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Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- List of Illustrations -- Preface -- Acknowledgments -- Introduction: "The Very Good Ones" -- 1. Mickey in a Magazine -- 2. Oskar Lebeck Meets Walt Kelly -- 3. Whitman, K.K., and Dell -- 4. Learning on the Job in L.A. -- 5. A Feel for Walt Kelly's Stuff -- 6. Animal Magnetism -- 7. Cartoon Conundrums -- 8. Carl Barks Makes His Break -- 9. Barks Becomes the Duck Man -- 10. The Workman: Gaylord DuBois -- 11. The Observer: John Stanley -- 12. "I Am a Backwoods Bumpkin" -- 13. "Pure Corn" at Disney's -- 14. Special Talents -- 15. Barks Masters His Medium -- 16. An Arena for All the Passions -- 17. Animal Kingdoms -- 18. Walt Kelly Branches Out -- 19. Strong-Handed Friends -- 20. Carl Barks: The Virtuoso -- 21. Walt Kelly Escapes -- 22. Oskar Lebeck in Exile -- 23. Manifest Destiny -- 24. Uncle Scrooge: Play Money -- 25. Carl Barks in Purgatory -- 26. The Slow Fade -- 27. Disasters -- Epilogue: Can These Bones Live? -- Abbreviations -- Notes -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	Funnybooks is the story of the most popular American comic books of the 1940's and 1950's, those published under the Dell label. For a time, "Dell Comics Are Good Comics" was more than a slogan-it was a simple statement of fact. Many of the stories written and drawn by people like Carl Barks (Donald Duck, Uncle Scrooge), John Stanley (Little Lulu), and Walt Kelly (Pogo) repay reading and rereading by educated adults even today, decades after they were published as disposable entertainment

for children. Such triumphs were improbable, to say the least, because midcentury comics were so widely dismissed as trash by angry parents, indignant librarians, and even many of the people who published them. It was all but miraculous that a few great cartoonists were able to look past that nearly universal scorn and grasp the artistic potential of their medium. With clarity and enthusiasm, Barrier explains what made the best stories in the Dell comic books so special. He deftly turns a complex and detailed history into an expressive narrative sure to appeal to an audience beyond scholars and historians.
