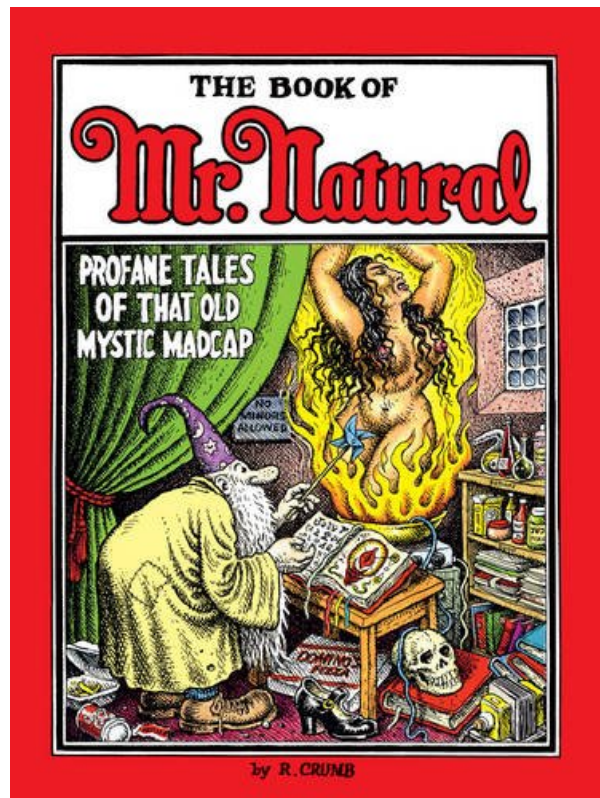
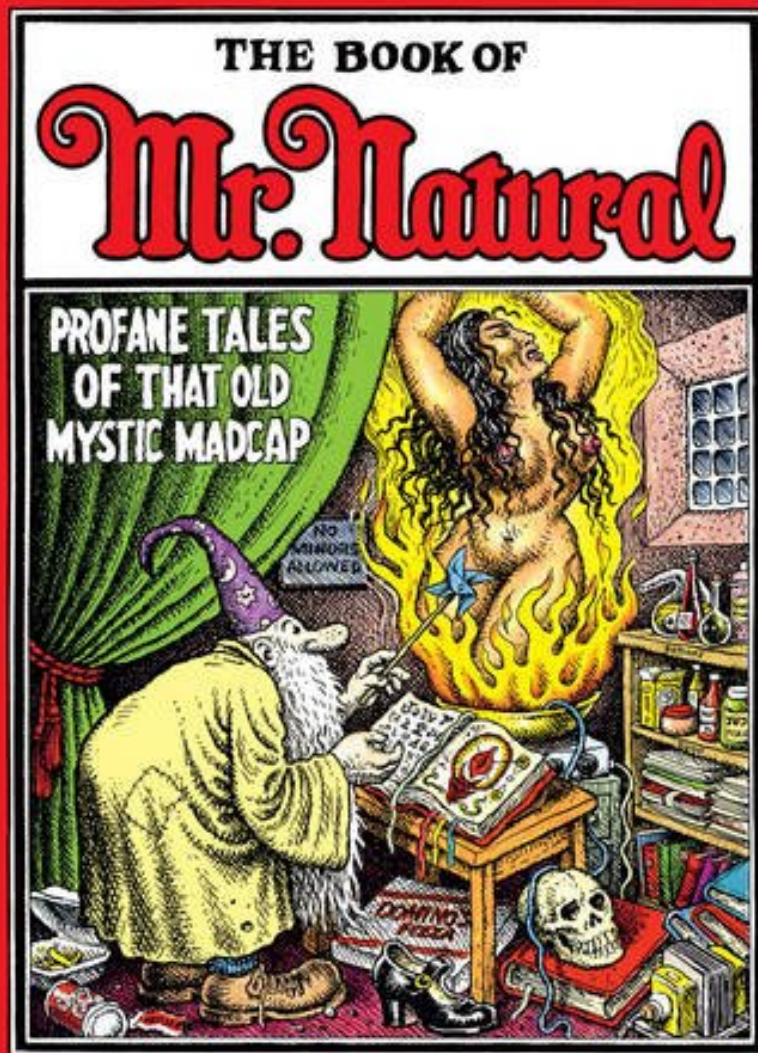


# THE BOOK OF MR. NATURAL BY R. CRUMB



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## Amazon.com Review

Mr. Natural is a 1960s guru, "th' only knower of th' cosmic mysteries alive at this time." Calling him a "mystic madcap" gives the crass, less-than-compassionate charlatan the benefit of the doubt. He is not particularly wise or helpful; in fact, he's a lecherous, grumbling old geezer who gives advice such as "When you arise in the morning, you should do last night's dirty dishes . . . then you should sing a simple melody (of your own choice) . . . then you should call somebody up (not me) . . . then go to the store . . . buy some asparagus." True to the collection's name and R. Crumb's reputation, the stories are sometimes sexually graphic (especially in the scenes with Devil Girl) and a bit on the violent side. Still, there's an innocent, upbeat quality to this comic reflection of America's most notoriously freewheeling decade.

## From Booklist

Seminal underground comics artist Crumb has lately gained wider recognition, thanks to an acclaimed documentary about him. Libraries wanting some representative Crumb in the wake of the movie may be better served by this single volume featuring one of his most famous creations than by the multivolume reprinting of all of his work that Fantagraphics has about half-completed. The bearded, robed, curmudgeonly guru Mr. Natural hasn't changed much since his 1967 debut. An ever-serene-but-horny philosopher-for-hire, dispensing enlightenment to an undeserving world--is he a wise, grizzled mystic or a cynical charlatan? A teller of timeless truths or a sixties anachronism? Wherever he appears, so do his most loyal acolyte, Flakey Foont, and his obsession, the lusty Devil Girl. The collection constitutes a sheer delight for those who have followed the Natch's exploits over the years, yet it is completely accessible to nonaficionados--at least those undaunted by the raunchiness that is another thing that hasn't changed since the sage's early days. Gordon Flagg

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"This is one of the better Christmas-gift books Fantagraphics ever made... A kind of Crumb-primer, or Crumb for people who might want to get at him from a more standard comics stories standpoint." (Tom Spurgeon - The Comics Reporter)

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# THE BOOK OF MR. NATURAL BY R. CRUMB PDF

A Crumb classic featuring his signature creation, available in hardcover for the first time!

This collection features over 120 pages of vintage Crumb comics starring the white-bearded, diminutive sage-cum-charlatan, ranging from charming, free-wheeling early '70s stories to the disturbing, controversial '90s stories (as seen in the Crumb movie), including the entire 40-page "Mr. Natural and Devil Girl" epic. Crumb's Mr. Natural is probably the most famous underground character of all (topping even Fritz the Cat and the Freak Brothers), recognizable even to "civilians." Don't miss this opportunity to snatch up this jam-packed collection of comics from one of the all-time masters! 112 pages of black-and-white comics

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- 112 pages

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## Most helpful customer reviews

23 of 24 people found the following review helpful.

The un-guru

By Kerry Walters

If--perish the thought!--all of R. Crumb's work except his Mr Natural comix were lost to humankind, we'd still have what I take to be his most important legacy. An entire college course could be taught--probably HAS been taught somewhere--with the Mr Natural comix as texts.

Mr Natural is a guru who does exactly what good gurus ought to do: he shakes us up by refusing to act like we think holy people should act. He has a roving eye for the ladies, he cusses, at times he appears heartless or indifferent, and the advice he offers--when he does offer it, which isn't all that often--frequently comes across as whacky. He's so irreverent that it's easy to see him as irrelevant. But nothing could be further from the truth, because Mr Natural is like one of those Taoist sages who, dressed in rags and laughing uproariously, serve as living reminders for the rest of us not to take ourselves, our lifestyles, and our values so seriously. Self-honesty is what Mr Natural wants from us.

As Flakey Foont discovers over and over in the Mr Natural comix, though, self-honesty is hard to come by, because self-deception feels so damn good, especially to us "booshwah" types. We deceive ourselves all the time about our seething sexual desires ("Mr Natural stops Talking," "The Girlfriend," and the marvelous Devil Girl stories). We deceive ourselves about our piety, pretending that what we want to believe is what we should believe ("Mr Natural Goes to a Meeting of the Minds," "Om Sweet Om," and "Sittin' Around the Kitchen Table"). We deceive ourselves about work and ambition ("It's a workaday World") and, in one of the best two stories in this volume, we deceive ourselves when we think about God ("Mr Natural Meets 'The Kid']").\* In all these stories, sacred cow after sacred cow runs off into the sunset, mooing gaily.

And as if all that's not good enough, R. Crumb gives us the definitive biography of Mr Natural--complete with early and rare photos--in this volume (pp. 42-44). This story alone is worth the price of the entire book.

Truly, a great collection!

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\* The other best story here is "Mr Natural's 719th Meditation."

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful.

A funny reminder of a lost time

By Kirk McElhearn

When I was in high school in the early 1970s, a candy store a few blocks from the school sold Zap comics, though the owner kept them hidden. This helped me discover the wacky world of Robert Crumb, and the many other artists whose work was in Zap (notably Gilbert Shelton, and the Fabulous Furry Freak Brothers). Reading this recently brought back some memories of that lost time, but the later stories in the book leave a lot to be desired. As with much of this work - and the same is true with Shelton - there was a brief period when these artists were able to capture the time, but as years passed, they kept on repeating themselves, and their work ends up like aging hippies.

It's a fun read, but it's not Crumb's best work. However, it does bring back good memories.

If only I had save those original Zap comics and other underground comics I had back then...

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful.

The smell of the Summer of Love is strong with this one

By Andrew C Wheeler

I don't know if I have anything coherent or meaningful to say about R. Crumb's THE BOOK OF MR. NATURAL, the collected stories of a character who is very much a product of a very specific time -- and that time was before I was born. Mr. Natural is described on the back cover as a "bearded, robed, curmudgeonly guru," but, really, he was just one in a long line of Crumb stand-ins, embodying one particular part of Crumb's own psyche to make particular points about contemporary society. Natural was the hippie side of Crumb, I suppose, forever disdainning all kinds of restraints, seeking mystical guidance from supernatural forces of one kind or another, and, most centrally, nakedly questioning the point of life and what, if anything, we're supposed to do with ourselves while we're alive. He does this, most usually, in pseudo-Socratic dialogues with Flakey Foont -- yes, these characters were conceived in the late '60s, and that permeates everything about them -- who is just as stereotyped an "Establishment" "square" "straight man" as Natural is a stereotype old hippie. (Though Crumb did anticipate what the real hippies would turn into, a couple of decades ahead.) I find it all a bit sad and woolly-headed, forty years later, but I am a well-known grump with no soul; more spiritually-oriented folks are likely to get more out of Natural's antics than I do.

See all 26 customer reviews...

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Based on some experiences of many people, it remains in fact that reading this **The Book Of Mr. Natural By R. Crumb** can help them to make better selection and also give even more encounter. If you wish to be among them, let's acquisition this book *The Book Of Mr. Natural By R. Crumb* by downloading the book on link download in this website. You can get the soft file of this book *The Book Of Mr. Natural By R. Crumb* to download and install as well as put aside in your readily available electronic tools. Exactly what are you waiting for? Let get this book *The Book Of Mr. Natural By R. Crumb* on-line and review them in at any time and also any location you will certainly check out. It will certainly not encumber you to bring hefty book *The Book Of Mr. Natural By R. Crumb* within your bag.

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