



## **Barnaby (Vol. 1) (Barnaby)**

*Crockett Johnson*

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**A legendary comic strip finally given the Fantagraphics treatment.**

Before authoring one of the most beloved children's book series of all time ? *Harold and the Purple Crayon* ? cartoonist Crockett Johnson created the comic strip *Barnaby* for over ten years (1942 to 1952). Its subtle ironies and playful allusions never won a broad following, but the adventures of 5-year-old Barnaby Baxter and his fairy godfather Jackeen J. O'Malley was and is a critical favorite.

Fantagraphics will introduce the wonders of *Barnaby* to a new generation of children and parents alike. Co-edited by Johnson biographer Philip Nel (*Dr. Seuss: American Icon*) and Fantagraphics Associate Publisher Eric Reynolds, with art direction by graphic novelist Daniel Clowes (*Ghost World*), this five-volume *Barnaby* series will collect the entirety of the original newspaper strips from 1942-1952. The first volume will collect all the strips from 1942 and 1943.

*Barnaby* revolved around a precocious five-year-old named Barnaby Baxter and his fairly godfather Jackeen J. O'Malley. Yet O'Malley, a cigar-chomping, bumbling con-artist and fast-talker, was not your typical protector. His grasp of magic was usually specious at best, limited to occasional flashes, often aided and abetted by his fellow members in The Elves, Leprechauns, Gnomes, and Little Men's Chowder & Marching Society.

*Barnaby*'s deft balance of fantasy, political commentary, sophisticated wit, and elegantly spare images expanded our sense of what comic strips can do. With subtlety and economy, *Barnaby* proved that comics need not condescend to readers. Its small but influential readership took that message to heart.

Black & white with some color

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