



Nancy Is Happy: Complete Dailies 1943-1945 (Vol. 1) (Ernie Bushmiller's Nancy)

Ernie Bushmiller

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The latest addition to Fantagraphics' award-winning classic comic strip reprint series.

A funny thing happened on the way to comic-strip immortality. For many years, Ernie Bushmiller's *Nancy*, with its odd-looking, squat heroine, nearly abstract art, and often super-corny gags, was perceived as the stodgiest, squarest comic strip in the world. Popular with newspaper readers, true ? but definitely not a strip embraced by comic-strip connoisseurs, like *Krazy Kat*, *Dick Tracy* or *Terry and the Pirates*.

But then those connoisseurs took a closer look, and began to realize that Bushmiller's art approached its own kind of cartoon perfection, and those corny gags often achieved a striking zen quality. In its own way, it turned out *Nancy* was in fact the most iconic comic strip of all. (*The American Heritage Dictionary* actually uses a *Nancy* strip to illustrate its entry on "comic strip.")

Charter members of the *Nancy* revival include Art Spiegelman, who published Mark Newgarden's famous "Love's Savage Fury" (featuring *Nancy* and *Bazooka Joe*) in an early issue of *RAW*; Fletcher Hanks anthologist Paul Karasik; *Zippy the Pinhead* creator Bill Griffith; underground publisher Denis Kitchen, who released several volumes of *Nancy* collections in the 1980s; *Understanding Comics*' Scott McCloud, who created the "Five-Card *Nancy*" card game; Joe Brainard, who produced an entire *Nancy* book of paintings in 2008; and Andy Warhol, who produced a painting based on *Nancy*.

Beginning in the Winter of 2011, fans will be dancing with joy as Fantagraphics unveils an ongoing *Nancy* reprint project. Each volume contain a whopping full four years of daily *Nancy* strips (a Sunday *Nancy* project looms in the future), collected in a fat, square (what else, for the "squarest" strip in the world?) package designed by Jacob (*Popeye*, *Beasts!*, *Willie and Joe*) Covey.

This first volume will collect every daily strip from 1943 to 1946. (Fantagraphics will eventually release *Nancy*'s first five years, 1938-1942, but given the scarcity of archival material for these years we are giving ourselves some extra time to collate it all.)

This first *Nancy* volume will feature an introduction by another stellar Bushmiller fan, Daniel Clowes (from whose collection most of the strips in this volume were scanned), a biography of the artist, and much more. 432 pages of black and white comics

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