



## Die Last

*Tony Parsons*

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## Die Last Tony Parsons

‘Story-telling as hard-hitting as a leather sap, dialogue that packs all the punch of Wolfe’s favourite triple espresso ... and an affection for London that makes this crime writing to die for’ - GQ

“Tony Parsons puts you **right there** in every scene he writes. I love that kind of storytelling and I’m a **D.C. Max Wolfe** fan.” – James Patterson

## 12 DEAD GIRLS

As dawn breaks on a snowy February morning, a refrigerated lorry is found parked in the heart of London's Chinatown. Inside, twelve women, apparently illegal immigrants, are dead from hypothermia.

## 13 PASSPORTS

But in the cab of the abandoned death truck, DC Max Wolfe of West End Central finds thirteen passports.

## WHERE IS SHE?

The hunt for the missing woman will take Max Wolfe into the dark heart of the world of human smuggling, mass migration and 21st-century slave markets, as he is forced to ask the question that haunts our time.

What would you do for a home?

‘Brilliant’ Peter James

‘Spectacular’ Lee Child

‘A must-read’ Jeffery Deaver

## Praise for Tony Parsons...

“It’s all as **addictive** as your favourite boxset...it contains more twists than a contortionist caught in a tornado” (*The Shortlist*)

"Told with clarity and insight ... **Confirms Parsons has earned a place at the very pinnacle of British crime writing**" (*Daily Mail*)

“**Tense**...with a dose of dry wit” (*The Daily Express*)

“A **taut** always engaging thriller” (*The Sun*)

“I put my life on hold while I was reading because **I couldn’t tear myself away from the gripping story**... It’s complicated, brutal but Tony Parsons has managed to weave the brutality into a truly brilliant story” (*Bestselling Crime Thrillers*)

“**It’s a brilliant crime novel**, a thrilling procedural. Max Wolfe is a wonderfully endearing character, smart and tough and vulnerable, and with Scout (and Stan too) Tony has created so much warmth and tenderness, in a world, a genre, so often devoid of it. His research is wide, deep, impeccable - from forensics to the psychology, procedure to protocol. And boy does he know how to create **suspense, and convincing plot lines**, which snake and weave, and surprise right until the very end. This is a complex, shocking, very contemporary story, told with utter conviction and authority. **I was hooked from page one**. Crime writing has a brilliant new star” (Henry Sutton)

“**Superbly crafted crime** drama that grips from start to finish” (*The Sunday Post*)

“**Fast paced and gripping**” (*The Scotsman*)

‘[Tony Parsons]’ writing pedigree is first class. It shows in this **terrific thriller**, and Max Wolfe is a class act, a brilliant character that has to feature again ... **Absolutely stunning!**’ (*Books Monthly*)

## Die Last Details

Date : Published April 6th 2017 by Cornerstone Digital (first published 2017)

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Author : Tony Parsons

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## From Reader Review Die Last for online ebook

### Kirsty &#x1f4da;&#x1f4d6;♥? says

I read The Slaughter Man, my first time reading Tony Parsons last month and now this and I may actually have found one of my new favourite authors. I've really been enjoying these books.

Not sure I want to work with Max Wolfe though; he really is a death magnet. Without spoiling the 'who' his work colleagues are always getting themselves murdered. I've never seen such a police death total since I started reading these books!

This one is all about people trafficking, the fastest growing crime at present times. I work for the civil service and have been on a few courses about this subject and how to try and spot someone. There's a lot of realism in this book which like my first read is one of the reasons I'm enjoying this author.

I'm finding this series really easy to read and really fast. There's some really good descriptive prose in here and I have each character so clear in my head, even the dog. I found a Max Wolfe short story in the mess of books that's in my kindle so that's going on my next few books to read and then I can't wait to go back and pick up the first few books. I love these.

Free arc from netgalley

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### Laura says

so meh. it's readable but the plot was ok at best and boring in parts

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### PinkAnemone says

London, an einem frostigen Wintermorgen. Bei einem Einsatz erwartet Detective Max Wolfe ein schrecklicher Anblick: In einem Kühlaster liegen zwölf erfrorene Frauen. Offenbar hatten sie noch versucht, sich aus ihrem eisigen Gefängnis zu befreien - vergeblich. Alles deutet darauf hin, dass sie von Schleusern illegal ins Land geschafft wurden. Doch warum mussten sie sterben? Als man im Führerhaus des Lasters nicht zwölf, sondern dreizehn Pässe entdeckt, schöpft Max Hoffnung: Wo ist die dreizehnte Frau? Lebt sie vielleicht noch? Auf der Suche nach ihr tauchen Max und seine Kollegen tief in die dunkle, gefährliche Welt des Menschenhandels ein - und nicht jeder von ihnen wird lebend zurückkehren ...(Klappentext)

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Dies ist der 4. Teil der britischen Krimi-Reihe rund um Detective Max Wolfe. Für mich war es der erste Tony Parsons-Krimi überhaupt und daher hatte ich keinerlei Vorkenntnisse bezüglich der vorherigen 3 Teile. Diese benötigt man meiner Meinung auch nicht. Ich hatte keinerlei Schwierigkeiten in den Krimi hinein zu finden. Das liegt daran, dass der Autor immer wieder Informationen bezüglich der vergangenen Geschehnisse einfließen lässt. Dies jedoch keineswegs ausschweifend, sondern sehr gut in die Handlung integriert. Immer nur so viel, wie man für den aktuellen Fall benötigt, um der Handlung folgen zu können und gewisse Reaktionen und auch Handlungen der Protagonisten selbst zu verstehen.

Bezüglich der Privatsituationen der Charaktere, allen voran des Hauptprotagonisten Max Wolfe, wird hierbei aber auch gleichzeitig die Neugierde des Lesers geweckt, die mich persönlich dazu anregt mir auch die vorherigen Teile zu zulegen.

Dies ist jedoch nicht der einzige Grund. Es liegt vor allem am flüssigen und sehr bildhaften Schreibstil des Autors. Der Plot ist fesselnd und die Thematik dieses Krimis hochaktuell - Flüchtlinge, Schlepper, Flüchtlingscamps und Menschenhandel. Dies wird hier aus verschiedenen Perspektiven beleuchtet, sowohl von der polizeilichen, als auch von Flüchtlingen und Schleppern selbst. Hier gibt es kein bloßes schwarz-weiß oder gut-böse Schema.

Der Autor schafft es zudem die entsprechende Atmosphäre an den Leser zu transportieren, ob nun spannungsgeladen oder bedrückend.

Ab dem ersten Drittel nimmt der Krimi dann auch gehörig an Fahrt zu. Es wird spannender, aber auch brutaler und bedrückender, was natürlich auch an der Thematik selbst liegt.

Dieser Krimi hält so viele Emotionen bereit, sodass einem schwindelig werden könnte und doch muss man immer weiter lesen.

Manchmal hätte ich mir jedoch bei gewissen Details und Handlungen mehr Tiefgang gewünscht. Manches wird einfach viel zu schnell abgehandelt oder gar nur am Rande erwähnt.

Leider war in gewisser Weise auch schnell klar wer dahintersteckt. Hier wiederum wäre bei so manchen Erwähnungen weniger besser gewesen.

Trotzdem enthält der Krimi, welchen ich persönlich eher im Thriller-Genre einordnen würde, durchaus auch überraschende Wendungen.

Fazit:

Im Großen und Ganzen hat mich dieser Krimi wunderbar unterhalten, was aufgrund der Thematik vielleicht etwas befremdlich wirken mag. Aber alle Handlungsstränge laufen hier gekonnt zusammen und es kommt zu einem schlüssigen und für mich stimmiges Ende.

Manchmal hätte ich mir mehr Details und manchmal wiederum weniger (bezüglich Auflösung) gewünscht. Dieser Krimi weist deutliche Merkmale eines Thrillers auf und ist sicher nicht für jeden geeignet. Trotz der angeführten Mankos kann ich eine absolute Leseempfehlung aussprechen. Vor allem auch für Thrillerfans mit einem etwas stärkeren Magen.

Ich persönlich werde mir definitiv auch die vorherigen Teile dieser Max Wolfe-Reihe zulegen.

© Pink Anemone

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## **Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says**

To be reviewed over at Fresh Fiction!

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## **Sid Nuncius says**

This is a gripping and intelligent police thriller from Tony Parsons. It's the fourth in the Max Wolfe series, but I read it without having read the previous three and enjoyed it very much.

This time, DC Max Wolfe investigates people trafficking after twelve women are found dead in the back of a lorry. It's a well-researched and passionately angry story which it moves at a very brisk pace and kept me

gripped throughout. Parsons writes very well; I found Max's narrative voice very convincing, the characters and background well painted and the story itself largely believable. There are some fairly significant implausibilities at times, one or two unlikely coincidences, but in a work of fiction like this I didn't find them too off-putting.

This is a very good, exciting read which makes important points while largely avoiding preaching or speechifying. I enjoyed it and can recommend it warmly.

(My thanks to Cornerstone for an ARC via NetGalley.)

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### **Cáitín Ní Loingeacháin says**

I love the Max Wolfe books and this was not a let down, it has good pace, twists along the way, if I had any problem with the book it was that I had worked out who was behind the killings very early in the book, but I be honest I did change my mind a couple of times lol.

I am looking forward to see what becomes of Max and his daughter in the next books

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### **Steffi says**

Zu Beginn der Reihe um Max Wolfe hatte ich noch meine Probleme mit der Geschichte, aber inzwischen mag ich die Bücher von Tony Parsons echt gerne. Vor allem gefällt es mir wie er aktuelle Themen in seine Fälle einbindet.

Auch in "In eisiger nacht" geht es wieder um ein solches aktuelles Thema: Flüchtlinge und Menschenhandel. Parsons hat das Thema auf eine sehr interessante und realistische Weise in seine Geschichte einfließen lassen, so dass es mich inzwischen gar nicht mehr stört, dass die Fälle an sich nicht so spannend sind. Für mich sind diese aktuellen Thema teilweise deutlich interessanter, das soll aber nicht heißen, dass Langeweile aufkommt. Die Geschichte ist dennoch spannend und konnte mich am Ende dann doch noch sehr überraschen.

Max Wolfe ist für mich ein sehr sympathischer Ermittler, der zwar auch so seine Probleme hat, aber diese bleiben weitestgehend im Rahmen und er ist nicht so kaputt wie viele andere Ermittler. Dies ist für mich ein großes Plus dieser Reihe.

Wie auch die vorherigen Teile der Reihe lassen sich die Bücher durch einen angenehmen Schreibstil sehr flüssig und unterhaltsam lesen. Ich bin gespannt, ob es weitere Fälle mit Max Wolfe geben wird.

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### **Donna ~ The Romance Cover says**

Max Wolfe finds himself in the midst of a human trafficking ring that has devastating consequences, not only for the women involved, but also the police force itself. I love that Tony Parsons puts his own spin on trends and events that are relevant and doesn't just glamorise and dramatise but tells the story with empathy as well as all the twists and turns that always lead me to never knowing "whodunnit."

I will say though that the constant mention of the BMW X5 continues to irk me, why not just say I parked the car?

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## Rob Twinem says

For some reason I appear to be reading the DC Max Wolfe series in reverse order, not that this really makes any difference to my enjoyment of this first class creation by our very own home bred author Tony Parsons. What sets this crime series equal to and often above the everyday police procedural is the warmth and humanity that the author instils in Max Wolfe retaining so much of the charm from Parsons earlier books (Man and Boy, Man and Wife) Make no mistake Wolfe is a no nonsense operator with an unbreakable exterior yet at the same time shielding a gentle man possessing a deep understanding of the human psyche. Just observe this paragraph when Max is deep in concentration about his dead parents...."But I saw them both after they died, and the spark that had made them the man and woman they were had gone to some other place or dissolved from the Universe. I had no idea but their souls had flown".....

One early cold February morning in Chinatown central London a refrigerated lorry is discovered abandoned it's owner having taken flight. Discovered inside are the frozen remains of 12 women together with 13 passports. So the race is on to locate the identity of the only live witness to this senseless massacre. This story will take Max Wolfe into the core and past of London's criminal fraternity, and in so doing he will discover the senseless barbaric migration of a poor unsuspecting people making the journey to England for the start of what they hope is a new rich fulfilling life. They will ultimately discover that they are merely merchandise or goods to be traded effectively sold into the slavery of prostitution by evil men whose true intent is exploitation and greed...."Human Trafficking, Smuggling and Slavery, the CPS will call it. Enough to put someone away for fourteen years."....

The author is an expert at retaining the reader's attention with his tight descriptive prose using the colourful vibrant beating heart of London as his stage..."It was very cold and I was tired. I wanted to be under the same roof as my daughter and my dog. I wanted to be away from the liars and the desperate"...."a woman who had successfully carved a career from the desires of men".... Whatever the outcome there was never going to be a happy fix or a solution to the question of illegal immigration. DC Max Wolfe as a dogged investigator hunting out the evil but ultimately what he accomplishes is merely a sticking plaster over an open wound..."Of the twelve women we discovered on that freezing morning, only Hana Novak was ever identified and claimed. I felt we had failed them all and everyone who loved them".....

Many thanks to the good people at netgalley and the publisher Random House UK, Cornerstone Arrow for a gratis copy in exchange for an honest review and that is what I have written.....in a word Brilliant!

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## Verushka says

**What is this about?:** A lorry truck filled with women frozen to death in the back is found in Chinatown and Max and his team are called in to investigate.

**What else is this about?:** Max and the two women — no three — in his life: his boss, Whitestone, his partner Edie, with whom he is falling in love with and Scout, his young daughter. This has always been a character focused series, and it remains as such.

## Stars: 4.5/5

Tony Parsons is the type of writer that makes every word count, makes me feel every emotion ten times more than usual, and then you throw in Colin Mace as a narrator, and I'm kind of addicted to this series in audiobook.

In Die Last, Parsons tackles human trafficking, the kind where lorries are filled with desperate men and women to cross borders and to get into the UK. A lorry filled with 12 dead women, and 13 passports sets Max and his team on the trail of human traffickers in London and the only survivor of that trip.

One of the things that keeps me going with this series is that Parsons is able to elevate what is a straightforward story into a something emotional because he makes me care about everyone, not just Max.

He is able to balance the procedural and the emotional with such finesse, it's only after the book is over that I realised how devastated I am at the losses in it — main characters are how I care about secondary characters. If they like them, I like them; if they hate a character, I'll hate them (or maybe secretly love them anyway). It's one thing to use your main character to make readers care about someone else, but it's entirely another to make a reader care about the secondary character on his own.

I swear that made sense in my head.

Parsons plotting is wonderfully detailed in this one, revisiting characters from previous instalments, but I don't think you'll miss anything if you start with this one. There are new characters that I didn't expect to sympathise with, even as they're sitting in jail confessing to crimes and wanting nothing more than to ensure their families are safe.

Even though I have read all four books of this series, and I should be used to Parsons' writing, the end of this title was not what I was expecting by any means: the various plot threads come together so seamlessly, and I cannot stress enough how many threads Parsons had going with this story, from London to refugee camps, and then Chinatown, and back again — and yet they all come together in a neat and completely and utterly unexpected bow.

The other reason I keep going with this series: **Characterisation.**

Max is a cop, a single father bringing up his daughter Scout, and building a home with Stan and Scout as best he can. While previous instalments featured their relationships strongly, I think this time Parsons is letting Max move on — or I hope — and admitting how much he cares so much for his colleague Edie. Naturally, the book ends just as he knocks on her door, so I'll have to wait until the next one to see what happens.

(I'm half convinced that won't work out because he also seems to have more in common with his boss, who is nothing like Edie, but their relationship is drawn out better in some ways. Even if they are yelling at each other)

I will admit Max has stalled for a bit on the personal front, though Scout and his relationship with her has been a priority. But, here's what's weird: normally, I can take or leave a romance in a book like this. But Parsons has made me want this for Max, made me want him to find someone with whom he can build a home because in this book and this series — family is everything.

Whether it's the people who leave their families behind to try for a better life, or the criminals who embrace their family's history or Edie who is trying to do her best for her grandmother who has dementia and needs to stay in a home. It's a powerful theme wrapped up in a procedural, which I thoroughly enjoyed.



It's strange how these books always leave be contemplative. Among his other talents as a writer, Parsons manages to turn a procedural into a thoughtful exploration of the different themes, like (single) father and daughters in earlier books and families in this one.

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### **Elaine Tomasso says**

I would like to thank Netgalley and Random House, Cornerstone for a review copy of Die Last, the fourth novel to feature DC Max Wolfe of the Met.

The department is outraged when they find a refrigerated lorry with 12 dead women in it in Chinatown. The women have been trafficked and all died of hypothermia but there are 13 passports in the cabin so who and where is the missing woman?

I thoroughly enjoyed Die Last which has a compulsive plot and some likeable characters. People trafficking is always an emotive subject but Mr Parsons handles it with panache, not shying away from either the seedier side of it or the violence of the traffickers nor missing the desperation of the trafficked. I thought the scenes from the camp in Northern France were excellent in their portrayal of this desperation. The plot itself has plenty of twists, turns and action as Max takes another pounding so it is a page turner which held my interest throughout. I do, however, think as I do with all the novels in the series that the answers come a little too easily and serendipitously to ring completely true.

Mr Parsons' real strength as a writer lies in his characterisation. He has a great understanding of human frailty and brings this to his characters. The villains are not entirely bad and often have redeeming characteristics (with one or two exceptions) and his police personnel are not superheroes, just motivated people doing the best they can. I hated Max's boss, DCI Whitestone, for her cold, callous nature throughout most of the book until she offered an explanation and it all made sense. Max is a single parent who works too many hours to spend quality time with his daughter. It bothers him but his dedication to his job seems to win mostly. It is a dilemma we can all sympathise with.

Die Last is a good read which I have no hesitation in recommending.

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### **Anne Vaughan says**

excellent everyone should read this book

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### **Mark says**

Quite disappointing, whilst I still enjoyed reading about the life of Max Wolfe, an excellent character. The story didn't really do a lot for me!

Max also needs to find another move and stop punching people in the heart!

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## Pat says

4.5 stars. I've really enjoyed this series to date. In this book an abandoned refrigerated lorry is found with 12 dead women inside. But there are 13 passports. The race is on to find the last woman before the traffickers can silence her for good. This quest leads DC Max Wolfe down some very dark alleys indeed.

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## Richard says

Another excellent novel from Tony Parsons who has not only written an clever and absorbing read but raised the nasty trade of people trafficking.

The story is rather gruesome at the start; a group of illegal women stowed in the back of a lorry brought into the U.K. for prostitution or slave labour.

Unfortunately they were in a refrigerated vehicle that when the temperature rose the thermostat kicked in.

Dumped in Chinatown, London the police have 12 bodies but 13 passports.

A dark tale about family ties set against this terrible growing problem of not just bringing asylum seeking refugees into the country but exploiting economical migrants who wish for a better life.

London is always beautifully used as a location in any of the Max Wolfe series and here in book 4 the backdrop is wonderfully arranged from Chinatown to the Old Bailey.

Since it is a novel and the author has so much to say; it is interesting to see the role of camps in France full of desperate people but control by political motivations and less worthwhile beliefs.

The scope of the book may be far-reaching and those involved cold to their exploitation of others. That this is an increasing issue is justification enough for such a detailed fiction within this unseen world of corruption but the crime saga does not quite work for me.

I enjoyed the book enormously but found it a little too complete. No rough edges left, everything too neatly tied up. Max had one moment then back on the next. As usual his life is placed in real danger on a number of times yet he questions other officer's risks never seeing his own.

It is finally interesting to see how little the police seem to know other than by turning suspects or going undercover all of which seem totally incompetent. The author would have us believe for this novel at least that the Chinese community know their own and police their people more effectively.

Never truly gripped me and I hope more thought and plot preparation went into book 5, down next to read.

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