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Walt Kelly

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#1374608 in Books 2007-06-13Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.50 x .50 x 7.30l, .80 #File Name: 156097850396 pages | File size: 35.Mb

Walt Kelly : Our Gang Vol. 2 (Walt Kelly's Our Gang) (v. 2) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Our Gang Vol. 2 (Walt Kelly's Our Gang) (v. 2):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Wonderful classic from the man who became famous for creating Pogo.By CustomerExcellent classic by the man who eventually wrote Pogo. Written in wartime so the Japanese are called Japs andare the villains, but they're not portrayed as beasts - just inept.0 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A BIG LET DOWN FOR A HUGE "OUR GANG" FAN!By cornbreadthedogI love THE LITTLE RASCALS and their OUR GANG adventures! This book does not do them justice!Let me tell you why....First, whenever you do think of the Our Gang kids, it's always SPANKY, ALFALFA, DARLA, PORKY, BUCKWHEAT, and the two thuggish kids, BUTCH and WORM. Now these characters, and the children who portrayed them, made the most crucial and the most unforgettable impression ever on the Little Rascals franchise. They were the most funniest and had the most onscreen chemistry out of all the kids who were in the OUR GANG comedy series.Sadly, this book does

not cover their hilarious adventures together. Out of all the OUR GANG kids that you might fondly remember, only the great BUCKWHEAT remains and he's got a new set of kids to carry on the torch of Little Rascals comedy with. Walt Kelly, of the Pogo comic strip, wrote and drew this boring farce didn't understand the concept of the Little Rascals: "THE FANS ONLY WANT TO SEE DARLA, PORKY, BUCKWHEAT, ALFALFA, SPANKY, BUTCH, and WORM. WE DON'T OR WON'T CARE ABOUT ANYBODY ELSE!" Rather this artist/writer, Mr. Kelly, wanted to take the gang in a different direction by having them move away from the neighborhood, or just disappear without any explanation! All this is done so that our dearly loved OUR GANG favorites are replaced with horribly unfunny and uninteresting kid characters that he created?... Very lame! Very lame! Now if you're a hardcore fan and you need to complete your collection of all things "OUR GANG/LITTLE RASCALS"? Well, here you are! As for me? I'm done with this series. Not another penny will I spend. I'm just going to fondly re-watch all my favorite OUR GANG comedies on DVD!

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A compilation of the strip as it appeared in 1994 and 1945. By Midwest Book Review

The late cartoonist and political satirist Walt Kelly was best known and remembered for his 'Pogo' newspaper comic strip. What is not so well known is that from beginning in October of 1942 he wrote and drew another comic strip called 'Our Gang' which is now in the process of being rescued from an undeserved obscurity by Fantagraphics Books. The second and latest volume (which includes a new and informative introduction by Steve Thompson) is a compilation of the strip as it appeared in 1994 and 1945. The kids once again find themselves on a movie set as invited guests, but events transpire to launch them into another series of colorful adventures -- this time aboard a sailing ship, a Japanese held island, and a submarine. After this thrilling adventure comes another one closer to home for the kids where they must deal with saboteurs and spies. Reflecting a war-time America, this superb, full-color reproduction is impressively meticulous and a 'must read' for all Walt Kelly fans. Visit the Fantagraphics Books website to see all the currently available volumes of this outstanding and highly recommended series, as well as the many other professionally reproduced 'yesteryear' comics and graphic novels they have available for readers and collectors.

Of the handful of comics' bona fide geniuses, few could match the versatility of Walt Kelly. Trained as an animator at Walt Disney Studios (he worked on cartoon shorts and Pinocchio, Fantasia, and Dumbo), Kelly left during a labor dispute in 1941. He immediately began a new career in the burgeoning field of comic books, contributing heavily to various Disney titles and single-handedly producing its classic fantasy books, Fairy Tale Parade, Mother Goose, and Santa Claus Funnies. Along with fellow Disney alumnus Carl Barks, Kelly is now considered one of the two classic "funny animal" artists from the golden age of comics. Surprisingly, Kelly's longest-running continuing series was based on actual people—the "real-life" characters of MGM's durable short-film series, Our Gang (a.k.a. "The Little Rascals"). Spirited and engaging, Kelly's Our Gang harks back to the days before television, when kids spent most of their time playing outdoors, limited only by each other's imagination and ingenuity. Kelly created dozens of Our Gang stories by the end of its 59-issue run in 1949, the year he quit comic books to switch careers a final time as a syndicated artist/writer on the immortal newspaper strip, Pogo. This is the second in a series of books reprinting Walt Kelly's Our Gang stories. Cover by Jeff Smith (Bone). 96 pages of color comics

From Booklist

By 1944, when the stories in the second volume of vintage Our Gang comic-book adaptations were originally published, MGM had discontinued the comedy shorts, freeing Kelly to deviate from the films. So these stories range from high adventure—the kids take an old pirate ship to an island and discover a Japanese listening post to the sort of absurdist humor Kelly would exploit more adeptly in his great strip, Pogo. These delightful tales' considerable charm arises from Kelly's adroit cartooning and from the vision of ideal small-town American childhood they express. Nowadays, of course, the casual racism in the depictions of the black child Buckwheat and the Japanese soldiers dilutes the ambient sweetness. Flagg, Gordon Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved

That this series was written and drawn by the great Walt Kelly is icing on the cake for comics fans. Walt Kelly was to the Our Gang comic books what Hal Roach had been to the movie series: creator and godfather. - Leonard Maltin

A sweet, idiosyncratic collection of comics, suitable for nostalgic adults and adventurous kids alike... An exuberant and transportive collection. - Publishers Weekly

Ironically, while Our Gang films were [by the 1940s] slick and mannered, in Kelly's comics they regained much of their earlier, unaffected charm. - Booklist

Kelly was a master storyteller. - The Washington Post

Our Gang is excellent. You need no knowledge of the films to follow the action, and each issue was self-contained, so you can read it in chunks.... An essay at the beginning of the book puts the stories into the context of their times, very important for any comic book from that era.... Definitely worth a read if you are a fan of old comics that don't involve superheroes. - Laura Gjovaag

About the Author

Walt Kelly is the creator of the legendary Pogo comic strip. He was born in 1913 and passed away in 1973. Jeff Smith is the award-winning creator of the comic books Bone and RASL.