# The Mighty Miss Malone

By Christopher Paul Curtis

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In the Newbery Medal and Coretta Scott King Award-winning *Bud*, *Not Buddy*, Bud met a girl named Deza Malone in a Hooverville. This is her story.

"We are a family on a journey to a place called wonderful" is the motto of Deza Malone's family. Deza is the smartest girl in her class in Gary, Indiana, singled out by teachers for a special path in life. But the Great Depression has hit Gary hard, and there are no jobs for black men. When her beloved father leaves to find work, Deza, Mother, and her older brother Jimmie go in search of him, and end up in a Hooverville outside Flint, Michigan. Jimmie's beautiful voice inspires him to leave the camp to be a performer, while Deza and Mother find a new home, and cling to the hope that they will find Father. The twists and turns of their story reveal the devastation of the Depression and prove that Deza truly is the Mighty Miss Malone.

"Witty and moving." —The Wall Street Journal

"The fluidity of the writing, the strong sense of place and time combined with well-drawn characters will captivate and delight. . . . a fitting literary companion to Bud Caldwell." —*Kirkus Reviews, Starred* 

"Curtis threads important bits of African-American history throughout the narrative. . . . Some readers will feel they are due a bit of happiness; others will be struck by how little has changed in 75 years for the nation's have-nots." —*Publishers Weekly, Starred* 

From the Hardcover edition.

#### The Mighty Miss Malone By Christopher Paul Curtis Bibliography

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#### **Editorial Review**

Amazon.com Review

Amazon Best Books of the Month for Kids, January 2012: *The Mighty Miss Malone* is one Deza Malone-dedicated student and member of a close-knit family whose motto is "we are a family on a journey to a place called Wonderful." Unfortunately, the Great Depression is taking a toll that journey, and when Deza's father leaves in search of work, the rest of the family soon has no choice but to follow. Despite the hardships, loss, and racism that defined the times, Deza never loses faith in her dreams or flags in her devotion to bringing her family together again. Perseverance and kindness serve Deza well, and her story is a welcome new journey into familiar territory from award-winning author Christopher Paul Curtis. --Seira Wilson

#### From Booklist

Deza Malone, 12, has a couple of big things going for her. She comes from a strong family, and she is smart as a whip. But there is plenty of bad to go along with the good. It's 1936 and her dad can't find work; her brother, Jimmie, he of the beautiful singing voice, isn't growing; and her teeth, full of cavities, require treatment of cotton soaked with camphor. Can things get worse? Certainly. Her father disappears and her mother moves the family from Gary to Flint, which lands the trio in a Hooverville shack. Then Jimmie takes off to sing. Curtis tries to do too much here. Consequently, just when readers are getting invested, the story changes course or important plot points are dropped. Deza is devastated when she overhears her father say her rotting teeth make him avert his head, but her suffering is forgotten until, at the conclusion, she goes to a dentist. On the plus side, Deza is a snappy character that will grab readers, and Curtis' portrayal of a family's love for each other feels real and true. HIGH-DEMAND BACKSTORY: Newbery-winner Curtis has a huge following. Readers will be enticed by his return to the Depression-era setting of Bud, Not Buddy (1999) and his reintroduction of Deza, one of the characters from that book. Grades 5-7. --Ilene Cooper

Review

Publisher's Weekly Best Children's Book of 2012

**Kirkus Reviews** Best Teen's Book of 2012

Starred Review, Kirkus Reviews, December 15, 2011:

"Deza is one great heroine in her own right, a fitting literary companion to Bud Caldwell."

### Starred Review, Publishers Weekly, December 12, 2011:

"Though the resolution of the family's crisis is perhaps far-fetched, some readers will feel they are due a bit of happiness; others will be struck by how little has changed in 75 years for the nation's have-nots."

From the Hardcover edition.

**Users Review** 

From reader reviews:

#### Willie Hickox:

Book is to be different per grade. Book for children until eventually adult are different content. We all know that that book is very important normally. The book The Mighty Miss Malone ended up being making you to know about other understanding and of course you can take more information. It is extremely advantages for you. The publication The Mighty Miss Malone is not only giving you far more new information but also being your friend when you really feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your publication. Try to make relationship with all the book The Mighty Miss Malone. You never feel lose out for everything in the event you read some books.

#### **Agnes Henson:**

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#### William McCown:

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