



# THEFT: THE OTHER SIDE

BY MICHAEL JOSLIN



In the last six months, I have been a victim of a spate of robberies and I know those who have been devastated by theft. Items have sentimental value that thieves do not comprehend. A bike might just be a bike to them but to others it means something.

When my £700 bike was stolen in France whilst I was on holiday I was furious and enraged, but also upset. I had been through a few years of serious problems and that bike illustrated the end of my strife and that bike meant a lot mentally. For weeks I looked at

every bike thinking it would be mine to no avail and the French Police were useless and didn't do anything. Thieves have to understand the hurt and pain their actions cause.

I thought it was all over but I was to be a victim again. I was on prefect duty at my school's Christmas Carol Service, when I saw a man, who was clearly drunk, cycling past on my brand new bike that he had just stolen. He was planning to sell the bike to fund for his latest drinking spree and a string of similar thefts had been reported in Kingston. I rugby tackled him

and got the bike back but he escaped. I went to the Police station which was 30 seconds away and they said I had to wait 40 minutes before they could do anything. Can you imagine how that made me feel?

I was raging for weeks and tried to hunt him down. I saw the man again in Kingston but he eluded me once more. It made me understand the social problems in Kingston and the whole country as a whole. Then a few weeks later my rage boiled over and my family began to bore the brunt of my shouting and

If you ever feel the urge to steal in the future, before you do, stop and think of the hurt you cause your potential victims. Think of what is just another source of money to you means to them. Read my stories and just remember; crime does not pay!



One of my best mates had told me that his Uncle had had all of his christmas presents stolen from under his tree and family heirlooms plundered. It made me sickened and hurt. Christmas had been ruined for his family. That's all they could and all they would remember about christmas 2004.

My mate's Aunt had a necklace taken that belonged to her deceased mother and it was a gut wrenching for her to lose such a priceless object, that had a value no other person in the world could ever understand. Can you imagine if you had something like that or if you do have something like that? How would you feel if it was taken from you?