



## The Last Day of Christmas: The Fall of Jack Parlabane

*Christopher Brookmyre*

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Snowy London, a few days before Christmas, and a civil servant realises she has a chance for revenge.

Kendra has spent her whole life struggling against the Etonian powers-that-be, so when she realises her boss is up to no good, she turns whistleblower, calling a journalist who is looking for a way to fight back himself.

Jack Parlabane is a hack who will go to desperate lengths for a good story, and these days *desperate* is the word.

Reduced to peddling PR puff pieces, Parlabane is delighted when Kendra's information threatens to blow up a national corruption case at the highest levels. But as he follows the threads and others get wind of his investigation, Parlabane realises this story might prove dangerous to both of them.

This is one Christmas present Parlabane might regret opening.

*Suspense, conspiracy and Jack Parlabane - a journalist who doesn't know what's good for him - lie within this superb short story prequel to the forthcoming novel Dead Girl Walking.*

## **The Last Day of Christmas: The Fall of Jack Parlabane Details**

Date : Published October 30th 2014 by Little, Brown

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Author : Christopher Brookmyre

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## From Reader Review The Last Day of Christmas: The Fall of Jack Parlabane for online ebook

### Colin Forbes says

Really just a taster or tease for the new Jack Parlabane novel due next year, but I enjoyed this. It's nice to return to the world of a favourite character and I look forward to another full-length story featuring the gallus investigative reporter.

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### Barbara says

If you like Jack Parlabane, you may consider waiting with reading this freaking short story. I couldn't and I'm not sure if it wasn't a grave mistake. It was easier when I didn't remember how much I love Parlabane exactly.

“On the Last Day of Christmas” wasn't probably the best short story in the crime fiction history or even in Brookmyre's bibliography (“Bampot Central” was way more funny), but it was just too Parlabane-ish too do anything else but make me very happy for about an hour. And then it ended. And now I've read I'm supposed to wait till May for “Dead Girl Walking” publication (May? Seriously? How?).

That it was a very promising set up - sounds like Jack Parlabane's meets some of Jasmine Sharp's series's seriousness and I'm curious about the result – doesn't help my impatience at all (full disclosure, if it was in previous books' tone, it wouldn't help either). And Parlabane is the best character at his worst moments. And, generally: sigh.

Okay, more to the point, it was quite interesting, if not that surprising (view spoiler) But I doubt that little plot twist was planned as surprise, it read more like establishing Parlabane's life situation (as utterly disastrous) and his characteristic (downright reckless, as Kendra herself noticed and too desperate and/or obstinate to think clearly – (view spoiler)) for the second story, in-depth story, real story (like the Telegraph's one) that's awaiting him.

It's going to be unpleasant one, I'm sure, so maybe I shouldn't wish it upon a character I adore – but could it hurry the hell up?

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### Laura Elisabeth says

I have the 'next' book waiting on my kindle shelf and I thought I would give this short story a whirl first to get to know the characters and background. Good little short crime novel. Looking forward to reading the 'full' book and finding out what happens

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### Alison says

\* I am not sure that I can write a fair review of this book without reading the full novel that follows it.

\* The story and characters are good, but the cliff-hanger at the end is so frustrating that I am glad that I

already have the next book lined up to read soon. I had not planned to read it straight away, but think that I might need to change my plans!

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### **Sharon says**

Love a wee short story and love a book that ends on a cliff-hanger! I'm sucked right in and interested to read what JP gets up to next- and what came before this! Chris Brookmyre's writing is so compelling. Getting more excited about Crime at the Castle by the day :D

Challenge list #17 (finish in a day)

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### **Sandy says**

3.5 stars

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### **Stefani - SpelingExpirt says**

A tense little glimpse into the world of Parlabane who returns after years of absence, filling a void I didn't even realise was there. This short story comes packed with all of the tense, political and journalistic play we're used to from Brookmyre but minus the sarcasm and wit that usually accompanies Parlabane's outings.

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### **Nigel says**

Enjoyable read for Brookmyre fans. It fills in a gap in Jack's life just prior to Dead Girl Walking. Nicely done but probably a 3.5/5 really.

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### **Chrystyna says**

The Last Days of Christmas: The Fall of Jack Parlabane by Christopher Brookmyre - Good Another Christmas themed short story, although thinking about it, I don't remember it being particularly Christmassy.

This is basically a lead in to the new Parlabane novel that is due out in January. I suspect that, as it is a while since the last one, Mr Brookmyre wanted to remind us of Jack and whet our appetite. It worked well, but I didn't need any help in being excited about the new book.

Post Leveson Enquiry, Jack has found his exploits and his career severely curtailed. He's working for some London Tabloid taking wire stories and editing them into the 'house style'. Deeply dissatisfying! Then, by chance, a story drops into his lap: an MOD bigwig having an affair and thereby leaving himself vulnerable. Can he resist investigating, can he avoid getting himself in trouble? Of course not.

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Nice little taster, can't wait to read the new novel.

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### **The Cats Mother says**

This short story is set in between books 5 and 6 of the Jack Parlabane series, and has Jack at a low point in his career, working for a London tabloid, estranged from his wife, and feeling his age - but things can always get worse.

When he rescues a young woman being harassed in a train station by some drunken boors, she confides in him about a work dilemma: a senior civil servant at the MoD is having an affair with national security implications. Needing a story to restart his career, he gets involved, but soon discovers there are smarter people than him pulling his strings.

This has the trademark Brookmyre wit, sarcasm, and class rage, although toned down compared to the earlier books, as is the swearing. The best thing about his books is how Jack gets knocked down, but gets back up again (see what I did there?) but here, he is truly left in the gutter, so I didn't particularly enjoy it. Luckily I have *Dead Girl Walking* ready to read soon. I don't know how necessary it is for the series to read this, I guess I'll see with the next book, and report back. I hope we see more of Kendra too.

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### **David says**

So when I started reading *dead girl walking* I was a tad confused. How had jack parlabane ended up so far down on his luck, unemployable, and who was this sir Anthony mead they kept mentioning. Then I discovered this novella only available as a download. It's a spiritedly little number and explains everything that needs explaining, introducing the character of buzzkill and showing jack get his comeuppance for being a touch over confident. Obviously at 53 pages it's lightweight but well written fun and at least it means I don't think my memory is failing quite as much as I did at the end of reading my previous book.

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### **Scott says**

A very enjoyable short story charting the downfall of Jack Parlabane which works well as a standalone story, as well as prologue to *Dead Girl Walking*. Parlabane is down, but not out; like a Timex watch he's taken a licking but keeps on ticking. Full of sharp humour and sharper dialogue, a great story for both readers new to Chris Brookmyre as well as long-term readers of his previous works!

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### **margaret holmes-middleton says**

#### **Typical Brookmyre great read**

Parlabane at his lowest ...always great characterization...the story unfolds with startling clarity ..you feel your there with him feel his pain

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**Colin Murtagh says**

I love Parlabane, but to be fair, this isn't really a short story about him, it feels more like a set up for the following novel. As such, it works well, but I wouldn't recommend reading it without having *Dead Girl Walking* to hand.

Given the Leveson enquiry, Parlabane was always going to be a target, now he's at the stage where he's basically rewording PR puff pieces under a new byline. So when a big story falls into his lap, he was always going to follow it up. This being Jack, it's probably not his best idea.

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**Mike Marsbergen says**

Fast, funny, thrilling. Certainly makes me want to read the next novel soon!

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