



The London Novels

Colin MacInnes

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Bringing together three of Colin MacInnes' finest works, this exciting omnibus explores a very different side of London life in the 1950s than is usually portrayed. His characters are colourful and real, painting vivid pictures of areas such as Brixton and Notting Hill at this time. The stories of friendship, love and growing up are set against a background of jazz and good times, as London's staid reputation progresses to that of a thriving multiracial capital.

A man ahead of his time, MacInnes displayed the realities of 1950s London: an emerging teen culture, black immigration and the glamorisation of crime and criminals with remarkable insight and sympathy.

The London Novels Details

Date : Published September 1st 2005 by Allison & Busby (first published 1969)

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Author : Colin MacInnes

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From Reader Review The London Novels for online ebook

Chris Carlson says

Absolute Beginners is the best, City of Spades second and Mr. Love and Mr. Justice coming in third. All worth a look.

Ksenia says

3 novels about th world's capitol.

Alec says

A great trilogy that encompasses London at the dawn of a new era - an enjoyable read.

Terry Clague says

'The word 'free-lance', I used to think, had a romantic ring; but sadly discovered, when I tried to be one, that its practice has little freedom, and the lance is a sorry weapon to tilt at literary windmills.'

Tosh says

Zero One for the ultimate Mod literature. "Absolute Beginners" is an incredible view of Multi-cultural London during the late 50's and start of the 'Teenage' subculture.

Zack says

<http://www.examiner.com/books-in-denv...>

Jen says

read now twice in less than two months, 'absolute beginners' is still amazing and the one hundred percent true prize of this trilogy, flanked between a nearly-as-good one ('city of spades') and one that's only just okay, in part because of its redundant observations but as a whole just not grabby.

i defy anyone to read 'absolute beginners' and not find it relevant to these times.
ponces and whores, baby. and derelict socialite queers. hooray!

Manda says

These novels are an often astonishing, for their time, peek into the underclasses of 1950s London. The world in which their characters inhabit is gritty and sleazy, and all the more real for it. The first, *City of Spades*, takes a look at the African immigrants in London and their various adventures in nightclubs and scrapes with the law, while the second, *Absolute Beginners*, is the best of the bunch, telling the story of the burgeoning teenage culture of London through the eyes of one of them. The last, *Mr. Love and Justice*, was the one I actually liked the least, which was the story of a pimp (Frankie Love) and a policeman (Edward Justice) and the difference between the letter of the law and the morality of the man on the street. It wasn't quite as interesting a read as the other two.

Mish says

I absolutely loved the teeny slang, reminiscent of the Beats language. Chicklets, Spades, tax-payers. All very good. I have only read *Absolute Beginners*, from this book, by the way.

There is more trouble on the character side. I find the protagonist rather unsympathetic, and resent his need for 'putting people in boxes' depending on their sexuality, skin colour, etc.

Also, the last bit of the novel doesn't flow with the first three quarters, which is quite disappointing. The Notting Hill riots seem a bit thrown in.
