

Complete Little Orphan Annie Volume 1

Harold Gray

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Harold Gray : Complete Little Orphan Annie Volume 1 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Complete Little Orphan Annie Volume 1:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Harold Gray knew what he was doing By Robert Hustwick
Newspaper comic strips are truly a time capsule of the world in which they reside. This collection, starting in 1924, is a good example of that. All the slang, styles, and current events of the day are on display in this one. Part adventure, part soap opera, part editorial cartoon, Little Orphan Annie was written and drawn by its creator, Harold Gray, for 44 years. This book contains the first 3 years of the strip. The main draw of the first volume of Little Orphan Annie is that it contains the story of how the title character met the iconic "Daddy Warbucks." It also sets the stage for the status quo that the strip had for its entire run (Annie and Daddy are separated and reunited constantly through the decades). For the art fans out there, you can see that Harold Gray's signature style had not yet taken off, but it gets closer to the characters' "classic" looks by the end of this volume, as it continues through into 1927. In terms of truly memorable stories, the later volumes are better, but this first volume is a must have for fans of the series or the comics medium as a whole. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. ARF! By Scott Martin Gavin
I first read Little Orphan Annie in the Sunday funnies as a kid, between 1962 and 1968 when Harold Gray died. I have purchased several reprints over the years, but none were complete or comprehensive, and nearly all of them (even hardback reprints produced by Harold Gray himself in the 1930's) ignored the very earliest Annie cartoons. The only reprinting of the origin of Annie I ever saw was a 1970's Dover Books title "Little Orphan Annie and Little Orphan Annie in Cosmic City". This new series fills a serious gap in the historic record, and reprints the very first three years of Little Orphan Annie comic strips, with a few examples of the Sunday strip as well. It is well bound, with a sewn in ribbon book mark, with a high quality dust jacket and is worth far more than the cover price. There is also a short biography of Harold Gray which was very interesting. There was much more here than the Dover book had reprinted in the 1970's (though interestingly enough, the Dover book included the "plumbers helper" strip that the editor of this volume

claims Harold Gray had decided never to publish). Also of interest was the fact that Harold Gray seemed to have change his method of story telling over the decades. In the early years, he told the story in the daily comic strip, and the Sunday page was a disconnected throwaway gag page, except for only two or three Sunday pages that were in continuity with the daily strips. By the 1960's, the daily strips were being used to set the stage for the Sunday page, where climax of the week's adventure was dished out in full color. (This was very confusing for me as a kid, because our paper only carried the Sunday strip and not the daily cartoon so I missed the build up during the week.) The Complete Orphan Annie Volume 1 does a very good job in reprinting the series, with only a few strips being obviously touched up and only one discontinuity - where Annie is the care of Mrs. Bottle and looking forward to a grim Christmas and suddenly she is in the house of a Mr. Goodfellow, who treats her to a grand holiday - with no explanation of who Mr. Goodfellow is or how they met. I can only assume the missing part of the story was in a Sunday page that was not printed in this volume. It was also interesting to learn that Harold Gray couldn't make up his mind what color Annie's hair was. At least twice in this volume, Annie is described as blonde, then red-haired, then blonde, then red-haired again. And, at last, the critics who claimed over the years that Annie never grew up or changed her red dress will be silenced. Annie is only about six years old in the first strips, and her red dress has yet to put in an appearance. And if you refer to the last strips in the reprint "Arf - The Life and Hard Times of Little Orphan Annie" - Annie is clearly about 12 years old in the strips from 1945, and spends most of the war years in overalls. The publishers of the Complete Little Orphan Annie have a monumental task ahead of them if they truly intend to reprint the entire run from 1924-1968. Even if they don't succeed, this first volume fills a void and prints strips that haven't been seen since 1924. For that alone, it deserved space on the shelf of every library and every fan of Little Orphan Annie. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. were it all started. annie was origenally blonde. By scott8765432 were it all started. annie was origenally blonde.

Volume One of The Complete Little Orphan Annie contains more than 1,000 daily comics in nine complete stories, from the very first strip in August 1924 through October 1927. In the pages of "Will Tomorrow Ever Come?" readers will discover how Annie escapes the orphanage and is ultimately adopted by "Daddy;" how she finds that loveable mutt Sandy and rescues him from being tortured; how she meets the Silos, who become recurring characters throughout the series; how she joins the circus and first encounters Pee Wee the elephant; and how, broke and alone, she hits the road on a succession of dangerous yet spiritually uplifting adventures. This volume also includes an index, and a biographical essay by Jeet Heer. -The Library of American Comics is the world's #1 publisher of classic newspaper comic strips, with 14 Eisner Award nominations and three wins for best book.

From Booklist The fact that Little Orphan Annie remains a recognizable pop-culture figure is due more to the frequently revived Broadway musical than its comic-strip progenitor, which began in 1924 and continues, albeit in a moribund state, to this day. In its heyday, the strip's spunky redheaded heroine, plucked from a Dickensian orphanage by kindly millionaire Daddy Warbucks, proved irresistible to mainstream America. The initial three years of daily episodes collected here have a mostly humorous tone. In subsequent decades, Gray would lead the cast on darker adventures that were vehicles for his conservative, pro-business politics. Like many early-twentieth-century strips, Annie was at first primitively drawn. Unlike most of his peers, Gray never totally shed that initial crudeness, which, in tandem with his equally rough politics, guaranteed the bluntness that gave Annie much of its distinctive charm. Gray had the foresight to hold on to nearly all his original drawings, so that they were available for this attractively designed volume that includes an invaluable biographical essay by comics scholar Jeet Heer. --Gordon Flagg About the Author Harold Gray was born in 1894 in Kankakee, Illinois, and debuted Little Orphan Annie on August 5, 1924 and continued to write and draw the comic strip for forty-four years, until his death in 1968.