



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:

Wilma Blue:

This Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson) book is absolutely not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is definitely information inside this guide incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson) without we know teach the one who reading through it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson) can bring any time you are and not make your case space or bookshelves' turn into full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson) having fine arrangement in word and also layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Floretta Simmons:

Your reading sixth sense will not betray you, why because this Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson) reserve written by well-known writer who really knows well how to make book that can be understand by anyone who read the book. Written throughout good manner for you, dripping every ideas and creating skill only for eliminate your own hunger then you still hesitation Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson) as good book but not only by the cover but also from the content. This is one book that can break don't assess book by its cover, so do you still needing a different sixth sense to pick that!? Oh come on your looking at sixth sense already alerted you so why you have to listening to another sixth sense.

Steven Parrish:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The condition of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to your account is Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson) this reserve consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. That book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. Often the writer made some investigation when he makes this book. This is why this book suited all of you.

Karen Schanz:

In this particular era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are

more treasured than other. Do you want to become considered one of it? It is just simple strategy to have that. What you need to do is just spending your time not very much but quite enough to possess a look at some books. One of several books in the top record in your reading list is Caught Stealing (Henry Thompson). This book and that is qualified as The Hungry Hillside can get you closer in growing to be precious person. By looking upward and review this book you can get many advantages.

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