



Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson)

By Charlie Huston

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It's three thousand miles from the green fields of glory, where Henry "call me Hank" Thompson once played California baseball, to the Lower East Side of Manhattan, where the tenements are old, the rents are high, and the drunks are dirty. But now Hank is here, working as a bartender and taking care of a cat named Bud who is surely going to get him killed.

It begins when Hank's neighbor, Russ, has to leave town in a rush and hands over Bud in a carrier. But it isn't until two Russians in tracksuits drag Hank over the bar at the joint where he works and beat him to a pulp that he starts to get the idea: Someone wants something from him. He just doesn't know what it is, where it is, or how to make them understand he doesn't have it.

Within twenty-four hours Hank is running over rooftops, swinging his old aluminum bat for the sweet spot of a guy's head, playing hide and seek with the NYPD, riding the subway with a dead man at his side, and counting a whole lot of cash on a concrete floor.

All because of two cowboys, two Russian mafia men, and some of the weirdest goons ever assembled in one place. All because of Bud. All because once, in another life, in another world, the only thing Hank wanted was to take third base—without getting caught.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson) By Charlie Huston Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

There's no end to Hank Thompson's troubles. Once a star high school baseball player, he's now reduced to tending bar at a neighborhood dive on Manhattan's Lower East Side. During his long life-skid, Thompson has picked up a drinking problem, a pair of bad feet, lots of debt and little ambition. But for Thompson, hero of Huston's dark, hard-driving debut, the worst is still ahead. It begins when Thompson agrees to cat-sit for his neighbor, a dubious character named Russ. Within a few days, Thompson is ambushed by a pair of Russian thugs who beat him so badly he has to have a kidney removed. While he's recovering, he discovers a key tucked under the liner of the cat's carry box. This turns out to be a crucial bit of information, as he realizes when the Russians return, led this time by a dirty police detective, and demand to know what Russ left with Thompson besides his cat. When they're spooked by a fire alarm, Thompson escapes long enough to get his hands on the stash everyone's after: \$4.5 million in cash. But of course, his troubles aren't over. Bodies pile up at a dizzying rate but the mayhem is riveting, despite a few credibility gaps. Huston shows a masterful command of first-person narration, deftly chronicling Thompson's gradual slide from victim to avenger ("I'm tellin' you, Hank, watchin' you, it's like watchin' a egg get all hard-boiled. No shit"). The story moves with the speed of the best chase novels, and Thompson possesses a self-deprecating spirit that will keep readers rooting for him even as he edges closer to the point of no return.

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review This engaging debut novel delivers fresh, jazzy riffs on the innocent-man-stumbling-into-jeopardy genre. Having fled California for New York City after an injury cut short his promising baseball career, Hank Thompson settles into an aimless life as an alcoholic bartender. Still, Hank prides himself on making Manhattan a bit more hospitable by helping his friends, so how can he refuse when a neighbor asks him to cat-sit? One lost kidney later, Hank realizes that an Elmore Leonardesque collection of Russian mobsters, short-fused cons, and renegade cops will snuff out all 10 lives he and the cat share between them if that's what it takes to find the not-so-good neighbor. His dull wits sharpened by pain and fear, Hank must keep one bum foot out of the grave long enough to figure out what the bad guys are looking for--and how to give it up safely. With a mania familiar to baseball die-hards, Hank keeps an eye on the playoff-contending San Francisco Giants even as he makes several potentially game-ending errors of his own. This polished debut promises a bright future for Huston and definitely belongs on every Elmore Leonard fan's to-read list. One note of caution: Lovers of mystery-solving felines should place paws over eyes during the hair-raising cat torture scene. *Frank Sennett*

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Review

"Wow! Brutal, visceral, violent, edgy, and brilliant."

—HARLAN COBEN, author of *No Second Chance*

"*Caught Stealing* reads like *The Maltese Falcon* on crack. Tarantino meets Hitchcock meets Westlake meets Bukowski in a wild, relentlessly entertaining ride filled with vivid and colorful—but always believable—characters."

—WALLACE STROBY, author of *The Barbed-Wire Kiss*

"It's hard enough for a writer to hit his mark, but Charlie Huston shreds his target with his first bullet fired. A frighteningly assured debut novel."

—JOHN RIDLEY, author of *Stray Dogs* and *The Drift*

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Hayden Roberts:

The book *Caught Stealing* (Henry Thompson) make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You should use to make your capable far more increase. Book can to get your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem using your subject. If you can make reading a book *Caught Stealing* (Henry Thompson) to be your habit, you can get more advantages, like add your own capable, increase your knowledge about some or all subjects. It is possible to know everything if you like start and read a guide *Caught Stealing* (Henry Thompson). Kinds of book are a lot of. It means that, science reserve or encyclopedia or others. So , how do you think about this reserve?

James Thrasher:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their sparettime with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your current free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book is usually option to fill your free time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of guide that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the publication untitled *Caught Stealing* (Henry Thompson) can be excellent book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Solange Smith:

You can spend your free time to learn this book this e-book. This *Caught Stealing* (Henry Thompson) is simple to deliver you can read it in the area, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not have much space to bring the printed book, you can buy the particular e-book. It is make you better to read it. You can save the book in your smart phone. Thus there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

Thelma Cobb:

In this particular era which is the greater person or who has ability to do something more are more important than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time not much but quite enough to enjoy a look at some books. On the list of books in the top listing in your reading list is *Caught Stealing* (Henry Thompson). This book which can be qualified as *The Hungry Inclines* can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking upward and review this book you can get many advantages.

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