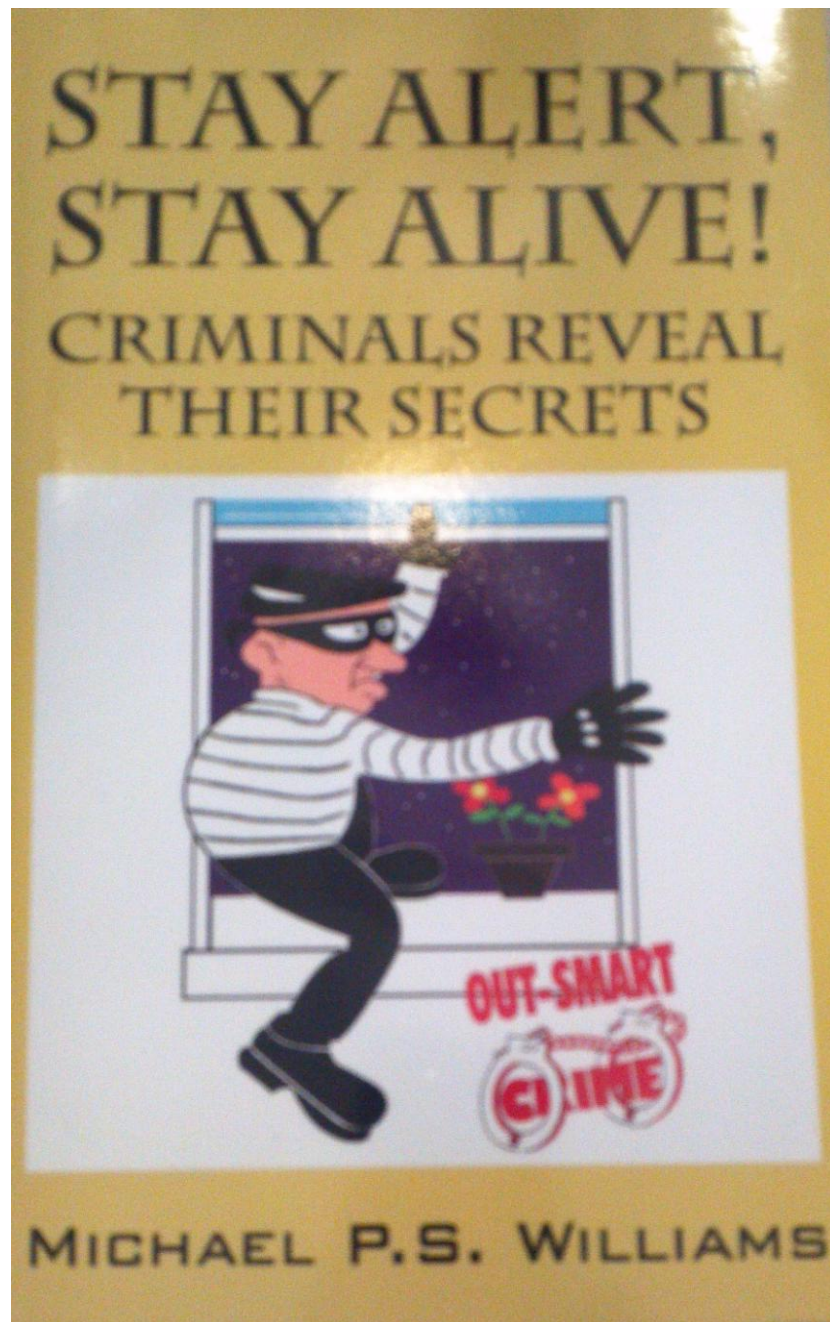


STAY ALERT! STAY ALIVE!

CRIMINALS REVEAL THEIR SECRETS

MICHAEL P.S. WILLIAMS



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Criminals Reveal Their Secrets

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Foreword

When I was asked by Mike to write the forward to his book, I was honored. After all, I've known Mike Williams for 20 years. He and I started our law enforcement careers at about the same time at Ft. Bragg, NC. We were both "hard chargers" assigned to the U.S. Army's undercover operations. Since then, he and I both moved up through the ranks and eventually, retired. Mike's list of accomplishments could be the source of a book all by itself, but let me give you just one highlight.

In 1993, I was sitting in front of my TV set in the Fort Campbell Drug Suppression Team Office watching CNN, when an interview came on. It seems the largest drug seizure in Caribbean history had just occurred, \$52 million in cocaine. The person being interviewed was...First Lieutenant Mike Williams.

His unit, in direct support of a US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) undercover operation had uncovered the cocaine during an airdrop off the coast of St. Croix, Virgin Island.

I wasn't surprised. After all, here was a guy who had gone from being a Sergeant to being a Lieutenant in the 3 years since I'd last seen him. Nor was I surprised when I reported to the Criminal Investigation Command's Group office to find, none other than Captain Mike Williams in charge of the section

I was assigned. Did I mention that the book he's written is the result of over 20 years of law enforcement in the United States and 14 foreign countries?

Read this book. Share this book with family members and friends. And if you are lucky enough to see one of Mike's live seminars, you will be in for a real treat.

The contents of both this book and the live seminar deliver the same message:

“STAY ALERT!, STAY ALIVE!”

Patrick E. Coffey
Director
PC Investigations, Inc.

Dedication

Thank you God for the many talents and abilities you have given me. One of which is the ability to write.

This book is dedicated to the memory of my mother, Lula Belle Williams and my best friend, T.J. If heaven has a library, I know you both are in there reading this book.

I also want to thank my children, Aubree'Ann and Wesley, for their patience as they watched their Dad grow up.

To those relatives, teachers and friends who helped shape my character and taught me life's most valuable lessons: Uncle Lester, Aunt Rose, Uncle Dave, Aunt Roselee, Danky, Mammie, Aunt Altha, Brenda, Levi, Eli, Bettye Jean, Jacki, Jeremy, Arielle and Rana, Sarah and Delacy, Beverly and Kayla.

Coach Threatts, Coach Custer, Mr. Crenshaw, and Mr. P.

Finally, to my Loving wife, Yolanda...thanks for your constant inspiration...and Love.

How I Developed My Strategies

Growing up in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, and Detroit, I experienced a range of criminal activity in my neighborhoods. The most profound were the break-in in my apartment, one robbery of a family member at knifepoint, and one robbery of a family member at gunpoint.

I have lived in “bad” and “good” neighborhoods (only one of the six crimes mentioned happened in the “bad” neighborhood). Living in the “good” neighborhoods gave me a false sense of security. Growing up, my mother never talked to me about crime prevention. She wasn’t in law enforcement. Really, what could she tell me? “Be careful!” was about the extent of my crime prevention lesson.

After 18 years of law enforcement, I noticed that only my law enforcement friends taught their families how to protect themselves. My other “civilian” friends would say they didn’t want to scare the kids. Only after a break-in did one of them come to me for advice. Soon, I started studying crime reports and crime statistics. I narrowed my focus to studying victims and then criminals. I started interviewing victims and asking them what they did during the time of the actual crime. Then I

would interview the perpetrators and ask them questions like: why did you pick a particular victim?, how did you plan your crime?, where did you learn to commit a particular crime?, and other details of the criminal mind.

I believe this book is the most realistic and comprehensive training available to date, written from the dual point of view of victim and criminal.

My wish is to open the reader's mind to the concept that when one of us falls victim to a crime, all of us hurt. After studying these methods for many years, my fondest wish is to hear the collective sigh of a grateful nation.

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Introduction

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure

Crime Prevention. What do you think of when you hear those words? I'll tell you what I think. Remember the scene in the movie "Night Shift" when Michael Keaton is explaining what the word "prostitution" means to a room full of prostitutes? It was hilariously funny to watch him dig his own grave and then pull the hole in after him. My initial question was rhetorical. I know you know what "Crime Prevention" means...don't you? But this is how I see it and this is how we're going to define it before we attack and defeat the crime with prevention. Your mother was right when she said: an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. Let me ask you another question. Which fireman/public servant in the following story is you?:

#1—Spends his time polishing all the awards for heroism on his walls. Occasionally, he'll even polish the fire truck. Mainly, he sits in the firehouse and waits for the alarm to sound. Then quicker than you can say "Backdraft," he is off again putting out another fire.

#2—Rides around town checking fire hydrants, making sure there's enough pressure to squirt from the fire hoses in case there's a fire. He goes into office buildings and checks the fire extinguishers on each floor to make sure they'll operate properly in an emergency. Finally, he routinely goes around to

schools and teaches kids what to do in case of fire. In 3 years there have been zero fires in his neighborhood.

Which one are you? Fireman #1 is a firefighter. He's at his best after things have gone bad. His eyesight is blurry, his hindsight is 20/20. Fireman #2 is a Fire Preventer. He's at his best before things go bad. His eyesight is 20/20. His hindsight remains dormant.

If you're Fireman #1, take heart. We can improve you, we can make you better...faster, stronger...(Sorry, I got carried away with the "Six Million Dollar Man" introduction). Enough of the nostalgia, get ready to "... Stay Alert! Stay Alive!

“Street Smarts” IQ Test

“Street Smarts” IQ Test

1) (Men) Do you put your wallet in your:

- A. Back pocket
- B. Front pocket
- C. Jacket pocket
- D. Shoe

2) (Women) How many of these items are in your purse?

- A. Checkbook
- B. Keys
- C. Wallet w/credit cards
- D. Loose change
- E. Deli sandwich

3) Do you jog or walk:

- A. By yourself early in the morning
- B. By yourself late at night when the streets are quiet and dark and filled with lions and tigers and bears, oh my!

With your Walkman™ turned up to 300 dB

4) Do you:

A. Leave your car running while you dash into the Quick Mart?

B. Turn your engine off and take your keys.

OK class, pencils down. Relax, there are no failures and even those of you who answered all the questions correctly don't apply for your Mensa memberships just yet.

Let's discuss the answers.

Question #1—The correct answer is (B). In Chapter 1, (*Basic Street Smarts*), we'll tell you how professional pick-pockets work and why they prefer you to have your wallet in your back pocket.

Question #2—If you have up to 4 of these items in your purse, a thief will hit the jackpot when he snatches your purse. In the Chapter 1 section entitled “If Someone Tries to Rob You,” you'll learn what to do. By the way, if you have all six items in your purse, seek professional help. And **get that sandwich out of your purse!**

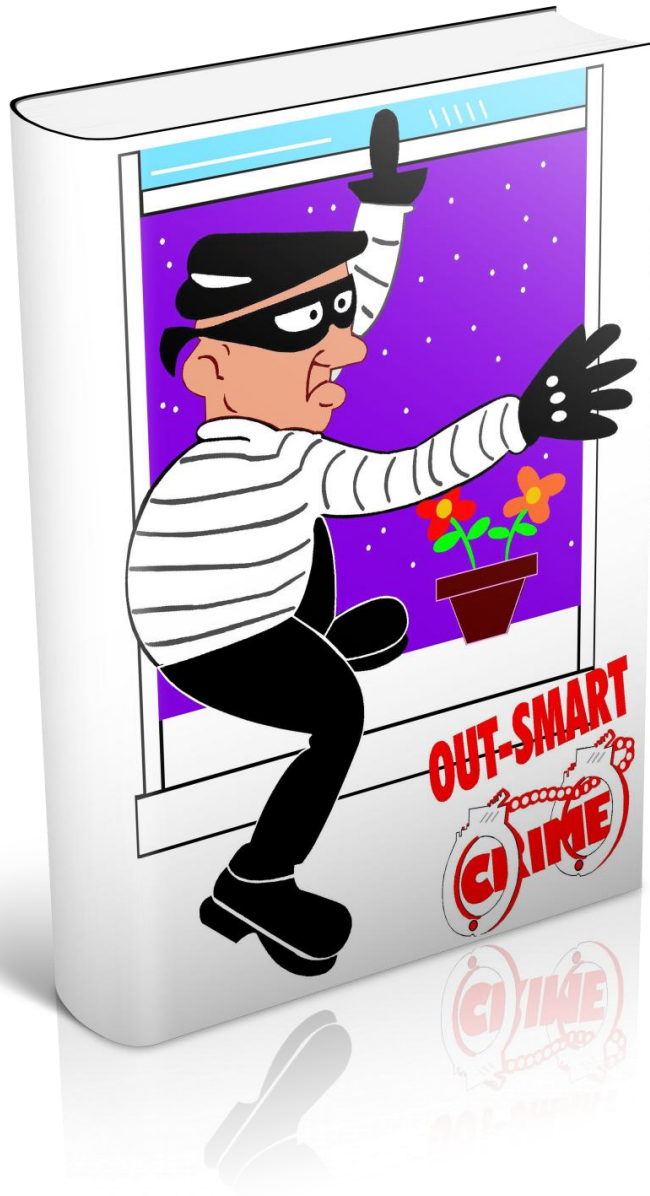
Question #3—The correct answer is (A). Bad guys are notoriously late risers. Besides, the air is cleaner first thing in the morning before those daily commuters hear the command, “Start Your Engines.”

Question #4—OK, this was a gimme. Who among us isn't guilty of this one? When I was four or five years old, we lived in Selma, AL. My dad bought his first new car. He'd save up \$3,000 during a three-year period to buy a Chevrolet something-or-other. Anyway, he parked the car outside our house and ran inside to get my mother and me so we could go for a ride. By the time we got to the front door (about 2 minutes) the car was gone. The police found it the next day, stripped bare. Remember this was 1958! In Chapter 5, you'll learn how to protect your car from theft and carjacking.

In the following chapters, you are going to read many things you can do to prevent crime, and if you're not careful, you may learn something. Make sense? Let's start with “Street Smarts 101.”

Chapter 1

On the Streets
“Stay Alert, Stay Alive”
Part I: “Street Smarts 101”



“STAY ALERT, STAY ALIVE”

When I was a paratrooper in the United States Army’s elite 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, NC, we had a term for soldiers who were not paratroopers. We called them “legs.”

You see, you could spot a paratrooper a mile away because we wore a distinctive maroon beret and we tucked our pants into our “jump boots,” (special boots designed for jumping out of airplanes). On the other hand, “legs” wore regular camouflage hats and their pant *legs* were *straight*. Hence the name, “Straight Legs.” The Airborne paratrooper motto is “Airborne, Airborne, all the way!” The motto of the “Straight Legs” was, “Stay a Leg, Stay Alive.” Paratroopers wore a t-shirt that inferred when trouble broke out anywhere in the world to, “Send Me!” “Legs” had t-shirts which read, “***Send Them!***” They would also ask, “Why would anybody jump out of a perfectly good airplane?” The first rule in **Basic Street Smarts 101** is “Stay Alert!, Stay Alive!”

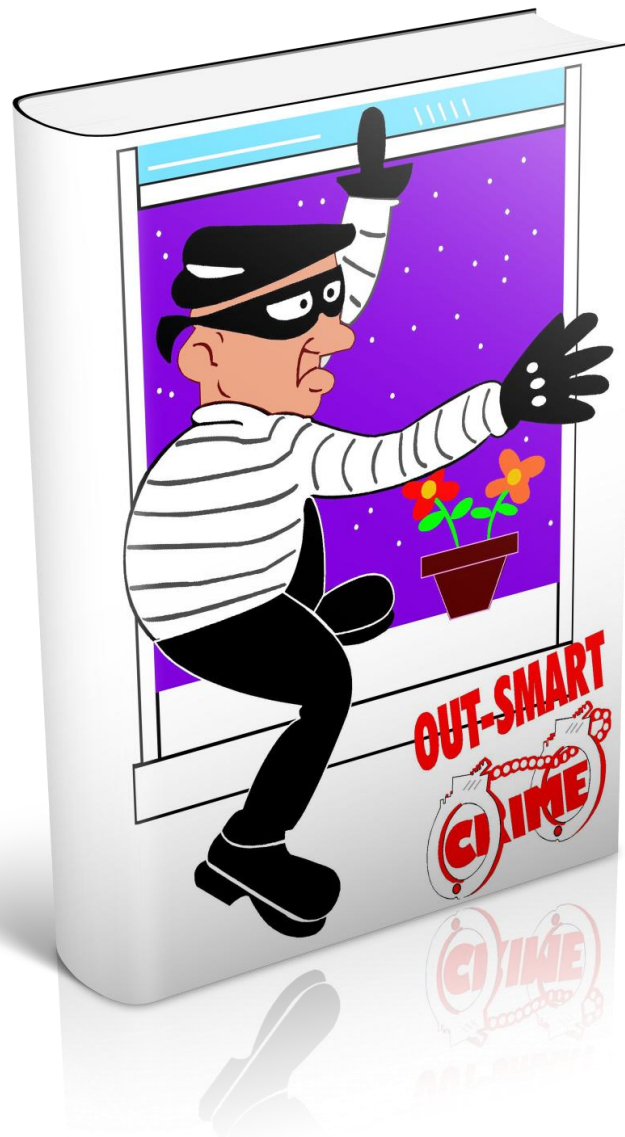
What does that mean?

Rule #1: Don’t Look Like a Victim

Remember this! Whenever you are on the street, at the mall, at the bus stop, or in any public forum, stay alert and be aware of your surroundings. Now, you’re still asking yourself, “Okay, how do I **not** look like a victim?” The answer is easy—look confident. Hold your head up, stick your chest out, and pull that nasty looking gut in, you maggot! (Sorry, all those years in the Army caused a flashback). When you walk, walk like you’re going somewhere, even if you’ve been there before. Walk with a purpose.

CTU ALERT

(Through out this book you will find (CTU)Criminals Tell Us Alerts. These are the specific things criminals told me during my interviews with them)



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