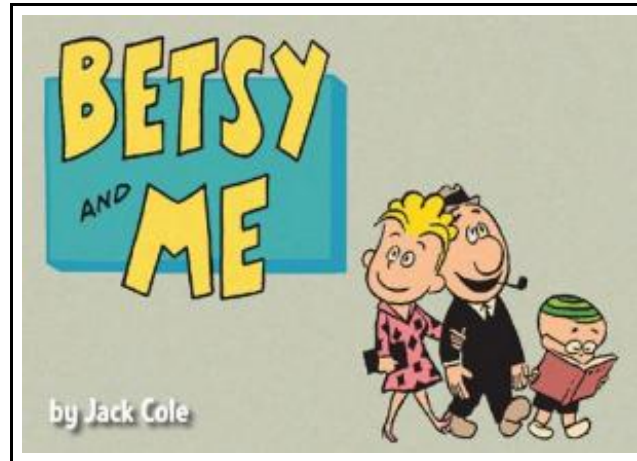


## Betsy and Me



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## BETSY AND ME



Fantagraphics Books, 2007. Book Condition: New. Brand New, Unread Copy in Perfect Condition. A+ Customer Service! Summary: The famed cartoonist's last hurrah. Having mastered comic books and gag cartoons, in 1958 Jack Cole set his sights on the cartoonist's pot of gold--a syndicated newspaper strip. He hit the bull's-eye with *Betsy and Me*, a breezy domestic farce focusing on a middle-class urban couple and their smart-aleck genius son. *Betsy and Me* was an instant success and newspapers were lining up to buy it. Then, with only two-and-a-half month's worth of strips completed, Cole purchased a .22 caliber pistol and ended his life. Born in 1914 in New Castle, PA, Jack Cole was first inspired to become a cartoonist during childhood by one of his sister's suitors, who would draw cartoons for the boy as a bribe to leave them alone. At 15, Cole used his high-school lunch money to enroll in the Charles N. Landon Correspondence School of Cartooning. Eleven years later, in 1936, emboldened by the sale of a few gag cartoons, Cole and his wife left New Castle and arrived in New York. Cole was eventually hired by Harry "A" Chester to work for \$20 a week at one of the many comic-book "sweatshops" scattered throughout the Times Square area. In a few years he had mastered his craft and was the featured artist on *Midnight*, a virtual clone of Will Eisner's *Spirit*. In late 1940, Cole unveiled *Plastic Man*, a refreshing departure from the ultra-serious superhero persona--at last, a superman who used his powers with imagination and a sense of play. Cole developed a rubbery amalgam of action, sight-gags, melodrama, comedy, and sex, coupled with a storytelling prowess rivaling that of Eisner himself. By the mid-1950s, Cole began distancing himself from comics to return to an earlier love,...



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