

I was **confused**. I'd like to **think of myself as being** dangerous. But **in fact**, I'm just a journalist **who leads a pretty dull** life.

I don't have a **criminal record, though** the address on my **driver's license** is **my mother's—which is why** the **"raid" took place** where **it did**.

I **hadn't** robbed any **convenience stores lately, either**, so the warrant didn't **make any sense to** me.

It doesn't **take** much to **draw the attention** of cops.

New Yorkers **are used to** this **by now**.

Rudy **has been trying to stop** homeless **people from approaching** drivers and offering **to** clean their windshields.

He's **cracked down on street vendors** and sent police into **neighborhoods** to **make sure** that there is no **jaywalking**.

While the crackdown **has been** controversial, I can't say I **haven't benefitted**.

There has been much less crime **lately** than **there used to be** only a few years ago.

I don't **worry** about **getting mugged**.

Fewer people **hassle you on the subway**. And there are no **small-time** drug dealers in the park **anymore**.

I am **a bit of** a yuppie **myself** so **I've** never **given much thought to what it felt like** to be on the other side of the law.

When the police **tracked me down**, I thought **there must be** some mistake. **It turned out** there wasn't, I was **the one** they were **in fact** looking for.

And I **did commit** a crime too, as I soon **found out**. **Not that** I would **call** it a crime.

A **twenty-something** police officer **showed up out of nowhere** and wrote me a **ticket**.

I probably **should have paid it on the spot**. But **instead I stuck** the pink **slip** in my back pocket and forgot about it.

Until a month **or so** ago, **that is**.

Imagine how **embarrassed I felt when I was now told what** my crime was.

At least I had good company.

Lots of my friends **have had** similar problems **lately**.

One tried to **fight a \$20 parking ticket**. **By the time** she got **to court**, her car **had been towed** away. Now she **owes** \$400.

A friend **was pulled over for running a red light** on his bicycle. He **was given** a ticket **for not having** a horn or a bell.