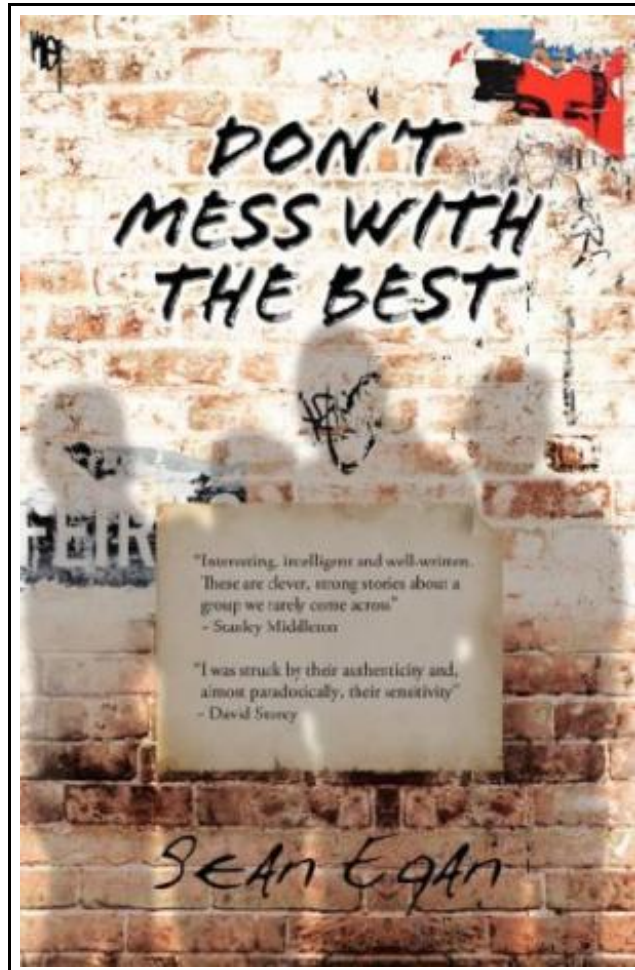


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Reviews

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Askill Publishing. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 260 pages. Dimensions: 8.5in. x 5.5in. x 0.8in. Barry Hines A Kestrel for a Knave, Stan Barstows Joby, Bill Naughtons The Goalkeepers Revenge, Keith Waterhouses There Is A Happy Land, David Storeys Saville. . In the esteemed tradition of British working class childhood depicted through fiction comes Sean Egan's superb collection *Dont Mess With The Best*. In these fifteen tales describing the adventures, escapades, high jinks and set-backs of children and teenagers, Egan captures the 1970s as acutely as did the aforementioned writers of their eras. Whether writing about a skinhead who realises that his hard-man status means nothing to a woman interviewing him for a job, a ten-year-old tomboy whose kindness nullifies the embarrassment produced by peer pressure in her new, male best mate, a 13-year-old who realises to his horror that a girlie magazine he has hidden in his mother's flat has disappeared, a boy who is swept up by the illusion of being as tough as his playmate with humiliating results, or a football hooligan whose crushing anonymity is replaced by exhilarating fame on match days, Egan's powers of observation, flawless ear for speech and technical dexterity make for a collection bursting with life and studded with pleasures. Two former winners of the greatest prize in British fiction, the Booker, have garlanded this collection already and more laurels are sure to come for an author who grants us an incisive view of a fascinating and rarely seen segment of the world. STANLEY MIDDLETON (BOOKER PRIZE WINNER 1974): These stories are interesting, intelligent and well-written. Children who are approaching, putting up with or getting out of their teenage years are described with lively observation and appropriate language. Sometimes we may not like or approve of them, but we cannot but feel some twinges...



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