



A Man in Full

By Tom Wolfe

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The setting is Atlanta, Georgia — a racially mixed, late-century boomtown full of fresh wealth and wily politicians. The protagonist is Charles Croker, once a college football star, now a late-middle-aged Atlanta conglomerate king whose outsize ego has at last hit up against reality. Charlie has a 29,000 acre quail-shooting plantation, a young and demanding second wife, and a half-empty office complex with a staggering load of debt.

Meanwhile, Conrad Hensley, idealistic young father of two, is laid off from his job at the Croker Global Foods warehouse near Oakland and finds himself spiraling into the lower depths of the American legal system.

And back in Atlanta, when star Georgia Tech running back Fareek “the Canon” Fanon, a homegrown product of the city’s slums, is accused of date-raping the daughter of a pillar of the white establishment, upscale black lawyer Roger White II is asked to represent Fanon and help keep the city’s delicate racial balance from blowing sky-high.

Networks of illegal Asian immigrants crisscrossing the continent, daily life behind bars, shady real estate syndicates — Wolfe shows us contemporary America with all the verve, wit, and insight that have made him our most admired novelist. Charlie Croker’s deliverance from his tribulations provides an unforgettable denouement to the most widely awaited, hilarious and telling novel America has seen in ages — Tom Wolfe’s most outstanding achievement to date.

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A Man in Full By Tom Wolfe Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Choosing David Ogden Stiers (*M*A*S*H*, *The Accidental Tourist*) to narrate this sprawling tale of contemporary American society was an act of inspired audio casting. The familiar, snobbish qualities of his warm yet condescending voice perfectly match author Tom Wolfe's own carefully sculpted persona of haughty disdain and color the recording with an interesting sense of authenticity. Without indulging in overwrought characterizations, Stiers manages to create enough distinction between players to keep this sweeping epic coherent. There are moments that find him overreaching, but when voicing a novel this broad, some notes are bound to ring false. Overall, Stiers's abridged reading is an intelligent, entertaining rendition of Wolfe's scrupulously detailed and biting funny portrait of America at the turn of the millennium. (Running time: 8.5 hours, 6 cassettes) --*George Laney*

From Publishers Weekly

However the National Book Award judges managed to get hold of Wolfe's much-delayed second novel in time to give it their nod as an NBA finalist, they were quite right to do so. It's a dazzling performance, offering a panoramic vision of America at the end of the 20th century that ranges with deceptive ease over our economic, political and racial hang-ups and at the same time maintains a brisk narrative pace that makes the huge book seem only a quarter of its real length. Balzac had the same gift. The "man in full" of the title (the phrase comes from an old song) is Charlie Croker, a good-ole-boy real-estate developer in Atlanta whose sprawling South Georgia plantation, massive mansion in the best part of town, half-empty skyscraper tower named after himself, horde of servants, fleet of jets and free-spending trophy second wife have left him terribly vulnerable to bankers deciding the party's over. As a former football star, however, the suggestion is put to him that there is something he can do to ease his situation. A black Georgia Tech player clearly headed for greatness may have raped the daughter of one of Charlie's old business buddies. If Charlie can help the city's ambitious black mayor maintain calm, the bank just might be persuaded to ease up on him. Three thousand miles away in California, Conrad Hensley, an idealistic young worker at a warehouse run by one of Charlie's subsidiary companies, fired in an offhand downsizing designed to placate the bank, runs afoul of the law in a farcical parking hassle and is thrown in jail. There, in fear of his life, Conrad absorbs Stoic philosophy from a book his wife has sent him, and, aided by a timely earthquake (sent by Zeus?), begins to turn his life around until the day, in exile in Atlanta, he encounters Charlie. These parallel plot lines, examining with microscopic precision the obsessions, preoccupations, habits and lingo of life at the top and bottom of American society, are both compelling in themselves and resonant with a sense of the vast mystery and comedy of contemporary life in this amazing country. Wolfe is as adept at scenes painted with high satirical glee (Charlie on a quail hunt, or introducing shrinking business guests to an all-out stud performance by a prize racehorse) as he is with horror and pity (his picture of life for Conrad in his California jail is almost unbearably intense). Despite the very occasional longeurs (readers learn more Atlanta geography than they may care to) and writerly tics (Wolfe still can't resist onomatopoeic outbursts), the novel is a major advance on *The Bonfire of the Vanities* in its range, power and compassion, while retaining all of that book's breathless contemporaneity and readability. 1.2 million first printing; simultaneous audio from BDD.(Nov 6).

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From Library Journal

Wolfe serves up all the greed, nastiness, and political correctness of the late 1990s in his latest novel about a good-ol'-boy zillionaire with a staggering load of debt and a trophy wife. Woven in with the Atlanta real estate developer's story are those of an idealistic young man in jail in California who discovers the Stoic

philosophers and an African American football star accused of raping a white debutante. All of the threads come together in the end, with a plot twist that leaves the listener blinking in wonderment. Still, Wolfe is masterful at capturing the echoes of people and events in recent American experience with exuberance and wit. The scene in the race horse breeding barn is an absolute masterpiece. David Ogden Stiers does a wonderful job with the many voices in this immense story. His ability to capture regional speech and timing are flawless, and his portrayal of each character's emotional range is dead on. The production is terrific. For all libraries with popular fiction collections. ?Barbara Valle, El Paso P.L., TX
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eric Campanelli:

What do you regarding book? It is not important along with you? Or just adding material when you want something to explain what the ones you have problem? How about your free time? Or are you busy man? If you don't have spare time to complete others business, it is gives you the sense of being bored faster. And you have free time? What did you do? Every individual has many questions above. They have to answer that question simply because just their can do which. It said that about book. Book is familiar in each person. Yes, it is correct. Because start from on guardería until university need this kind of A Man in Full to read.

Sandy Gonsalves:

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