

FREE COMIC BOOK DAY™

Barnaby and Mr O'Malley

CROCKETT JOHNSON



Dear Reader,

CUSHLAMOCHREE!

Simply put, if you've never read BARNABY, you are in for a treat. If the strip looks familiar and you can't place why, it's probably because after BARNABY, creator Crockett Johnson went on to create one of the most successful and beloved children's book series of all time, HAROLD AND THE PURPLE CRAYON. And yes, Harold is a dead-ringer for Barnaby. But the similarities mostly end there, aside from Johnson's enduring wit and genius.



Johnson created the comic strip BARNABY for over ten years (1942 to 1952). Fantagraphics is proud to present the long-awaited and complete BARNABY in five annual volumes beginning this summer.

The strip is named after the precocious five-year-old Barnaby Baxter, and follows his adventures along with his fairy godfather, Jackeen J. O'Malley (that's Mr. O'Malley to you), and the strip's timeless cast of colorful elves, ghosts, lions, gnomes and more.

Mr. O'Malley has been described as a character to live with the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, and all other great creatures of fantasy. In the comics, his only comparable is E.C. Segar's J. Wellington Wimpy (the two shared a love for a good cigar — usually filched from somebody else). He is a pompous, bumbling fast-talker, the very Essence of Things That Go Wrong. His grasp of magic is usually specious at best, and usually aided by the fine fellows of The Elves, Leprechauns, Gnomes, and Little Men's Chowder & Marching Society. He is, in other words, a sheer delight.

Without further adieu, please enjoy this selection of BARNABY strips, including the very first two strips from April, 1942, as well as a sequence from January and February, 1943, featuring "Gus, the Ghost" and the first-half of "The Hot Coffee Ring"! For the second half, look for BARNABY Vol. 1 in comic shops this summer!

— Ed.

CAST OF CHARACTERS APPEARING IN BARNABY VOL. 1



BARNABY BAXTER



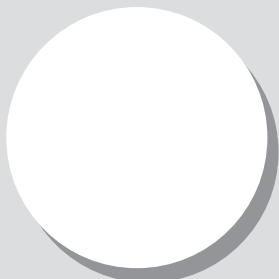
MR. O'MALLEY



BARNABY'S POP



BARNABY'S MOM



LAUNCELOT McSNOYD



JANE SCHULTZ



GORGON



GUS THE GHOST



THE LION



ATLAS THE GIANT

... and many more!

