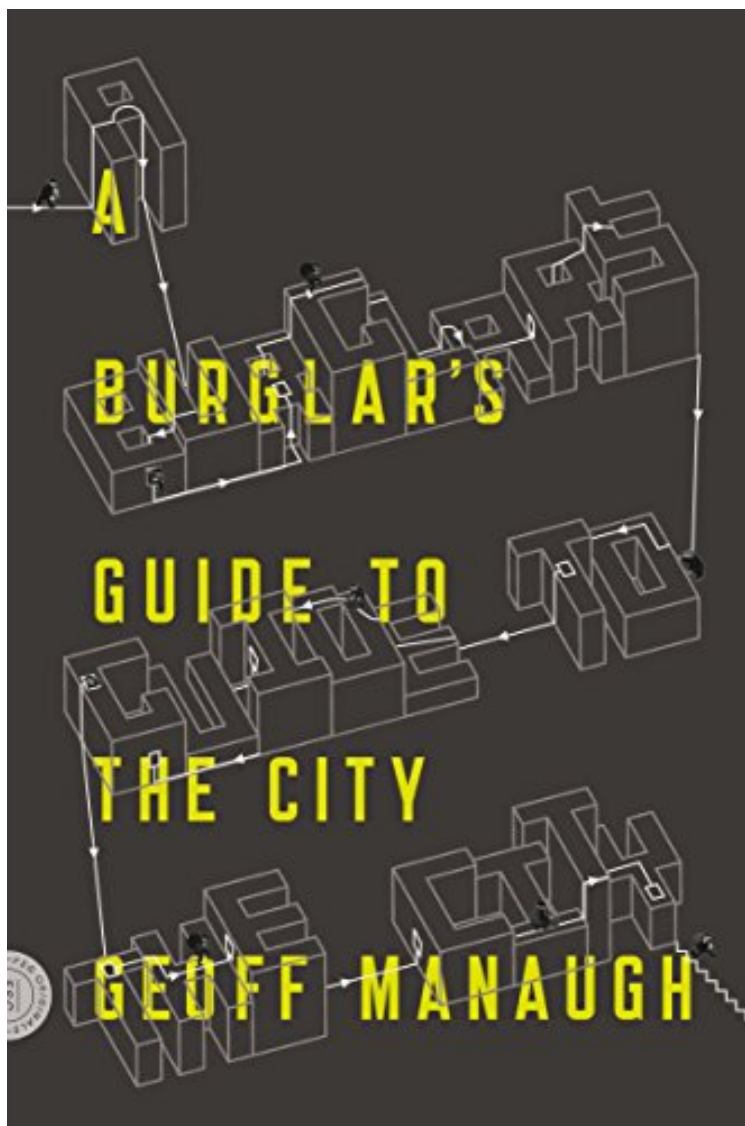


A Burglar's Guide to the City

Geoff Manaugh

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Geoff Manaugh : A Burglar's Guide to the City before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Burglar's Guide to the City:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. How burglars exploit architecture and infrastructure and what law enforcement does to up the anteBy Bernie GourleyThis is a book about how people exploit the architecture and infrastructure of cities to abscond with other people's property. Manaugh shows us both how the masterminds of burglary think outside the box "Ocean's Eleven" style, as well as how the dim dull-wits and junkies botch burglaries in hilarious ways. In the process, the author also shines a light on the ways in which the law enforcement community has had to update its technological and tactical capabilities to counter these threats.The book contains seven chapters. The

first chapter lays the groundwork, particularly through discussion of the aforementioned extremes. On one hand, there is George Leonidas Leslie, an architect turned bank robber who would build accurate mockups in order to accurately rehearse robberies, and--on the other hand--there is the guy who used a ghillie suit disguise in a rock and mineral museum (which, not unsurprisingly, featured barren rock displays [down-playing vegetation] such that the guy stuck out like a guy in a ghillie suit in a rock display.)Chapter 2 details what Manaugh learned about burglary and the fight against it through his interviews with law enforcement, and—in particular—the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) helicopter unit. The next chapter focuses on how different types of buildings are violated by burglars, and apartment burglaries are prominent in the discussion. This isn't just about how they breach the building, but how they discover when no one will be home. Chapter 4 is entitled “tools of the trade” and it reflects upon the skill-set that Hollywood suggests is associated with burglars—i.e. lock-picking and safe-cracking—but which constitute a less common set of tactics than one might think. Burglars usually favor the messier / quicker approach of busting walls and locks. Chapter 5 deals with a number of issues under the rubric of “inside jobs” but one of the most intriguing is its discussion of those who don't break in at all, but rather who hide inside the target building awaiting closing time. The penultimate chapter is about that ever-present concern of burglars, the getaway. And sometimes the secret is what Black Widow says in “Captain America: Civil War”: “The first rule of being on the run is walk, don't run.” The final chapter is a wrap-up, including a conclusion to the George Leonidas Leslie story that was brought up in the first chapter. There are notes and citations at the end of the book. There are no graphics. I think this book could have benefited from graphics. However, the author displayed such skill with language and story-telling that I didn't seem to notice (or care) at the time of reading. I suspect Manaugh didn't want to present too much detail for fear of being seen as an actual manual for crime, which this clearly is not. I found this book fascinating, and think you would enjoy it if you have any interests in cities, security, civil engineering, architecture, or just have a healthy curiosity about how buildings and cities work. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good anecdotes, but that's it. By Federico Good narrative, lots of anecdotes, but not precisely what I had in mind. I expected something more along the line of how to counter architectural weaknesses in order to increase your safety, but the author came time and again to stories of how you can bypass a deadbolted door by cutting holes through drywall. Don't get me wrong, he did a lot of research, and has lots of information, so perhaps I didn't see the forest for the trees. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Perfect mix of super smart reporting and entertaining insights By J. Barton This awesome tour de force mixes of entertaining jaw-dropping stories into the uses of the city mixed with architectural insights into the design of the city. Few writers with as much intellectual agility offer so much fun. It's almost like a guilty pleasure, much like watching a good crime show and rooting for the villain.

Encompassing nearly 2,000 years of heists and tunnel jobs, break-ins and escapes, *A Burglar's Guide to the City* offers an unexpected blueprint to the criminal possibilities in the world all around us. You'll never see the city the same way again. At the core of *A Burglar's Guide to the City* is an unexpected and thrilling insight: how any building transforms when seen through the eyes of someone hoping to break into it. Studying architecture the way a burglar would, Geoff Manaugh takes readers through walls, down elevator shafts, into panic rooms, up to the buried vaults of banks, and out across the rooftops of an unsuspecting city. With the help of FBI Special Agents, reformed bank robbers, private security consultants, the L.A.P.D. Air Support Division, and architects past and present, the book dissects the built environment from both sides of the law. Whether picking padlocks or climbing the walls of high-rise apartments, finding gaps in a museum's surveillance routine or discussing home invasions in ancient Rome, *A Burglar's Guide to the City* has the tools, the tales, and the x-ray vision you need to see architecture as nothing more than an obstacle that can be outwitted and undercut. Full of real-life heists—both spectacular and absurd—*A Burglar's Guide to the City* ensures readers will never enter a bank again without imagining how to loot the vault or walk down the street without planning the perfect getaway.