

The final act



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"I ask asylum." With these words a man, pleading and terrified, bursts into the office of James Dory, assistant to the United States Ambassador to Chile. Before Dory can properly question him, the Chilean is arrested by the secret police and accused of the murder of an American businessman in Santiago the night before.

James Dory is a seasoned diplomat.

But for him this is the breaking point.

The man was under his protection. He knows what happens to people who disappear in the Junta's jails. Cautiously at first, then stubbornly and at last heroically, he battles to save the life of an innocent man.

His investigation leads from an arms convention in Los Angeles to a prison for dissidents inside a lunatic asylum in the heart of Santiago. As he maneuvers between the dreaded secret police and the fanatical freedom fighters, he is sucked into a frightening vortex of intrigue and deception. Bit by bit Dory uncovers details of a giant conspiracy to infiltrate illegal arms into Chile, and comes under intense pressure to call off his search for the truth. Eventually he too becomes a man on the run from his friends as well as his enemies.

At one level a taut political thriller,

The Final Act is also a novel of betrayal-how far a man who believes in individual liberty will go to protect it and how far a government locked in its own power struggle will go to stop him. It

marks the debut of an outstanding novelist.

Christopher Hudson was born in 1946 and educated at The King's School, Canterbury, and at Jesus College, Cambridge, where he edited Granta. In 1971 he was appointed Literary Editor of the Spectator, for which he also reviewed films. He left to work with Stuart Cooper on the screenplay of Overlord, which won the Silver Bear at the 1975 Berlin Film Festival. Since 1977 Hudson has been a regular contributor of editorials and reviews to the London Evening Standard.

作者介绍:

目录:

[The final act_ 下载链接1](#)

标签

评论

[The final act_ 下载链接1](#)

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[The final act_ 下载链接1](#)