



## Last Call: A Novel (Fault Lines)

By Tim Powers

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In *Last Call*, the Locus Fantasy Award and World Fantasy Award winner by Tim Powers, ex-professional gambler Scott Crane hasn't returned to Las Vegas, or held a hand of cards, in ten years. But nightmares about a strange poker game he once attended—a contest he believed he walked away from a big winner—are drawing him back to the magical city.. because the mythic game did not end that night in 1969. And the price of his winnings was his soul.

This edition of *Last Call* includes a special P.S. section with additional insights from the author, background material, suggestions for further reading, and more.

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## Last Call: A Novel (Fault Lines) By Tim Powers Bibliography

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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

In a difficult, but distinctive and commanding novel, Powers posits a world of magic and horror behind the neon flash of contemporary Las Vegas.

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From Kirkus Reviews

Rich, top-flight mythic fantasy based on Jungian archetypes, Tarot symbolism, T.S. Eliot's *The Waste Land*, and the Parsifal legend; by the smartly acclaimed author of *On Stranger Tides*, 1987, etc. Luck could not flow with more Jungian synchronicity for Powers than his having cast Bugsy Siegel as The Fisher King in this long novel just as Warren Beatty's Bugsy has fixed the nation's eye on the Oscar race, along with Robin Williams's turn as The Fisher King. The scene is Las Vegas, the subject supernatural poker using Tarot cards. Bugsy Siegel is the reigning Fisher King whose new Flamingo Hotel gambling casino is modeled on the Tarot's tower card, with the Flamingo as an inverted tower. Overthrowing Bugsy is Georges Leon, who assassinates Bugsy in his mistress's home in L.A. and prepares to become Fisher King. Leon has two sons, Robert and Scott. He has already spiritually gutted Robert and now can see through Robert's eyes, and is setting up five-year-old Scott for the same treatment while inducting him into playing-card magic. But Leon's wife shoots him in the groin, giving Leon the Fisher King's unhealing wound, and throws Scott onto a yacht that's passing by on a trailer. Scott, who has been blinded in one eye by Leon and become a one-eyed jack, is adopted and raised by the yacht's wizardly owner, Ozzie (who is much smarter than the Wizard of Oz). Scott faces his father in a weird poker game called Assumption, which uses Tarot cards and allows Leon to assume the bodies of losers for his future use, thus assuring him of immortality as long as he has a stable of bodies. When Scott loses to Leon, his objective becomes someday to beat Leon at Assumption and save his own soul by depriving his beastly father of bodies. Scott is aided by the ghost of Bugsy Siegel, which he meets at the bottom of Lake Mead. Knockout poker sequences give the symbolism real sizzle, while the genre is enlivened throughout with great lines from Eliot. -- *Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.*

Review

"Dazzling . . . a tour de force, a brilliant blend of John le Carre spy fiction with the otherworldly." (Dean Koontz)

"There's never been a novel quite like *DECLARE*...one of the protean Powers's most absorbing and rewarding creations." (Kirkus Starred Review)

"Highly ingenious . . . No one else writes like Powers, and *Declare* finds him at the top of his game." (San Francisco Chronicle)

"*DECLARE* is classic Tim Powers, his best novel since *Last Call*, and possibly his best to date." (Locus Magazine)

"Tim Powers is a brilliant writer. *Declare*'s occult subtext for the deeper Cold War is wonderfully original and brilliantly imagined." (William Gibson)

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