HPTHPT! Breathed’s Billy and the Boingers Bootleg is a big blast

By MARK KANTROWITZ

Breathed’s Billy and the Boingers Bootleg is Berke Breathed’s best book. Even if you have faithfully clipped each and every Bloom County strip as it appeared in the newspapers, having them all together in one coffee-table-sized volume adds an extra measure of dazzlement and delight.

The material has all been published before, and the attempt at getting separate strips into a pictorial thin at best. Storyline notwithstanding, the cheeklines are all still there.

From Opus’ Star Trek Strategic Defense Project to his engagement to Lola Granville, and from Rosedale the Bandsyke (who loves pop tarts) to Bill the Cat’s heavy metal rock group, the book contains all the cartoons since the publication of Breathed’s last book, MOM QUEST: Opus Goes Home.

Besides the hilarity, the book includes a soft-vinyl record with two of the Boingers’ classics, “Rita” and “Bill the Cat’s Birthday.”

Note: Previous Bloom County books by Berke Breathed include LOOSE TAILS, TOONS FOR OUR TIMES, PENGUIN DREAMS and Stranger Things, BLOOM COUNTY BABY: Five Years of Basic Naughtiness, and MOM QUEST: Opus Goes Home.

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