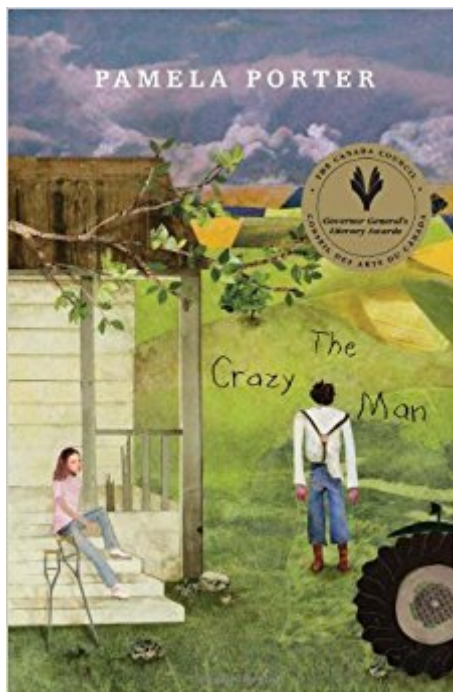


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# The Crazy Man



## Synopsis

It is 1965, and 12-year-old Emaline, living on a wheat farm, must deal with a family that is falling apart. When her dog, Prince, chases a hare into the path of the tractor, she chases after him, and her father accidentally runs over her leg, leaving her with a long convalescence and a permanent disability. Even worse, from Emaline's point of view, is that in his grief and guilt, her father shoots Prince and leaves Emaline and her mother on their own. Despite the neighbors' disapproval, Emaline's mother hires Angus, a patient from the local mental hospital, to work their fields. Angus is a red-haired giant whom the local children tease and call "the gorilla." Though the small town's prejudice creates a cloud of suspicion around Angus that nearly results in tragedy, he just may hold the key to Emaline's coming to grips with her injury and the loss of her father.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 750 (What's this?)

Paperback: 214 pages

Publisher: Greenwood Books; Reprint edition (August 8, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0888996950

ISBN-13: 978-0888996954

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.5 x 7.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #602,918 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #62 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Canada](#) #480 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Death & Dying](#) #581 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Special Needs](#)

Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

Grade 5 Up This beautifully written novel in verse tells the story of a 12-year-old girl struggling to recover after a freak farm accident leaves her partially crippled and fatherless. Her dad, after shooting the dog that he blames for the tractor mishap, walks out on her and her mother,

leaving them to tend the farm by themselves. After a long and painful hospital stay, Emaline returns home to a distraught mother who doesn't have any help sowing the fields. When several conventional plans fall through, the woman decides to bring in a patient from the local mental hospital to drive the tractor and sow the fields. Angus, a gentle giant, slowly gains the trust of Emaline and her mother through his hard work and his kindness to people and animals alike. Despite the town's grumblings about how dangerous Angus must be, he is allowed to continue working on the farm, but not without enduring much cruelty from neighbors and townspeople. It is only when he performs the ultimate act of heroism that others in the town finally recognize Angus's worth as a human being. Emaline is a rich character full of conflicting emotions about her father, her mother, and her strange new family. Subtle in its themes and organization, this book is pure pleasure, offering lessons about love, loyalty, and loss. —Julie Webb, Shelby County High School, Shelbyville, KY Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 6-8. After Emaline, 11, is crippled by an accident with her father's tractor in 1965, Daddy kills her beloved dog, Prince, and walks away from the farm on the Saskatchewan prairie. Mom takes in Angus from the local mental hospital to help with the farm work, but the neighbors jeer and complain about the "sub-human" crazy man on the loose. Emaline never denies Angus' illness, but she sees his kindness and strength, and they help each other with their work and with their grief. Narrated by Emaline in short lines of free verse, the story is a very easy read, its plain, lyrical words capturing the beauty of the flat prairie under the huge sky and the sounds of wind, trains, and coyotes in the night, as well as the harsh community prejudice. The poetry is in the details, both immediate and universal: Angus helps Emaline tie her shoelaces, and he wakes her to the glory of the northern lights. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

It was a great book it's very touching and it has a good story behind it great book for everyone

Such a great book about understanding differences and coming to terms with life changes. I loved the writing style and the short chapters/verses. Highly recommended for a reluctant reader!

This is an excellent book, it gives a thoughtful insight into mental illness. Especially recommended for teens, this book may help with sympathetic understanding through difficult times.

I loved it so much I'm not sure where to begin. It was the first novel-in-verse I've ever read and finished--it was beautiful, breathtaking, touching, sad, heartwarming, funny, sweet, poignant...and also easy to read and lacking in the pretension I had found in other novels-in-verse I had tried to read in the past. Truly one of my favourites of the year! For more reviews, please visit my blog, [CozyLittleBookJournal](#).

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