



NAXOS  
AudioBooks

JUNIOR  
CLASSICS  
UNABRIDGED

Barbara Euphan Todd



WORZEL  
GUMMIDGE

*Takes a Holiday*

*Read by Jessica Martin*



= Downloads (M4B chapters or MP3 files)





= CDs (disc-track)

---





1	1-1	<b>Worzel Gummidge Takes a Holiday</b>	10:23
2	1-2	Worzel Gummidge paused to throw a leaf into the water...	9:49
3	1-3	<b>Chapter 2: Earthy Mangold's Straw Bonnet</b>	9:51
4	1-4	'I wasn't swanking,' interrupted Susan furiously.	9:53
5	1-5	Mrs Bloomsbury-Barton scurried into the middle of the room...	13:49
6	1-6	<b>Chapter 3: Worzel Gummidge and the Golden Bird</b>	7:07
7	1-7	Gummidge's voice was sulky...	9:40

---

			
8	2-1	It was not until the scarecrows had left...	9:40
9	2-2	The weathercock stretched out its neck...	9:42
10	2-3	'Oh! Isn't the bantam a pet!' said Susan.	10:43
11	2-4	<b>Chapter 4: Gummidge Flies High</b>	11:29
12	2-5	Mildew Turmut waved her red flag...	12:27
13	2-6	<b>Chapter 5: Scairey Gummidge</b>	13:46



---

			
14	3-1	The search for Worzel Gummidge did not take very long...	8:39
15	3-2	Poor little Earthy looked so sad...	10:11
16	3-3	<b>Chapter 6: Scairey Gummidge and the Two Aunts</b>	11:23
17	3-4	Mrs Bloomsbury-Barton pointed towards an empty stretch...	11:01
18	3-5	<b>Chapter 7: The Aunts Again</b>	9:43
19	3-6	The little scarecrow jerked herself creakily to her feet.	10:22
20	3-7	<b>Chapter 8: Worzel Gummidge Goes Shopping</b>	5:25



---

			
21	4-1	Worzel Gummidge, followed by Earthy Mangold...	11:56
22	4-2	Noisy sobbing from the little girl made an interruption...	13:46
23	4-3	<b>Chapter 9: The White Elephant Stall</b>	9:22
24	4-4	There was a pause while the children waited breathlessly.	9:18
25	4-5	'We're coming too,' said John...	10:15
26	4-6	<b>Chapter 10: Barge Ahoy!</b>	11:09

---

			
27	5-1	Aunt Sally, the foremost of her three legs planted firmly...	9:40
28	5-2	'Perhaps the people on board will help,' said Susan.	10:09
29	5-3	<b>Chapter 11: Aunt Sally Takes Charge</b>	10:46
30	5-4	Hannah's voice was a little muffled...	9:44
31	5-5	'It should be able to count...'	11:57
32	5-6	<b>Chapter 12: Saucy Nancy's Return</b>	8:52

---

			
33	6-1	Worzel Gummidge looked as though he were about to...	9:56
34	6-2	It was difficult to explain ordinariness...	9:47
35	6-3	<b>Chapter 13: Upsidaisy Takes Charge</b>	9:57
36	6-4	'They sent the yacht by rail with me fixed to it...'	10:20
37	6-5	John and Susan looked down into the broad band of rushes...	11:58

**Total time: 6:24:05**

---

Barbara Euphan Todd

# WORZEL GUMMIDGE

*Takes a Holiday*

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.: NA0291

Digital catalogue no.: NA0291D

CD ISBN: 978-1-78198-096-5

Digital ISBN: 978-1-78198-097-2

---

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