

The criminal next door

Embezzlers vary in age, profession, and motivation, but the commonalities are that they're often the most trusted and least expected.

Meet Helen Helps-Herself



1

Unexpected Culprit

Fifty-one year old Helen Helps-Herself has been the **bookkeeper** for a construction company for **twelve years**.



2

Desperate Times

Helen's **husband got sick** and couldn't work. The lack of income and family medical expenses make Helen desperate. She **'borrowed'** some money from her employer until they got back on their feet by writing a \$5,000 check to herself, juggling the books to cover it up.



3

Under the Radar

No one noticed the missing money, so Helen wrote another check to herself, recording it as payment to a vendor in the books. Again, no one noticed. The pattern continued for **four years**.



4

Living in Excess

Eventually the medical bills were paid off, but Helen continued to write the checks. She bought **new furniture** and put a **new deck** on their house.



5

Caught Red Handed

A vendor whose account she had marked as paid contacted the company CEO looking for their unpaid funds. Careful examination of the company's books showed that Helen had helped herself to just over **\$300,000**.

Helen's scheme succeeded because she was a long-time **trusted employee** with **sole control** of the company's bookkeeping.