



NAXOS

AudioBooks

JUNIOR
CLASSICS
UNABRIDGED

Barbara Euphan Todd

More About

WORZEL GUMMIDGE

Read by Jessica Martin



= Downloads (M4B chapters or MP3 files)



= CDs (disc-track)



1	1-1	More About Worzel Gummidge	6:38
2	1-2	'Why! John and Susan, welcome back to Scatterbrook!'	6:51
3	1-3	Chapter 2: Gummidge in the Orchard	7:06
4	1-4	It was nearly eight o'clock before they were once more...	8:42
5	1-5	Chapter 3: Gummidge in the Chimney	8:06
6	1-6	Mrs Bloomsbury-Barton and Mrs Braithwaite...	8:11
7	1-7	Chapter 4: Gummidge out of the Chimney	13:14



8

2-1

Chapter 5: Gummidge in New Clothes

9:20

9

2-2

'Oh, dear!' gasped Susan...

9:27

10

2-3

Chapter 6: Gummidge Saves a Scarecrow

11:37

11

2-4

Chapter 7: Gummidge in the Train

7:16

12

2-5

Gummidge's arm remained rigid...

7:48

13

2-6

Chapter 8: Gummidge on Horseback

6:52

14

2-7

'Oh, dear!' said Susan...

6:24



15	3-1	Chapter 9: Gummidge in the Train Again	9:03
16	3-2	Presently the tune changed...	9:22
17	3-3	Chapter 10: A Night with the Scarecrows	8:16
18	3-4	Before it was light, the children were awakened...	9:27
19	3-5	Chapter 11: Breakfast with the Scarecrows	7:12
20	3-6	Hannah sagged slowly down to the grass...	6:35
21	3-7	Chapter 12: Gummidge and the Echo	11:22

Total time: 2:58:49

Barbara Euphan Todd
More About
**WORZEL
GUMMIDGE**

Born in Yorkshire in 1890, Barbara Euphan Todd was educated in Surrey and worked as a volunteer nurse in World War One. As a child she wrote poetry and later went on to become a professional writer, with her first significant work of fiction, *Mrs Blossom's Shop*, being published in 1929. *Gummidge*, later titled *Worzel Gummidge*; or, *The Scarecrow of Scatterbrook*, was first written (according to Todd) in a garden hut and a caravan in Cornwall in 1931 and was duly circulated to various publishers, all of whom rejected it.

A few years later, Todd was contrib-

uting stories to the BBC's magazine radio programme *Children's Hour* and was asked to adapt her scarecrow story for the show. Thus, *The Scarecrow of Scatterbrook* was first broadcast in December 1935. The part of Worzel Gummidge was taken by Hugh E. Wright, who was the dedicatee of the book, which was finally published, largely due to the popularity of the early radio broadcasts, by Hollis & Carter in 1936. The book was later republished as *Worzel Gummidge* by the new imprint Puffin Books and was its very first title. Reception for the book was warm and enthusiastic,

with *Punch* calling it 'perfectly delightful'.

The first novel established the basic framework for the series of books that were to follow. John and Susan are staying at Scatterbrook Farm and meet a scarecrow that subsequently comes to life. The books chart his interaction with the human world, often causing a sequence of chaos, mayhem and trouble for his young friends.

A second book, *Worzel Gummidge Again*, followed in 1937 and then a third the following year, *More About Worzel Gummidge*, some of whose chapters were later broadcast on air. Radio broadcasts continued and Worzel Gummidge lived a parallel existence – through the books and also the stories that Todd produced for the BBC. There had been concerns at the BBC over whether the quality of the early series could be maintained. Several of Todd's manuscripts were rejected, and the fourth series, *Worzel Gummidge and Saucy Nancy*, was abandoned. However, broadcasts did continue, with repeat performances from time to time.

Eventually, the *Worzel Gummidge and Saucy Nancy* series was broadcast in 1945 and it was closely followed by *Worzel Gummidge Takes A Holiday*. Both of these series were published as novels in 1947 and 1949 respectively.

Worzel Gummidge continued on the radio up until 1952 and the following year saw its first appearance on television, through the four-part serial *Worzel Gummidge Turns Detective*. Todd then went back to previous radio scripts, from which she produced five further novels.

Worzel Gummidge and *Worzel Gummidge Again* featured in the BBC's children's series *Jackanory* in 1967 and 1974 respectively. 1979 saw the start of a popular teatime television series, produced by Southern Television and written by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall, starring Jon Pertwee as the eponymous scarecrow. This served to introduce a new generation of children to the characters that Barbara Euphan Todd had created almost 50 years earlier. The show ran for four series up to 1981,

when it was abruptly cancelled. However, it was given a further lease of life with two further series, made in New Zealand, under the title *Worzel Gummidge Down Under*, broadcast in 1987 and 1989.

A lifeless object coming alive is a common theme in children's fiction, from *Pinocchio* to *Toy Story*, and has been the staple of many animated films. Like these examples, *Worzel* engenders very human characteristics, at times insightful but often child-like and naïve. Characters, both human and otherwise, re-appear and develop throughout the series of books, heightening the reader's joy (and sometimes dismay) at their riotous adventures.

Notes by Anthony Anderson

Bibliography

Stuart Manning *The Worzel Book*
Published by Miwk Publishing Ltd., 2016



Jessica Martin is a leading musical theatre actor, voice artist and graphic novelist. Her television credits include voice work for *Spitting Image* and the role of Mags in the *Doctor Who* story 'The Greatest Show in the Galaxy'. She has played numerous lead roles in West End musicals, including *Me and My Girl* and *Elf*. Her first graphic novel, *Elsie Harris Picture Palace*, was published in 2015.

Credits

Produced, edited and mastered by Red Apple Creative

Recorded at SNK Studios

Executive Producer: Anthony Anderson

© Barbara Euphan Todd

© 2017 Naxos AudioBooks. Artwork © 2017 Naxos AudioBooks

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. UNAUTHORISED PUBLIC PERFORMANCE, BROADCASTING
AND COPYING OF THESE COMPACT DISCS PROHIBITED

Booklet and cover design: Hannah Whale, Fruition – Creative Concepts

Cover artwork by Stuart Manning

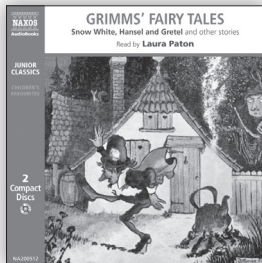
CD catalogue no.: NA0289

Digital catalogue no.: NA0289D

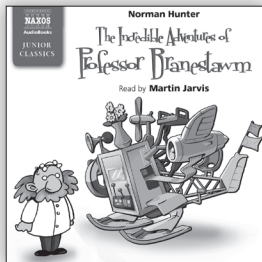
CD ISBN: 978-1-78198-092-7

Digital ISBN: 978-1-78198-093-4

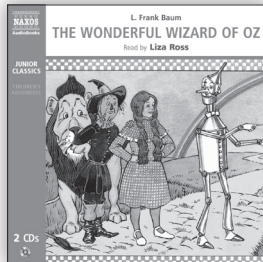
Other works on Naxos AudioBooks



The Brothers Grimm
Grimms' Fairy Tales
Read by Laura Paton



Norman Hunter
**The Incredible Adventures
of Professor Branestawm**
Read by Martin Jarvis



L. Frank Baum
The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
Read by Liza Ross

View our catalogue online at

n-ab.com/cat

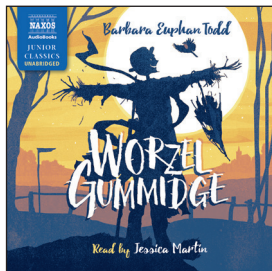
For further assistance, please contact:

In the UK: Naxos AudioBooks, Select Music & Video Distribution,
3 Wells Place, Redhill, Surrey RH1 3SL.
Tel: 01737 645600.

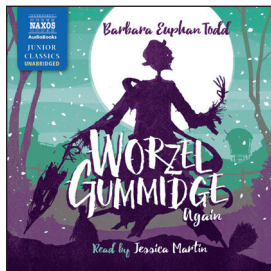
In the USA: Naxos of America Inc.,
1810 Columbia Ave., Suite 28, Franklin, TN 37064.
Tel: +1 615 771 9393

In Australia: Select Audio/Visual Distribution Pty. Ltd.,
PO Box 691, Brookvale, NSW 2100.
Tel: +61 299481811

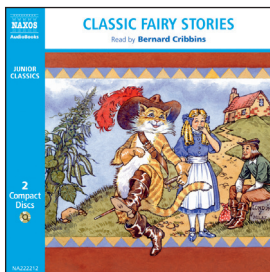
Other works on Naxos AudioBooks



Barbara Euphan Todd
Worzel Gummidge
Read by Jessica Martin



Barbara Euphan Todd
Worzel Gummidge Again
Read by Jessica Martin



Classic Fairy Stories
Read by Bernard Cribbins