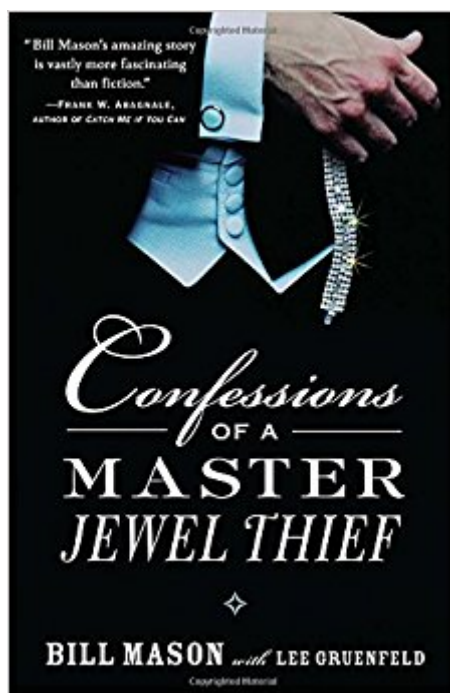


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Confessions Of A Master Jewel Thief



Synopsis

The extraordinarily captivating memoir of the remarkable jewel thief who robbed the rich and the famous while maintaining an outwardly conventional life—*an astonishing and completely true story, the like of which has never before been told . . . or lived.* Bill Mason is arguably the greatest jewel thief who ever lived. During a thirty-year career he charmed his way into the inner circles of high society and stole more than \$35 million worth of fabulous jewels from such celebrities as Robert Goulet, Armand Hammer, Phyllis Diller, Bob Hope, Truman Capote, Margaux Hemingway and Johnny Weissmuller—he even hit the Mafia. Along the way he seduced a high-profile Midwest socialite into leaving her prominent industrialist husband, nearly died after being shot during a robbery, tricked both Christie's and Sotheby's into fencing stolen goods for him and was a fugitive for five years and the object of a nationwide manhunt. Yet despite the best efforts of law enforcement authorities from several states as well as the federal government, he spent less than three years total in prison. Shadowy, elusive and intensely private, Mason has been the subject of many magazine and newspaper features, but no journalist has ever come close to knowing the facts. Now, in his own words and with no holds barred, he reveals everything, and the real story is far more incredible than any of the reporters, detectives or FBI agents who pursued Mason ever imagined. *Confessions of a Master Jewel Thief*, expertly co-written by bestselling author Lee Gruenfeld, is a unique true-crime confessional. From the Hardcover edition.

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Customer Reviews

Fans of classic caper films like *Topkapi* and *The Pink Panther* will be fascinated by the true-life

adventures of jewel thief Mason, who had a long and successful career. Starting in his early 20s in the 1960s, Mason stole valuable jewels from the famous (Phyllis Diller, Robert Goulet, Armand Hammer) and the merely affluent, using his wits and athletic ability to take advantage of supposedly burglar-proof security. His crimes, recollected in engrossing detail, involved careful planning and research, but he never fails to credit luck and simple human carelessness (almost every heist seems to feature at least one unlocked door or window). Mason's chutzpah is best illustrated by his confession to an unsolved burglary that victimized the then-boss of the Cleveland Mafia. Despite the long list of thefts he admits to, Mason spent little time in jail, largely thanks to some clever lawyering. While he apologizes for the impact his addiction to a life of crime had on his devoted wife, Barbara, and their three kids, the reader will find him a little less charming and sympathetic when the price his loved ones paid for his misdeeds sinks in. Unlike Frank Abagnale (Catch Me if You Can), who was a successful con artist during much of the same period, Mason hasn't taken steps to redeem himself by serving as a consultant to law-enforcement and sharing security vulnerabilities, and some may balk at further lining a crook's pockets by buying his book. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

"Confessions of a Master Jewel Thief is a compelling memoir that details a life of crime and a series of gutsy capers rivaling anything that Hollywood could dream up, exploits made all the more astonishing for having been pulled off single-handedly. Bill Mason, a self-described "ordinary guy" who ended up ripping off everyone from Truman Capote to Phyllis Diller to the Mob, insists he's on the straight and narrow now, but his story sure stole a good night's sleep from me." —Les Standiford, author of Havana Run and Last Train to Paradise "I think this book's tremendous. As is always the case, real life, when properly described, is vastly more fascinating than fiction, and you need look no further for proof than Bill Mason's amazing story." —Frank W. Abagnale, author of Catch Me If You Can and The Art of the Steal "Confessions of a Master Jewel Thief is the kind of book that drives crime-fiction writers like me up a wall: No one would ever believe these amazing, compelling stories of theft and deception if they weren't sitting on the nonfiction rack. Mason tells his life story with such flair and confidence that I felt like I was dangling from a twenty-story ledge right along with him. Confessions of a Master Jewel Thief is the ultimate kind of guilty pleasure, because even though you know it's so wrong, it feels so right." —Eric Garcia, author of Matchstick Men From the Hardcover edition.

Personally I absolutely LOVED this book. I couldn't stop reading this personal account of being a jewel thief to the rich and famous during the "great golden age" of Hollywood. Despite the authors obvious embrace of his felonious activities, there is a tone of contrition that leaves you feeling like you are able to listening to a man who is proud of his exploits- however knows they were wrong. This book reads like a fast paced action movie. It makes me think of movies like "Entrapment" and "The Italian Job". I thoroughly enjoyed this book and would recommend it to anyone looking for a good read about a non law abiding citizen.

First hundred or so pages five stars the rest of the book 3 stars so that makes it a 4 star book. Larger than life better than any fiction novel, makes you root for the bad guy and despise the police. Being an auto-bibliography Mason paints himself as bad but likable, and the police as dumb, untruthful, bullies, and vindictive. I have read some auto-biographies of famous people and fifty or a hundred years later someone does extensive research and writes a biography about said person. The biography usually shows the flaws that the person in their auto-biography overlooked or never happened, I would guess that if someone saw fit to do this years from now Mason's version as a never hurt anyone only a little bad would be dispelled. His description of the police & the legal system of the time is right on. In my productive years I rubbed elbows with lawyers, prosecutors, judges and police from local to state level. The time frame of his book there was not much oversight of police and they could make one's life miserable if they chose to. This book was a reference book for "The Burglars Guide To The City" and did a good job of re-enforcing how architecture makes it easy for people like Mason to do what they did. A good read but how he tells it should not be taken as etched in stone truth.

If you are a fan of the books or the movies from Goodfellas and Catch Me If You Can, then you will definitely enjoy this book. Truth is always way more fascinating than fiction. The risks that Bil Mason took will astound you and the people he met, stole from and almost stole from will fascinate you even more. Pay close attention to the first word in the title. This is not a book about bragging, but rather an atonement for what he had done to his victims, their families and more importantly what he did to his family. You will also read great tidbits on home security and the judicial system. He tells a great story, but I enjoyed it more knowing that he was remorseful about what he had done and what he has and or is doing to atone for his bad choices. This will feel like a fast read in part because the author writes as if he is talking to you and to the point rather than at you in superfluous manner. It's been one of the better books I've read this year. Enjoy to all those you decide if this subject is up your

alley (hint: read the prologue before deciding to do further).

Was not particularly captivated with this read. Author is the thief here, and seemed a bright guy, but hit easy marks imo. If you are looking for Murph the Surf type scores, look elsewhere. (Guy also bashes Murph real badly in this book, calling him all kinds of names). No update on current situation either....don't waste your cash here.

I didn't know what to expect when I saw this book on BookBub, but it has an intriguing title and especially because it is a true story. I didn't expect it to be as well written as it was. I realized when I finished it and saw that there were two authors, Bill Mason himself and Lee Gruenfeld. Bill Mason is certainly a person with lots of interesting stories to tell and, in the end, really a good person. It was an exciting read.

This is one good book, a good running and very interesting story. not one line without momentum!! so many lessons that can be applied; especially knowing positive will in any situation; dealing with the growing hatred from the police; and making a turnabout in his life. Very inspiring!! Very well explained nothing left out for the reader to ask, hey what happened from the last episode. the reader is kept up with all the events and the motivation. This makes the reader actually feeling like we are there with him. I would like a sequel.

Very interesting story though I grew to dislike the authors lack of empathy for the people he's hurt. The entire book was layers of excuses which muddied the intensity of his exploits.

Couldn't put this book down!! So well written. The detail made this book. I felt that I was right there with Bill and believe me, he had a lot more nerve doing what he did than I had reading about it. An incredible journey into the mind of an addicted master thief.

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