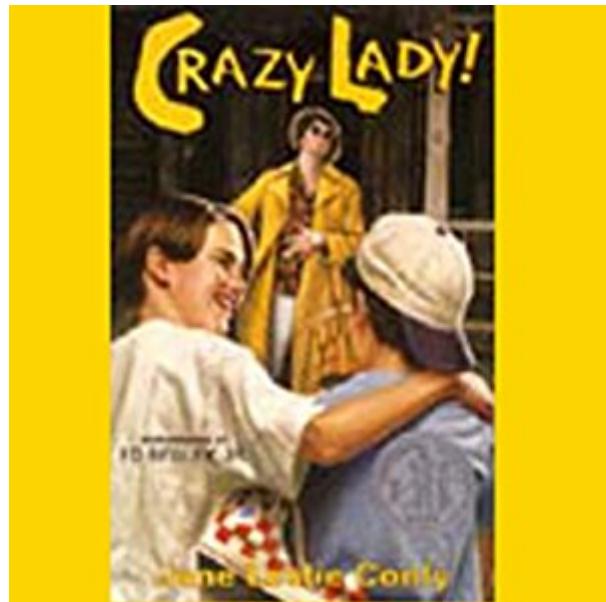


The book was found

Crazy Lady



Synopsis

Increasingly alienated from his widowed father, Vernon joins his friends in ridiculing the neighborhood outcasts' Maxine, an alcoholic prone to outrageous behavior, and Ronald, her retarded son. But when a social service agency tries to put Ronald into a special home, Vernon fights against the move. 1994 Newbery Honor Book
Notable Children's Books of 1994 (ALA)
1994 Best Books for Young Adults (ALA)
1994 Young Adult Editors' Choices (BL)
1994 Books for the Teen Age (NY Public Library)
Young Adult Choices for 1995 (IRA) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 3 hoursÂ andÂ 30 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

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ASIN: B00005453I

Best Sellers Rank: #92 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Special Needs #163 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Drugs & Alcohol Abuse #1269 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Customer Reviews

I read this book in grade school. Mrs Goldberg let us scream the curse words to get them out of our system. Its a fun reed. Its a touching story in the end

This is an amazing story. Just a flat out great book. Also I think that this book is good for all ages!

From a 2008 perspective, I don't see how 'Crazy Lady' qualified for a Newbery Honor. I am even more baffled as to why this book, published in 1993, showed up on a 7th grade reading list for the 2008-09 school year. Certainly I was intrigued when I read the flyleaf, and hoped that this story, this book, would address the particular problems and nuances of alcoholics in our neighborhood circles. But there was too much going on, and the 'crazy' character became me, the reader! Vernon, a

young teen, narrates this story which takes place during the Reagan era. Well, what does a young reader know about the Reagan era? (There are other allusions, too, which don't strike a cord for 2008 readers: the TV show *Lassie*, actors Tom Selleck and Farrah Fawcett and more.) Conley sloppily uses a casual vernacular of people who are not well-educated. The book has been criticized for its use of bad language, but that is not as bothersome as what the characters say to each other in their moments of unhappiness, frustration and anger. It simply is not believable, and I am saddened to think that young readers might accept that behavior like this is truth among some people. Vernon has five siblings which I couldn't keep track of, several friends, ditto, a mother who died suddenly and an overworked and illiterate 'Daddy'. Crazy Lady Maxine goes on wild benders sometimes, spent time in jail for drunk and disorderly, rants and raves, dresses outlandishly and is poor and lives in squalor. Her son, Ronald, is mentally challenged, and it is unclear if he would progress if only his mother gave him proper care at home and obtained proper medical evaluation for him. Too many persnickety characters come into play and add to the frenzy of dysfunction. There are no satisfying resolutions to the story's juxtaposition of events and emotional concepts except to disclose without statement that Vernon is a co-dependent who is trying to fix everything. I was really hoping to get more from this book.

Vernon Dobbs is a struggling student having a bad school year. He has gone in for help. He just can't seem to get the hang of reading. He has had no one to turn to since his mother passed away from a stroke three years earlier. His mother had an uncanny ability to help those around her. His father tries, but is just too busy taking care of the family. Vernon and his friends have nothing better to do than torment the eccentric neighborhood Crazy Lady, Maxine and her son Ronald who is mentally disabled. One chance meeting, with Maxine, outside the local grocery store will change many of Vernon's perceptions on life. Maxine introduces Vernon to her friend Mrs. Annie a retired schoolteacher. From Mrs. Annie he will learn that not everything in life is black or white. In exchange for tutoring, Vernon agrees to do odd jobs for Maxine. Vernon learns that Maxine's "craziness" is in reality alcoholism. Maxine's outrageous behaviors are accurately depicted through clothes and language. Vernon goes from the role of tormentor to that of protector as the story progresses. Conley creates a vivid impression of what life is really like in the section of town in which Vernon lives. It comes through in the attitudes of the grocer who tries to cheat people out a few cents on a regular basis, knowing that the people will not complain too much because they charge at his store. She also portrays a community where people band together supporting and helping each other. The book only gives one small glimpse that Vernon's problem may be a hereditary learning disability.

The story addresses peer pressure, alcoholism, and people perceptions of other people with disabilities. Vernon finds out that you cannot control or assume responsibility for anyone's actions but your own. He finds out that his father has been there for him all the time and Vernon discovers that triumph and tragedy often go hand in hand.

Crazy Lazy, by Jane Leslie Conly, is a great and well-written book for the readers of the teenage category. It is a book about Vernon Dibbs, a 7th-grade boy who lives in the neighborhood Teleny Heights. There is a lady, Maxine Flooter, who lives in his neighborhood and has a son named Ronald with special needs. Vernon and his friends always tormented Maxine, by calling her the "Crazy Lady," and trashed her yard and property. Then one day, the cashier at the local convenience store was giving Maxine and Vernon a hard time, they both had to travel up a huge hill to get the groceries. Vernon offered to get Maxine's for her and deliver them to her house, so Maxine, in turn, repayed him by finding him a tutor for his dropping grades, named Miss Annie. This book takes us through all the adventures Vernon has with th Flooters, including the carnival he held to raise money for the Red Converse shoes and the clothes Ronald needed to participate in the Special Olympics. He finds strength and comfort within this odd little family. In the end of the book..... Sike!!! I'm not going to tell you. Read the book to find out!!! I enjoyed this book and think that Mrs. Conly should write a sequel to it because the ending was not very informative. It just sopped and we never found out how Ronald made out.

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