

Movies & Languages 2018-2019

To Catch a Thief

About the movie (subtitled version)

DIRECTOR	Alfred Hitchcock
YEAR/COUNTRY	1955 / USA
GENRE	Romantic Thriller
ACTORS	Grace Kelly and Cary Grant



PLOT

Historic Note:

Because of this film Grace Kelly met Prince Ranieri. She consequently left the film business and married him to become Princess of Monaco. It is the third and last film in which Hitchcock worked with Kelly. The other two are *Dial M for Murder* and *Rear Window*.

Plot:

John Robbie (Cary Grant) was part of the French resistance during WW II along with French friends. At the start of the film he is happily retired raising plants in a villa on the Riviera and his friends are running a restaurant near Nice. After the war, he became a jewel thief, but his career came to an end when he was caught and had to spend some time in prison. Now there have been a few successful jewel robberies on the Riviera and the police obvious suspect him. He, however, manages to slip away from the police and do some investigating for himself. He is helped by the man sent by Llyod's insurance who give him a list of all their wealth clients with insured jewelry on the Côte d'Azur. The first clients are Jessie Stevens (Jessie Royce Landis), a nouveau riche widow, and her daughter Frances (Grace Kelly). Thereafter hunting down the thief and a romance between John and Frances develop concurrently.

LANGUAGE

The language is very witty and filled, with a lot of jokes.

VOCABULARY

To beat honesty into their skills: to forcefully make them work honestly	A long shot: something that you bet on but the odds are you probably won't win, like a horse which has never run a race before
To be off the hook: not to be blamed, incriminated anymore	Trapeze act: an act usually in the circus where people do acrobatics flying through the air
Copycat: a person who copies what other people do	Racket: criminal activity; "insurance racket": insuring thing is participating in crime
For old time's sake: to do something that you used to do for a sentimental reason	To hit the tables while they're hot: to start gambling while people are betting and winning
Did I brush your fur the wrong way?: did I do something that annoys you?	Silly society getabouts: meetings and parties for high society people

To peddle something: to sell something	To be on parole: if you're in prison, after serving a few years you might be let out on parole, a promise to be good and check in regularly
To cuddle up to my jewelry: to get close to my jewelry	Lumber: wood that is cut for construction; "lumberman", a man who works with lumber
All I ever said about that finishing school was that they finished you there: that private school for rich girls ruined you	To bluff me: to trick me and pretend that something is not what it is
Americans talk about wage freezes and Senate probes: when wages are stopped from increasing and when the Senate investigates something	You're not American enough to carry it off: you don't have enough American in you to pretend to be one
If you have any guts (courage) you shouldn't have taken my bet: if you decided to insure my jewelry please don't get nervous about it now, it's too late	Just the bait I need: this is just what I need to catch him
Lloyd's of London: at the time the biggest insurance group in the world	To put me away: to put me in jail
To tip off the police: to tell the police about the crime	Run of the mill: ordinary
Why do you want to buy an old car if you can get a new one cheaper: why do you want to go out with an older woman, who will certainly age, if you can go out with a young healthy one	Swindler: a person who cheats/swindles you
It looks like you were conjugating some irregular verbs: it looks like you were talking French with this young girl	To get worked up over it: to get excited about it
A peg leg: a wooden leg	Stolen my boggles: rob me of my jewelry
Shall we stand in shallow water and discuss that: if we move to where we can stand up in the water, we can fight about it	I'm the first man who would fall down and roll over for you: I'm the first man you have met who would behave like a dog and do anything that you wanted
I'll give you a wholesale rate and no tipping: you can have me for cheap	Spanked with a hair brush: to be hit on the ass, like when you punish a child
For a mere child, anything looks old: if you are really young everyone else is old	To pound some sense into you during recess: like a child beating up another child at school during the play break in order to forcefully convince him
Pampered woman: a woman who is spoiled and has everything	Foolproof trap: a trap that can't be figured out or broken
A jackpot of character traits: there are many different sides to you	As an alibi: proof that someone who is thought to have committed a crime could not have done it
You do things with dispatch, no wasted preliminaries: you do and say what you feel immediately and don't waste any time	To be fool hardy: to be a stupid happy fool
Fighting fire with fire: fighting in the same dirty way that your opponent is fighting	To purr: the sound a cat makes when it is happy
It folded: went bankrupt	Head-strong: stubborn
Corny: stupid and cliché	When the stakes are right you gamble: if your percentage of winning is good, bet