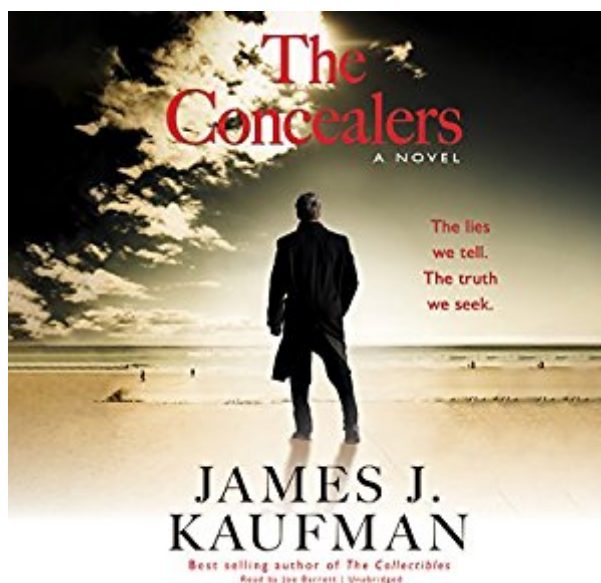


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The Concealers: The Collectibles Trilogy, Book 2



Synopsis

Katherine Kelly's mentor says she has the makings of a good reporter, but to be great she must learn to find the emotional core of a story and not hold back in its telling. Then he suggests one last graduate-school assignment: Find someone who has influenced her family, and tell that story.

Katherine decides to pursue the only family story that has eluded her all her life: the identity of the father she never knew. Her mother, knowing her persistent daughter won't stop until she gets the truth, breaks her years of silence and makes the call she always swore she would never make. The reality of her father stands in stark contrast to the father of her dreams, and Katherine realizes she must decide for herself who her father really is: the guardian of a group of wounded souls he calls the Collectibles, the attentive father of a newly discovered daughter, the person of interest in a bank-fraud investigation, or a little of all three. Blood is deeper than principle, or so she is told. And a great journalist follows a story wherever it leads. It's Katherine's call, and only she can make it.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

My favorite books are those that have characters I can really root for. They encounter obstacles and face them. Sometimes they overcome them, sometimes not. Katherine Kelly is a strong young woman with a promising journalism career before her. But as she leaves graduate school, questions about the father she never knew plague her. It's a huge gap in her life, one that has to be filled. As she begins her quest, we encounter some of the engaging characters we first met in "The Collectibles," including Preston Wilson. Has he turned his life around, since we left him in the prior

book? As Katherine begins to put together the puzzle about her past and starts work on the assignments that will define her future in journalism, she encounters information that could jeopardize both. If you haven't read "The Collectibles," no worry, the latest book is a wonderful stand-alone story. If you have read the first book, you're excited to again meet up with those characters, and to see what has become of them. While these books are linked, they are both independently fantastic reads. Once again, Kaufman has delivered a compelling story and a wonderful message: one that gives us hope and words to live by. "The Concealers" should be on your "Must Read" list.

Having read *The Collectibles* earlier, I was wondering what part the characters would play in the second book. James descriptive passages and build of the characters, both old and new, got me hooked immediately. Katherine is a complex and inquisitive young lady that I can relate to and her interaction with both old and new characters is superbly crafted. There are wonderful life lessons to be examined and discussed. Bravo Mr. Kaufman. The second part of *The Collectibles* Trilogy is absolutely a must read, and the ending leaves us all anticipating book three! My book club is having a special meeting just so we can all discuss his newest addition, *The Concealers*.

I read, enjoyed and reviewed *The Collectibles* and then waited eagerly for the release of the 2nd book in this trilogy. My wait was rewarded with *The Concealers*, a book that was by my side until it was finished. I find myself in a familiar place - eagerly awaiting the 3rd book in this series. Writing a single, stand alone book is challenging. Character introductions and development, pacing, subtle interlocking themes, suspense, curiosity, surprise and a powerful concluding message are some of the colors in the writers pallet. Mr. Kaufman can write as a great artist paints. He wrote a great book. You want the work of art on your wall and you want the next one too. Writing a trilogy is significantly more challenging than a single book and it must be judged with different and higher standards. Making certain the characters develop individually, interdependently and plausibly while new characters are introduced, knitted smoothly into the narrative is infinitely more challenging, I believe. Managing themes so they intensify and then shift while remaining close enough to the original book to keep the reader hooked. The best writers, I believe, leave their readers curious, imagining and committed to continuing the journey. Any reader looking for each single book to be an entity unto itself just does not understand the fundamental premise of a trilogy. In *The Collectibles*, characters are introduced with such clarity that I was certain I had known them - or wish I had. I was afraid that in book 2, *The Concealers*, they would fade away and I would be left to wonder what became of

them. The steady themes of nonjudgemental selflessness and integrity were uplifting and inspiring in the first book yet I believed that arch could not be maintained in a second book. I was wrong on both counts. The characters return with greater depth, charm and mystery and new cast is introduced (Katherine, her mother, grandfather, the new CFO, Katherine's boyfriend and her boss, to identify a few). The contributions of each are puzzle pieces and I am excited to learn what Mr Kaufman has in store for them. The themes of nonjudgemental selflessness and integrity continue too but are challenged by the unscrupulous behavior of some people and the frustrating blindness of Preston, who can't or won't see what is right before him. I could swear I worked for this guy at one time. I have to know what becomes of Preston, his wife, son, daughter, the business...everything! In short, read the Collectibles, read the Concealers and badger Mr. Kaufman to get on with book 3. You won't be disappointed.

The Concealers allowed me to happily re-experience the broad range of emotions, characters, and personal reflection that Mr. Kaufman's first book, The Collectibles, easily persuaded out of me. This second book in the trilogy introduces Katherine, an honorable character that a reader can connect with immediately and viscerally, who puts you in the emotional passenger seat as she navigates personal challenges, moral quandaries, and the heart and soul of the human condition. Although I could not un-read The Collectibles before I devoured this book, the characters, plot, and story line of The Concealers very much stand on their own as a remarkably satisfying read. No pressure Mr. Kaufman, but HURRY UP with the third book!

This book is extra special because after reading The Collectibles- I too wanted more.... And James Kaufman exceeded that by weaving so many of the characters into The Concealers. It is also Extra Special for me because I met James Kaufman in July 2015 at a Book Signing in Willmington, NC. He was so interested in my opinion as well as so very "down to earth"- I really think he is " Joe Hart"! You can read The Concealers without reading the first of The Trilogy however you will miss out on the depth of the characters in The Collectibles"! It's a real down to earth book- I hope we can all find a " Joe Hart " in our lives or at least live and believe in people that are so very different than ourselves. James Kaufman has led and continues to share his experiences and interactions with such an intricate number of people. Thank you James Kaufman for reminding me of how important it is to be tolerant of the differences in others! Linda Sherrill, Clemmons, NC - July 31, 2015

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