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• THE MYTH OF BRILLIANT SUMMERS •

Austin Collings

November 2014 • A-format Paperback • £9.99

ISBN: 978-0-9930378-0-1 • 120 pages

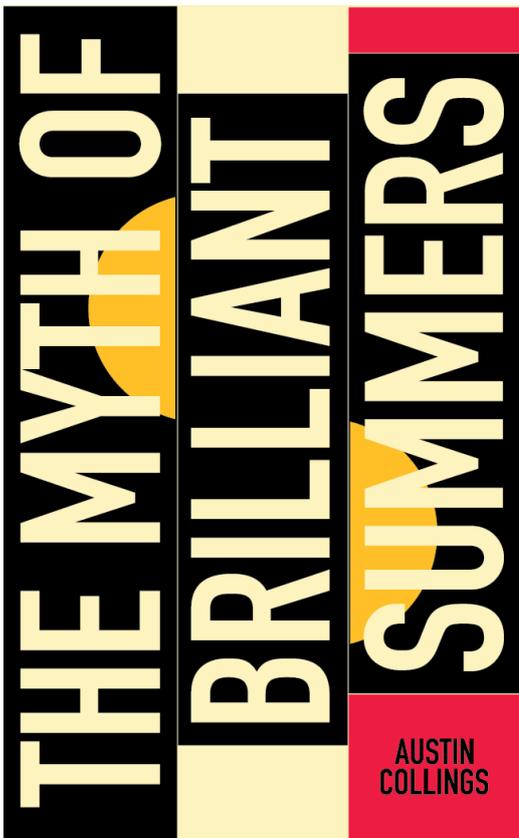
With illustrations and photography throughout

Categories: Contemporary Fiction, Short Fiction

Also available as an eBook

“ The working class have a new literary hero.”

Kevin Mitchell – The Observer



**Key Note:**

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.

**Sales Points:**

- An exciting work of contemporary flash-fiction currently on trend in the marketplace.
- A distinctly original reflection of the times we live in.
- It is Austin Collings' debut work of fiction.
- Austin co-wrote *Renegade: The Lives & Tales of Mark E Smith*, published by Penguin.
- He has written for a variety of national magazines, newspapers and websites including The Guardian, The Times, Sight & Sound, New Statesman and Tate Etc, and many others.

**The Book:**

Pariah Press' debut release - 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).

**PARIAH PRESS:**

UK based independent publishing house founded by Jamie Lee (lead singer of Money) and Jonny Walsh. We seek to establish an alternative vision – a wild and memorable departure from conceit and mediocrity – based upon our considered selection of authors/miscreants who often would never be considered by mainstream publishers.

Sparked by Malcolm Lowry's Under The Volcano, PARIAH dares to embody The Consul's powerful vision of artistic and moral freedom.

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** – *The Observer* and *The 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* and *Scar Tissue*

“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 *Rab 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 *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 Blytonesque 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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