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The Secretkeepers

A novel by Charles Rammelkamp

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The Secretkeepers

a novel by

Charles Rammelkamp

Charles Rammelkamp's *The Secretkeepers* is a marvelous first novel filled with the kind of vivid, flawed, exasperating, and seething-with-life characters who might grace the fiction of Bellow, Roth, and Bruce J. Friedman, and whom one might indeed encounter in one's own family. It's part a paean to marriage and all its travails, trials, and joys and part a dissection of the pain and happiness that only parents can inflict on their beloved children-victims, with all the best intentions and self-delusions in the world. And hovering above this evocatively written and poignantly funny stew of a novel is Baltimore, itself one of Rammelkamp's most compelling and lively characters, in much the same way that that charm of a city inhabits and informs the films of Barry Levinson. Rammelkamp has created a wonderfully witty tragic-comedy of manners. The writing sparkles and flares like really impressive fireworks, but unlike that brilliant ephemera, never calls preening attention to itself and always serves the story and Rammelkamp's characters.

—Robert Cooperman

Charles Rammelkamp is a writer of exceptional depth and humor, his mind a questing bloodhound on the trail of a nest of quarry. In this, his first novel, he unleashes his Updike-like talent upon the outsider Peter Bridgewater, a converted Jew seeking a home among his in-laws scattered in the never ending diaspora of America. He works his magic on the settings of coastal Maryland and the shores of Lake Michigan where, amid tragedy and scandal human lives wash and break against each other like shingle in a turgid tide. This is tall writing, wide-shouldered and multifaceted, self-assured and generous, a fitting homage to the moderns and contemporaries Rammelkamp knows like old friends.

—Robert Bixby

AVAILABILITY &
Ordering Information

The Secretkeepers
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