



About the Author

Lance Charnes has been an Air Force intelligence officer, IT manager, computer-game artist, set designer, *Jeopardy!* contestant, and now an emergency management specialist. He's had training in architectural rendering, terrorist incident response, and maritime archaeology, but not all at the same time. His [Facebook author page](#) features spies, archaeology, and art crime.

THE COLLECTION

by Lance Charnes

Four years ago, what Matt Friedrich learned at work put him in prison. Yesterday, it earned him a job. Tomorrow, it may kill him.

Matt learned all the angles at his old Los Angeles gallery: how to sell stolen art, how to enhance a painting's history, how to help buyers hide their purchases from their spouses or the IRS. He made a load of money doing it—money he poured into the lawyer who worked a plea deal with the U.S. Attorney. Matt's out on parole and hopelessly in debt with no way out...until a shadowy woman from his past recruits him to find a cache of stolen art that could be worth millions.

Now Matt's in Milan, impersonating a rich collector looking for deals. He has twenty days to track down something that may not exist for a boss who knows a lot more than she's telling. He's saddled with a tough-talking partner who may be out to screw him and up against a shady gallerist whom Matt tried to send to prison. His parole officer doesn't know Matt's left the U.S. Worse yet, what Matt's looking for may belong to the local branch of the Calabrian mafia.

Matt's always been good at being bad. If he's good enough now, he gets a big payday with the promise of more to come. But one slip in his cover, one wrong word from any of the sketchy characters surrounding him, could hand Matt a return trip to jail...or a long sleep in a shallow grave.

The Collection by Lance Charnes

Released by Wombat Group Media

Distributed through Ingram

Word count: 103,000

SRP: \$4.99 (e-book) \$16.95 (TPBK)

ASIN: B01LXEL3PW

ISBN: 978-0-9886903-7-0 (ePub)

978-0-9886903-6-3 (TPBK)

Available from [Amazon](#), [Barnes & Noble](#), [Kobo](#), [Apple Books](#), and [Indiebound](#)

Contact Details

Website: www.wombatgroup.com

Facebook:

facebook.com/Lance.Charnes.Author

What the Reviewers Say

"...The Collection *is a breezy read in the way the very early Leslie Charteris' Saint novels were breezy: entertaining with an underlining of grit below the surface... I'm certainly looking forward to more adventures in this budding series...*" – [Criminal Element](#)

"...a whole clockwork factory ticking toward deadlines... a meticulously complex, rapid-paced plot... More excitement to come!" – [Crime Fiction Lover](#)

"...The mystery has enough twists and turns -- with the characters keeping plenty of secrets -- to keep the reader guessing until the very end... A charming start to what promises to be an intriguing series." – The BookLife Prize