



# THE THIEF OF THIEVES



MARTIN BROUGH 4/11

GURRANNO

**PROLOGUE.  
THREE WEEKS AGO.**



# CHAPTER ONE, THE THIEF AND HIS APPRENTICE

THREE WEEKS LATER.



NO!  
WAIT...

NICE TRY,  
ASSHOLE.  
DON'T EVEN  
THI--!

**THUMP!**

DON'T SHOOT,  
FELLAS. I  
SURRENDER.



COUNTESS?  
MA'AM, I'M  
SORRY TO WAKE  
YOU, BUT...  
THERE'S BEEN AN  
INCIDENT.



WE'VE ALREADY CONFIRMED  
WITH THE OTHER GUESTS  
ABOARD, NO ONE'S LOST  
ANYTHING.

CAPTAIN, I THINK  
WE BOTH KNOW, IF  
HE WAS AFTER  
SOMETHING, IT WILL  
BE FROM MY INVENTORY.  
LET ME SEE IT.



WAKE MY MEN.  
WE WOULD LIKE  
TO MEET WITH  
THIS THIEF.

THIS IS VIGGO,  
THE HEAD OF MY  
PERSONAL SECURITY.  
HE WILL BE HITTING  
YOU NOW.



COUNTESS, A-- A WORD,  
PLEASE. I ALREADY  
TOLD YOU, WE'VE  
SEARCHED HIS PERSON.  
FOUND NOTHING.  
I DOUBT--

CAPTAIN, WHEN  
I CAME ABOARD THIS  
VESSEL I MADE VERY  
CLEAR JUST HOW PRECIOUS  
THAT CARGO WAS. YOU  
ASSURED ME THAT NO ONE  
COULD GAIN UNAUTHORIZED  
ACCESS TO YOUR SAFE. AND  
NOW, I AM LOOKING AT  
A MAN WHO YOU SAY HAS  
GAINED UNAUTHORIZED  
ACCESS TO YOUR SAFE.

I UNDERSTAND THAT, MATA--  
BUT THIS IS AN AMERICAN SHIP.  
WE HAVE LAWS. WE CAN HOLD  
HIM, AND WE CAN QUESTION  
HIM, BUT... WE CAN'T  
TORTURE HIM.

OF COURSE...  
OF COURSE YOU  
CAN'T. I FORGET  
SOMETIMES HOW  
MUCH... SIMPLER  
THINGS ARE IN  
MY COUNTRY.

I'LL TAKE  
HIM HOME  
WITH ME.





# HOW CELIA AND REDMOND MET, OR, HOW TO STEAL A CAR.







THERE WE GO. CAR IN THREE STEPS.

OH MY GOD, THAT IS AMAZING! NOBODY ON YOUTUBE COULD DO IT THAT FAST. I CAN'T--

**NHOO!**

BUT THAT'S NO WAY TO MAKE A LIVING.

HEY!



IT'S MESSY. IT'S GOT TOO HIGH A MARGIN FOR ERROR, AND IT ONLY WORKS ON OLDER MODELS. DINOSAURS WERE PROBABLY VERY EASY TO STEAL FROM, TOO, BUT UNFORTUNATELY THEY'RE ALL DEAD. BESIDES, IF YOU'RE THIS BAD AT ENTRY, CAN'T IMAGINE YOUR WIRE WORK. NO, WHAT YOU WANT TO DO--



TAKE A LOOK AROUND.

YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN ECONOMY CAR, ANY MAKE IS FINE, CLEAN, IN GOOD CONDITION, GENERAL UPKEEP, ALARM LIGHT OFF-- NO MATTER HOW EASY PRESSING A BUTTON ON A KEYCHAIN IS, FORTY-SIX PERCENT OF DRIVERS NEVER ACTIVATE IT.

LOOK IN THE BACK, YOU SEE A PURSE, WOMEN'S CLOTHING, ANYTHING THAT SUGGESTS THE DRIVER IS FEMALE?

WHY DOES THAT MATTER?

FEMALE DRIVERS TAKE THEIR CARS IN FOR SERVICE MORE REGULARLY, THEY DRIVE MORE CAREFULLY AND ARE IN LESS ACCIDENTS, MEANING THE PARTS ARE ALMOST ALWAYS IN BETTER SHAPE. BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY...

THEY'RE BETTER PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES.

ONE IN SIX AUTOMOBILE OWNERS NOW STORE EMERGENCY KEYS UNDER THEIR CARS. COMBINE THAT WITH THE FORTY SIX PERCENT THAT DON'T TURN ON THEIR ALARMS, AND PRETTY MUCH ANY LOT HAS AT LEAST ONE CAR SOMEONE'S ACTUALLY TRYING TO GET YOU TO STEAL.





# BACK HOME... WHY REDMOND NEEDS AN ASSISTANT



ANYWAY, WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE DUBAI JOB.

WHAT ABOUT IT?

WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT THE FACT THAT YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT IT. ARNO IS PISSED.



I'M STILL WORKING OUT A FEW SMALL DETAILS.

REDMOND, YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET WITH THE GUYS THREE WEEKS AGO. IT'S GREENLIT. WE'RE A MONTH BEHIND SCHEDULE NOW. ARNO'S FRONTING A HALF MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE OPERATING BUDGET AND YOU'VE GOT A NINE-MAN TEAM PASSING UP WORK OUT THERE. YOU CAN'T JUST SUDDENLY DISAPPEAR ON EVERYONE--



LOOK, IT'LL BE FINE. I'LL CALL ARNO. WE'LL SET SOMETHING UP FOR NEXT WEEK. I JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME TO SORT SOME THINGS OUT ON MY OWN, THEN EVERYTHING WILL BE RIGHT AS RAIN.

RIGHT AS RAIN.



THEY'RE IN THERE WAITING FOR ME, AREN'T THEY?



## THE UNEXPECTED MEETING AN UNCOMFORTABLE MOMENT





WHAT'S  
THE NEWS  
ON DUBAI?



ARE WE  
GREENLIT?



WHEN  
DO WE GET  
MOVING?



WHAT  
HAPPENED  
TO YOUR  
FACE?

IF I COULD HAVE EVERYONE'S ATTENTION, PLEASE-- PLEASE-- I WOULD LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST.

I KNOW THE OLD SAYING ABOUT HONOR AMONG THIEVES, BUT I MEAN WHAT I SAY -- REDMOND, IT HAS TRULY BEEN AN HONOR TO WORK WITH YOU HERE.

YOU KNOW, WHEN REDMOND CAME TO ME, AND TOLD ME HE'D DISCOVERED THE WHEREABOUTS OF THE ISABEL GARDNER COLLECTION, AND THAT HE'D NEED A MILLION DOLLARS TO EXTRACT THEM-- WELL, I THOUGHT HE WAS CRAZY. STEALING FROM THIEVES? THE DEFINITION OF INSANITY.

BUT I WAS WRONG, AND I'M GLAD ABOUT IT. REDMOND, YOU ARE, I THINK WITHOUT ANY DOUBT, THE GREATEST THIEF OF YOUR GENERATION. WHO HERE CAN FORGET BERLIN? AND WATCHING YOU PUT THIS JOB TOGETHER, FOR HOW LONG NOW? THREE YEARS? GOOD GOD, HOW MANY COUNTLESS HOURS HAVE WE SPENT, PLANNING, RECRUITING, REHEARSING FOR JUST THIS MOMENT?

AND NOW, AS WE STAND HERE TODAY-- GRANTED, A FEW WEEKS LATER THAN WE'D ORIGINALLY HOPED-- BUT ON THE VERGE OF REALIZING ALL OUR DREAMS, I KNOW I FOR ONE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU IN ACTION AGAIN, PULLING OFF THE HEIST OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM!

TO REDMOND!



WELL, ARNO...  
IT'S INTERESTING  
YOU BRING THAT  
UP RIGHT  
NOW, REALLY,  
BECAUSE--



BEEN GIVING  
THIS A GREAT  
DEAL OF THOUGHT,  
ACTUALLY,  
AND I--





I QUIT.

S. Lefranc 2/13/11