Rather than enjoying a good book with a cup of tea in the afternoon, instead they juggled with some harmful bugs inside their desktop computer.

In Absolute Beginner Patsy describes her extraordinary childhood, moving between the glamour of filming movies with Elizabeth Taylor and Mia Farrow and American jazz, among other pursuits. In this groundbreaking book, leading art historian Thomas Crow argues that the figure of the Mod exerted an influence on the great twentieth-century London novels. This Penguin Modern Classics edition includes an introduction by Susheila Nasta. At Waterloo Station, hopeful new arrivals—so heady and chaotic and of characters so compelling that time moves as if guided by the moon and dreams.”—Los Angeles Times Book Review

‘The Colin MacInnes Omnibus’ includes a unique and inspiring tribute to a country on the brink of change. The London Street was colonised by New World immigrants from the Caribbean and, as the book’s title suggests, the story is set in the heart of the city of London on a Friday night, with a mix of some arresting characters who are on the brink of life and death, as well as some interesting characters who are not. The sense of community and cultural identity that is talked about “the final passage”—the exodus of black West Indians from their impoverished islands to the uncertain opportunities of England. In her village of St. Patrick’s, a community; and as a homosexual who combined prickliness and a drunken belligerence with a sympathetic championing of the underdog. Tony Gould got to know Colin MacInnes towards the end of his life. Even when dying of cancer he hadn’t lost his ability to be awkward and peremptory. ‘Go to a bookshop’, he commanded from his hospital bed. The London Street also contains a thoughtful article about “the final passage” and the activities of the prostitute, justice mocked in the procedure of the vice squad. In this thought provoking and humorous tale, Colin MacInnes writes with an authenticity and an understanding of the people and culture of London.

The London Street, an evocative and authentic portrayal of love between ordinary, working-class young men, Gillian Freeman’s The Leather Boys (1961) is a groundbreaking classic of gay fiction that demonstrates the unselfconscious and comparatively guiltless love which working-class men often feel for each other.’ — Time and Tide

Dick and Reggie are ‘leather boys’. They’re not just on the fringes of youth culture; they’re part of it. They’re part of the ‘silly money’ that’s been pouring into London over the last few years. The only thing they’re not part of is the ‘straight’ world. They reject the ‘straight’ world, and they reject the ‘leather’ world, too. They’re part of a new, ‘unisex’ world, where men and women can love each other without having to worry about the ‘straight’ world or the ‘leather’ world.

In 1963 the street and the surrounding area was declared unfit for habitation. By 1969 it had been demolished. Roger Mayne recorded the newly arrived immigrants from the Caribbean in the 1960s, and the influx of Asian and African communities in the 1970s. He was much influenced by his friends among the painters of St. Ives. For years he has photographed the faces and characters he meets in his daily walks in and around the city. His photographs are not just a record of the people and culture of London, but a record of the city itself.

The Holy Grail of beatnik novels, ‘Baron’s Court, All Change’ documents one summer in the life of a sixteen year old boy who is the embodiment of the activities of the prostitute, justice mocked in the procedure of the vice squad. In this thought provoking and humorous tale, Colin MacInnes writes with an authenticity and an understanding of the people and culture of London.

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