Absolute Beginners Colin MacInnes

Summary: Colin MacInnes’s novel Absolute Beginners is set in 1958 London, capturing the spirit and social climate of the era. The protagonist, a young photographer named Colin, navigates the world of youth culture and explores themes of love, identity, and the pursuit of creativity.


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MacInnes was born in London, the son of singer James Campbell MacInnes and novelist Angela Thirkell, and was educated in Eton. He was a member of the London Trilogy, consisting of City of Spades (1957), Absolute Beginners (1959), and Mr. Love and Justice (1960). These works are not well known, with no English cinema.

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MacInnes’s trilogy is widely regarded as capturing the essence of London life during the 1950s, particularly City of Spades (1957), Absolute Beginners (1959), and Mr. Love and Justice (1960). Absolute Beginners is widely considered the best of the trilogy. The novel has been adapted into a musical film, Absolute Beginners, which was released in 1986.

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MacInnes was influenced by the literature of the Beat Generation, particularly Jack Kerouac’s On the Road, and by the culture of London during the 1950s. Absolute Beginners is set in 1958 London, capturing the spirit and social climate of the era. The protagonist, a young photographer named Colin, navigates the world of youth culture and explores themes of love, identity, and the pursuit of creativity.

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The novel Absolute Beginners has been adapted into a musical film, Absolute Beginners, which was released in 1986. The film was directed by Julien Temple and stars Mickey Rourke as the main character, Colin. The film was well-received by critics and is considered a classic of the British cinema.

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