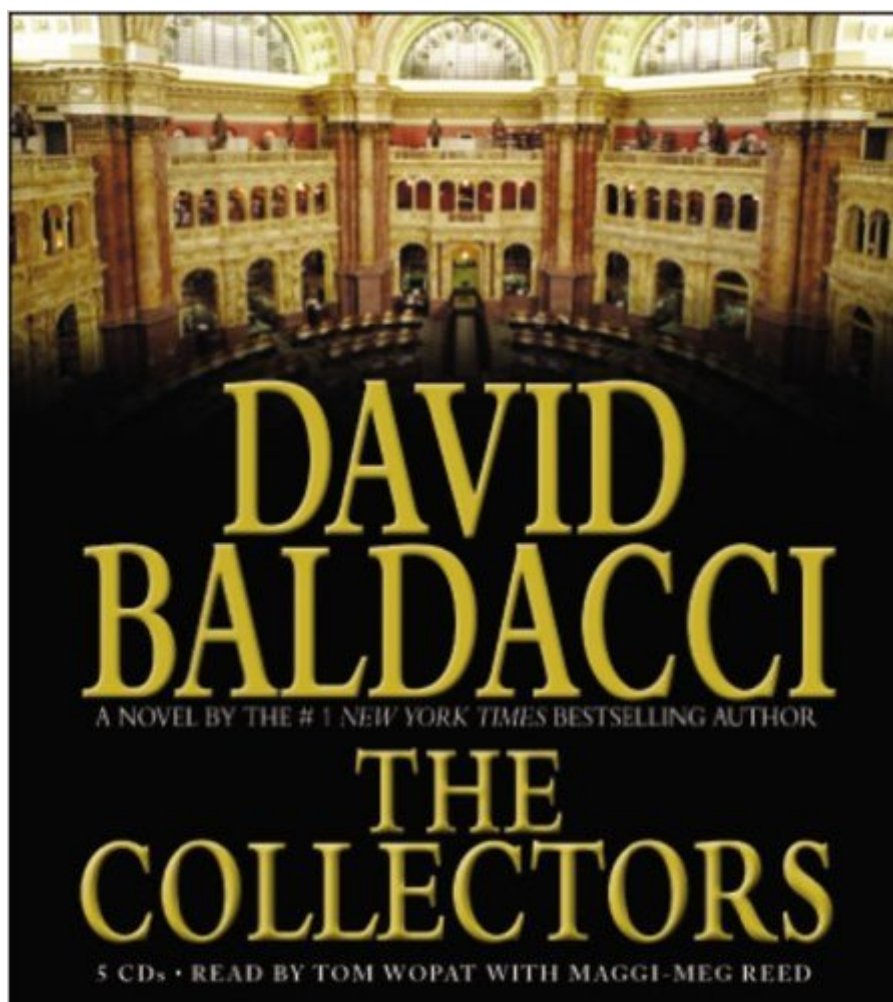


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The Collectors



Synopsis

People are dropping dead in Washington, D.C., and the Camel Club must unravel a secret that threatens to bring America to its knees. In "The Collectors," #1 "New York Times" bestselling author Baldacci once again demonstrates why he is one of the world's favorite writers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

It wouldn't be October without the publication of a new David Baldacci thriller, and *The Collectors* is his latest for 2007. While I enjoyed *The Collectors*, I don't think it is his strongest effort. *The Collectors* is actually two stories. In the first, the Speaker of the House and a curator at the Library of Congress are both murdered (the second is made to look like natural causes). Caleb Shaw is a librarian at the Library of Congress, and he is also a member of the Camel Club (introduced in the book by the same name). The Camel Club consists of four misfits (nearing senior citizen status) who form a secret conspiracy watchdog organization. They decide to investigate the deaths and immediately, they discover they're being followed by agents who could be FBI, CIA or NSA. The subplot involves four individual cons who launch a scheme to swindle an Atlantic City casino owner out of \$30 million. The ringleader, Annabelle Conroy, becomes immersed in the Camel Club's investigation when she attends the funeral of the library curator. The closer they come to the truth, the more endangered their lives become. All thrillers have a bit of disbelief in their stories, and *The Collectors* is no exception. I don't think Baldacci was on top of his game with *The Collectors* in terms of plot development. Plus, the ending never really resolves all the questions and is just an opening

for a sequel. While good, it doesn't come close to his earlier works including *Absolute Power* and *A Simple Truth*.

I don't usually write negative reviews but I will make an exception here. I enjoy reading stories where intelligent people do intelligent things, but in this tome the characters do one stupid thing after another. For example, the beautiful super con lady is in a restaurant when she notices a man looking at her. She goes to a table where some men she has never seen before are eating and tells them she wants to practice a movie plot and wants them to act like Mafioso. Then she goes to the man staring at her and makes a big scene threatening him with the other men. Are you kidding me, that is the last thing a con woman would do plus it is a completely unbelievable scenario. In another part her genius cohort who dropped out of MIT due to boredom makes a mistake in a bank con that a five year old wouldn't make. Next her team cons a casino owner out of millions in a way that could never happen. The other plot starts with the murder of the speaker of the house which is similar to murdering the president but here it is treated like no biggie. Please. If you want to read something good try Michael Connelly or Daniel Silva.

David Baldacci's ensemble of fascinating and brilliantly created characters in *'The Collectors'* coupled with two intertwining plots of murder and a clever financial con make for a completely enjoyable and page-turning read. Following his best selling hit *'The Camel Club'* with some familiar faces and the addition of the sultry yet incorrigibly scandalous Annabelle Conroy, readers will be continually amused and entertained as Baldacci, as if a grand maestro, intertwines and blends the character action and movement with such ease and storyline pleasure. As usual and expected in Baldacci's novels, readers will be left turning the pages, in this case as the plot moves to a very interesting conclusion when the World of Washington politics and those involved with a long-term swindle are forced to collide. Folks, sit back and enjoy *'The Collectors'*, it very well may be David Baldacci's best yet.

The latest novel concerning the members of the Camel Club, first introduced in the novel of the same name by Virginia author David Baldacci, is as intriguing and exciting as the previous work. The story begins with the death of the Speaker of the House and speeds on from there to introduce us to an employ of the Library of Congress who also meets a fatal end. In comes Caleb Shaw, another employ at the LoC and member of the Camel Club. Soon, the four friends are embroiled in a story of conspiracy, murder, and spies selling secrets. Meanwhile another character, Annabelle

Conroy, has her own story to tell in Atlantic City. It's not long before the two plots mesh leading Annabelle, Caleb, Oliver, Reuben and Milton -- with infrequent appearances by Secret Service agent Alex Ford -- to ferret out the mystery and bring the villains to justice. The Good: While not as good in this reviewer's opinion as *The Camel Club*, *The Collectors* is still a very good novel. The characters are intriguing, with heroes you can't help but root for and a villain that is so wicked, so down right corrupt, that you can't help but love and hate him at the same time. The scenes in the Library of Congress were very well done and it was in this place that Caleb Shaw really shined as not only a character but almost as a real person. The cliffhanger was amazingly well done. The Bad: This reviewer would have liked to have seen a little more of Alex Ford. Also, despite the very well done cliffhanger the ending was good but a little rushed in parts. In closing, *The Collectors* is a good novel definitely worthy of a reread after reading or rereading *The Camel Club*. It is a very good book and should be picked up; but, pick up the first novel beforehand.

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