

The Last Word

by Tammi Lea

Story Premise

My face is on every billboard, TV screen, and magazine around the world. So, I play the part until the cameras stop rolling, and the loneliness seeps in making a home of my bones.

My life is a stage until I meet Jenna Walker.

I'm too busy playing the game to worry about matters of the heart. She's too busy protecting her heart and tired of playing games. I find myself in a constant tongue-of-war just to keep her close.

What started out as a game turns into a battle of the hearts.

But, who will have the last word?

Historical Background Information or Timeline

Mason Ford was born in Houston, Texas but only attended middle school before his mom and dad decided to move to California. His mom was a very famous artist in Houston and was being recognized around the world for her art and photography. His dad already had seven successful films he directed that became number one grossing films with his very own successful production company (Scene One Productions). Being born into a rich and popular family he was taken advantage of or snubbed by peers. As a child he was always naturally curious and was constantly testing his parents boundaries as well as his own with his passion for taking on the roles of the actors in movies, film, animation, and characters. This led to him being bullied or struggling to fit in. His best friend, Levi Stone was the only one that cared enough to stand by him throughout his childhood.

After he graduated college and landed a spot on an independent film with a friend from school his career took off. School and his career eventually consumed him. This led to a strained relationship with his little brother, losing some of the friends he did have and seeking what he needed with loose women. The few times he tried to open up and trust a girl she would either use him to get to his father or his money. He wanted something real but he didn't want to destroy himself for it.

Main Character

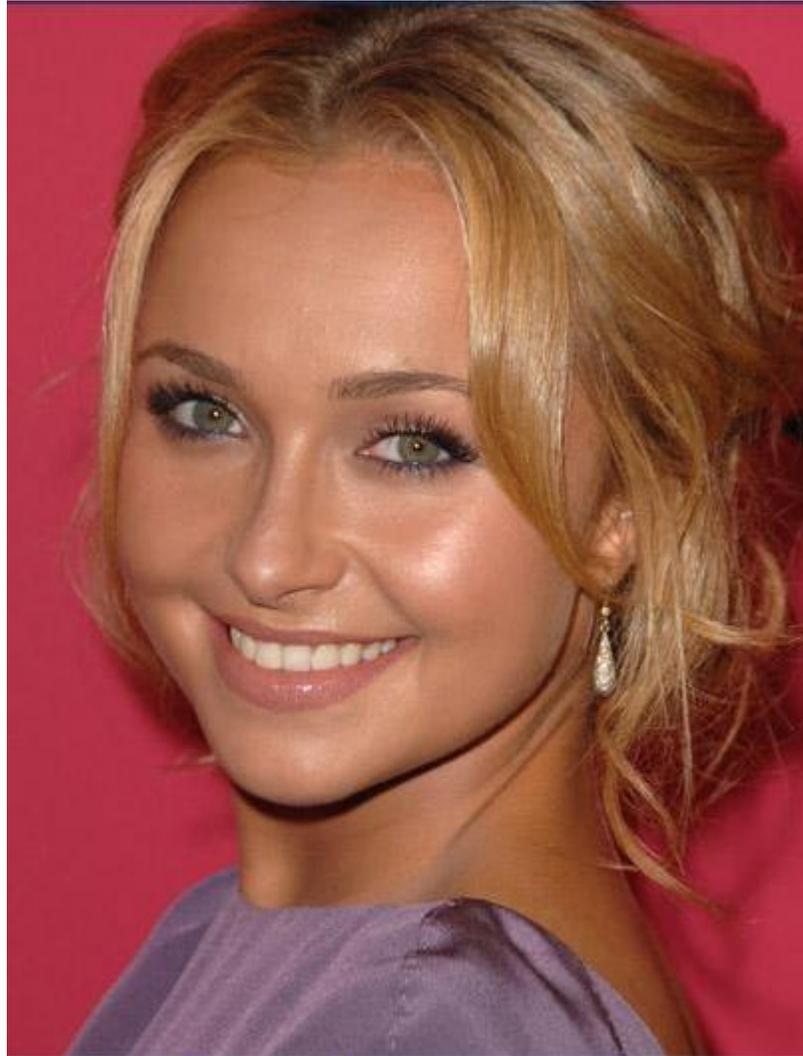


Mason Ford is a twenty-three year old actor and model with warm, chocolate brown eyes and a smirk that has panties dropping all around the globe. With a sharp tongue and a square jaw that can cut glass, this young man all lines and rough edges. At five feet and eleven inches with a long, lean athletic build and dimples, the cameras love him, and the men want to be him. The son

of the famous film producer / director Roberto Moretti hasn't left the spotlight since his first breakout role as Nicolas in *Hooked*. He was only nineteen years old when he morphed into a major star, but has brought the world to its knees with his playful personality and a scene-stealing role on KABC'S new show *Mudslide*. This talented young actor proves he's more than just a pretty face by achieving all of this while working towards a film degree at an online university and caring for his little brother. His standoffish attitude with the media and aversion to interviews only adds to his appeal. His confidence can come off as arrogance, but don't be fooled by his flattery. Deep down under those pretty words is a man that wants to end world hunger and war. A man that constantly questions and tries to prove he's enough. A man that ponders world issues while reading romantic fiction, writing poetry, or mastering the slip-knot with a ball of yarn. Oh, and let's not forget the can of beer that's always just in reach. Or maybe, I'm reaching, but at least he's honest. He's a natural in front of the camera, but he's also a man with a purpose, and whether that purpose is to make blankets or movies you won't find him wasting his precious time with petty politics. God knows, the entertainment industry has their own political and social agendas that could flip the White House on its head.

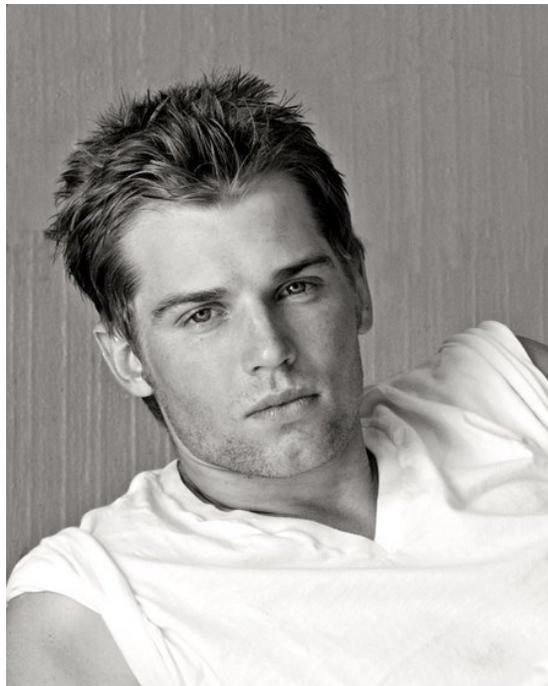
He craves more out of life, and people but he hates that he's constantly trying to prove himself. But, the kid in him is restless, and his gut instinct has never failed him. With all his projects lined up for 2017 and his rise in stardom that was built on his own, one thing is for certain; he's not done yet. To the media he's a playboy, to his friends he's loyal, to his colleagues he's the life of the party, and to the world he's just a pretty face. But how many parts can one man play? If you ask him he'll say, "Not enough."

Supporting Characters



Jenna Walker is twenty-seven year old pediatric nurse at Children's Hospital in Los Angeles with auburn wavy hair and topaz blue eyes. At 5'6" she has a tiny frame with soft curves, and sand in her skin. But underneath her fragile is a storm that can't be tamed. She's feisty, quick-witted and has a temper that rivals the devil. She's also not afraid to be silly, and takes the time to listen. People matter and friends are like family. Helping others gives her purpose but it's inside the laughter of a child, or wrapped inside a child's hug that she finds her inspiration and motivation. It's why she chose to study to be a heart surgeon, so no child would

die or suffer from a broken heart. She loves her patients and goes out of her way to make them smile, but rarely finds time to care for herself. When she's not working the pediatric floor or studying for her Doctorate degree you can find her curled up with a book, catching up on *Grey's Anatomy*, volunteering at local shelters or enjoying the beach. She's no movie buff, but if she does watch a movie she prefers independent films and documentaries. For an aspiring heart surgeon whose struggled with loss and betrayal she's very selective with whom she spends her time with and doesn't trust easily. Therefore, she prefers transparency and absolutely loathes dishonesty. Life is too short for petty games and relationships are too risky, so she protects her heart at all costs.



Levi Stone is a twenty-five year old ex-Marine with sandy blond short-cropped hair with narrow blue-gray eyes and a body built like a wrestler. At 6'3" his huge bulky frame and broody personality puts everyone around him on edge. He's Mason's bodyguard, but he's also his childhood best friend. Hidden behind his tough layer and cool undertone is a man that is brutally

honest. His serious attitude and quiet truth only add to his mystery and sex appeal. Put him in a room surrounded by cameras and the media and he quickly turns into a caged lion. He loves Mason like a brother and would die for him in a heartbeat, and by his side is the only place he's ever felt close to home. He's seen war, lived it, and survived it but nothing compares to the war he fights within himself. He's vowed to never leave a brother behind again. He couldn't survive another funeral, and his obsession with safety drives Mason crazy. He hates getting drunk, finds it stupid and reckless. He finds one-night stands and easy women pointless. He craves a connection with a woman that shakes the heart and rattles the mind. When he's not on the job you can find him playing Call of Duty, listening to Bruce Springsteen or Journey, surfing, or watching the History Channel. He's an old soul with a twist and if you really want to get on his bad side you can start by justifying war, preach gun control rights, or put on the Kardashian's.



Jason Ford is Mason's little brother and the only reason that Mason is still alive and breathing. At only sixteen years old he's fluent in four different languages, plays two instruments, and is an exceptional athlete. Unlike his older brother he is built like a linebacker

with wide shoulders and a solid frame at five feet seven inches. His long, dark brown strands frame his face and hang past his ears, somehow making him appear older. When he's not playing football, games, or reading comics he's usually surfing or swimming. He hates the media and being born into a rich family, but most of all he can't stand feeling alone. He struggles to live up to everyone's expectations while trying to fit into a world he doesn't belong. If you want to get him to open up start with sports or philosophy, just don't ask him about his parents' death or put a camera in his face.

Locations

The Children's Hospital Los Angeles is where Jenna works and it is a huge hospital that specializes in providing pediatric health care to children of Southern California. It is an award-winning hospital with innovative technology that enables them to give their patients the best care. Just like any other hospital the stench of latex and disinfectant saturates the walls, but it's the pastel colored patterns and floors that radiate warmth, and the stimulating playful décor that truly sets them apart. It's kid friendly and family oriented with glass walls and a modern architectural design that appeals to the eye. As you travel through the multiple floors and hallways, each one has a theme that reflects their positive energetic culture. Inside those glass doors is the heart of the place. The doctors and nurses that are not just caring for the patients but caring for the families as well. The nurses play many roles and even though children are highly unpredictable they never flinch. Heart is the foundation, safety is their mission, and their patients health is their top priority.

The Dirty Mix is a bar / night club located in downtown Los Angeles with customized crafted drinks, dueling pianos, live karaoke and slam poetry contests every Friday night. With dark wooden floors, low dimmed lighting, and vibrant red orange walls it gives off a smoke and mirrors effect that most find alluring. It lends to the homey and private appeal whether you are celebrating with friends or perched on a stool at the bar with a drink in hand and killing time. Their VIP lounges and service is top of the line and they have an award-winning menu that rivals Emeril Lagasse.

Mason's loft is located in Downtown Los Angeles. With his private residence in Malibu this one is mostly used for work away from work rather than a home. He's got a great view of the bustling city, but he keeps to himself and doesn't interact with fellow neighbors or residents.

It's a studio design with wide spaces and open flooring, and the walls are randomly painted in pastels with wooden flooring. Very few pictures are hung, but on the side table in his room are a framed picture of his parents, one of his brother Jason, and him and Levi at the Grand Canyon.

Additional World Information

The story takes place in real time in the city of Los Angeles, California. Los Angeles is incredibly diverse and has the same social structure that exists today in the United States. It has the largest metropolitan economy in the world and some of the biggest museums and galleries in the nation due to it being a huge creative arts hub. The culture of Los Angeles is a city that embraces individuality and creativity. They have a laid back attitude and although their religion is primarily Catholic and Christian it varies as there is high flux of immigrants. The city as a whole consists of 224 languages with English and Spanish the most prominent. However, the city is divided into 80 districts where the County Board of Supervisors have power. With its Spanish style homes, largest library in the nation and is home to some of the biggest film and entertainment industries in the world. What the people here cannot stand is being compared to the East coast cities, such as New York. Angelenos take pride in their complex city and their open perception of the people and world around them.

Story Synopsis

My protagonist Mason Ford meets my antagonist Jenna Ford at a bar in Los Angeles, California. He's a Hollywood playboy not looking for anything serious and the only thing she's looking for is a one-night stand. Tragedy strikes when their worlds collide the second time and his little brother's life is hanging on the line. His faith and life is shaken as he struggles with guilt over his parents' death, taking care of his brother Jason, his acting career and his father's production company. Jenna turns out to be Jason's pediatric nurse, and Mason has never been able to forget her. But there's just one problem. Jenna has no memory or recollection of who he is, and she can't stand to be near him. But he's pushy. He hires her to help with Jason's care at home and as they begin to spend more time together the more she fights her attraction. Recovering from a huge betrayal and the death of her daughter she refuses to put her heart on the line again. But Mason works his way in. She finds out that Mason was the one night stand, the media begins to spin lies on his secret relationships, past romances, and she finds herself being stalked. Levi, Mason's bodyguard and best friend steps in and saves her. But it's Jason and his relationship with Jenna that brings these two back together and has Mason rethinking his steps. Together they pursue their dreams and learn the power of hope and forgiveness.

Story Excerpt

I pull up in front of Jenna's. It's a small stucco home perched on a hill. The climb up doesn't look so bad until you reach the top and look down. I get out of the car and gaze down at the view below me. I pitch forward and my stomach drops. I'm terrified of heights, but I can see why she picked it. The tiny houses are painted in technicolor, a bit weathered and pressed into each other, as if they are holding each other up. The smell of the ocean is so strong it leaves a sticky salty residue on my lips. My toes curl when the twinkling sand beyond the trees catches my eye.

I turn back towards her home and my step falters. She's standing in the tiny doorframe with the sun in her hair. A silky pale pink summer dress hugs all of her soft curves. She's all skin and legs and I can't breathe. My heart plummets. The wind tugs at her auburn waves and our eyes lock. The air thickens and the words get lodged in my throat. I run my fingers through my hair, grip the back of my neck to hide my shaky hands. Her cheeks flush and the confidence in her eyes recedes as she shuffles her feet. I move towards her and her breath catches at my proximity.

I run the back of my fingers down her cheek and she leans into my touch.

"I could tell you that you're beautiful. I could tell you that you are absolutely stunning in that dress. But none of those pretty words will ever do you justice."

Her eyes soften.

"I love when you look at me like that," I say.

She tilts her head. "Like what?"

I look away. "Like I'm enough."

She swallows.

Staring into her eyes my guard drops. "Like I deserve it."

Her eyes widen and her lips pull into a slow smile.

"There you are," she says.

I expect her to tease or taunt me. Instead, she cups my face and places her forehead on mine. We both inhale at the same time and laugh.

"I like this," I say plucking her bottom lip with my thumb.

Her eyes shift back and forth between mine. "I like this Mason, too."

The weight of the moment and the honesty in her voice makes me pull back a little.

She stills. "Don't fuck with me, Mason."

"You like it," I smirk.

She snorts. "Don't get cocky."

I glance down at the tent in my pants. "Too late for that."

Her cheeks flame. "For the love of.."

I place my finger on her lips to shush her. Her shoulders deflate with my touch. I run my nose against the curve of her neck. "I don't want to fuck with you." Reaching her ear I nip it. "I just want time with you."

Her head falls back. "I can do that." Her voice cracks and so does my restraint.

I do it again and her back hits the door, the door slams against the wall, and I tumble into her. This woman makes me fucking crazy.

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