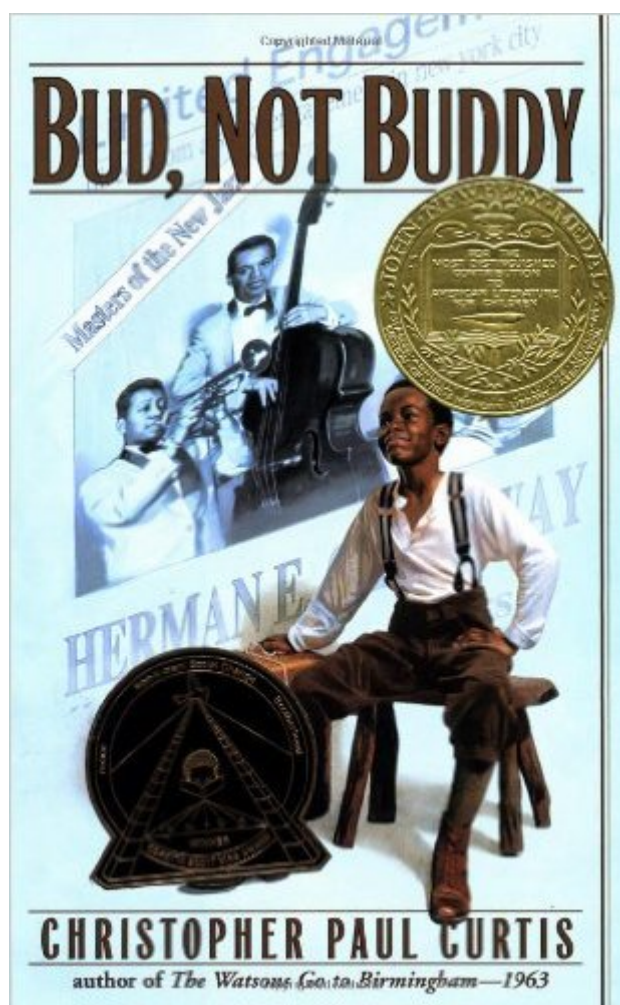


The book was found

# Bud, Not Buddy



## Synopsis

The Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award-winning classic about a boy who decides to hit the road to find his fatherâfrom Christopher Paul Curtis, author of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* 1963, a Newbery and Coretta Scott King Honoree. *It* 1936, in Flint Michigan. Times may be hard, and ten-year-old Bud may be a motherless boy on the run, but Bud got a few things going for him: 1. He has his own suitcase full of special things. 2. He's the author of *Bud Caldwell's Rules and Things for Having a Funner Life and Making a Better Liar Out of Yourself*. 3. His momma never told him who his father was, but she left a clue: flyers advertising Herman E. Calloway and his famous band, the Dusky Devastators of the Depression!!!!!! Bud got an idea that those flyers will lead him to his father. Once he decides to hit the road to find this mystery man, nothing can stop himânot hunger, not fear, not vampires, not even Herman E. Calloway himself. AN ALA BEST BOOK FOR YOUNG ADULTS AN ALA NOTABLE CHILDREN'S BOOK AN IRA CHILDREN'S BOOK AWARD WINNER NAMED TO 14 STATE AWARD LISTS

âThe book is a gem, of value to all ages, not just the young people to whom it is aimed.

âThe Christian Science Monitor

âWill keep readers engrossed from first page to last.

âPublishers Weekly, Starred

âCurtis writes with a razor-sharp intelligence that grabs the reader by the heart and never lets go. . . . This highly recommended title [is] at the top of the list of books to be read again and again.

âVoice of Youth Advocates, Starred

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 950L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 256 pages

Publisher: Delacorte Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (September 7, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0385323069

ISBN-13: 978-0385323062

Product Dimensions: 5.6 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (992 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #77,707 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Multiculturalism](#) #17 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways](#) #137 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States >](#)

1900s

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

When I read this book last fall, I knew it was a winner. Bud, not Buddy, is an unforgettable character. The tale of a young boy who doesn't let the circumstances of being black during the Depression keep him down is as pertinent today as it was then. It's message is if you have a dream & are willing to work to make it happen, you can rise above even the most humble beginnings and it's told with humor and hope.

You will want to adopt Bud (Not Buddy) after the first page! This book speaks to all ages, even if you're 44, like me. Pay close attention to Bud's "Rules and Things"; sound advice from such a young man! And if you ever get the opportunity to hear Christopher Paul Curtis speak in person, don't pass up the chance! I didn't and I am so fortunate to have done so. After you've read "Bud", be sure to get "The Watsons Go To Birmingham-1963". You won't be disappointed -you'll be enchanted.

After finishing my 2nd Christopher Paul Curtis novel, I am hooked. It is ok that I am a 50-something mom of an 11 year old girl, we both loved The Watsons Go to Birmingham and were very happy to find this Newbery winner even more entertaining, profound, historically educational and a downright pleasure to read. This writer understands not just children but clever, one-step-ahead of the grownups-children, and he makes them lovable, polite in spite of circumstances that could lead to not so appealing behavior, brave, sensitive and SMART. This is a MUST read for all ages.

Christopher Paul Curtis' new book "But, not Buddy" magically accomplishes so much in a book that as a teacher, your head will spin. First and foremost, Curtis picks up the ball of yarn so magically spun in his first classic, "Watson Go to Birmingham" and manages, impossibly so, to create an even more endearing, serious novel. I have LONGED for a book with African-American characters where the color of their skin wasn't the reason for the plot, but a part of the plot. Curtis tackles obvious racism, and a range of other issues like homelessness, poverty, familial issues, and the Great Depression that you're head will be spinning with the connections you can draw in this book. Bud-not-Buddy is such a true child that you are convinced he is real, as well as the wonderful cast

of characters Curtis created. To learn about Curtis' own life and how he became an author is to appreciate his gifts of literature even more. DO NOT pass up this book, teachers, and use it for years to come!

This is the feel-good, hurray for the underdog, farfetched kind of story we all need now and then. Bud, not Buddy is a tough little guy with a heart of gold, enthusiasm and stamina for any adventure life throws his way. There is uncertainty as he gets into one dilemma after another but always a kind person to help him through. Nearly every page will bring a smile to your face and the last few may bring some joyful tears. The perfect, happy ending is such a delight and reminds me of the more innocent children's chapter books I was reading 30 years ago. I do love the tough, real-life books available now and tend to read those as a rule, but a book like this, as well written as it is, is a welcome change once in awhile.

Christopher Curtis's first book "The Watsons go to Birmingham-1963" won a Newberry Award. This book is even better. The story is about a young man growing up in Flint, MI. during the Depression. Bud is an orphan during some very tough times. Kids will be entertained by his rules for a happy life. And everyone will smile as he describes Bud drinking a bottle of soda. It is both touching and humorous. I would highly recommend this book to students.

My first thought on reading this book was that it is NOT as wonderful as Holes, Maniac Magee, The Giver, or many of the previous Newbery winners. It doesn't have the complexity of plot or the delightful quality of the magic that can exist in the written word like the above titles do. I also thought that the truth about the identity of Bud's background was much too transparent. But, after re-reading it, and talking to young people about this book, I changed my mind. Bud is a storybook character that lives and breathes for the children who read about him. He has the same fears, foibles, and hopes that most young people possess. His 'Rules For A Better Life..' bring smiles to the children who read them. Kids root for Bud with as much vigor and enthusiasm as they did for Stanley in Holes, Jeffrey in Maniac Magee, and Jonas in The Giver. Children are comforted by the fact that there is a happy ending and that they can see exactly where it is heading. So I readjusted my 48 year old way of viewing literature, and tried to look at this book through the eyes of a child. From that fresh viewpoint, this book delivers Newbery-quality entertainment.

BUD, NOT BUDDY is a story about a ten-year-old African-American boy living in Michigan during

the time of the Great Depression. Bud's mother passed away when he was six and over the past several years he has lived from orphanage to foster home to orphanage to foster home. After being locked in an old shed on the land of his current foster family, Bud decides that it's time he ran away and went on the lam to look for his father. Bud has never met his father but has a pretty good idea who it might be, a famous bass player and band leader by the name of Herman E. Calloway. Bud sets out on a journey to meet Herman E. Calloway and along the way learns a great deal about the country that he never knew before. BUD, NOT BUDDY is a great book for older elementary and middle school students to read. It touches upon all sorts of issues that are both historical (the Great Depression, Hoovervilles, hobos) and current (racism, KKK). The book is told from Bud's point of view, but is never condescending. Christopher Paul Curtis captures the feel and imagination of a child storyteller perfectly. A charming book to read, full of historical insight and youthful imagination.

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