

The Thief Taker The Thief Taker Series Book 1

The Thief-taker's Apprentice Victor Gollancz
"The year is 1665...When a girl is gruesomely murdered, thief taker Charlie Tuesday reluctantly agrees to take on the case. But the horrific remains tell him this is no isolated death. The killer's mad appetites are part of a master plan that could destroy London, and reveal the dark secrets of Charlie's own past. Now the thief taker must find this murderous mastermind before the plague obliterates the evidence street by street"--Back cover.

Master Foundryman Peter Garye is seeking revenge upon the villains who brutally murdered his father on their farm in Staffordshire, England. But his journey of vengeance takes an unexpected turn when he foils a highwayman's attempted robbery and ends up learning the lucrative practice of thief-taking - capturing and turning in criminals for reward money. As Peter continues the search for his father's killers, he and his partner, George Ludlow, realize their not-so-legitimate business venture is as dangerous as it is profitable. As they attempt to foil the criminal plans of notorious Thief-Taker General Jonathan Wild, Peter and George suddenly find themselves targets in an elaborate scheme crafted by the very mastermind behind Peter's father's death. Based on

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actual events in 18th century London, *The Thief-Takers* is an intriguing latticework of greed, deception and cold-blooded justice. Dr. Sheldon S. Steinberg has written numerous health-related publications and was lead author on *Government, Ethics, and Managers, A Guide to Solving Ethical Dilemmas in the Public Sector*. He taught personal and community health at Brooklyn and Queens Colleges in New York City and Southern Illinois University. Dr. Steinberg also directed public and professional education programs for various companies and contracts with federal agencies. He and his wife, Stella, have been married for 61 years and have four children and five grandchildren. They live in Silver Spring, Maryland. <http://www.strategicpublishinggroup.com/title/TheThief-Takers.htm>

Fleeing London, Thomas Newton reaches Paris full of hopes for a new life with Pierre Baptiste. The hopes are quickly shattered. There are unsettling rumors about Pierre's past and very real threats in the present. Arrested on false charges, thrown into a dank prison, Thomas must decide whether he can trust Pierre's help to winning back his freedom. But freedom will bring other risks, especially if it requires a return to London and all that he fled. The men from his past whom he betrayed—and who might well want revenge. His avowed enemies, the bigots that chased him across the channel. And, worst of all, everything he doesn't know about his family. To

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survive, he will have to play both sides of the lifeÑas a thief taker.

THIS IS THE STORY OF THE GREATEST CRIMINAL MASTERMIND THAT ENGLAND HAS EVER PRODUCED JONATHAN WILD A REAL 1700'S GANGSTER

This is a historical erotic and fertility short story (word count 3,009). When her cowardly criminal father and brother go on the run, leaving Victoria on her own to pick up the pieces and face the consequences of their actions, she is at a loss for what to do. Well, that is until the very attractive head of the thief-takers comes to her door with his smouldering green eyes to catch her by surprise. He wants to know the whereabouts of her menfolk and charge them for their crimes. Victoria on her side is quite confident given the way that the head of the thief-takers looks at her, that they will be able to resolve any matters and decide on the method of punishment just between themselves.

The Great Fire has reduced London to smouldering embers. From the ashes, thief taker Charlie Tuesday is drawn to investigate a string of strange murders. Mutilated corpses are washing up at Deptford, each marked with a dire astrological prediction. But only London's best crime-solver realises the killer's deadly offerings will soon unleash a devastating force on England. With the help of Lily Boswell, a gypsy street-girl with a knife and a grudge, Charlie

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must find the killer and put a stop to the murders. And by doing so, the Thief Taker will find the man whose terrible destiny is entwined with his, their fates written in the dark stars...

Portrays the rivalry between two thieves of Georgian London--Jonathan Wild, who dominated London's underworld, and Jack Sheppard, who became a folk hero

Henry Morton, a thief-taker with England's first detective organization, the Bow Street Runners, ventures from the dark slums and alleys of Regency London to the opulent heights of English high society as he investigates the murder of a man who turned up dead in the home of an English lord. A first novel. After the Glorious Revolution, a not so glorious age of lawlessness befell England. Crime ran rampant, and highwaymen, thieves, and prostitutes ruled the land. Execution by hanging often punished the smallest infractions, and rip-roaring stories of fearless criminals proliferated, giving birth to a new medium: the newspaper. In 1724, housebreaker Jack Sheppard—a “pocket Hercules,” his small frame packed with muscle—finally met the hangman. Street singers sang ballads about the Cockney burglar because no prison could hold him. Each more astonishing than the last, his final jailbreak took him through six successive locked rooms, after which he shimmied down two blankets from the prison roof to the street below. Just before Sheppard swung, he gave an account of his life to a writer in the crowd. Daniel Defoe stood in the shadow of the day’s

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literati—Swift, Pope, Gay—and had done hard time himself for sedition and bankruptcy. He saw how prison corrupted the poor. They came out thieves, but he came out a journalist. Six months later, the author of *Robinson Crusoe* and *Moll Flanders* covered another death at the hanging tree. Jonathan Wild looked every bit the brute—body covered in scars from dagger, sword, and gun, bald head patched with silver plates from a fractured skull—and he had all but invented the double-cross. He cultivated young thieves, profited from their work, then turned them in for his reward—and their execution. But one man refused to play his game. Sheppard didn't take orders from this self-proclaimed "thief-taker general," nor would he hawk his loot through Wild's fences. The two-faced bounty hunter took it personally and helped bring the young burglar's life to an end. But when Wild's charade came to light, he quickly became the most despised man in the land. When he was hanged for his own crimes, the mob wasn't rooting for Wild as it had for Sheppard. Instead, they hurled stones, rotten food, and even dead animals at him. Defoe once again got the scoop, and tabloid journalism as we know it had begun.

Berren, an orphaned thief, becomes the apprentice to the mysterious and dangerous thief-taker, and is introduced to a world far deeper in deceit and corruption than he realized.

In the cellar there was no sound at all except her own breathing and the soft rustle of her skirts. After her eyes had grown accustomed to the dark, she noticed a niche in the wall a yard from where she stood. She saw

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something there about the size of her fist. Agnes quietly picked it up. It was wrapped in a cloth and surprisingly heavy. . . a pistol, the hilt filthy with mud and dirt. Suddenly she heard the chinking sound of glasses nearby. There was no mistaking the voices now. Before she had time to call out, another door creaked open and the pair emerged from the darkness. Agnes Meadows is cook to the Blanchards of Foster Lane, the renowned London silversmiths. Preparing jugged hare, oyster loaves, almond soup, and other delicacies for the family has given her a dependable life for herself and her son. But when the Blanchards' most prestigious commission, a giant silver wine cooler, is stolen and a young apprentice murdered, Theodore Blanchard calls on Agnes to investigate below stairs. Soon she is inside the sordid underworld of London crime, where learning the truth comes at a high price.

The historical literature of political deviance is sparse. This unusual work, chronicling the history of Jonathan Wild, represents an effort to come to terms with one of the more amazing characters of English social history. Wild was both part of the policy system in eighteenth-century England, and also one of the most adroit criminals of the age. In the 1720s, London suffered the worst crime waves in its history. Civic corruption took place on a staggering scale. The government's answer was to pay a bounty for the capture of robbers, thus creating a class of professional informers. Wild was applauded as the most efficient thief hunter and gang breaker in British society; but his own posse of thief catchers was basically a front behind which he was able

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to control the underground world, through a complex system of blackmail, perjury, and terror which the book details. All who opposed him were betrayed to the law, and in the struggle for power Wild sacrificed several hundred of his own people to the hangman. No one since his time, with the exception of Lavrenti Beria of the late Stalin era GPU so nearly succeeded in bringing the underworld under the control of one system of power. At one level, this is a biography of the world's first supercriminal. At another, it is a sociology of criminal behavior and its political consequences. Howson sheds fresh light, not only on a figure who has become famous in literature, but more important, on the entire structure of gang life. The book is written "as a "terrifying and fascinating study of a historical epoch; it also offers a completely fresh picture of the birth of modern organized-crime families as part of modern organized political systems.

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