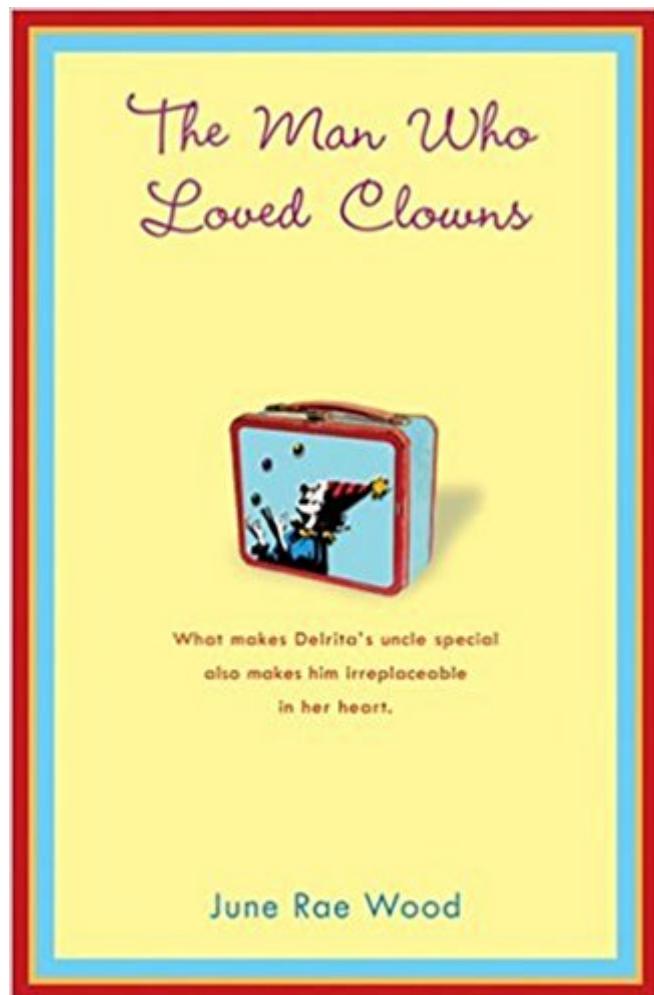


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The Man Who Loved Clowns



Synopsis

Delrita likes being invisible. If no one notices her, then no one will notice her uncle Punky either. Punky is a grown man with a child's mind. Delrita loves him dearly and can't stand people making fun of his Down's syndrome. But when tragedy strikes, Delrita's quiet life and Punky's are disrupted forever. Can she finally learn to trust others, for her own sake and Punky's? This story captures the joy and sorrow that come when we open our hearts to love.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870 (What's this?)

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books; Reissue edition (April 21, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142404225

ISBN-13: 978-0142404225

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.6 x 7.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 96 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #64,736 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #84 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying #132 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs #155 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Fiction

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

In this potent debut, Wood displays a prodigious writing and storytelling talent. Delrita, 13, has recently moved to a small Missouri town with her parents and Punky, an uncle who has Down's syndrome. Delrita adores Punky, yet is also embarrassed by him. She easily accepts his childish ways at home, but avoids having visitors, and attending church in her new community causes the girl considerable anguish. Always a loner, Punky is befriended by the persistent Avanelle Shackleford ("a name that was almost bigger than she was"), a classmate who also has familial shame--and a fabulous older brother. When disaster tears Delrita's life apart, her new friends' support fortifies her as does Punky's enduring love. The skillfully crafted work, based on the author's memory of a brother who had Down's syndrome, is enriched by humorous touches and Delrita's

involving, simply told narrative. This close-up view of a prevalent disease is more than a one-note novel: the author also artfully interweaves issues of loneliness, first romance and parental death. Both Delrita and Punky are complex, realistically drawn characters worthy of attention and admiration. Ages 10-14. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Grade 5-7-- Delrita Jensen, 13, has no friends, and she prefers it that way. She doesn't want anyone to meet her uncle, ``Punky'' Holloway, who has Down syndrome and lives with her family. Although she loves him dearly, she can't help being ashamed of him. Then, when her parents are killed in a traffic accident, and she and Punky must go to live with her aunt and uncle, everything changes. In the months that follow, Delrita learns many things: that others can come to love Punky and be proud of him, that she might have misjudged her aunt, and most of all, that she wants friends. Wood has created a realistic portrait of the problems that confront a child growing up in a family with a disabled member. But more than that, she has created an engrossing story with characters that readers come to care about very deeply. It's a story with a universal theme--the struggle to come of age and find a place in the world--and because of this, it will bring pleasure to many readers. Also incorporated are the joy of discovering and exercising a talent, the warmth that can come from finding a friend, the excitement and uncertainty of a first romance, and the conflict that is always a part of life. Wood's prose is strong and flowing, with a good balance of dialogue and narrative, and with several well-developed and memorable characters. It's a hard book to put down. --Constance A. Mellon, Department of Library & Information Studies, East Carolina Univ . , Greenville, NC
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Bought this for a college course I needed; not only was it a great read, but it's something that everyone should read. I will be using it in own classroom.

My daughter loves the book!

Although this is a book intended for children, it is a wonderful read. So full of love. I read it in one night. Stayed up till about 2:00 in the morning and was crying so hard at the end, but still thought it was a wonderful book. Everyone I know who has read it, loves it.

The story and the subject matter are very relevant to the problems of discrimination and bullying in today's world. The story itself is bittersweet. It is a pity that it is not on the current reading list. As an adult reading a middle-school book, I was very impressed and will pass it on to a granddaughter of that age range. The book itself was ragged and worn, discarded from a mid-West school where it was apparently enjoyed again and again. I ordered the book because of research that I am doing on clowns.

heart warming, meaningful, food for thought

Even if you're not a kid you need to read this book. In fact, every middle school age child should read this book. It is a real eye-opener in treating others with kindness and not shunning them because of what you THINK they are. It also teaches compassion, understanding and acceptance for those with disabilities. You'll need tissues, though. I'm just saying.

I ordered this book for a friend and she loved it as much as I did. As a former Fifth Grade teacher I read this book to my students the first week of school so as to show them how to treat handicapped classmates and also to show them how much they can learn from handicapped (mental or physical) classmates too. A book worth reading.

I ordered this book because I only needed to spend a few more dollars to get free shipping for another item on . That aside, this book is incredible! I could not put it down. The author brings you such a deep understanding of the characters that you can't put the book down for fear you are leaving them in limbo. There are many twists and turns, you are in for a real ride. If you know and love someone with Down Syndrome, you will be amazed how true-to-life Punky is. It is a must-read. I can't recommend it enough!

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