

# Christopher Paul Curtis

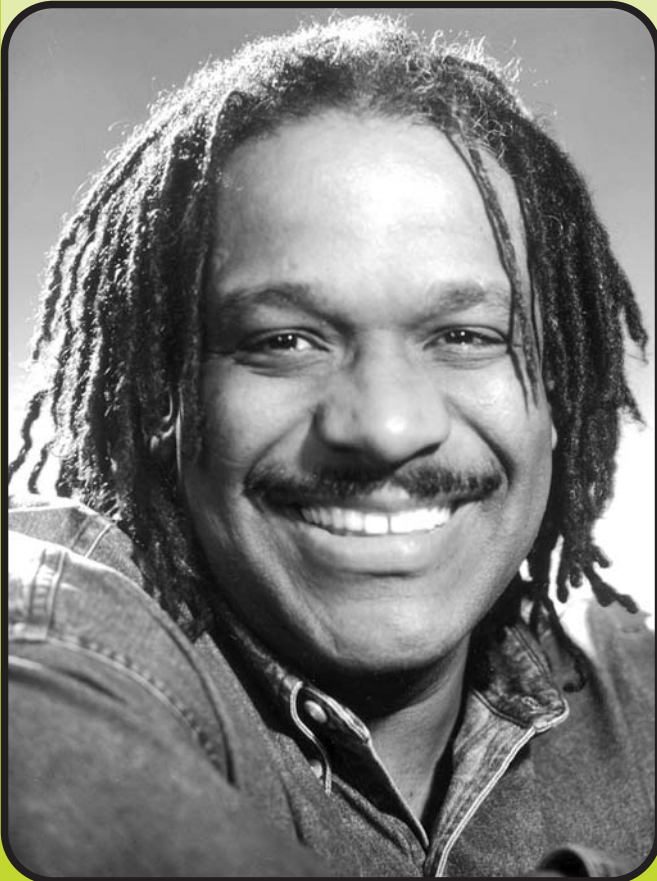


Photo Credit: J. Keyser

“**T**o me the highest accolade comes when a young reader tells me, ‘I really liked your book.’ The young seem to be able to say ‘really’ with a clarity, a faith, and an honesty that we as adults have long forgotten. That is why I write.”

—Christopher Paul Curtis

Christopher Paul Curtis made an outstanding debut in children's literature with *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*, named a Newbery Honor Book and a Coretta Scott King Honor Book. His second novel, *Bud, Not Buddy*, won the Newbery Medal and the Coretta Scott King Award.

# About the Author

Christopher Paul Curtis was born in Flint, Michigan, the setting of many of his books. He was a great reader, but as a youth, he could not find books that “were about me.” After high school, Curtis spent 13 years on the assembly line of Flint’s historic Fisher Body plant, hanging 80-pound car doors on Buicks. This left him with an aversion to getting in and out of large automobiles—especially Buicks! He attended college at night and wrote during his breaks to escape the noise of the factory. He wrote his first book, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963*, in longhand in the children’s room of the Windsor Public Library. His son Steven typed his father’s drafts into their computer and served as first reader.

Curtis’s writing—and his dedication to it—has been greatly influenced by his family members, particularly his wife, Kaysandra. With grandfathers like Earl “Lefty” Lewis, a Negro Baseball League pitcher, and 1930s bandleader Herman E. Curtis, Sr., of Herman Curtis and the Dusky Devastators of the Depression, it is easy to see why Christopher Paul Curtis was destined to become an entertainer.

Curtis’s hobbies include playing basketball, collecting old record albums, and, of course, writing. His favorite books include anything by Toni Morrison, Kurt Vonnegut, or Zora Neale Hurston. He lives in Windsor, Ontario, Canada, with his wife, Kaysandra, and their two children, Steven and Cydney.

## Praise for:

### MR. CHICKEE’S FUNNY MONEY

★ “This book will surely appeal to reluctant readers as well as anyone who wants to laugh and find intrigue.”  
—*School Library Journal*, Starred

★ “Another winner from a master storyteller.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred

### BUCKING THE SARGE

★ “[A] hilarious . . . [and] gripping story.”  
—*Booklist*, Starred

★ “Another winner.”  
—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred

★ “Featuring characters so lively they seem to jump off the page and a gratifying resolution.”  
—*Publishers Weekly*, Starred

## Book List

### BUCKING THE SARGE

Ages 12 up • Wendy Lamb Books  
HC: 978-0-385-32307-9 (0-385-32307-7)  
PB: 978-0-440-41331-8 (0-440-41331-1)  
GLB: 978-0-385-90159-8 (0-385-90159-3)  
• An ALA Best Books for Young Adults  
• An ALA Notable Children’s Book  
• A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year  
• A *Publishers Weekly* Best Children’s Book of the Year  
• A *Booklist* Children’s Editors’ Choice  
• A *USA Today* Best Young Adult Book  
• A Great Lakes Book Award Winner  
• A Texas TAYSHAS High School Reading List Title  
• A Golden Kite Award for Fiction Winner

### BUD, NOT BUDDY

Ages 9–12 • Delacorte Press  
HC: 978-0-385-32306-2 (0-385-32306-9)  
Yearling PB: 978-0-440-41328-8 (0-440-41328-1)  
Laurel-Leaf PB: 978-0-553-49410-5 (0-553-49410-4)  
• A Newbery Medal Winner  
• A Coretta Scott King Author Award Winner  
• An ALA Best Books for Young Adults  
• An ALA Notable Children’s Book  
• A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year  
• A *School Library Journal* Best Book of the Year  
• A *New York Times* Notable Book  
• An IRA Children’s Book Award for Older Readers  
• An NCSS–CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book  
• A Hawaii Nene Award Winner  
• A Kansas William White Award Winner  
• A Kentucky Bluegrass Award Winner  
• A Pennsylvania Young Readers Choice Award Winner  
• A South Dakota Prairie Pasque Award Winner  
• A Tennessee Volunteer State Award Winner  
• A Vermont Dorothy Canfield Fischer Book Award Winner

### MR. CHICKEE’S MESSY MISSION

Ages 9–12 • Wendy Lamb Books  
HC: 978-0-385-32775-6 (0-385-32775-7)  
GLB: 978-0-385-90942-6 (0-385-90942-X)

### MR. CHICKEE’S FUNNY MONEY

Ages 8–12 • Wendy Lamb Books  
HC: 978-0-385-32772-5 (0-385-32772-2)  
PB: 978-0-440-22919-3 (0-440-22919-7)  
GLB: 978-0-385-90936-5 (0-385-90936-5)  
• A Parents’ Choice Gold Award Winner

### THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM—1963

Ages 10 up • Delacorte Press  
HC: 978-0-385-32175-4 (0-385-32175-9)  
Yearling PB: 978-0-440-41412-4 (0-440-41412-1)  
Laurel-Leaf PB: 978-0-440-22800-4 (0-440-22800-X)  
• A Newbery Honor Book  
• A Coretta Scott King Author Honor Book  
• An ALA Best Books for Young Adults  
• An ALA Notable Children’s Book  
• A *New York Times* Best Book of the Year  
• A *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of the Year  
• A *Horn Book* Fanfare  
• A *Bulletin* Blue Ribbon  
• An NCSS–CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book  
• A Bank Street College Best Book of the Year  
• An Arkansas Charlie May Simon Children’s Book Award Winner  
• A California Young Reader Medal Winner  
• A Maine Student Book Award Winner  
• A Massachusetts Children’s Book Award Winner  
• A New Mexico Land of Enchantment Book Award Winner  
• A Texas Lonestar Reading List Title