

The Last Mad Surge Of Youth



Mark Hodgkinson

POMONA £7.99

Life in a Northern town, post-punk style.

The challenge with fictional portrayals of bands is how to achieve authenticity. But the author has done just that in this coming of age novel. It's a tale of friendship – centred on childhood chums Dave Carey and John Barrett, and their band Killing Stars – ethics and career trajectories. Barrett ends up a multi-million selling dissatisfied alcoholic solo artist. He burns his last bridge live on daytime TV. Carey becomes a local reporter who gets his big literary break when commissioned to write the biography of his old pal. With a keen eye for period detail, drama and the idealistic expectations we invest in musicians, Hodgkinson has crafted an emotive tale of youthful hope that's so believable you're almost tempted to track down Killing Stars' back catalogue.

Ben Myers