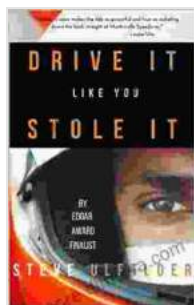


Drive It Like You Stole It: The Thrilling Story Behind the World's Most Notorious Car Thieves

Imagine a world where the most audacious car thieves roamed free, their exploits shrouded in mystery and legend. In Drive It Like You Stole It, award-winning journalist Jake Kilmer unveils the untold story of these legendary bandits, their daring heists, and the lawmen who pursued them.

The Birth of the Outlaw Car

In the early 20th century, the automobile emerged as a symbol of freedom and adventure. But for some, it also became a tool for crime. As cars grew more powerful and accessible, a new breed of criminal emerged: the car thief.



Drive It Like You Stole It by Steve Ulfelder

★★★★☆ 4 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 765 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 361 pages
Lending	: Enabled



One of the most notorious of these outlaws was Harry "The Cat" Catlin. Born in 1894, Catlin was a master driver with a talent for disappearing

before the police could catch him. Over his career, he stole hundreds of cars, earning him the nickname "The Houdini of the Highway."



The Rise of the Gangs

As the automobile industry boomed, so too did the car theft business. In cities across the country, organized gangs emerged, specializing in the theft and sale of stolen vehicles.

One of the most formidable of these gangs was the Cleveland Syndicate, led by the enigmatic John "The Big Man" Kovac. Kovac's operation was a well-oiled machine, with each member responsible for a specific role in stealing and trafficking cars.



The Lawmen's Response

The rise of car theft posed a major challenge for law enforcement. Police departments across the country struggled to keep up with the growing number of stolen vehicles, and the criminals often seemed to operate with impunity.

In desperation, authorities began to develop new strategies to combat car theft. In 1919, the FBI established its first automobile theft unit, and the National Automobile Theft Bureau (NATB) was founded to coordinate efforts between law enforcement and the automobile industry.



The Great Car Chase

One of the most famous car chases in history occurred in 1934, when three members of the Cleveland Syndicate attempted to steal a car from a Cleveland dealership. The pursuit that followed spanned several states and involved multiple police cars and airplanes, culminating in a fiery crash that left two of the thieves dead.

The "Great Car Chase" became a national sensation and made the Cleveland Syndicate one of the most famous criminal organizations in the country.



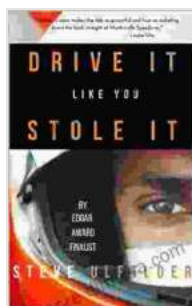
The Legacy of the Car Thieves

The era of the great car thieves came to an end in the mid-20th century as law enforcement cracked down on organized crime and technology made it more difficult to steal cars.

But the legacy of these outlaws lives on in the countless stories and legends that have been passed down through generations. They were the Robin Hoods of the automotive world, daring criminals who defied authority and captured the imagination of the public.



Drive It Like You Stole It is a gripping chronicle of the world's most notorious car thieves. With meticulous research and vivid storytelling, Jake Kilmer brings to life an era of adrenaline-fueled crime and unbridled adventure. This book is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of crime, automobiles, or the American underworld.



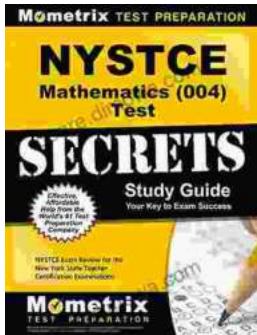
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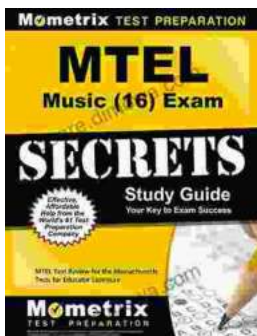
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