

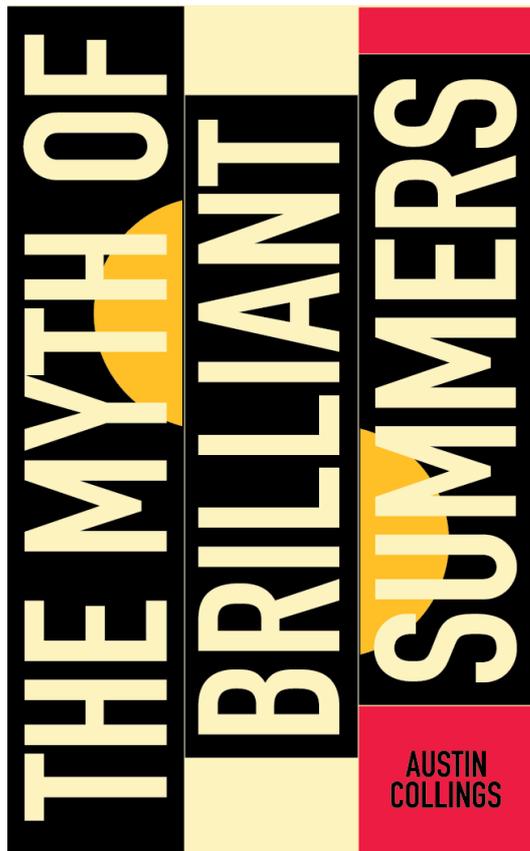
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PRESS RELEASE

• THE MYTH OF BRILLIANT SUMMERS •
Austin Collings

• Monday 12th January 2015 • Paperback • £9.99 •
Also available as an eBook

“The Myth Of Brilliant Summers is the work of a powerful writer who insists on taking risks with language and structure.”
- Daniel Woodrell author of *Winter’s Bone & Tomato Red*



Note to reader: This book is designed to be read on the bus or in the pub before or after they try to slowly kill you at school or in work or even at home.

The Myth Of Brilliant Summers is a work of suspicion and delicate menace. Spanning decades of educational and state abuse, these interlinked stories/modern day parables about outsiders and dreamers follow in the cult tradition of *Junky* (William Burroughs) and *Post Office* (Charles Bukowski).

Available from pariahpress.com from November 2014, 'Myth' will finally hit the shops in January 2015.

Austin Collings co-wrote *Renegade: The Lives & Tales of Mark E Smith*. He has also contributed freelance articles to a variety of national magazines, newspapers and websites including The Guardian, The Times, Sight & Sound, New Statesman and Tate Etc, and many others.

Prepublication praise for *The Myth Of Brilliant Summers*:

“With a ruthless rush of witty adroit prose Collings whisks us in his series of short stories through the madness of human eccentricity. Not for the faint hearted, the light hearted or even the young at heart – in fact it’s better if you don’t have a heart at all.”

John Healy – author of *The Grass Arena*

“*The Myth Of Brilliant Summers* is the work of a powerful writer who insists on taking risks with language and structure. Austin Collings writes prose that is compressed, angled, droll, sure, but also evocative and swooping when he wants it to be. These stories are so tight they have an elegance of form that somehow does not jar against the rough, darkling content.”

Daniel Woodrell – author of *Winter’s Bone* and *Tomato Red*

“A stream of haunting images, familiar but not tired, illuminate powerful descriptions of noble ordinariness. Collings has a mastery of his language, relationships and environment. Authenticity ripples through every sentence. The working class have a new literary hero.”

Kevin Mitchell – chief sports writer, *Observer* and *Guardian*

“This impressive collection is a breath of fetid air. Collings’ characters seem to come of age and then carry on careening through a world gone horribly wrong. Their summers may not have been brilliant but his prose certainly is: staccato bursts infused with energy, punches to the gut of society’s artifice, low, low blows. Austin knows where the bodies are buried. And now so do you.”

Larry “Ratso” Sloman, co-author of *Mike Tyson’s Undisputed Truth*

“Forget bogus pessimism, this is real pessimism like mother used to make. Austin Collings says ‘no’ in a thousand inventive ways. Good on him.”

Ian Pattison, novelist and creator of *Rabb C. Nesbitt*

“Austin Collings writes some of the best new stories I’ve read in ages. Cutting to the very heart of what matters, his terse prose forces us to take a good hard look at the world about us and at ourselves. This is frontline reporting from Britain’s city streets. Truly powerful and uncompromising. Collings is a major new talent that deserves to be read and celebrated. A very fine collection.”

Ron Butlin, Scottish Poet Laureate (2008-2014), and author of *The Sound Of My Voice*

“These terse and haunting stories from the decayed heart of England are percussive and unforgettable. A truly impressive collection.”

Howard Cunnell – author of *The Sea On Fire* and *Marine Boy*

“‘Summer days, when things go wrong,’ is the opening to one of the stories in Austin Collings’ collection, *The Myth of Brilliant Summers*, but it could just as well be true of all of them. Young lads muck about together in the holidays, but they’re not engaged in the Blyton-esque plunging into pools and riding ponies that the title suggests. These lads watch pigs being slaughtered, see a man and woman engage in a very public fight, get texts from blokes who’ve been in the nuthouse. Their world is urban and harsh, encapsulated in graphic prose whose cynicism rolls back to reveal clear-sighted observation and ultimately, compassion.”

Jean Rafferty – author of *Myra, Beyond Saddleworth*

Austin Collings is available for interview and to write pieces.

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