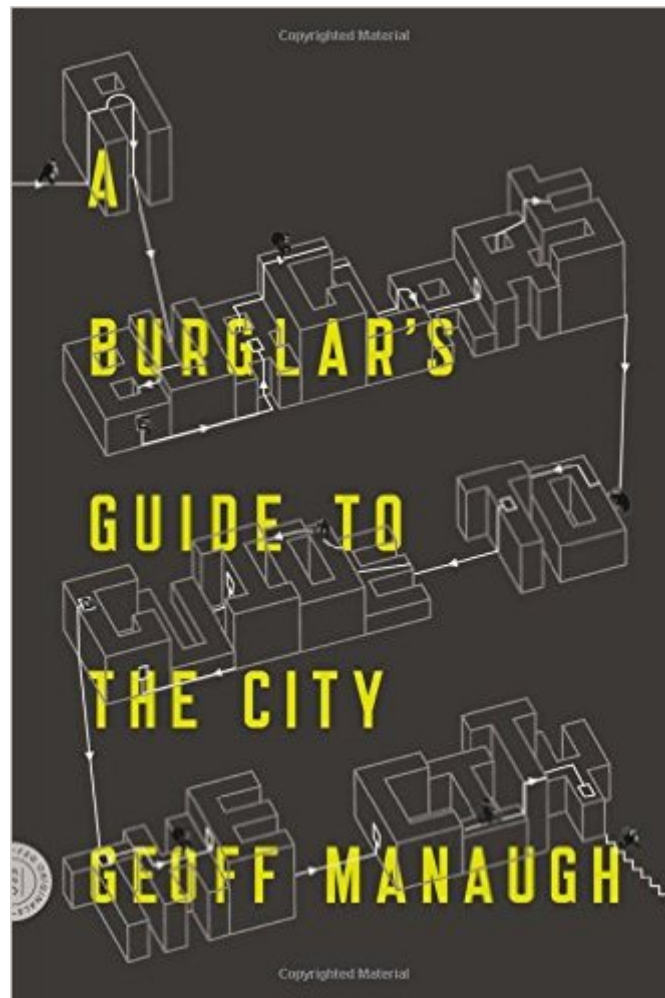


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# A Burglar's Guide To The City



## Synopsis

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.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

The FBI defines burglary as 'the unlawful entry of a structure to commit a felony or theft.' The world, it seems, is infested with burglars. Author Manaugh goes back nearly 2,000 years to cover some of the earliest break-ins and escapes, always commenting on the linkage between architecture, how

the crimes were committed, as well as how they were caught. The bad news is that his largely anecdotal approach lacks an integrative thread. Nonetheless, Manaugh begins with the story of an architect who used his training for dishonesty. George Leonidas Leslie moved to New York in 1869, trained as an architect at the University of Cincinnati, where he graduated with honors. Leslie and his gang were estimated to be behind 80% of all bank robberies in the U.S. at the time, until his betrayal in 1878. This included the Manhattan Savings Institution heist of October 1878, netting nearly \$3 million from what was believed to be one of the most impregnable buildings in North America. Leslie planned the heist for over three years, but was murdered by one of his own crew before he could participate. Leslie would dress well and wheedle his way into private gatherings and case the locations. 'Oh, I'm an architect. I'd love to see the blueprints for your new bank downtown. I'm working on one downtown. If I could just take a quick look, I'd be most appreciative. Do you have the plans here?' One of his partners was Fredericka Mandelbaum - she had a dumbwaiter installed inside a false chamber in her home chimney, where she could stash sensitive items in a rush. Her home had multiple entrances, unmarked doors, armed guards, and even a disguised access point through a pub across the street. She also owned a cluster of warehouses in Brooklyn where she would store, hide, and sell stolen merchandise.

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