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MERVYN WALL (1908-1997) was born in Dublin. He was educated in Belvedere College; Bonn, Germany; and obtained his B.A. from the National University of Ireland in 1928. After fourteen years in the Civil Service, he joined Radio Éireann as Programme Officer. In 1957 he became Secretary of the Arts Council of Ireland, retiring in 1975. Known during his lifetime as a broadcaster and critic, he is best remembered for his plays and novels. His book *Leaves for the Burning* won Denmark's Best European Novel award in 1952.

THE RETURN OF FURSEY

Mervyn Wall

*"Henceforth I will serve Evil. I'll become a most depraved character.
I'll turn really wicked."*

This worthy sequel to *The Unfortunate Fursey* follows the continued exploits of that reluctant sorcerer Fursey, now a middling grocer in the realm of King Ethelwulf. But when Fursey's wife is seized by an Irish delegation led by her jilted fiancé, Fursey resolves to embrace evil, return to Ireland, and reclaim his wife. Readers will delight in the return of Fursey's unhelpful familiar Albert and the Prince of Darkness; plus such memorable new characters as George the Vampire, Sigurd the Skull Splitter, and the wealthy Festus Wisenuts. "*The Return of Fursey* shows no lessening at all in Wall's quality of imagination," wrote critic Robert Hogan. "As with the best of Charlie Chaplin, or of Anton Chekhov or O'Casey, the laughter is very akin to high art."

PRAISE FOR FURSEY

*"If I wasn't doing Hellboy I think I'd be very happy spending
a couple years drawing an adaptation of this."*

– Mike Mignola

*"Mr. Wall's power of ingenious and witty invention is equal
to the imaginative task which he has set himself. . . [he] has given us in
the character of the humble Fursey a symbolic figure. Simple, affectionate,
somewhat stupid, fearful of all that comes from thought or experience
of life, anxious only to regain the safety of mental
obedience and blissful ignorance."*

– Austin Clarke

*"A landmark book in the history of fantasy . . .
The style is barbedly witty, amusing insights are plentiful,
and an endless profusion of delicious characters awaits the reader.
But the reader must not be offended by satire against Church and State."*

– E. F. Bleiler