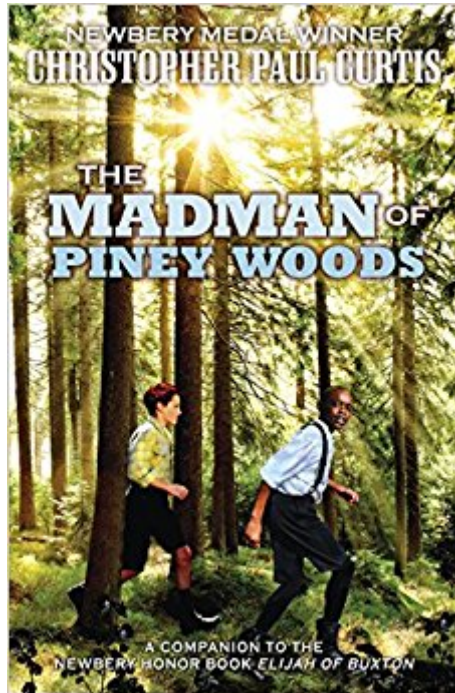




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# The Madman Of Piney Woods



## Synopsis

Bestselling Newbery Medalist Christopher Paul Curtis delivers a powerful companion to his multiple award-winning ELIJAH OF BUXTON. 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 expand it, too.

## Book Information

Hardcover: 384 pages

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Product Dimensions: 1 x 5 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

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

Best Sellers Rank: #745,956 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Canada](#) #3030 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories](#) #8314 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship](#)

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

Awards for ELIJAH OF BUXTON  
Newbery Honor Book  
Winner of the Coretta Scott King Award  
Winner of the Scott O'Dell Award for Historical Fiction  
Finalist, Governor General's Literary Award  
An American Library Association Notable Book  
A Canadian Library Association Book of the Year  
Praise for ELIJAH OF BUXTON\* "Rich, masterful storytelling. . . . This is Curtis's best novel yet, and no doubt many readers, young and old, will finish and say, 'This is one of the best books I have ever read.'" --KIRKUS, starred review\* "A fine, original novel from a gifted storyteller. . . . Readers drawn to the book by humor will find themselves, at times, on the edge of their seats in suspense and, at others, moved to tears." --BOOKLIST, starred review\* "Curtis's talent for dealing with painful periods of history with grace and sensitivity is as strong as ever." --SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL, starred review\* "Elijah . . . is an irresistible character. . . . This arresting, surprising novel of reluctant heroism is about nothing less than nobility." --HORN BOOK, starred review\* "It is, in short, quintessential Curtis, sure to please his legions of fans and to cultivate new ones." Booklist, starred review\* "Humor and tragedy are often intertwined, and readers will find themselves sobbing and chuckling, sometimes in the same scene. Though this story stands alone, it will be even more satisfying for those who have read Elijah of Buxton."- Kirkus, starred review\* "Woven throughout this profoundly moving yet also at times very funny novel are themes of family, friendship, community, compassion, and, fittingly, the power of words"- THE HORN BOOK MAGAZINE, starred review

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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