

BARNABY VOLUME ONE

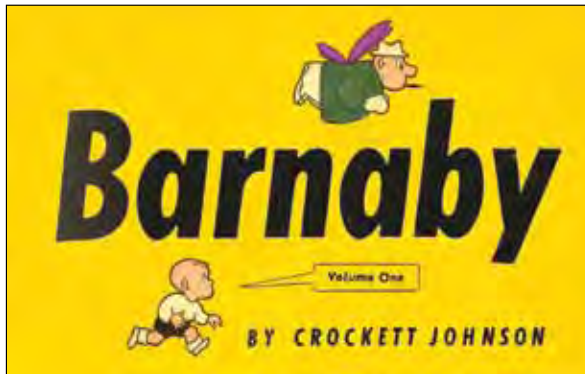
BY CROCKETT JOHNSON; INTRODUCTION BY DANIEL CLOWES;
EDITED BY ERIC REYNOLDS AND PHILIP NEL

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HUMOR / Comic Strips • CQ: 16
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JUNE

NOT FINAL COVER



- **Designed by Daniel Clowes**
- **An all ages classic from the creator of *Harold and the Purple Crayon***
- **Digital ARC (PDF)**
- **Age Range: All Ages**

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.

CROCKETT JOHNSON was the pen name of cartoonist and children's book illustrator David Johnson Leisk (October 20, 1906–July 11, 1975). He is best known for the comic strip *Barnaby* and the Harold series of books begun with *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. He was married to the children's book author Ruth Krauss, with whom he collaborated on several books, including *The Carrot Seed*.

"I think, and I'm trying to talk calmly, that *Barnaby* and his friends and oppressors are the most important additions to American arts and letters in Lord knows how many years."

—Dorothy Parker

"One of the best comic strips of the 20th Century and one of the most beloved older strips for a generation of devoted adult comics fans, *Barnaby* had become in the last decade and a half the great unsigned strip collection." —*The Comics Reporter*