characters, and thought-provoking themes into a page-turner with appeal to multiple audiences and tastes." -- Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books, starred review "Poignant and powerful." -- Publishers Weekly

Mr. Curtis is a magician with words. His books a delicacy - savor slowly- before digesting the wisdom. Although it is not a sequel to Elijah- it should be shared immediately afterward. Warning to grade 4-6 teachers -as with Elijah there are powerfully graphic images so please read the novel before sharing. Elijah of Buxton, forever my favorite, but boys who are mature enough to follow two story lines will learn deep lessons.

I loved this companion book to Elijah of Buxton. A tender telling of a good story, and a well-done take on black-white friendship. And a pretty good plot...so it's enjoyable on several levels. And there's nothing quite like this one.

B liked the stories about the civil war. So much history woven nicely into the main stories. Mom liked how a love of nature, family, learning and humor shined through the narrative from the beginning.

Some tough history and family events but everything intertwined nicely with the movement of the story. Beautiful!

This was a gift.

Fantastic! Old school friend and huge fan of Christopher Paul Curtis! This book did not disappoint! It was one of my reads for Black History Month.

I love his books.

Anything by Christopher Paul Curtis is phenomenal!

Excellent and I'm now reading Bucking the Sarge by Curtis

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