



## **The Lion, the Lamb, the Hunted**

*Andrew E. Kaufman*

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*SHE ONLY STEPPED OUTSIDE FOR A MINUTE...*

But a minute was all it took to turn Jean Kingsley's world upside down—a minute she'd regret for the rest of her life.

STEPPING INTO HER WORST NIGHTMARE...

Because when she returned, she found an open bedroom window and her three-year-old son, Nathan, gone. The boy would never be seen again.

A NIGHTMARE THAT ONLY BECAME WORSE.

A tip leads detectives to the killer, a repeat sex offender, and inside his apartment, a gruesome discovery. A slam-dunk trial sends him off to death row, then several years later, to the electric chair.

CASE CLOSED. JUSTICE SERVED...OR WAS IT?Now, more than thirty years later, Patrick Bannister unwittingly stumbles across evidence among his dead mother's belongings—it paints her as the killer and her brother, a wealthy and powerful senator, as the one pulling the strings.

WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO NATHAN KINGSLEY?There's a hole in the case a mile wide, and Patrick is determined to close it. But what he doesn't know is that the closer he moves toward the truth, the more he's putting his life on the line, that he's become the hunted. Someone's hiding a dark secret and will stop at nothing to keep it that way.

The clock is ticking, the walls are closing, and the stakes are getting higher as he races to find a killer—one who's hot on his trail. One who's out for his blood.

## The Lion, the Lamb, the Hunted Details

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## From Reader Review The Lion, the Lamb, the Hunted for online ebook

### Linda says

Solid plot, great characterization, psychological suspense. First book I've read by Andrew E. Kaufman and I look forward to more.

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### Trish R. says

So, I hate books written in the first person, as I've told you all time and time again. It's just a lazy way for an author to write a book. No worries in having to write about someone else's thoughts or feelings or having to go see another person's actions. And, OMG, all the I, I, I, I's. No him, her, them, they, nothing except "I" and that's boring as hell. However, I have read a few first person books and I've found one interesting thing about them. Women authors use a helluva lot more I's than men do. So, I wasn't nearly as bothered by this book as I've been in the other books written by women. The thing to do, I guess, is read first person books written by men. And that's my opinion.

This was about Patrick, a crime reporter, who was looking into a 30 year kidnapping and murder. Needless to say, someone wasn't crazy about that so he was threatened then almost killed for his nosiness. There were quite a few people in this book and they were all pretty interesting so that made the book worth continuing with. I couldn't wait for the end so I could see what went on with his evil mother. Patrick's memories of her were pretty brutal.

Patrick wasn't an alpha male, by any stretch of the imagination, and I didn't like that too much but the story was good enough that I could look past that. AND the last sentence of chapter 52 was an absolute shock! It was worth the little bit that bothered me. My mouth fell open! I never could have imagined that happening.

My only real problem with this book is that I had no idea what Patrick looked like, or for that matter I didn't know what anyone else looked like either: tall, short, thin, fat, ugly, handsome, straight hair, curly, pink, blue, green hair? Nothing. All I can suggest to the author is to give your characters some kind of face and body. It helps us to imagine everything about them.

BTW... One reviewer said this was a cliffhanger. It was in no-way no-how such a thing. EVERYTHING was all wrapped up at the end of this book. I have no idea what that reviewer read but it wasn't this.

As to the narration: WOW! Luke Daniels did an awesome job on the narration, especially for it being a 2013 audio. I've never heard such emotions being read. He really was outstanding.

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### BAM The Bibliomaniac says

Audio #44

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### **Brenda says**

This is Kaufman's second book, and I think it is much better than the first, but there's still room for improvement.

A short way in, I thought I knew the secret. The further I read, I thought, "Whaaat?!" Read a little further, thought, "This is too far out there." Then, "What is going on here? Are these people real or figments?" What this tells me is that I didn't trust the main character, Patrick, enough to believe the narrative. This is probably intentional on the author's part; I just checked my review of Twisted, and I felt the same way, and I loved that book.

Now that I think I've got Kaufman figured out, let me read the third book, Darkness & Shadows, and see if that holds true. Patrick is the main character again, and I'll try to trust him this time.

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### **Lisa says**

When i started reading this i thought what was going on here then i found i had to get back to this quick smart after doing my house duties then all of a sudden WHAM BAM THANK YOU Andrew Kaufman for writing a solid plot which did my head in i was captured by the very first word written with a twist & turn i didn't see coming at the end.

Why i hadn't read Mr Kaufman before is beyond me i loved loved everything about this book there wasn't a flaw in any character & i liked his writing style, i have already bought the 2nd book in the Bannister series if all his books are like this one god help me i am in love!!

While reading i thought what a sick twisted chain of events a child could go through it pulled at my heart strings & had me thinking long after i had finished this 5 BIG FAT \*s

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### **delane says**

I had the amazing thrill of not only reading Andrew's first book, "While the Savage Sleeps", but to also get the chance to talk to him often through GR. I thought "Savage..." was damned near perfect and since I've enjoyed getting to chat with Drew....I looked forward to this new book...but let me just say WOW!!! This isn't just a good book folks....IT ROCKS!!!

Drew has a way of making you feel the pain he so deviously puts his character characters through. And the shocking end! As a rule I'm pretty good and figuring out 'who done it' and even though I may have had a sniggle of an idea about what was going on I was sooooooo wrong! Ya won't figure this out! Ya just won't!!!!

Andrew is an amazing story teller!

If his mojo keeps rolling, the next book Drew writes will be so good I won't be able to stand for it to

end....wait....that was this book....bring on another Drew!!!

I can't hoot nearly loud enough....READ THIS BOOK!!! You won't regret it and more likely than not you will be joining me in the realization that Andrew E. Kaufman sits pretty high up on their list of favorite authors.

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### **Nissie says**

Review to come when I pull myself together. :)

Another winner from Andrew E. Kaufman! *The Lion, the Lamb, the Hunted* is the best written psychological thriller I've ever read. It's full of twists and turns and has a wonderful ending that will cause your jaw to drop!

I dare you to read this and not fall in love with Patrick Bannister. I've never connected with a character like I did with him and I still tear up and want to hug him whenever I think about his story. A lot of books have made me cry, but this one tugged at my heart in a way no other ever has. In fact, I've already read it three times and I'll read it many more. Definitely on the keeper and hug shelves. Andrew E. Kaufman is an automatic buy for me now! Highly recommended!

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### **Lisa says**

I read this via audio and have never known such an enthusiastic and full-on narrator - excellent!

So yes, this is a damaged man solving a mystery that involves his own mother who was horrid!

I liked the story and the characters - I think I would read more in this series - especially if this narrator is involved! Absolutely loved his accent and delivery.

Would I have liked it as much had I read the book? Not sure quite honestly, all I can say is that it was enjoyable but not ground-breaking.

(I need to do some kind of experiment because I am definitely swayed by the narrator)

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### **Christina (Ensconced in Lit) says**

I received this book from Librarything in exchange for an honest review.

I have a backlog of books that I have to read and review and really was just trying to skim the first few pages of several books to see what I was in for. I started this novel and after about two pages, I was hooked. It is dark, many times frightening, crisply written and fast paced. I enjoyed getting to know the narrator, the other reporter that he meets, and the unveiling of his past at the same time as the mystery was unfolding. Well written and the pace never lets up.

The reason I'm giving this book 4 stars instead of 5 is because after the mystery is introduced in the first two chapters, I knew the answer to the mystery. However, that didn't stop me from reading the rest of it! A must read for those who enjoy psychological thrillers!

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## **Monnie says**

At the time I downloaded this Kindle book at Amazon, 251 readers had awarded it a 5-star rating. I also read that author Andrew E. Kaufman's debut forensic paranormal novel, *While the Savage Sleeps*, was ranked No. 1 on two of Amazon's best-sellers lists. So, I wasn't overly concerned about wasting my time (I already knew I wasn't wasting money; it was free when I snagged it and it's only \$3.99 as I write this).

Now that I've finished, I'm happy to say I've added another vote for the 5-star list. At 291 pages, it's on the short side for a novel; but at twice that, I'd have been hard-pressed to put it down until I finished the whole thing.

The story centers on Patrick Bannister, a news reporter for a national publication whose mother - easily the Mother from Hell - has died. When he reluctantly returns home for the funeral, he begins to suspect that his mother and her still-alive brother, a wealthy senator, may have been involved in the kidnapping of a three-year-old boy more than 30 years ago. Although the body was never found, a man was convicted for the murder and sent to the electric chair.

Determined to ferret out the truth, Bannister returns to the scene of the crime, joins forces with a local reporter and the two set out to revisit the evidence and interview anyone who was around at the time of the kidnapping. Early on, clues surface that all wasn't what it should have been back then; but just as early on, it becomes clear that someone, or several someones, aren't happy that doors to the past are being opened. And every now and then, a chapter returns to recollections from Patrick's horrendous childhood - events which have haunted him ever since and add a touch of fuel to his desire to get to the truth.

I do want to go on record as saying an "Aha!" moment hit me as I finished Chapter 10 - a light bulb suddenly went on and I was certain I'd correctly guessed a key piece of the plot's puzzle. Exactly how that would play into the ending I didn't know, but it sure gave me an extra motivator to get to the last page as fast as I could (which I was doing anyway just because the book is so good). And also for the record, I was absolutely right.

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## **DAISY DISNEY says**

Why did I not read this sooner!!!?? WOW what a very suspenseful ride this was! It was action packed from the first chapter! I loved every minute of reading this book. I do have to admit that I did catch on the some of the ending while reading the book, however there was a twist that I was not expecting! The only complaint that I have is that it was so good I felt the action that happened at the end could have lasted longer! I was disappointed that the build-up throughout the whole book, should have been reason enough to have made the climax of the whole story a few chapters longer. But, that's because I just loved it so much! I loved the Texas setting the deserted towns and the characters. The first Sheriff that Patrick spoke too was a smart ass but was very funny with his smart remarks. Jean was very creepy when she was at the Psych Ward. Her behavioral towards the end of her life was indeed very disturbing and it spooked me out! I must say I loved the gore in the crimes that were described. Maybe my mind is just twisted like that.....

I can't wait to read more of this author's books! I hope they are all as suspenseful as this!

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### ?Susan? says

I gave this book 5 stars because of the characters. Each was believable and fit together perfectly, thus making it more interesting and suspenseful. The story was intriguing even though I knew in some parts what was going on before the main character. I think that this may be part of Andrew E. Kaufman's writing style, which in that case I liked it. The mystery was good and fast moving, however, just a warning, there is child abuse. Some of the action at the ending was a little far fetched, but was made up for by the outcome of the mystery. I'm so glad that there is another book, "Darkness and Shadows", because one string was not cleared up..."they will never find the body"....whose body? A fun romp that vasillated between a light saga and a very serious dark drama. Luke Daniels narrative was excellent, as always.

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### Misty Baker says

A girl can only take so much angst, so realizing (2 days ago) that I have read WAY to many YA books lately, (and I'm starting to have horrendous HS flashbacks) I decided to jump back into an old favorite of mine...Psychological thrillers.

Back in December I left y'all hanging, (with what I'm now proclaiming to be a ridiculously tiny excerpt,) of Andrew's Kaufman's newest book "The Lion, The Lamb, The Hunted." And since I too, was left hungry for more, I decided it was high time that I get to it.

I am not a newbie when it comes to Andrew's work, as a matter of fact...I think I shamed myself in my review of his first book (While the Savage Sleeps) by admitting that I got a little choked up. (\*hangs head\*) but what I expected from his latest, (I'm just gonna say masterpiece) and what I got were to VERY different ends of the spectrum. To be honest, I loved "While The Savage Sleeps" (as totally completely messed up as it was) and I was certain (though I adore Andrew) that this book would pale in comparison. I was wrong. Dear Lord I was so wrong I'm willing to publicly humiliate myself to prove how wrong I actually was, (not that I don't already do that...daily.)

So what made it so wonderful that I'm having a hard time forming a complete sentence? It embraced vulnerability.

"She only stepped outside for a minute...

But a minute was all it took to turn Jean Kingsley's world upside down—a minute she'd regret for the rest of her life.

Stepping into her worst nightmare...

Because when she returned, she found an open bedroom window and her three-year-old son, Nathan, gone. The boy would never be seen again.

A nightmare that only became worse.

A tip leads detectives to the killer, a repeat sex offender, and inside his apartment, a gruesome discovery. A

slam-dunk trial sends him off to death row, then several years later, to the electric chair.

Case Closed. Justice Served...Or was it?

Now, more than thirty years later, Patrick Bannister unwittingly stumbles across evidence among his dead mother's belongings. It paints his mother as the killer and her brother, a wealthy and powerful senator, as the one pulling the strings.

What really happened to Nathan Kingsley?

There's a hole in the case a mile wide, and Patrick is determined to close it. But what he doesn't know is that the closer he moves toward the truth, the more he's putting his life on the line, that he's become the hunted. Someone's hiding a dark secret and will stop at nothing to keep it that way.

The clock is ticking, the walls are closing, and the stakes are getting higher as he races to find a killer—one who's hot on his trail. One who's out for his blood.??”

One thing I find disconcerting about male leads in psychological thrillers is that they always lean towards that “Alpha Male” mentality. “Don’t worry Little Lady...hide behind me, I’ll protect you with my insanely disproportionate gun!” That was not the case with LLH. While Andrew (very easily) could have conformed to the standard, (the situations certainly called for it) he chose to present Patrick as a humble, slightly confused, extremely damaged, vulnerable, REAL PERSON. And his choice in doing so added significant weight to Patrick’s broken mental state, (don’t worry, he’s not crazy, just... ok, he’s a little crazy.) So instead of having to forcefully imagine Pat’s state of mind, (which again is usually implied in novels like these, it’s the killers that are usually quacks, not the heroes) it was right there, spelled out for you in brilliantly penned repetition. (unlovable...unlovable...unlovable.) And on a slightly different, (but completely relevant) note, I don’t think I have ever, in the existence of my extensive reading history EVER (<—yes, that is an all caps EVER) wanted to smack the piss out of someone more than I did Patrick’s mother (who in no way even deserves to be named.) Which only goes to show you that strong character development can induce strong feelings. (Very, very...strong feelings. \*throws fist into the air\*)

As for the plot. WOW. It was twisty, it was turny and right at the exact moment that I thought, (in all my stunning brilliance) that I had it all figured out, I was told, (very abruptly) that I was wrong. (This was also the exact moment that my husband decided to interrupt me and got a pillow chunked at his head.)

Wonderful descriptive passages, captivating dialogue, and a mound of heartbreak moments aside, (because those obviously don’t matter. HA!) It was all that AND a bag of Nacho Cheese Doritos. (That’s chunky girl code for awesome.) I highly recommend this for fans of thrillers, mysteries and, well....books. This one is worth every freaking dime!

Happy Reading my fellow Kindle-ites and remember: Who knew you could put a larynx there! Hmm.

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**Helen says**

2.5 stars

Passable thriller. The story was decent enough, but something about the writing style failed to really hold my

attention and I found I was skimming through parts of the second half. I found some of the dialogue between characters felt forced and unconvincing.

Patrick is a journalist with a past history of being abused by his mother. When she dies, he finds items in a box linking her and his uncle to a case of a child abduction years ago. Dogged researcher that he is, he can't leave the mystery alone and goes off investigating, hitting brick walls and uncovering more and more mysteries about his mother and her involvement in the case.

I found the backstory of Patrick's abuse often more intriguing than the main plot line, which is perhaps why this book just didn't grip me all that much. This wasn't a bad story by any means, but there are better writers of this ilk out there.

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### **Terry Crawford Palardy says**

There are horror stories filled with blood and gore, fantastical creatures and dismal endings, but inevitable "risen from the dead" sequels. And then there are mysteries with an element of horrific behavior best left to the reader's imagination. This is the sort of psychological mystery that Andrew Kaufman offers in *The Lion The Lamb The Hunted*.

Subtle in the telling of emotional abuse, the nuances of which are difficult to describe and more difficult to rationalize, Kaufman skillfully builds a quiet understanding with the reader: there are horrible things happening to the character, frightening events that defy description, and yet the reader comes to realize these as the story unfolds.

Kaufman's main character is a journalist/investigator who writes for a national weekly. With his mother's funeral opening the story, the tone is set for a retrospective look back at a mother/son relationship. It is one that is made more clear in a series of flashbacks carefully written as haunting dreams. Patrick has a medical issue that is disclosed through one of these dream sequences ... two conditions that are unrelated but equally life threatening. One is genetic, and unavoidable. The other is behavioral, and cruel in its origin.

The settings of the story range between the states of Georgia and Texas, well-described without needless description, a careful balancing act that Kaufman has done well. Subordinate characters are sometimes main characters in the dreams, and the reader comes to know them through their actions rather than through lengthy details. All of this adds to the quick pace of the story, which closes with a scene that would satisfy both the enthusiastic horror reader and the more skittish mystery reader who might close eyes during a movie's horror scenes.

There were portions of the story that made me wipe tears away, and others that made me sit up in indignation at what people can do to each other. This story invites the reader into the mind of a grown man who is struggling with untold childhood events, invoking this reader's empathy for the character and appreciation of the author's storytelling skill.

Within the genre of horror and mystery, famed author Stephen King's books have a following due to name recognition more than to continued quality. I enjoyed King's early work. But I would not put King and Kaufman in the same genre. Kaufman's books, too, will gather momentum and more respect in time, due to his subtle style and his avoidance of gratuitous, graphic gore.

The best horror writers allow a role to the reader in creating the scenes implied ... Edgar Allan Poe, long considered one of the greatest horror writers, never had to resort to exposing the beating heart buried deep in the floor ... the reader knew it existed in the character's mind. Kaufman has the same skill. Definitely, a Five Star read!

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