

CIPRIAN HOMORODEAN

SURVIVAL STRATEGIES
TAKE THE BOOK
TAKE THE MONEY
RUIN

CRISIS SPECIAL

INTRODUCTION

This is a book about stealing your way out of the financial crisis.

Get your basic necessities, keep your social standing, round up your annual income... Keep your head up in the material world even if you can't pay for it. Learn how to spot the ideal occasions for getting things without money, and practice how to do it without getting caught.

Steal without stress!

The art of stealing is a long term apprenticeship. As needs and desires are fulfilled, new ones will manifest and call for new techniques and more elaborate actions. Here you will find a step by step account of the progression to higher, more expensive, and more noble needs and desires.

This Crisis Special will get you acquainted with the essential vocabulary of unlawful appropriation techniques, such as pick pocketing wallets and jewelry (chapter 1), and snatching street bicycles (chapter 2). Shoplifting is also introduced, from small takes of basic products (chapter 3) to large quantities of more sophisticated commodities (chapter 4). Getting a free meal and free drinks, as if they fell from the sky will interest those wishing to satisfy the need for luxurious leisure (chapter 5), as will obtaining free clothes and furniture from charity and other such organizations (chapter 6). The theft of motor vehicles (chapter 7) and of home furnishing (chapter 8) represent more delicate and riskier takes, while immaterial theft, although almost untraceable, requires technological intervention (chapter 9). Learn also how to spot the most profitable opportunities for engaging in stealing activity.

This book should be particularly useful for the chronically unemployed, the hungry for cash, and the demanding consumer.

Bonus: discover some inspirational experiences through case studies of those who have succeeded in the business of disengaging from the market.

WHO IS THE PICKPOCKET?



A PICKPOCKET SHOULD COMPLETELY ESCAPE SUSPICION

A good criminal doesn't have to look the part, especially if you are a pickpocket. Your primary goal is to blend with the background, to disappear into the crowd. This way, you don't have to risk anybody suspecting you. Your goal is to keep their attention on something else, so that you don't have to deal with any confrontation.

You may work alone or in conjunction with people who can manipulate and divert the mark into proper picking situations. They may also provide cover for the pickpocket when he is doing his work out in the open.

Here, you can be as creative as possible. You can employ a woman who will act



pregnant and you could be the innocent husband. Or you can bring along a child to create a harmless fraud.

So you can start by looking for people who are willing to work with you. How about your kinsmen? Or your own children perhaps? What better way to find employment in these times of economic crisis. And this may be the only way children can earn as much as any hardworking adult. Nothing beats a family-operated business.

Another good partner may be a "runner". His job, appropriately enough, is to take the goods and run with them. The wallet, watch, etc., are usually handed to him surreptitiously, immediately after the lift, so that the goods won't be found on you if you get "pinched".

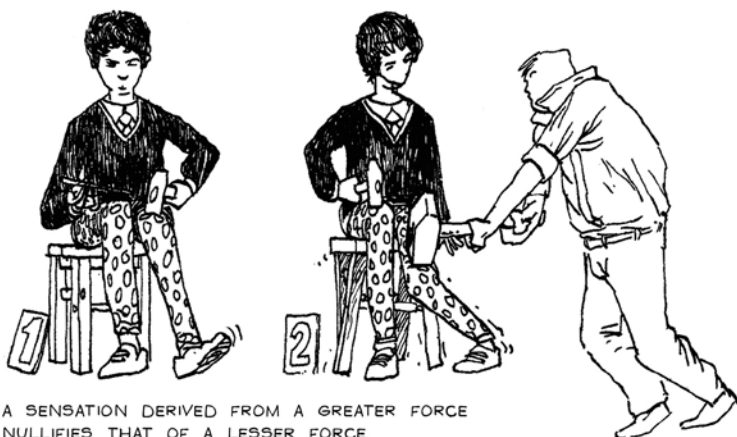
It is a little-known psychological rule that we can only concentrate on one thing at a time. The desultory pattern of our thoughts often gives the illusion that we are cognizant of two distinct thoughts simultaneously, but it is simply not true.



THE BUSINESSMAN RUNNING TO CATCH HIS FLIGHT, THE GAMBLER ANXIOUSLY WATCHING HIS HORSE COMING DOWN THE STRETCH, AND THE MAN HURRYING OFF TO THE SUBWAY, ALL HAVE ONLY ONE IMMEDIATE AIM IN MIND.

Their minds are all preoccupied with their short term goal, and are oblivious to any outside distractions. That is why the "accidental" collision, perpetrated by the pickpocket, goes almost unnoticed.

It is also little-known fact that the sensation derived from a greater force nullifies that of a lesser force. To illustrate this example, while sitting down, hit yourself with a pencil on one leg, and simultaneously punch yourself hard on the other leg. You barely even felt the pencil, right? As a matter of fact, the only reason you did feel it is because you had previous knowledge that you were going to hit yourself with it. Now, if someone were to hit you with a hammer on one leg, while you punched yourself on the other, the blow of the hammer would certainly supersede that of your first, because you would feel only the dominant force. It is these two psychological laws that the pickpocket exploits to achieve his ends.



A SENSATION DERIVED FROM A GREATER FORCE
NULLIFIES THAT OF A LESSER FORCE.

Realizing this, we can immediately see that the pickpocket can only operate under the right circumstances. These circumstances will present themselves when there is pushing and shoving and when people's minds are on other things. The typical bumping and scraping of a crowd is the ideal area for the light-fingered thief. This allows him to appear as a normal "bumper" and "scraper" while he fulfils his ulterior actions under this guise.

The pickpocket begins by colliding with the mark. During the moment of impact, the hand drops into the pocket of the mark, while the thud of collision serves to deaden and cover the pickpocket's actions. Of course, we will cover this in more detail later, but suffice it to say that this is the typical procedure in most lifts. As a matter of fact, whenever you hear of anyone having their pockets picked, it almost invariably occurred in a crowd, right?

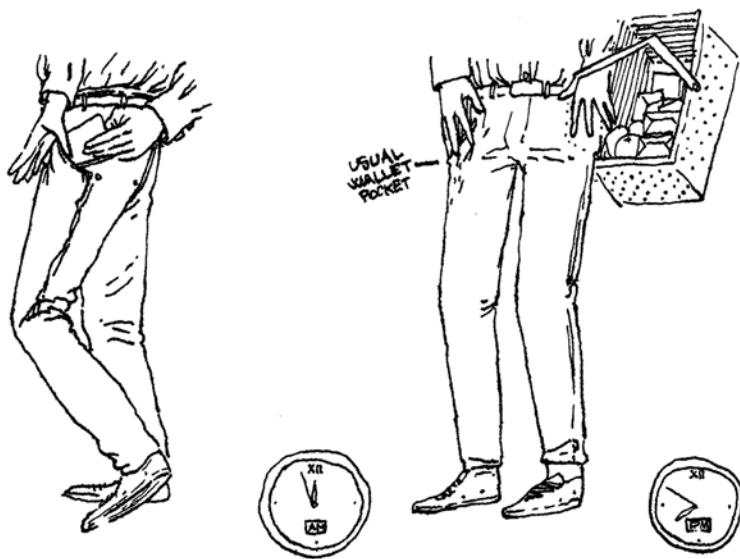


WHEN TRYING TO PICK VALUABLES, YOU WANT TO BE ABLE TO DO IT WITHOUT THE VICTIM EVER FINDING OUT. PEOPLE ARE HARDWIRED TO FOCUS THEIR ATTENTION ON A SPECIFIC THING. BY THROWING THEIR ATTENTION ON SOMETHING OTHER THAN THEIR VALUABLES, YOU GET THE CHANCE YOU NEED TO PICK SUCCESSFULLY, THAT IS, WITHOUT THE VICTIMS EVER KNOWING WHAT THEY ARE UP AGAINST.

Most people believe that they can tell whether or not their wallet has been tampered with. They claim that if it were missing, they would notice the irregular feeling of the billfold not being in its proper place. Well, while most people carry their wallet in the same place for years, and grow accustomed to the feel of having it there, the mind disallows us, as stated above, to think about the wallet's position while we're thinking of something else. This can be proven through another experiment.

Put your wallet in a pocket other than the one that ordinarily holds it, and leave it there for the rest of a day. Now later in the day, if you were to go buy something, your hand would instinctively go to the usual wallet-pocket.

But wait... It's not there! And for a second or two, there is extreme panic and fear that the wallet is missing. Of course, in a few seconds, you will "pat-down" the other pockets and discover the wallet, but what can we observe from this little demonstration, that not only did we still believe our wallet was in its usual place, even though we had deliberately moved it, but also that we were obviously only aware of the so-called strange feeling of a misplaced wallet while we were consciously thinking about it.



There is an old and true saying among pickpockets that "You can't steal a man's money as long as he has his mind on it". Therefore, the pickpocket's favorite situation is when the victim is concentrating on other things, and has forgotten himself. If the mark is allowed to naturally take his mind off of his wallet - if only for a few seconds - he will be astonished to find that he has been robbed without the slightest disturbance.

Since the pickpocket's ultimate goal is to realize as large a profit as possible, it follows that he should be on the look-out for any gentleman (or lady) who possesses a large amount of cash on their person. Or perhaps, if the pickpocket is a watch specialist, he will primarily concern himself with the brand and quality of the victim's timepiece. At any rate, the pickpocket decides that the most fruitful environment will be one where large amounts of money freely circulate. Therefore, banks, bank-contacts, currency exchange are obviously a pickpocket's picnic. Other places, such as lines at ticket windows, amusement parks, movies theatres, auctions, and bars, are also full of people brandishing their wallets and pocketbooks, thus allowing the observant pickpocket one glimpse too many.

Sometimes department stores display various signs that carry a general "Beware Pickpockets". Paradoxically, this aids the pickpocket, as the readers of the sign invariably check their wallets to make certain they are still there. Not only does the pickpocket now know where the intended mark keeps his loot, but the victim will have consciously forgotten all about the sign in a matter of minutes.

It should be noted, too, that drunks make deliciously simple targets, but rarely do they carry a great deal of cash. Prostitutes are notorious for putting a few drops of chloral hydrate into the mark's drink so that when he passes out, in the bar or a hotel, he can be relieved of his valuables with ease.

Women have the advantage of being able to exploit their sexuality. It is not uncommon for a female pickpocket to "accidentally" rub her buttocks or breast against a mark and so thoroughly distract him that he can be relieved of his valuables without any trouble.

Another diversion technique requires the pickpocket to spill something (preferably hot) on the mark. The pretence of helping the mark clean himself offers an excellent opportunity for the tool to do his own type of "cleaning".

The pickpocket's acting abilities! One method entails dressing as a doctor, or a member of some other profession beyond reproach, and cleaning the victim during a "professional" discussion. This is usually a mob of three or four pickpockets that frequent red-light districts and stagger around like they are extremely drunk. When they see a pair of gentlemen who look fairly prosperous, they will hover over them, telling them about a fascinating woman they have just met. And as drunks are excessively friendly to strangers, and have a tendency to put their arms around the person they're talking to, they go around pulling this stunt completely without suspicion. So they surreptitiously slip the wallets from the mark's pockets.

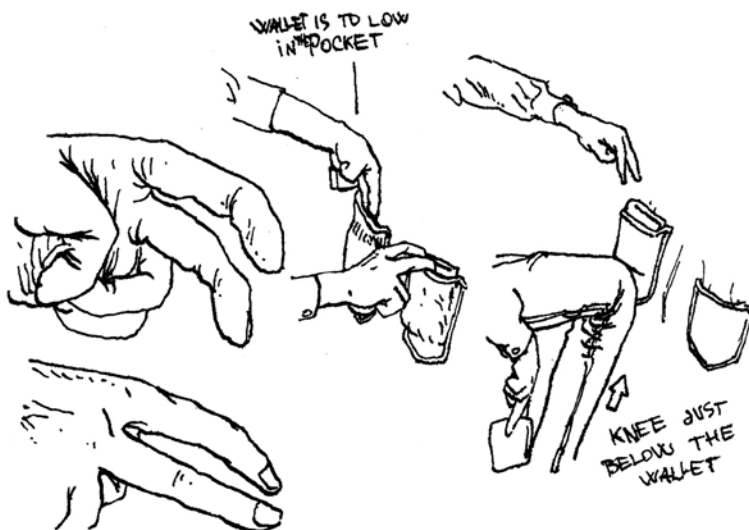
Another spontaneous ruse compels the pickpocket to sneak up behind the mark, put his hand over the victim's eyes and say "Guess Who?" At the same time, the contents of his pockets are also removed. When the victim turns around angrily, the pickpocket appears mortified and extremely embarrassed, and explains that he thought the victim was his brother, father, cousin, etc., and walks humbly away.



THESE DIVERSIONS ARE BUT A FEW OF THE ENDLESS TRICKS IN THE PROFESSIONAL PICKPOCKET'S REPERTOIRE.

We will now examine the mechanics of the actual picking procedure. Of course, the first order of business is determining exactly where the wallet is located. After a small survey, I've come to the conclusion that most men carry their wallets in the right hip pocket, it is generally easily seen bulging out of one of the back pockets.

The next order of business is determining the way in which the wallet is lying. The position of the wallet usually dictates which extraction methods can and cannot be used.



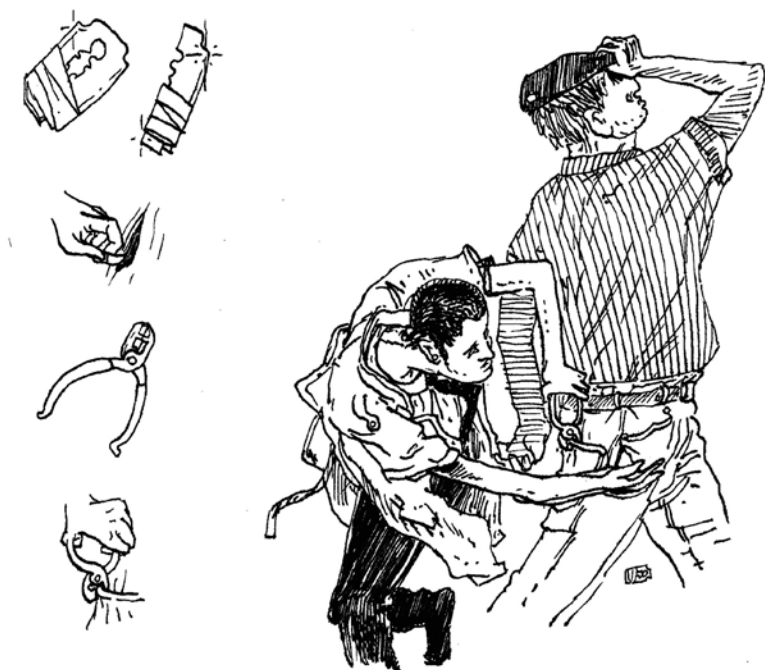
Two-finger snag. Standing behind the mark, the pickpocket makes a "V" with his index and middle finger, and inserts them slightly into the pocket. "Your fingers are in the pocket, but yet they aren't. The fingers are in well enough to touch the wallet, but not so much that they obviously feel alien to the owner". During the collision, the diversion or other distraction, snag the wallet and jerks it out. This is not done timidly, but quickly and forcefully. A variation of this calls for the tool to manipulate the wallet to the top of the pocket somehow, where he can snag it later.

Another trick is to knee the mark just below the wallet and rise the billfold so that the top protrudes from the pocket. This can be done during a bumping of a crowd, so that the victim is unaware of any unnatural movements.

Slitting. Half a razor blade is taped to thick tape so as to make a handle and the sharp end is used to cut the pant's pocket. Many pickpockets actually cut a square in the pocket, so that the wallet simply falls out, but there is a much more efficient method.

Using a pair of small wire cutters, the topstitch of the back pocket is snipped. The pickpocket uses the razor to slice the pocket right down the middle.

If the wallet doesn't fall out, it can certainly be lifted out without complications. The beauty of this trick is that the razor rests upon the wallet during the cutting procedure, therefore the mark never feels a thing.

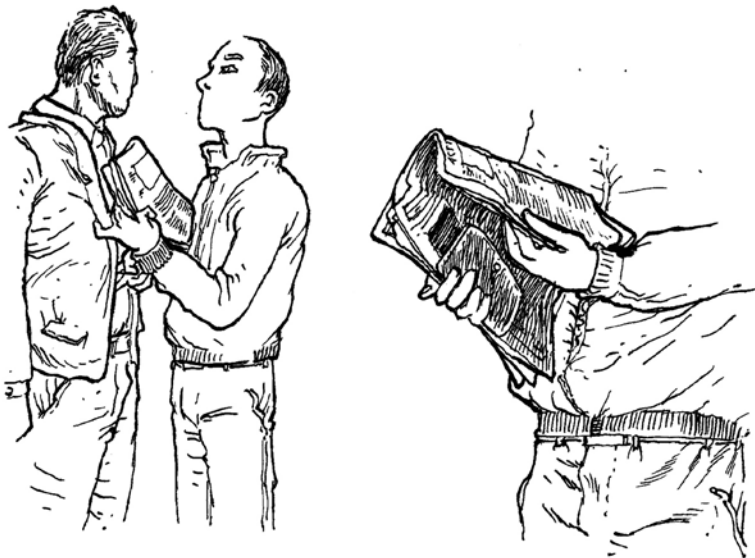


SLITTING IS ESPECIALLY NECESSARY WHEN A POCKET IS PROTECTED BY A BUTTON OR A BUTTONED FLAP.

The average sports coat or jacket has four pockets of interest: the two hand pockets, the inner pocket, and the breast pocket. Obviously, the outer pockets would be terribly simple to pick, since they are away from the body, and can be explored with ease.

A method of probing is to "accidentally" run into the mark, and with palms out, push lightly against the inner pockets. This should reveal the location of the wallet.

The secret of stealing from inner coat pocket is misdirection. Since the inner pocket steal is usually a frontal attack, it is necessary to divert the attention, and thus turn the head of the victim, so that he cannot catch a peripheral glimpse of the pickpocket's activities. An inner coat pocket lift is done by lightly lifting the coat pocket, all the while holding the jacket away from the body.



THE SECRET OF STEALING FROM THE INNER POCKET IS MISDIRECTION

A perfect occasion for inner coat pocket steal could be during the fireworks, when everybody's head is turned skyward... well, you know the rest.

To steal watches right off the victim's arm seems impossible, but let's try an experiment. Take your watch and lay it on your wrist. Don't bother to fasten the buckle or slip it around your wrist, but just lay it on top of your wrist with your palms facing down. Now, lay your other hand on top of the watch and press firmly for a second or two. Suddenly remove the watch, and observe the sensation. It feels like the watch is still there, doesn't it? If this is coupled with the typical misdirection or with an overpowering force, such as a handshake, the pickpocket can effect a steal quite simply.



The removal of a watch from a wrist is actually a series of very subtle movements, each carefully engineered to archive a certain goal. It must be accomplished quickly and with a minimum of fumbling to work successfully. It is preferable to steal the leather strap variety, since it is much easier to manipulate than the metal band.

A skilled "unbuckler" can take your leather strap watch in about one second, so his main goal is diverting your attention.



The pickpocket will offer a left-handed handshake (since that is where most people wear their watch) and grasp the wrist with his right. This is a fairly common practice, so it is not a tremendously suspicious act. As he is looking one in the eye and saying "How do you do?", he is doing the following routine:

With his right hand on the wrist, he grabs the end of the strap and pushes it through the buckle. Pulling it slightly releases the pin from the hole and the thumb pushes the pin out of the way. Using the thumb to push the buckle forward, the end of the strap will come out of the buckle and the watch is released from the arm.



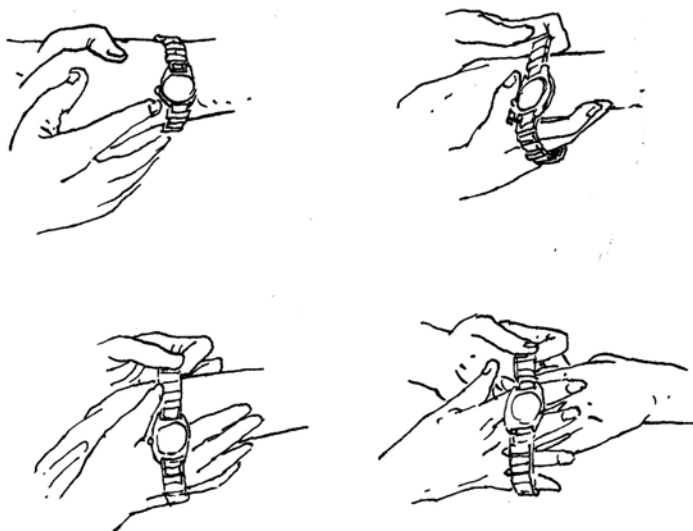
Another method uses the middle finger for the unbuckling procedure. The middle finger gaps the band, and pulls it as far as possible. The nail of the middle finger is used to flip the pin forward, which allows the buckle to be pushed forward, and watch to be removed.



Pickpockets who specialize in boosting watches will often carry some sort of rosin in their pockets, as this reduces slippage and makes the unbuckling procedure go more smoothly. For the pickpocket who forgets his rosin, hairspray applied to the fingertips will do in a pinch.

Now that we've seen a couple of the techniques used to lift the leather strap variety, it is time we graduated to the granddaddy of watch steals: boosting a metal banded watch.

During the shake, the right index finger goes under the watch. Just as the handshake is over, the right index finger pulls out slightly to allow the middle finger, and pinky of the left hand to enter under the band. Still holding the watch away from the wrist, the middle finger and pinky of the ring hand slip inside the band and the whole band is stretched away from the wrist; Carefully, but quickly, the band is passed over the wrist and hand. Of course, I've slowed this procedure down considerably; the entire routine is completed in less than a second, so that the recipient of the ill-fated handshake is none the wiser.



Practice and exercise your important weapons.

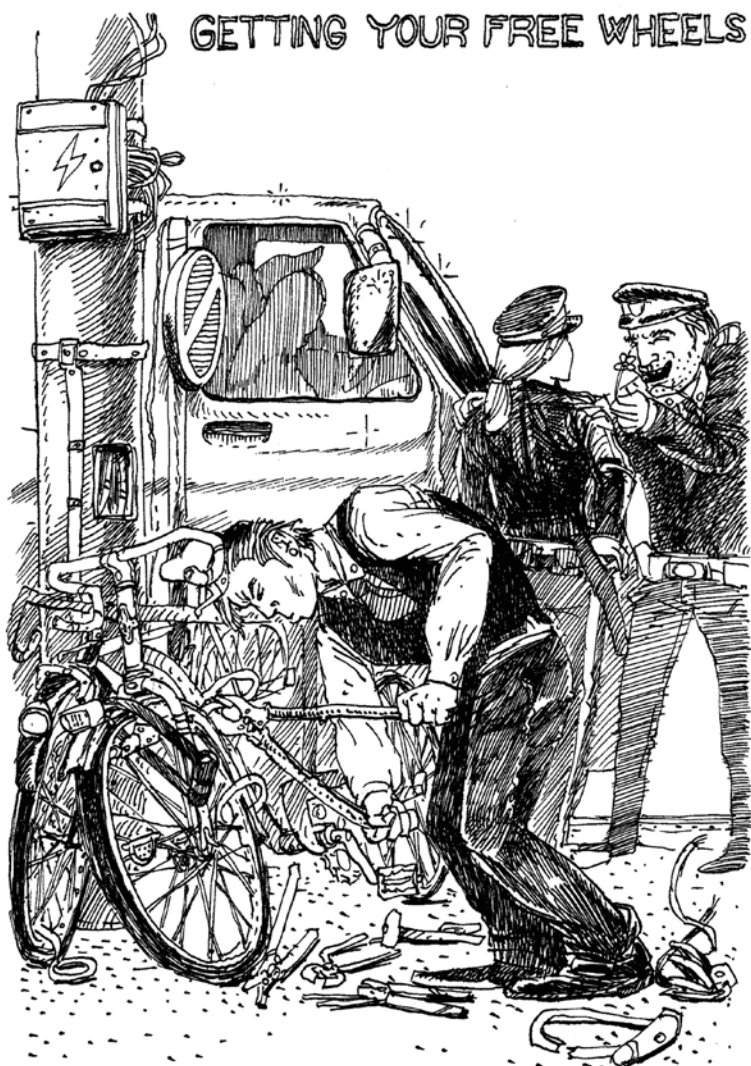
A living model can give the aspiring dip feedback on what he felt and where he felt it. If the pickpocket cannot find, or afford, a life "dummy", he can resort to a mannequin; it helps to synchronize the pickpocket's movements, since he learns where his body and hands must be at all times.

The poverty-stricken pickpocket, who can afford neither the model nor mannequin, can resort to a few cheaper devices. A coat thrown over a chair, a pair of trousers filled with rags, or a pocket sewn onto a chair, will all suffice for pickpocket practice. The arms of some chairs are also ideal for practicing watchlifts. Furthermore, these less expensive suggestions allow those of us who are merely curious to gain insight into the actual demands of pickpocketing, without a large outlay of cash.

You had better practice your one important weapon: your hand, your fingers to be exact. Make sure that you give them the exercise that they need. So go ahead and get down with your favorite game of thumb wrestling, remote control speed channel surfing and speed texting. It's time to get your talents working for your finances.

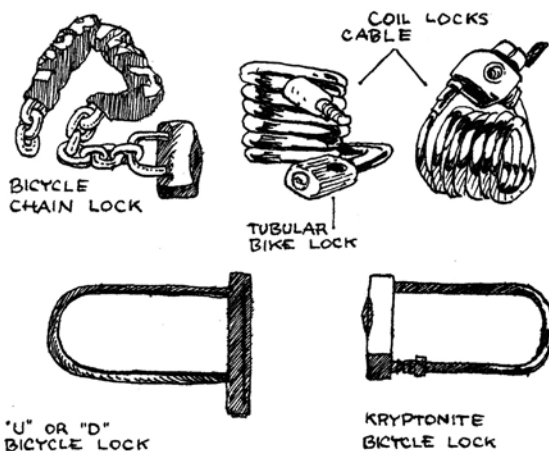


PICKPOCKET IS LOOKING FOR PEOPLE HE CAN PRACTICE ON ONCE A WEEK.
WILL PAY 5 €/HOUR... +32.487.611.830



THE ETHICS OF WHEN IT IS AND ISN'T OK TO TAKE A BIKE
THAT ISN'T YOURS. IT'S NEVER OK TO TAKE SOMEBODY'S
BIKE, IT'S ALWAYS OK TO TAKE NOBODY BIKE.

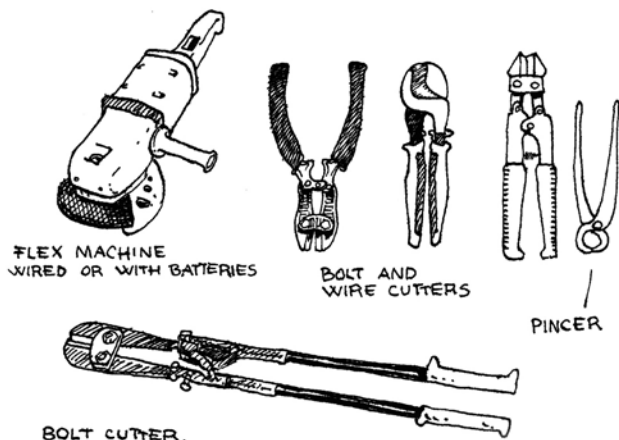
Congratulations on your recent decision to become a bike thief. You may have just lost your white collar job and had your house repossessed, but the good news is that you can make a decent living in the bike re-marketing industry.



If you're a rinky-dink garden thief, you probably won't carry any tools with you, but you might use a big rock or other makeshift tool to break a really wimpy chain. Instead of tools you will use your wits and stay vigilant to look out for easy targets. Don't feel too bad about being just a garden thief; it's totally understandable if you live in a small town or already have a job stealing other things.

If you decide to be an amateur thief, you might carry a cable snipper and multi-tool to strip parts, or maybe a small hacksaw, bolt-cutter, or even a hydraulic hand jack to hack a specific type of lock. As an amateur you rely on plausible deniability rather than a quick get-away car, so you don't want to carry too many thievery-specific tools with you when you go out prowling. Those are hard to explain when they fall out of your pockets.

If you are a professional bike thief you probably already have a wingman on lookout duty, and maybe even a getaway driver in a van. You most likely use large specialized tools like 3 foot long industrial bolt cutters and power tools.



Security is a fundamental concept that is often miscommunicated to too-trusting lock buyers. Locks do not guarantee security. Locks will only slow down or deter a determined thief. There is no such thing as absolute security, even when the bike is at the victim's home or in a public place. As a bike thief, you can exploit peoples' trust and misconceptions of security for profit.

If you keep your eyes open, you can spot bikes that aren't locked at all, in public places. Lots of people assume that if they will only be in the store for five minutes, or if the bike is in the garage, then their bike is safe, but unless they always secure the bike they are asking for it to be adopted and resold by an enterprising young entrepreneur.

A rewarding tactic is to go "shopping" for used bikes at night. Those locks that may have looked risky to hack during the day will look more inviting at 3am, when you have lots of time and privacy to work undisturbed. Of course, stay away from well-lit, public places, where you may be spotted and receive a free trip downtown, even in the middle of the night.

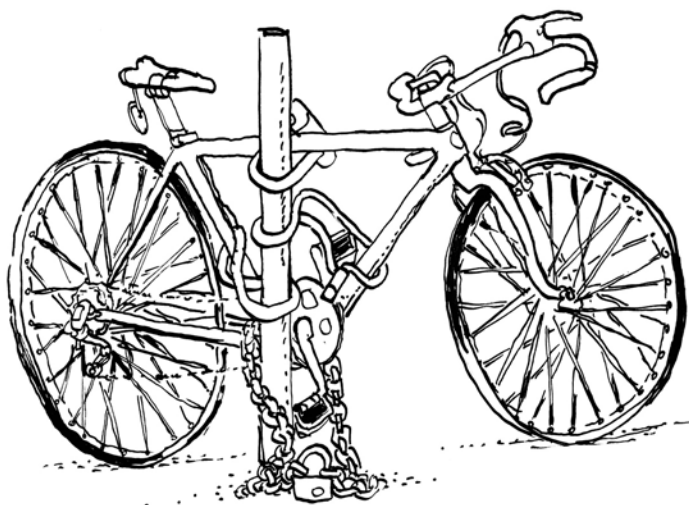
Some riders like to hide their bikes behind bushes, underneath stairways, and on quiet side streets. This theory of "security by obscurity" is transparent to the sharp-eyed bike thief. In fact, you should actually prefer to operate unseen, not in the public eye. Another good place to look for easy targets is at a movie theatre or bus stop, where it's obvious the rider will be gone for some time. Similarly, avoid bikes parked at a restaurant or similar high-traffic spot. Bikes parked alone are easier to manoeuvre your tools around, and you're less likely to bump into one of the owners before you're done working.



A lock means nothing without a solid bike rack connected to it. A wooden fence, aluminium signpost, or handrail is easily cut or crushed. A bike locked to a signpost can be easily slipped over the top after removing the sign, or you can just saw the signpost in half.

Some riders neglect to lock their bike through a closed frame member. The locking through the seat or handlebars don't count, as these can be easily removed. Considerate cyclists will lock through a high point on the bike, to make it easier for you to hack at the lock without bending down and fatiguing your back.

Wheel retention systems come in several varieties. The easiest wheels to steal have quick release skewers, which may be opened quickly by hand. Slightly less convenient are the bolt-on axles, which require a wrench to open. Most cyclists are smart enough to lock the frame, but relatively few lock both wheels as well. The frame is usually the most expensive item on the bike, followed by the rear wheel, and then the front wheel. Most recumbent seats aren't worth stealing, except the carbon fiber ones maybe.



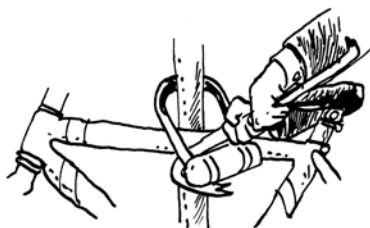
Locks are vulnerable to prying techniques if there is any "slack" or space left between the frame and the parking rack. This doesn't work if the cyclist fills the lock completely by including a wheel, a thick frame member, and a parking rack inside the shackle. Because the seat and handlebars can interfere with the recumbent being leaned directly against a rack, most 'bent riders use a long and flexible lock. If any part of the lock rests on the ground, you can use the ground as an anvil to make hammering attacks more effective. Additionally, cables with looped ends are often stamped together and may be pried apart with a screwdriver. Armoured cables, heavy chains, and folding link locks, wrapped tight and leaving little slack, are the most likely to frustrate your hacking attempt. It's easier and less incriminating to carry the tools to break just one kind of lock, so avoid bikes that use multiple locks, of different types.





Angle grinders (wired or rechargeable) are often used by thieves for these tougher locks, but they make a lot of noise and sparks. For power plug the angle grinder into an outlet in side a light pole.

It could draw attention to you, but you should act like it is your bike and you lost the key; the funniest part will be that nobody will seemed shocked or question you when you cut the chain.



There is a variety of ways to hack Kryptonite/U-type locks. Standard procedure, as it turns out, is to approach the bicycle and see if the person has locked the bike correctly.

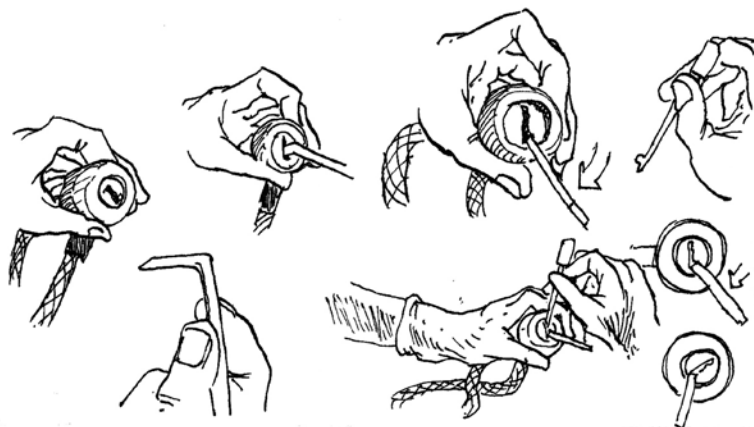
Apparently, cylindrical locks have two positions that the key can be removed from, the locked position and the unlocked position. Some people fail to lock their lock properly. Then, cut off the plastic around the locking mechanism.

There may or may not be a pin the holds the lock in place. If there is a pin, tap it out. The lock should fall out or can be unscrewed at this point. If there is no pin, use a pipe cutter to cut thru the hollow portion of the lock. This is available in hardware stores. If none of this works (pipe cutter won't work for a solid bar between end portions of the "U") then a large diameter, long pipe can be used to force the lock. This makes a huge, loud bang. Freon tricks work, but usually take about a minute or two and require blunt smashing instrument.





Liquid nitrogen tricks work fast, but it's dangerous if you use the stuff incorrectly. If you have some time, a few locks are open on the other side of the part that holds the lock. This can be split with a chisel.



Don't get caught. There are few enough recumbent thieves out there, and we need seasoned hands to pass on these time-honored traditions to the newbies.

DON'T SHOP. LIFT



Being a successful shoplifter requires the development of an outlaw mentality. When you enter a store you should already have cased the joint so don't browse around examining all sorts of items, staring over your shoulder and generally appearing like you're about to snatch something and are afraid of getting caught.

Ride your bicycle with a friend (need pegs) to the store you want to steal from, and park your bike in front of a window that is visible from the registers. Tell your friend to hide. Then, politely ask an employee to watch your bike. They will most likely say yes, being kind. Go into the store, then get a basket, and fill it with the stuff you want to steal. After you have gotten what you want to steal (probably not more than 10 lbs) go to a register with a really long line. Call your friend on your cellphone, and tell him "its time". He will then get on the bike, and after he's on yell "THAT KID'S STEALING MY BIKE!" and run after him with your basket in hand. Most people will be too confused and shocked to chase you. Yes, the alarm will go off. Meet your friend at another store, the security guards from the store you stole from can't grab you off grounds, but they probably won't find you.



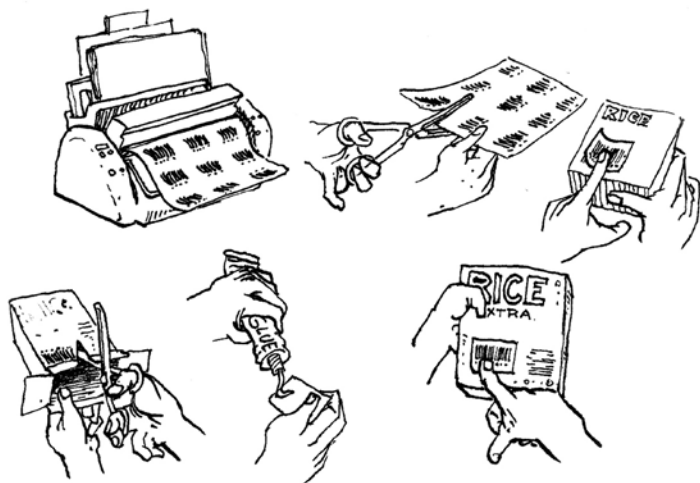
A common technique is known as a "grab and run." Simply put, as you enter a store usually with prior knowledge of what you are looking for. You move very quickly toward the merchandise you wish to steal. Once you have the merchandise then proceed to the nearest store exit, usually running. Due to the short time spent inside the store, the person who attempts this scam is rarely caught, or in some cases even detected. A group of people to rush a store and grab as much merchandise as possible and then rush out. The speed with which this happens and the large numbers of people involved make it difficult to stop.



Box Stuffing: This scam involves the use of a box which had a cheaper item in it that has been removed. You remove the item from the box and proceed to conceal a large amount of merchandise inside it. You then reseal the box and take it to a checkout aisle, where you pay the purchase price for the item. You walk out of the store with concealed merchandise still inside the box. You can also leave the low priced item in the box if you have room for your concealed merchandise, make your purchase, then just bring the box with the item back for a full refund.



Ticket switching is among the oldest scams that stores have faced. You find an item on clearance and removes the clearance tag. You then finds a high euro item and applies the clearance tag to it. You then brings the high euro item to an unsuspecting cashier and pay for it at a clearance price.



Start saving the bar codes from products in your home. The best ones will be printed on thin plastic containers, such as bread bags or the slick paper wrapped around cardboard boxes. Additionally, they should be from inexpensive items.

When the cashier scans the expensive product the bar code reader will tally the lower price. Two factors make this method a bit more dangerous than those in the previous chapters. One, if you're caught, acting confused won't help. The piece paper with attached bar codes will prove your guilt. Most stores will prosecute you. Second, the cash register display will not only indicate the lower price, it will also identify the product by name.

This doesn't necessarily mean your methods will be discovered. After all, lots of things could cause the improper reading, including an improperly programmed scanner or an improperly encoded piece of merchandise.

Self-check out scam: Shoplifters have been known to purchase small items with these machines, and place additional items in their bags without paying for them. Many shoplifters intentionally act slightly confused when using these machines, and act as if they are attempting to scan the item which they wish to steal, so that, if confronted, they can claim that they took the additional items by mistake. Beware - these checkout lanes are watched very closely by security. Most have a camera overhead watching what you scan and a computer screen off site mirroring what you scan.

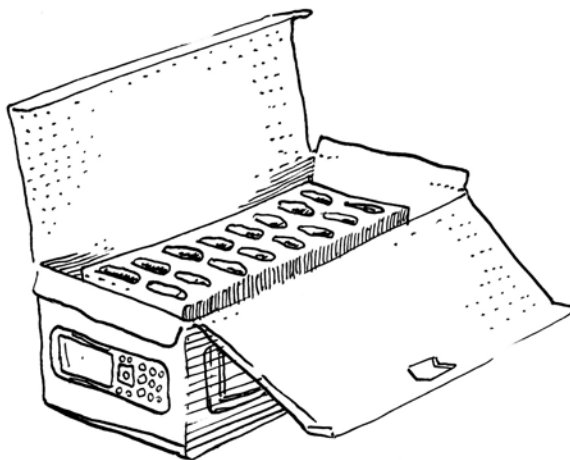


Receipt Matching: Typically you will search either retailer's parking lot or trash-cans looking for receipts that have a high dollar item on it. You then enter the store and compare the items on the receipt to the merchandise in the store. Once you find a match take the merchandise to the return area and receive money for it. To avoid detection, you would use a piece of paper with the merchandise item written on it. Stores try to prevent this by installing outdoor cameras.



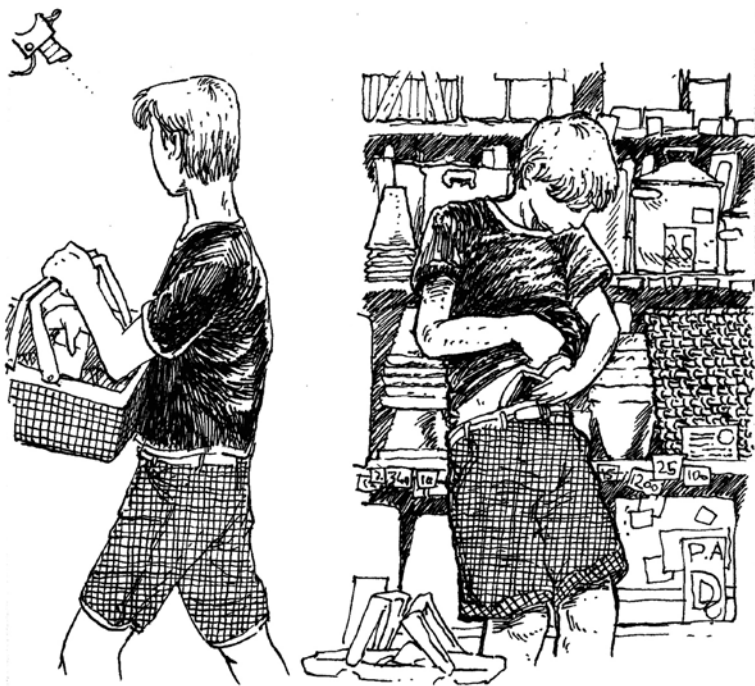
False Returns: Shoplifter will gather an item from the store and try to receive money for it without a receipt at the return station. Although this method is not as fool proof as the receipt matching method, it is very effective particularly when done to an inexperienced cashier. Usually the shoplifter will start complaining to the cashier about their inability to return the merchandise. Typically the shoplifter will state that they lost their receipt or threaten the cashier by stating that they want to talk to their supervisor. To avoid confrontation the cashier will ring up the return and give the shoplifter dollar value of the merchandise.

Fake Returns: Attempting to return packages with a receipt to a store that contains no merchandise, a used or broken item, and in some cases things like bricks. This scam is aimed at inexperienced or naive cashiers, in hopes that they will not check the package during the return. When successful, the fake return is usually not discovered for several hours. However most high dollar items will have there serial number scanned at time of purchase so that if it is returned it will match the item.



If the previously discussed methods of reducing your food bill seem insufficient, let's get on to some serious, stuff-it-in-your-pants shoplifting. The food will be free, you won't need to bribe a cashier or swap bar codes.

The mechanics of shoplifting, that is, where you stuff your loot and so forth, are relatively unimportant. The important thing is to draw no attention to yourself in the process.



If you plan to shoplift a steak, for example, put the steak in your cart and keep it there until you're far away from the meat counter.

Any security personnel will watch the meat display for meat thieves. If you place the steak in your cart, you'll look innocent. Go to an aisle with tough-to-shoplift stuff, like paper towels and toilet paper. Then conceal the steak; no one will be expecting you to do it there.

Accidental Stealing: When a person takes their place in the queue with the items they intend to take, and pay for only one of those items while holding what they want to take in full view to cause confusion (or place said items into their pockets) but avoid suspicion due to their apparent intention of payment. If the unlikely event of being caught, they could simply pass off the attempt as accidental.



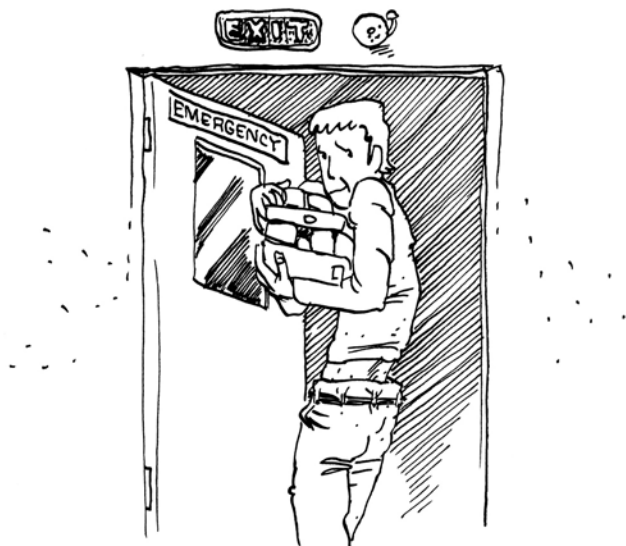
NEVER SHOPLIFT ANYTHING YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO BUY.

This lends credibility to your claim that you intended to pay for the item, but simply forgot. They may let you off if you pay for what you took.

What if you get caught? Deny everything. If that doesn't work, offer to pay. If they arrest you anyway, be completely cooperative. Don't run. Shoplifting is a minor offense. Resisting arrest is a major offense.

No matter how much it stifles your own opinions, your own personal character or your own sense of style, don't look (or act) like a shoplifter. Try to look like a nerd, a guy (or gal) who listens to "Christian rock 'n' roll," and likes it.

Virtually every shoplifter I've seen has given himself away by refusing to blend in, to act in a non-threatening way. In other words, his own pride has given him away. For all I know, the quiet, respectable-looking people may be stealing the store blind. And I never will know, because I don't watch them. They don't look like shoplifters, and they'll never get caught if they are.



Out the Wrong Door: This requires a common outside door with two diverging doors from the vestibule: one for an entrance (which is not usually supervised) and one for an exit. Two people enter the store. One person retrieves merchandise from the selling floor. When this person is ready to leave the store, he waits at the entrance door. The other person walks around to the exit, walks into the vestibule and activates the entrance door on the way out, and the person with the merchandise also leaves. Sometimes the second person will just distract the cashiers while the person with the merchandise waits for some unknowing customer to enter the store and activate the entrance door.

Where should you hide your booty? The answer depends on your physical build, your gender, what you're stealing, and, most importantly, the weather.

The good shoplifter dresses for his trade, but never wears clothing obviously unsuited for the current weather. A coat in summer might as well be a neon sign reading "I'm shoplifting."

If the weather's cool, you can wear a coat to which you've added large interior pockets. An enormous amount of merchandise can be taken this way, and you're relatively unlikely to be spotted, provided the coat's exterior looks normal. In this case, it helps to be fat. No one wants to embarrass an overweight person with questions about lumpy clothing.

In warm weather, it's a bit trickier. One common technique is to dress casually, with your shirt tail hanging out. Wide flat items can be concealed in your pants waistline.

Carry the steak to another aisle, quickly lift your shirt tail, suck in your belly, and stuff the steak down the front of your pants. Let your shirt tail fall naturally back into place. With practice, the whole thing can be done in less than a second, and the shirt tail hides any telltale bumps.

If you're a woman, carry a large purse. But don't carry a huge purse. Really oversized purses attract unwanted attention just as effectively as a down parka in July. The primary advantage of purses is that women normally carry certain items in their purses, and the presence of such items proves nothing, provided the outer containers have been removed. Be sure to leave your purse slightly open while shopping. A purse that's constantly being opened and closed will draw attention.



COLD, STORMY WEATHER



HOT, DRY WEATHER

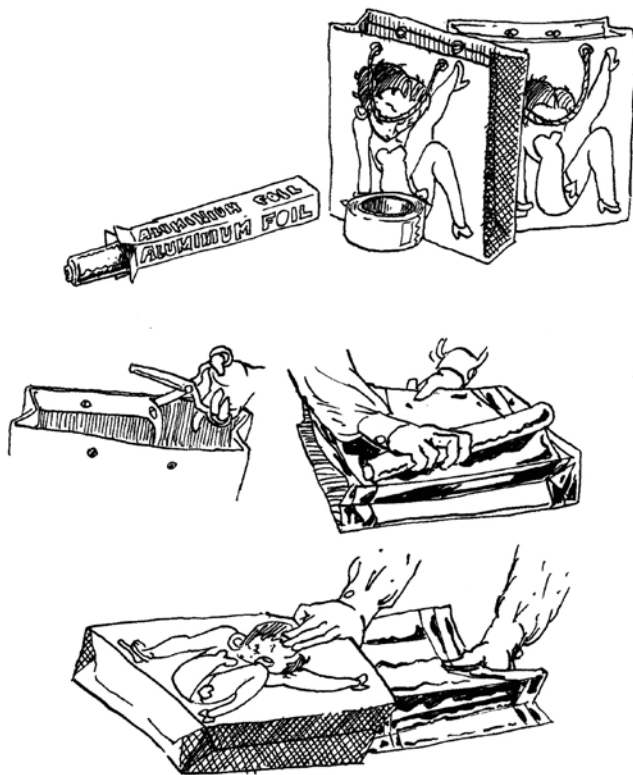
It's best to work shoplifting in the supermarket with a partner who can act as look-out and shield you from the eyes of nosy employees, shoppers and other crooks trying to pick up some pointers. Work out a prearranged set of signals with your partner. Diversions, like knocking over displays, getting into fist fights with the manager, breaking plate glass windows and such are effective and even if you don't get anything, they're fun.



Bag switching is generally attempted by a group of two shoplifters. Typically the first person will have a large bag and gather a large amount of merchandise quickly to get the attention of security. Once the first person knows that they are being followed they will conceal the merchandise into the bag. The first person will then switch their bag with the second person, who usually has a matching bag that is already filled with items that don't belong to the store. The security will miss the switch and arrest the first person, while the second person walks out with the goods.

Fitting Room theft: This scam relies upon the common security policy prohibiting apprehension of shoplifter when concealment is not actually seen by an investigator. Also that it is against the law to observe anyone in a dressing room.

The shoplifter selects a large amount of merchandise and takes it to a fitting room. Once inside, the shoplifter conceals the merchandise into another stores bag out of sight of store employees and store investigators. Another way would be to hide the clothing under your cloths or my favorite is to where old cloths in, new ones out. Some store now count the clothing going in - too get around this just bring in some old cloths and exchange them.



Foil Bags or Clothing: Foil-lined jackets, bags or containers allow a shoplifter to shield the security tags attached to merchandise from the scanners at the door of a store. The tags must be completely shielded for this to work. If there is a "leak" (i.e. If the radio waves from the tower reach the tag through a tear) the towers will be activated.



Women should never go shopping without a large handbag. In those crowded aisles, especially the ones with piles of cases, all sorts of goodies can be transferred from shopping cart to handbag. A drop bag can be sewn inside a trench coat, for more efficient thievery. Don't worry about the mirrors; attendants never look at them. Become a discriminating shopper and don't stuff any of the cheap shit in your pockets.



The Self Bagger: You enter the Store with the stores bags already on you. You make your selections and then proceed to a blind spot of the store. You will then bag up the merchandise and place it the cart. Then with bagged merchandise leave the store. This works really well if there are multiple Points-of-Sale (cashiers) through out the store.

And being female, by the way, makes it much less likely you'll be searched. That's because most security guards and store managers are male. It's no secret in the security business that women routinely claim they were sexually fondled during a search. No man wants to be accused of something that embarrassing, no matter how ludicrous the charge.

If you're a woman and a man does search you, by all means accuse him of fondling you. Scream loudly, so others in the store can hear you, "Get your hands off my breasts, you pervert!" or "Get your fingers away from there, I'm having my period!"

It doesn't matter how careful he is to avoid your private parts, he won't want to deal with your accusations. If you act sufficiently indignant, you're unlikely to be charged, even if they find stolen merchandise.



Another tactic worth considering is carrying an innocent-looking container to hold small shoplifted items. Some stores won't let you carry packages inside, and the package may serve only to draw unwanted observation. But it sometimes works.

Using a confederate makes some techniques easier, but may also draw unwanted attention. In this case the best approach is to pretend to be shopping separately. One of you is the "nest-builder," the other is the pick-up man. If done properly, this tactic is very hard to detect.

You and your buddy agree in advance where the nest will be planted. Ideally, it should be in an aisle that is not easily observed and which contains bulky, rarely-shoplifted merchandise (pet food, paper goods, etc.). You move through the store putting items in your cart, including small valuable items you intend to steal. Steer your cart to the pre-arranged site and build your nest. Then hide it from casual shoppers by placing an article from that aisle's stock in front of the nest. Continue through the store and purchase a few cheap articles.

Ten minutes later, your partner, who didn't put any easily-shoplifted items in his cart, and therefore has attracted no attention to himself, arrives at the nest site. He pockets the contents of the nest and leaves. He may want to purchase a few small items on the way out. If the nest site is sufficiently hidden from casual view, this is a very tough tactic to beat.



Don't Look Like a Shoplifter

The security people can't watch everyone, so they keep an eye on shoppers who look suspicious. Your goal is to look as little like a shoplifter as possible. Let's look who catches security eyes.

Groups of People

Normal folks shop alone, or with a spouse. Nothing gets attention faster than a group of four or five people, especially if they're all young or of the same sex. Additionally, it's a fairly common shoplifting technique to form a huddle of people around the one concealing the merchandise.



Attitude

You don't want to piss off the guard. If he gives you a pleasant "Hi, how are you?" don't response him with a nose in the air. When a young, tough-looking guy strolls into the store, wearing his baseball cap, sunglasses and stereo headphones playing rap music audible halfway across the store. The guy is going to get followed.

Tattoos

If you have conspicuous tattoos. Wear long sleeves.

Age

Younger folks are more likely to steal than older folks. If you're a kid, you can't change your birthday, but you can make an attempt to dress and behave in a manner that makes you seem older.

Sex

It's no secret that teenage girls - even girls from affluent families - like to shoplift for thrills. However, they usually do it in the presence of their peers. A woman alone or with a man won't get attention, but a man alone might.

Attire

Dress conservatively. As mentioned before, don't wear an outfit that looks like it was designed for shoplifting. That means no clothing that's too heavy for the weather. That should suggest a useful dress-for-success tip.

Also, avoid T-shirts with anti-social or obscene messages, you'd do better wearing clothing that won't draw attention.



Accessories

There's one accessory I recommend to all serious shoplifters: a shopping list. Most normal people plan their trips to the store and prepare a list. Amateur shoplifters usually act on impulse with no pre-planning.



Finally, don't keep looking around. This may be the hardest thing for a budding young shoplifter to master, but it's worth it. If you look over both shoulders every time you make a move, the guard or store employee is going to start wondering what you're scared of.

Try to look comfortable and relaxed, no matter what crime you're perpetrating. If you really do get caught concealing something, you can always ditch it in the next aisle. Relax and radiate confidence, even if you have to fake it.

If it Don't fell right - Abort!

Stop what your doing, drop what you have and leave - come back another time. If it don't look or feel right always go with your instincts, they could be right.

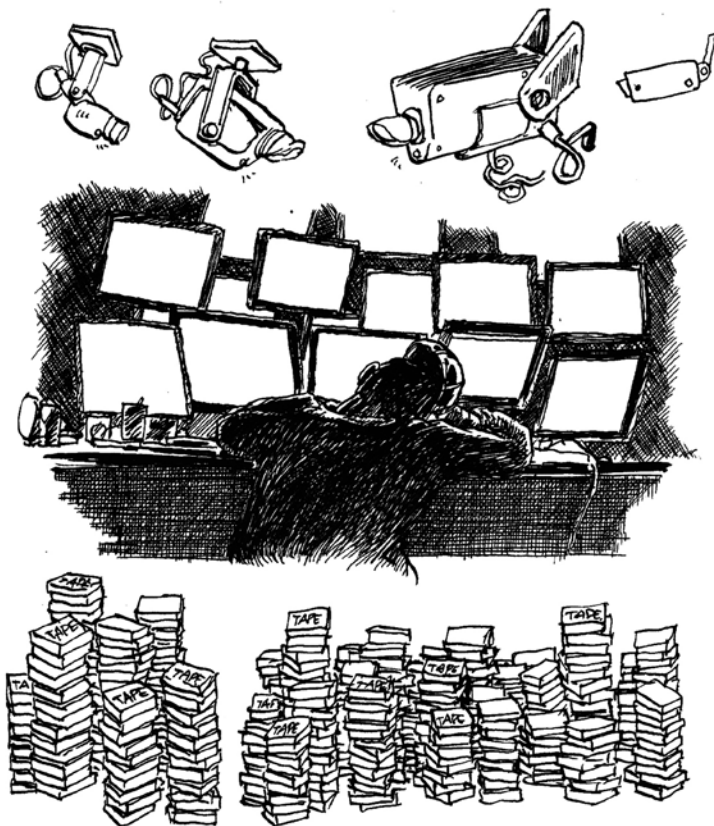
Security Personnel

An armed uniformed guard, believe it or not, may be a good sign. The presence of a uniformed security man suggests there's probably no plainclothes floorwalker.

Most supermarkets are too cheap to employ both.

Furthermore, a guy in uniform is very easy to keep track of, especially if you're using a confederate as a lookout. And the man in the cop suit will probably ignore you if you don't look or act suspicious.

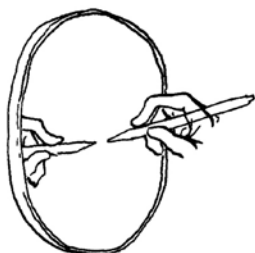
As for the plainclothes man, you're unlikely to encounter one in most supermarkets. An easy way to find out if a store uses non-uniformed security is to offer your services in that capacity to the manager. He's likely to say either "No thanks, we don't use floorwalkers," or "No thanks, we've already got someone." Either way, you've obtained a bit of useful information.



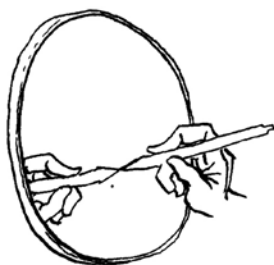
Two kinds of mirrors are used for security purposes. The most obvious is the large, round, convex mirror that may be mounted in the corners of the store. Their lens shape gives them a wide angle of vision, but at the expense of image size. Like the message on your car's right outside mirror says, "Objects Are Closer Than They Appear." In other words, you may be visible in the convex mirror, but you'll look so tiny it's impossible to make out what you're doing.

This type of mirror has another weakness. Simply put, if they can see you, you can see them. That's the nature of mirrors. If you glance into a mirror and find yourself looking directly into someone's eyes, you can be sure he is watching you.

The other type of mirror is the two-way mirror. Normal mirrors are sheets of glass silvered on the back. Two-way mirrors are very lightly silvered on the front surface. The silvering is light enough to be reasonably transparent, provided the light in back is kept low.



NORMAL MIRROR

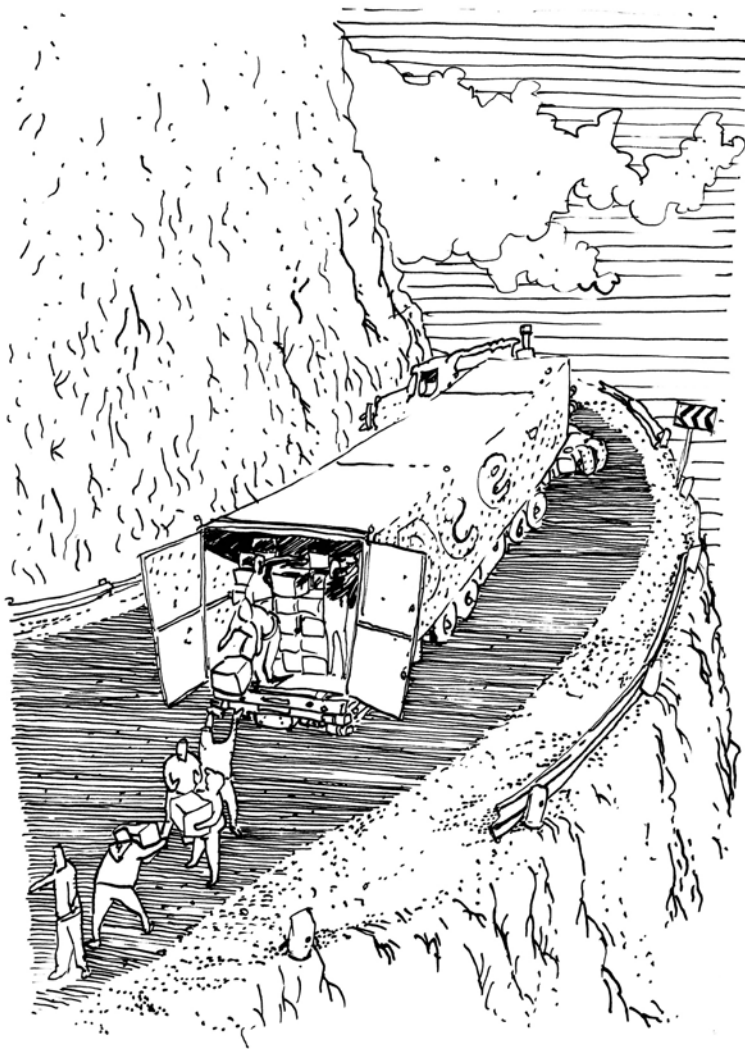


TWO-WAY MIRROR

There's a very easy way to tell the difference. Take a nail file, sharpened pencil, pen or other hard, sharp-edged item and touch the surface of the mirror. If you're using, say, a pencil, there should be a noticeable gap between the point of the pencil and the point of the reflected pencil's image. Typically, the gap will be between an eighth and a quarter of an inch.

If the pencil tip rests directly against the reflected image of the pencil's tip, you're probably being watched. If you must shoplift in a store with a two-way mirror, you'll have to assume you're always under observation from that mirror and shield your actions accordingly.

INDUSTRIAL THEFT



Merchandise can easily "fall off the back of the truck". Alcohol, perfume, electrical appliances, cigarettes...

11

CAVIAR & CHAMPAGNE

If you want to live high off the hog without having to do the dishes, restaurants are easy pickings. In general, many of these targets are easier marks if you are wearing the correct uniform. You should always have one suit or fashionable dress outfit hanging in the closet for the proper heists.

In every major city there are usually bars that cater to the New Generation type riff-raff, trying to hustle their way up the escalator of Big Business. Many of these bars have a buffet or hors -d'oeuvres served free as a come-on to drink more mindless booze. Take a half-empty glass from a table and use it as a prop to ward off the anxious waitress. Walk around sampling the free food until you've had enough. Often, there are five or six such bars in close proximity, so moving around can produce a delightful "street smorgasbord."

There are still some places where you can get all you can eat for a fixed price. Sew a plastic bag onto your tee-shirt or belt and wear a loose-fitting jacket or coat to cover any noticeable bulge. Fried chicken is the best and the easiest to pocket, or should we say bag. Another trick is to pour your second free cup of hot coffee into the plastic bag sewed inside your pocket and take it with you.

At large take-out stands you can say you or your brother just picked up an order of fifteen hamburgers or a bucket of chicken, and got shorted. If you want to get into a grand food heist from take-out stands, you can work the following nervy bit: from a pay phone, place an order from a large delivery restaurant. Have the order sent to a nearby apartment house. Wait a few minutes in the booth after you've hung up, as they sometimes call back to confirm the order. When the delivery man goes into the apartment house to deliver the order, you can swipe the remaining orders that are still in his truck.

In fancy sit-down restaurants, you can order a large meal and halfway through the main course, take a little dead cockroach or a piece of glass out of your pocket and place it deftly on the plate. Jump up astonished and summon the headwaiter.

"Never have I been so insulted. I could have been poisoned" you scream slapping down the napkin. You can refuse to pay and leave, or let the waiter talk you into having a brand new meal on the house for this terrible inconvenience.

In all these methods, you should leave a good tip for the waiter or waitress, especially with the roach-in-the-plate gambit. You should try to avoid getting the employees in trouble or screwing them out of a tip.

One fantastic method of not only getting free food but getting the best available is the following technique that can be used in metropolitan areas. Look in a large magazine shop for gourmet digests and tourist manuals. Swipe one or two and copy down a good name from the masthead inside the cover. Making up a name can also work. Next invest to print business cards with the name of the magazine and the new "associate editor." Call or simply drop into a fancy restaurant, show a copy of the magazine and present the manager with your card. They will insist that the meal be on the house.

Great places to get fantastic meals are weddings, bar-mitzvahs, art openings and the like. The newspaper society and cultural sections have lists of these events and their locations. A man and woman team can work this freeloard much better than a single person as they can chatter back and forth while stuffing themselves.

If you're really into a classy free meal, and you are in a city with a large harbor, check out the passenger ship section in the back pages of the newspaper. There you find the schedule of departures for ocean cruises. Most trips (these kind, anyway) begin with a fantastic bon voyage party on board ship. Just walk on a few hours before departure time and start swinging. Champagne, caviar, lobster, shrimp and more, all as free as the open seas.



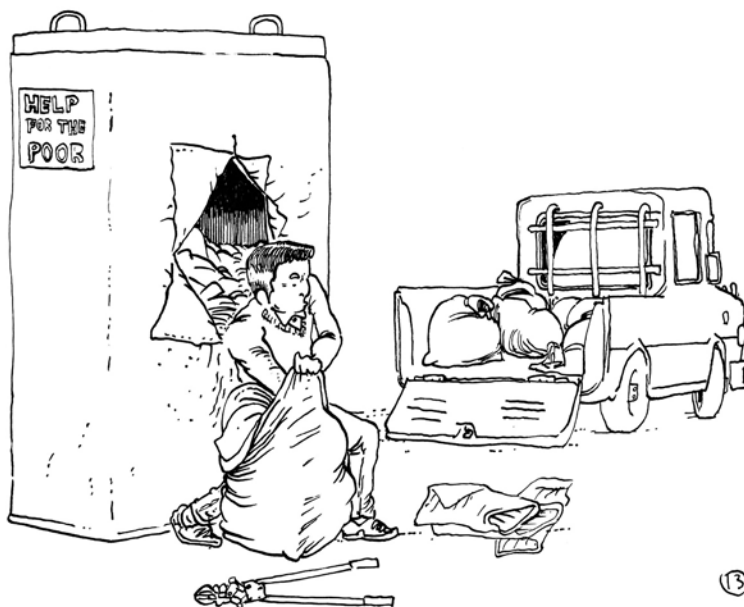
KINDNESS PAYS

If you notice people moving from an apartment or house, ask them if they'll be leaving behind clothing. They usually abandon all sorts of items including food, furniture and books. Offer to help them carry out stuff if you can keep what they won't be taking.

Make the rounds of a fancy neighborhood with a truck and some friends. Ring doorbells and tell the person who answers that you are collecting wearable clothing for the "poor homeless victims of the recent tidal wave in Quianto a small village in Saudi Arabia." You get the pitch. Make it food and clothing, and say you're with a group called Heartline for Decency. A phony letter from a church might help here.

Notice if your friends have lost or gained weight. A big change means a lot of clothes doing nothing but taking up closet space. The room with thousands of unclaimed lost items. Pick out what you like. While there, notice a neat suitcase or trunk and memorize the markings.

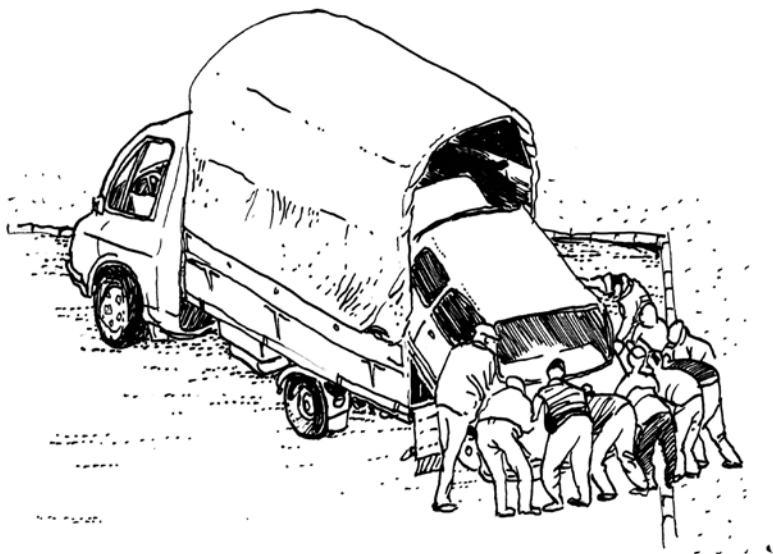
Later a friend can claim the item. There will be loads of surprises in any suitcase.



FASTER... MORE, MORE!

6 ways to steal a car:

- 1) Copy keys with image-Hidden cam. Take the picture and measurements, make a key and come back later to pick up the car.
- 2) Use a larger truck. Simply go to where a car is parked and load it into a bigger truck and drive away.
- 3) Pick and hotwire. Most difficult and reserved for professionals. More likely than hotwiring, they will use a different method to start the car but the same principles. This is the classic way everybody has heard of, most pros use dent pullers so they can start the car without a key.
- 4) Get in the car while it's running. You do this by either by throwing the person out (carjacking) or while they are busy and a few feet from the car you jump in.
- 5) Chauffeur. Pretend to be the person in charge of valet parking. Then drive off.
- 6) False towing service. Take a car out of a parking lot for a fake reason. This works because you can do it in front of everybody, no questions asked. Just make sure you know where the owner is and if confronted make an excuse and give him a fake number to an impound lot.



Any discussion of shoplifting and forgeries inevitably leads to a rap on credit cards; those little shiny plastic wonder passes to fantasy land that are rendering cash obsolete. There are many ways to land a free credit card. You can get one yourself if your credit is good, or from a friend: report it stolen and go on a binge around town. Sign your name a little funny. Super underworld types might know where you can purchase a card that's not too hot on the black market. You might heist one at a fashionable party or restaurant. If you're a hat check girl at a night club, don't forget to check out pockets and handbags for plastic goodies.*

*The absolute best method is to have an accomplice working in the post office rip off the new cards that are mailed out. They get to know quickly which envelopes contain new credit cards. Since the person never receives the card it never dawns on them to report it stolen. This gives you at least a solid month of carefree spending.

A NOSE FOR ART

Apartment are good for all kinds of neat furniture and expensive design. If you want to get fancy about it, rent a truck and make the pick-up with moving-man-type uniforms.

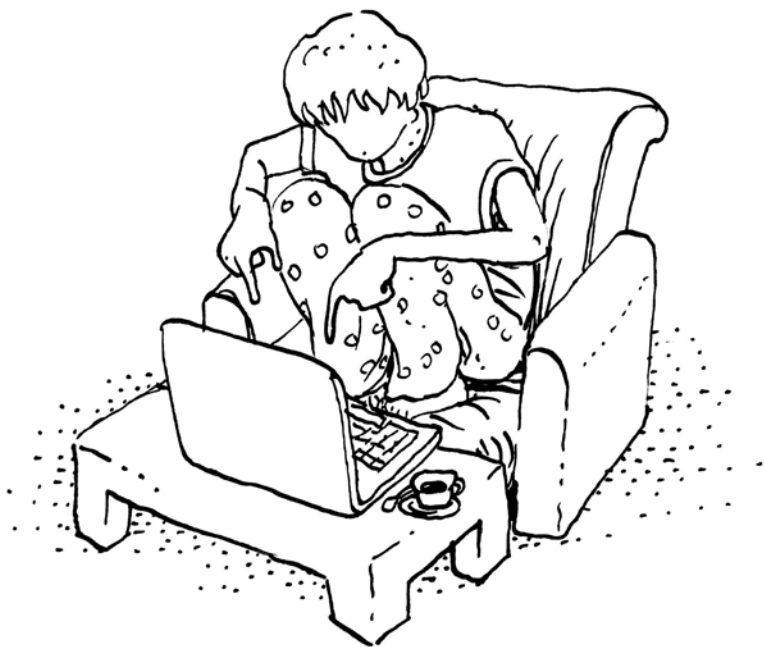


Landlords renovating buildings throw out stoves, tables, lamps, refrigerators and carpeting. In most cities, each area has a day designated for discarding bulk objects. Call the Sanitation Department and say you live in that part of town which would be putting out the most expensive shit and find out the pick-up day. Fantastic buys can be found cruising the streets late at night. Check out the backs of large department stores for floor models, window displays and slightly damaged furniture being discarded.



LET YOUR FINGERS DO YOUR JOB

The internet has everything you need , just let your fingers work for you: expensive software, not yet released films, mp3 music, and more. No need to buy these things from already rich corporations when downloading is just a keyboard away.



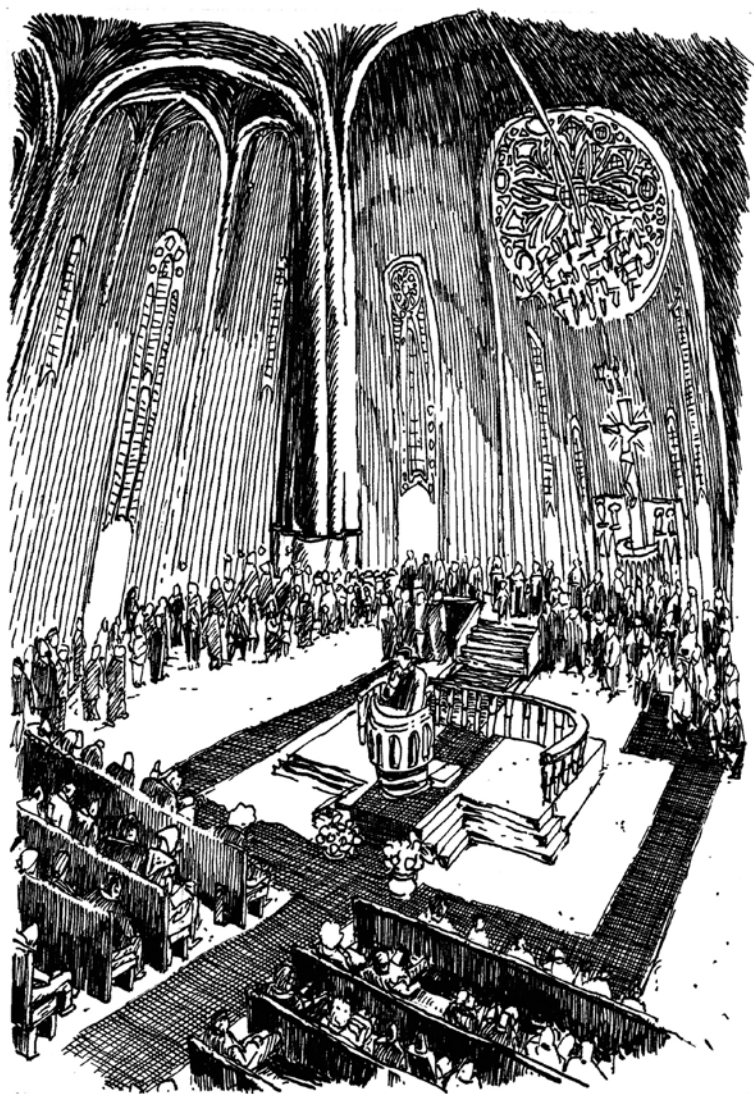
INSPIRATIONAL CASE STUDIES

REVEREND YORK

"If anyone, through stress of hunger or nakedness, steal food, clothing or beast, he shall do penance for three weeks."

St. Thomas Aquinas

Steal from retail giants if your family is hungry!



\$ 100 MILLION
WORTH-OF STOLEN ART

A broken alarm system. A sawed-off padlock. A security video of a masked figure dressed in black slipping through a broken window. And empty picture frames leaning against a short stone wall facing the Seine.

He knew that the alarm system was down, he took his time.. He did not harm the paintings when cutting them off their frames, he carefully removed them and left with the paintings under his arm, making sure that they were not scratched.

Through his doing, these paintings have regained their innocence, becoming pure objects of pleasure, priceless, free from the market and from financial speculation.



RICK DANGER
UNAFFORDABLE ARTWORK FOR THE LESS FORTUNATE

Unauthorized copies of artworks by more than 100 different contemporary artists (at a reasonable price).

"When I sell out of a particular design, I make more."



SMECHER ART IS THE STEP THAT
COMES AFTER BUSINESS ART

Wiktionary: (slang) a cool person, somebody who is aware of everything.

A smecher knows a good opportunity and uses it to his advantage. He can never be tricked and always knows how to get out of trouble. He is clever, sneaky and crafty; he is a charlatan with sophisticated tastes. He is a survivor, he is a thief with a heart of gold.



REFERENCES & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Abbie Hoffman - Steal This Book, 1970

Wayne B. Yeager - Techniques of the Professional Pickpocket, 1990

J. Andrew Anderson - How to Steal Food from the Supermarket, 1992

St. Thomas Aquina - Summa Teologica, c. 1266

Adam Langer - The Thieves of Manhattan, 2010

Robert Bresson - "Pickpocket", 1959

Woody Allen - "Take the Money and Run", 1969

Louis Malle - "Le Voleur", 1967.

Vittorio De Sica - "Ladri di biciclette", 1948

Mimi Leder - "Thick as Thieves", 2009

Alfred Hitchcock - "To Catch a Thief", 1955

Borra King of Pickpockets, Robin Hood, Radu (a professional thief), Reverend "York"

Stealing a Bike or Trike - www.easystreetrecumbents.com/articles/2010/06/stealing-a-bike-or-trike/

The Shoplifters Forum! - www.zoklet.net/bbs/showthread.php?t=702

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Who is the pickpocket?	2
Getting your free wheels	17
Don't shop. Lift	27
Industrial theft	49
Caviar & Champagne	50
Kindness Pays	53
Faster... more, more!	54
a nose for art	56
Let your fingers do your job	58
Inspirational case Studies	59
References & Acknowledgements	68

SURVIVAL STRATEGIES. TAKE THE BOOK,
TAKE THE MONEY... RUN! (CRISIS SPECIAL)

For Survival Kit 2, Ciprian Homorodean presents a free version of Survival Strategies. Take the Book, Take the Money... Run! a "Crisis Special" offering alternative ways to survive the bad economy. The book posits that in a world governed by materialistic values, stealing might be the most appropriate course of action for the large majority caught in financial distress.

The book is presented in collaboration with La Bibliothèque Fantastique (LBF), a unique artist's publishing house that allows the public to download and print books for free.

Author: Ciprian Homorodean
Illustrations: Cristian Dârstar
Publisher: Antoine Lefebvre/LBF

with the collaboration of
Rose Marie Barrientos

Access & download the book on:
www.labibliothequefantastique.net

WWW.
LA
BIBLIOTHEQUE
FANTASTIQUE
.NET