

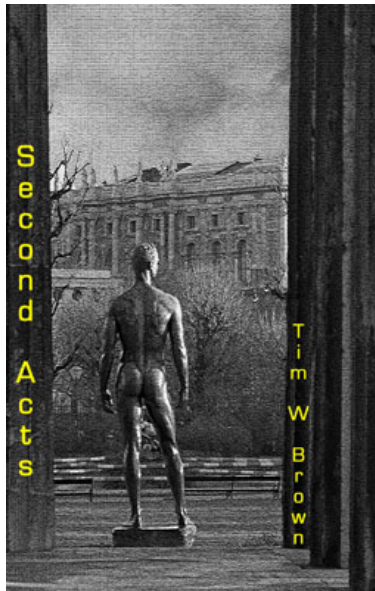
# CCLaP

## Chicago Center for Literature and Photography

December 30, 2010



## The Year In Books 2010: Best of the Cutting-Edge



[Second Acts](#), by Tim W. Brown

And speaking of grandly metaphorical tales, that's the main point of Tim W. Brown's latest time traveling comedic thriller as well, even though it might seem at first like a straightforward genre story with touches of Pratchettesque absurdist humor; for while it's ostensibly about a group of modern creative-class douchebags who get the chance one day to travel back to the 1830s, the novel's *really* about what these people do once they're there and know they're never coming back, part morality tale and part historical fiction that never takes itself too terribly seriously, a rollicking actioner that counts transvestite Indian guides and a music-hall version of Oprah among its many quirky details. A fun and fairly short read, and one of the more accessible titles in this list.