



The Last Act

Brad Parks

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Award-winning author Brad Parks delivers a deliciously tense novel of thrills, twists, and deceit that will keep readers riveted.

Struggling stage actor Tommy Jump knows he has to stop chasing applause and start chasing greenbacks. But then he's offered the role of a lifetime: \$150,000 for a six-month acting gig. With a newly pregnant fiancee depending on him, it's an opportunity he can't refuse, even though the offer comes from the strangest employer imaginable: the FBI.

The feds won a small victory when they arrested Mitchell Dupree, a banker who has spent the past four years laundering money for New Colima, one of the deadliest cartels in Mexico and a major supplier of crystal meth in the US. But Dupree has documents that could lead to arrests of high-ranking members of New Colima, including their fearsome leader, El Vio . . . if only he'd tell the FBI where they are.

Using a false name and backstory, Tommy will enter Dupree's low-security prison as a felon and get close to the banker in the hopes that he'll reveal the documents' whereabouts. But when Tommy arrives, he quickly realizes that he's underestimated the enormity of his task and the terrifying reach of the cartel. Because the FBI isn't the only one looking for the documents, and if Tommy doesn't play his role to perfection, it just may be his last act.

The Last Act Details

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From Reader Review The Last Act for online ebook

Erica says

Let me start by saying I haven't read anything by Brad Parks before but I DEFINITELY will now. Secondly, WOW! What a great book and I am a picky reader. The story line was fun, the twists, the turns, I had no idea what was going to happen next.

This was a fun, quick read that will keep you guessing and one I would recommend to a friend.

Brad Parks says

There's just something so self-affirming about giving yourself a five-star review.

(That said: I really did like this book. I don't know if the characters were real to you, but they were sure real in my head).

Diana says

This book is loosely based on a real life banking scandal between Wachovia Bank and a drug cartel. Tommy Jump is a child actor who never made the big time and is at loose ends after his final performance when he is approached by a childhood friend he has not seen in years who now works for the FBI. Tommy is presented with an offer to earn up to 150k and continue the career he loves. The catch? He will be pretending to be a prisoner in a minimum security prison, befriend another inmate and obtain information the FBI needs. The story is told from varying viewpoints and is very engaging. The reader can sense there is a problem but there are red herrings i really enjoyed.

I would recommend reading a short story called "The Whistleblower" before this book as an introduction. I highly recommend this book.

Brad Parks is one of the best writers in the mystery field. This is a stand alone and does not feature his recurring character , Carter Page.

Dennis says

The Last Act is an emotionally driven thriller, seeking out to show you the deception and power of some of the most corrupt criminal organizations in the world.

Drug lords and cartels have more power than you nor I will *hopefully* ever know. When Tommy Jump bumps into a former classmate working for the FBI, he is tasked with working as an undercover actor in order to seek out answers against one of the most deadly cartels in Mexico—New Colima. The FBI wants to stage a coup against the cartel, and Tommy's professional history is the key to unlocking how. Tommy Jump is a former child star—famous from his Broadway days, but he's been struggling to find work after being typecast in the role that made him famous. Although nervous about being put in jail, he takes this as a gig and knows that he will not only be helping the criminal justice system out, but he will also be making enough

money for his family to thrive on for a good amount of time in the future. They won't have to worry about their next paycheck, and they can live a good life for enough time for Tommy to find another job. Under a pseudonym, Tommy has entered the prison where he must go undercover and find out the truth. However, with New Colima also peeking nearby, will this be his last act?

I really can't get into the story anymore than I have, because it's just one of those novels that you need to take *just a peek* before diving in, but then you need to dive in full force. And once you **do** dive in, you will be shook! Seriously, I read this over the holiday break, and instead of talking to my family, I just ignored them and read this amazing Brad Parks novel. The writing is *on point*, *gripping*, and it *delivers*. I seriously cannot believe how gripped I was in this story, especially since I've read so many books over the last year with a similar premise.

One thing that sticks out with ***The Last Act*** that so many books fail to deliver, is the fear of reality. Although I'm not an actor, and probably never get asked to participate in such a riveting acting job, I do think that Tommy's fears and stress with life is relatable. Money issues, relationship dramas, and *fear*. He's not only a relatable character, but a charismatic, multifaceted, and likable character as well.

If you enjoy anything by John Grishman, JP Delaney's *Believe Me*, or Jennifer Hillier's *Jar of Hearts*, I think you'd love ***The Last Act***. It's a whirlwind of thrills from start-to-finish, and it gives the viewers a peek about our criminal justice system and how crime against drug offenses are possibly being handled in our society today. I hope to see more of Tommy Jump, and I hope to read more from Brad Parks. **Five glowing stars.**
