



# Crooked Talk: Five Hundred Years of the Language of Crime

*Jonathon Green*

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The language of crime has a long and venerable history - in fact, the first collection of words specifically used by criminals, *Hye-Way to the Spittel House*, dates from as early as 1531. Jonathon Green is our national expert on slang, and in *Crooked Talk* he looks at five hundred years of crooks and conmen - from the **hedge-creepers** and **counterfeit cranks** of the sixteenth century to the **blaggers** and **burners** of the twenty-first - as well as the swag, the hideouts, the getaway vehicles and the 'tools of the trade'. Not to mention a substantial detour into the world of prisons that faced those unlucky enough to be caught by the **boys in blue**.

If you have ever wondered when the police were first referred to as **pigs**, why prison guards became known as **redraws**, or what precisely the subtle art of **dipology** involves, then this book has all the answers.



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