



Synopsis Frank Schmeißer: *Allein unter Dieben* / *Amongst Thieves*

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13-year-old Edward “Eddie” Cheesybeer comes from a family of criminals – albeit one that has never landed a major coup (which means that they are constantly broke.) So when their Christmas celebrations at a house they “borrowed” for the night along with the tree, Christmas decorations, and the wonderful presents are interrupted by the real owners of the house, (the Schoenemann family are home early from their skiing holidays), Eddie, humiliated by his family’s need to run once more, finally snaps: He, the cleverest member of the clan, decides to become honest from now on. As a first step, he returns to the scene they have just left in order to apologise (!) – and Mr Schoenemann is so impressed that he does indeed offer Eddie his first decent job: he is to work at his security firm.

Eddie’s family, who thought he would grow up to become their master thief, are totally devastated by the news, of course. The shame of it! His grandmother in particular takes it personally, and his father is very disappointed. Only his daft brother Francis hopes that now, his time to shine has finally come...

But Eddie was fooled: his new boss only hired him in order to steal the huge diamond his firm ought to be protecting and threatens blackmail if he won’t... after cleverly negotiating to receive as his prize

the exact sum his family owes to the “Godfather”, Eddie finally agrees and plans his biggest coup yet. His family are not to know, though – that would be too shameful and then, he does not think them reliable, either. After chaotic preparations, which leave Eddie with a concussion and in a very tight spot indeed (but which also make him befriend a policeman, of all people) there finally is a showdown at the company, where Eddie manages to get his hands on the diamond but can’t find his way out while the sirens are already coming nearer. Just when it seems that all is lost, both Francis and Eddie’s dad appear to help Eddie out: and would have succeeded, too if Schoenemann himself had not arrived and behaved so stupidly that they all get caught. Schoenemann then pretends to have nothing to do with the operation and blames everything on the Cheesybeers. Luckily, Eddie can prove Mr Schoenemann sent him in to steal the diamond in the first place – but only because one of the policemen who arrive on the scene is the one he befriended and who gives him the chance to do so despite his family’s bad reputation. In the end, it is the blackmailer who is brought under lock and key and the Cheesybeers even get a reward for unmasking Schoenemann as the criminal he really is – and while they all get only suspended sentences, they are finally able to pay the “Godfather” and to send Eddie’s grandma on a much needed luxurious cruise. They even make it into the paper – where everybody except Eddie appears in disguise on the photograph, though (because of the shame).

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