



The Boys of Summer: A Novel

By Richard Cox

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The Boys of Summer: A Novel By Richard Cox

Both a haunting coming-of-age story set in North Texas against the backdrop of a deadly tornado, and a character-driven, deeply-affecting supernatural thriller.

In 1979, a massive tornado devastates the city of Wichita Falls, Texas, leaving scores dead, thousands homeless, and nine-year-old Todd Willis in a coma, fighting for his life.

Four years later, Todd awakens to a world that looks the same but feels different in a way he can't quite grasp. For Todd, it's a struggle to separate fact from fiction as he battles lingering hallucinations from his long sleep.

The new friends Todd makes in 1983 are fascinated with his experience and become mesmerized by his strange relationship with the world. Together the five boys come of age during a dark, fiery summer where they find first love, betrayal, and a secret so terrible they agree to never speak of it again.

But darkness returns to Wichita Falls twenty-five years later, and the boys--now men--are forced to reunite and confront the wounds from their past. When their memories of that childhood summer refuse to align with reality, the friends embark upon a search for truth that will threaten their lives, and transform their understanding of each other--and the world itself--forever.

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The Boys of Summer: A Novel By Richard Cox Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

“This beautifully written supernatural thriller will no doubt remind some readers of Stephen King’s *It*, and perhaps also of Dennis Lehane’s *Mystic River*, but make no mistake: this is no knockoff. Cox’s story is vibrantly original and his characters are intricately detailed.”

—*Booklist*

“Mind-blowing . . . Captures the same spirit of dreadful nostalgia that made *Stranger Things* a recent smash hit for Netflix . . . Think of [*The Boys of Summer*] as the best Stephen King novel not by Stephen King (a true compliment).”

—*Barnes & Noble Sci-Fi Blog*

“I really enjoyed *The Boys of Summer* . . . If you liked *Stranger Things* you’ll probably like this too.”

—*LitReactor*

“Make no mistake, Cox has spun a hell of a yarn. Rich and complex characters, razor-blade prose, and a must-be-read-to-be-believed premise. Not since Stephen King’s *It* has there been such a poignant and exhilarating parable about family, friendship and the demons that hitch a ride as we hit each our own lonesome road from childhood to adulthood.”

—Fred Strydom, author of *The Raft*

“*The Boys of Summer* is a thrilling ride, as twisty and unpredictable as a tornado. Cox will keep you turning pages deep into the night.”

—*New York Times* bestselling author Jonathan Evison

“Richard Cox charges into urban fantasy with the hallucinatory, devastating *The Boys of Summer*. The book Stephen King would have written if he’d been born on the wind-ravaged plains of North Texas.”

—Sean Beaudoin, author of *Welcome Thieves* and *The Infects*

“*The Boys of Summer* is a tense, intriguing, and beautifully observed puzzle of a book, so craftily plotted that it kept me guessing right to the end.”

—Tom Toner, author of *The Promise of the Child*

“A dark, clever, supernatural thriller”?Dallas News

About the Author

Richard Cox is the alleged author of three previous novels: *Thomas World*, *The God Particle*, and *Rift*. He claims to live in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Then again, you shouldn’t believe everything you read.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Cleveland Bolton:

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Christopher Parker:

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