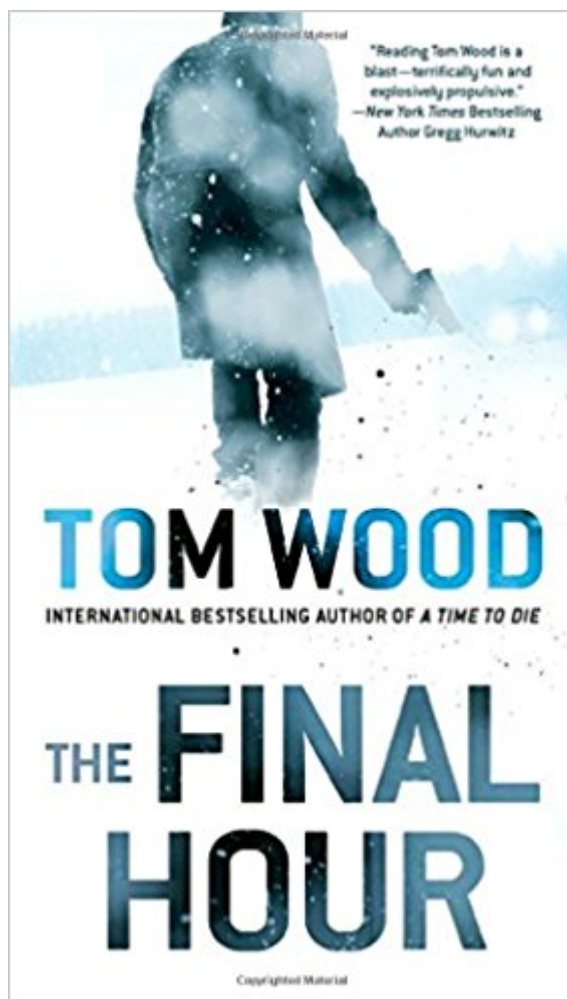


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The Final Hour (Victor)



Synopsis

The enigmatic assassin Victor returns in an explosive thriller from the international bestselling author of *A Time to Die* and *The Darkest Day*. **SOMETIMES THE ONLY WAY TO LIVE...** Victor is the ultimate predator. He surfaces to kill, then disappears into thin air. But he's a disposable commodity for the powerful people he works for—both the good guys and the bad. And no one has his back. Especially now that doing black bag jobs for the CIA has put a target on his head... **...IS TO DIE.** Antonio Alvarez, a high-ranking US intelligence official, is determined to clean house and find the legendary killer who slipped away from him during an operation in Paris. There's only one person Victor can turn to for help: a lethal female assassin whose life he once saved. And now Victor wants her to return the favor—by killing him....

Book Information

Series: Victor (Book 7)

Paperback: 448 pages

Publisher: Berkley (August 29, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399584889

ISBN-13: 978-0399584886

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 1.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #11,029 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #86 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Crime > Organized Crime #159 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Crime #160 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Assassinations

Customer Reviews

Praise for Tom Wood's Thrillers "Reading Tom Wood is a blast—terrifically fun and explosively propulsive." —Gregg Hurwitz, New York Times bestselling author of *Orphan X* "Victor is a thrilling antihero." —Pierre Morel, director of *Taken* "Tactical accuracy, globe-trotting locales, and plenty of twists to keep you guessing to the last page....Makes James Bond look like a wannabe." —New York Times bestselling author Brad Taylor "A hard-hitting and exceedingly smart thriller that races along with intensity and intrigue....Fans of Lee Child and Vince Flynn will not want to miss *The Enemy*." —#1 New York Times bestselling author Mark

Greaney's Tom Wood is the new master of the dark, intricately plotted chase thriller, a genre he's turned into a witty, if violent, cross between Robert Ludlum and Lee Child. "The Australian's A truly great read featuring an unforgettable character...this is a thriller to the nth degree." "Suspense Magazine's A fast-paced, explosive novel filled with tons of gunfights, fistfights, car chases, and action....Any Bond, Bourne, or Reacher fan will enjoy reading No Tomorrow." "Open Book Society

Tom Wood is a full-time writer who was born and raised in Staffordshire, England, and now lives in London. He's worked as a freelance editor and filmmaker, and is a boxing fan who also practices Krav Maga martial arts, which has caused him to sustain a number of injuries. His previous thrillers include A Time to Die, The Darkest Day, No Tomorrow, The Game, and The Enemy.

I am a writer and a student of writing and a student of other writers. The literary thriller has been said by one critic to be the standard of 21st Century writing, established last century by LeCarre, Graham Greene, Charles McCarry and carried forward in recent years by Daniel Silva, Charles Cumming, Kevin Wignall and others. Personally, I put Tom Wood and Victor the Assassin at the top of the list. You may not learn from the backdrop like you do with Silva, nor is the style as quirky as Wignall, but Wood is a wonderful prose writer and developer of character. Those who criticize his protagonist for not having sufficient flair miss the point. Victor is clearly defined for what he is, a ghost, an invisible man who swims fluidly in a sea of watchfulness and paranoia. The lack of gratuitous sex and crude language only adds to the classiness of these novels. Is Wood more of a man's writer? Certainly. But he is so without creating comic book superheroes, which is where Ben Coes, Brad Taylor, and even Lee Child falter. Child, and Brad Thor, could learn from Tom Wood. Like James Lee Burke, Wood is also worth reading for that one exquisite paragraph with wording and phrasing so vivid it scintillates. I read this novel in three days, then lamented that I was done. Was the storytelling gripping? No, but that was almost a part of the charm. Wood holds you lightly, like he holds Victor, and any breeze might blow you and he in any direction.

Victor the assassin has made other similar books more difficult to enjoy. Why? Author Tom Wood makes his anonymous killer character consistently aware at all times. Other stories rely on their protagonists falling victim to bad luck, or a moment of inattention. For Victor, who believes in making his own luck (actually, I'm quite sure he doesn't subscribe to the concept), ex machina plot twists

are simply not believable given how alert he is to EVERYTHING around him at all times (thus, when it happens in other stories, though widely accepted by readers as simple plot driving devices, I lose interest and become disappointed with the bar set by Tom Wood). I recommend reading *The Killer* and *The Darkest Day* before this book. Though it can be read as a stand alone story, the full context of the plot is better understood with those stories under your belt. As is my habit, I split my consumption of the book between reading the Kindle version and listening to Rob Shapiro's reading of it from the Audible version. I can't read the Victor stories without Shapiro's smooth reading of Victor's character narrating in my mind. I wonder if Tom Wood has Victor's origin story created in his mind. As much as I would be tempted to read a prequel, I think it would destroy the attraction and mystery of Victor, much like when two characters with strong sexual tension in a long running TV series finally come together. It typically disappoints and disenchant. That said, I'm dying to learn more about Victor, and hope Wood trickles something bits and bobs in future books.

Victor is one of my favorite protagonists. The plots are well thought out and the action relentless but I also enjoy the detail he gives you on the cities he visits. Author paints a vivid canvass that can be appreciated.

Thanks to Netgalley and Penguin Random House for providing me an ARC of this novel in exchange for an honest review. Victor is the ultimate assassin. An angel of death without mercy or conscience. But his past dealings with the CIA not only earned him a shoot-on-sight order, but also made him a marked man in his chosen profession. And to top it all off, a femme fatale he once saved is about to re-enter his life with a bang. And she has powerful enemies of her own.

From the get go I was especially intrigued by this volume of the Victor series, since it promised to bring back a lot of familiar faces and tie up loose threads from previous books. I practically signed up to Netgalley just for the slim chance of getting my hands on this book a couple of months early! It worked and at the end, *THE FINAL HOUR* was everything I hoped it to be. But also so much more! (It goes without saying that I pre-ordered the final version of the book here on netgalley nonetheless!) There has always been an odd sense of elegance, watching Victor meticulously planning his actions and then see him carrying them out with deadly precision. Tom Wood's writing not only transports the reader directly into the scene – be it the Majesty of Rome or the cold streets of Helsinki – it also immerses them in Victor's mind, depicting his sometimes unsavoury yet always fascinating thought process in awe-striking detail. Another known quality of Mr. Wood, is his infallible sense for creating memorable, imaginative action-scenes, which

will let your heart pump faster and probably make the Helmer of the Bourne Movies green with envy! Also of note are the returns of some fan-favourite characters. The enigmatic female assassin, going by the codename Raven and the ruthless but quite likable CIA heavyweight Roland Procter are just two prominent members of the impressive ensemble of old and new characters, featured in THE FINAL HOUR! But what lets this book rise not only about its predecessors but quite possibly the entire competition of 2017, is the deftness of its plotting! Tom Wood effortlessly weaves multiple different plot threads into an ever twisting and utterly compelling narrative, which not only puts a nice bow across past events but also sets the stage for many more books to come. Which is just as well, as I have the inkling that Victor "and his creator" are just getting started!

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