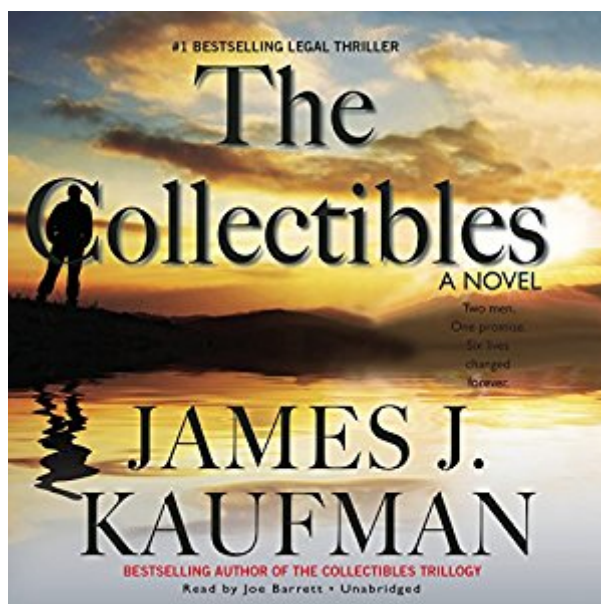


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# The Collectibles: The Collectibles Trilogy, Book 1



## Synopsis

In his award-winning debut novel, James J. Kaufman delivers a gripping and unforgettable story of two strong men from separate worlds - one touched by tragedy, the other by greed - brought together with unexpected results. In chronicling how their lives and those they touch are dramatically changed by their encounter, Kaufman reveals the power of relationships, the nature of love, and ultimately the meaning of life. "Do what the other fella can't. Be what the other fella ain't. And then help the other fella." Joe Hart has never let go of his uncle's words. An orphan from the unspoiled Adirondack Mountains, Joe leaves his humble beginnings and goes on to distinguish himself, first as a navy submarine commander, then as an attorney unequaled in his field. But Joe's world crashes with an unexpected tragedy. A child of wealth and privilege from New York's Upper East Side, Preston Wilson harbors a fear of financial failure. When that fear threatens to become reality, Preston tracks down the one attorney who might be able to save him. Joe reluctantly decides to help - but only after extracting a promise that Preston will fulfill an unspecified condition when called upon. Preston, desperate, agrees. Too soon, Joe calls in his unconventional IOU. The self-absorbed Preston balks when Joe tells him he must meet, earn the trust of, and care for several people. Each of Joe's collectibles - none of whom Preston would ever want to know - has a serious personal challenge. Can Preston find the integrity to make good on his promise to Joe? Does he have a choice?

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Have you ever thought that lawyers are more concerned about how much money they make than how much good they do? If you have, *The Collectibles* by former judge, James J. Kaufman, won't change your opinion, but it just might modify it to allow for some lawyers being honest, determined and wise. Joe Hart, an orphan from the Adirondack mountains, turned Navy commander, turned distinguished attorney, is just such a one, though his life seems to fall apart under tragic circumstances, sending him running to his past. Meanwhile Preston Wilson is the privileged rich kid grown up, desperate to succeed and suddenly staring at the face of financial and emotional ruin. Preston needs Joe, and Joe doesn't want to be needed. The author creates a pleasingly evocative picture of the mountains where Joe grew up and is eventually found, then brings the story back to big-city America, big-fee lawyers, banks, foreclosures and loans. Joe turns out to be more than a briefly sketched childhood and tragic victim of circumstance. Previous acquaintances call with hopes and needs and he comes to their aid. For no clear reason, except a remembrance of his uncle's injunction to "help the other fella" and a memory of truths as tall as mountains, Joe seems to have impacted many troubled lives. But Preston has no real desire to meet these losers till Joe calls in an unconventional IOU and begins to reveal his "collectibles." At 308 pages, *The Collectibles* felt like a long read. But Preston's discoveries in the final third make a real emotional impact and redeem any slowness in the tale. Perhaps, if more of us tried to "help the other fella," more collectibles would find the truth of mountains, and more lawyers might have more good deeds to their names.

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