

Anders Sparring & Per Gustavsson

"THE" PINCHERS

and the Diamond Heist



GECKO PRESS

This story includes

Disappearing socks

A trip to the toyshop

A watchtower

Strict guards

A great escape

Dynamite

A GOLD DIAMOND!

Action

Love between old people

A happy ending



The Pinchers and the Diamond Heist



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THE PINCHERS

and the Diamond Heist

Translated by Julia Marshall



GECKO PRESS

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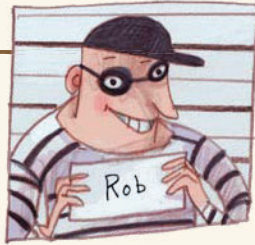
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Meet the Pinchers





Rob Pincher

Job: Thief

Tools: Crowbar, dynamite ("The more people can see where you've been, the better.")

Loves to steal: The man next door's newspaper, safes, Theo's socks

Motto: "If you just give a child enough love, the thief (in them) will emerge."





Nic Pincher

Job: Thief

Tools: Nic seldom needs a tool. She is so thin, she can get in almost anywhere. And if there's nowhere to squeeze through, she can always follow Rob.

Loves to steal: Anything that glitters and shines, Theo's socks

Motto: "All that glitters is not gold, but it's still nice when things are shiny."





Ellen (Criminellen) Pincher

Job: When Criminellen grows up, she wants to be a thief, just like Rob and Nic.

Tools: Lock pick, slingshot

Loves to steal: Mints, toys

Motto: "Why pay for things when stealing is fun and it's free."





Theo Pincher

Job: When Theo grows up, he wants to be a police officer. (But Rob and Nic don't know that yet.)

Tools: Keys (If he doesn't have keys, he knocks at the door and waits till someone says, "Please come in.")

Loves to steal: Theo doesn't steal. But sometimes he borrows Rob's and Nic's socks without asking.

Motto: "A clean conscience is the best pillow."





Sherlock

Job: Dog (guard dog)

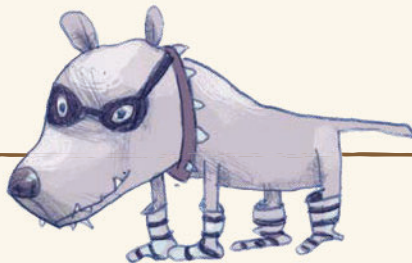
Tools: Sherlock is a dog. He likes barking and pulling on his lead. He doesn't need tools.

Loves to steal: Anything he can eat

Motto: "Woof, Woof, Woof!"

"Shuddup Sherlock! No one understands you anyway!"

"Woof!"





Stola Pincher
(Theo and Ellen's grandma)



Job: Retired thief

Tools: Tiny, sweet
cookies (ideally ones
you shouldn't eat)

Loves to steal: Anything
that glitters and shines
(just like Nic)

Motto: "Tittle-tattlers
have no friends."



Paul Eessman (lives next
to the Pincher family)

Job: Police officer

Tools: Magnifying glass, fingerprint
equipment, torch

Loves to steal: NOTHING! GOOD GRIEF,
PAUL IS A POLICE OFFICER, POLICE DON'T
STEAL, POLICE UN-STEAL!

Motto: "No one turns good from sitting
in jail, so it's best to stop the thief
before the crime is committed."

IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

Before you read this book: hide your valuables!

Put your phone in your inside pocket.

Keep an eye on your socks. Eat up all your mints!

Don't ever trust the Pincher family.

This story includes:

Disappearing socks

A trip to the toy shop

A watchtower

Strict guards

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And remember: if Grandma Pincher
offers you a cookie—DON'T EAT IT!

Got it? Good.

Let's start!



Chapter One

WHO PINCHED THEO'S SOCKS AGAIN?

Every morning when Theo Pincher wakes up, his stripy socks are gone. Every morning this makes him cross.

“Who’s pinched my socks?”

Theo’s father Rob is at the breakfast table reading the newspaper from next door. He slurps his coffee and wriggles his toes happily. You can only see his toes on one foot, because the other has a sock on it.

“Have you looked under the bed?” he says.



“Of course! There was just an old peppermint stick.” Theo looks at his father’s foot. The sock looks very tight. Like his foot would burst out of it any moment.

“Are you sure you haven’t taken my sock?”

His father crosses two fingers behind his back.

“No, no, this is my sock.”

Theo’s mother Nic is also wearing just one sock. “It’s mine,” she says. “I’m absolutely sure. Now, eat your breakfast and stop talking about socks!”

Theo puts the last slice of bread into the toaster, the brand-new toaster. His mother came home with it under her coat one evening last week and since then

Theo's been eating nothing but toast. So has Ellen, his little sister. (Her whole name is Criminellen, but that's hard to say.)

Theo dollops peanut butter onto his toast. Mmm! So good! He's no longer angry. But Ellen is.

"Who took the last piece of toast?" she growls.

"Me." Theo puts the last bit into his mouth. "Sorry, Ellen."



Theo's mother looks at him sternly. "NOW YOU LISTEN HERE, THEO!" she says in capital letters. "I want to hear you saying *NOT* me!"

"But it was me!"

"Doesn't matter. You still say NOT ME. And you cross your fingers behind your back—like this."

"It's called lying," she says. "You have to know how to get anywhere in life."



Theo is good at most things. He can count to a thousand and he's pretty good at drawing. He knows several words in French, and once when the man who lives next door was sick, he helped him by making tea and running to the shop to buy him oranges. Theo is exceptionally good at taking the family's small dog for walks, even though Sherlock is a pain to go out with because he barks so much. Theo is good with dogs because he is very tolerant.

"Shuddup, Sherlock!" says Theo calmly.

"Woof!"

"Mmm, I said, Shuddup, Sherlock!" says Theo, smiling a little.

"WOOF!"

"SHUDDUP, SHERLOCK!"

"WOOOOOF!"

"SHUUUDDUUUP, SHERLOCK!"

But Theo can't lie.

"You must keep trying!" his mother says.

"Do I have to?" Theo asks in a small voice.

She nods seriously.

Now there's someone knocking at the door.

"Open up in the name of the law!" It's Paul Eessman, the man who lives next door. Every morning he comes to get his newspaper back.

Theo's mother looks at him. "You open it," she says. "Tell him the newspaper's not here."

"It is here," whispers Theo, looking at the paper his father's reading.

"Exactly," says Nic. "Tell him it's not and cross your fingers!"



*“It’s called lying,”
says Theo’s mother.
“You have to know
how to do it to get
anywhere in life.”*



*If you are looking for a goofy, good fun beginning chapter book reader series,
pinch this book. Criminally good writing, illustrations, and design.*

Jon Scieszka, US National Ambassador for Young People's Literature

CRIMINAL
ACTIVITIES
inside!



Theo Pincher is good at most things: drawing, tying shoelaces, working the remote control. But he just can't lie—and in the Pincher family, what matters is being able to lie and pinch things that belong to others.

Then his parents decide to visit the diamond exhibition.

“Promise you won't pinch the gold diamond?” says Theo.

“I promise,” says his mother, one hand behind her back.

“We'll just take a little look,” says Theo's dad. “No touching.”

Now Theo and his little sister Ellen are home alone.
Their only option is to break Grandma out of jail and try
to stop the diamond heist.



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