



What happened when I tracked down the old school friend who stole the boy I fancied

BY LIZ JONES

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THIEVES HIT SHOPS 1,000 TIMES A DAY

And attacks on staff **DOUBLE**. So when will police start doing their job and protect long-suffering retailers?

By **Rebecca Camber**
Crime and Security Editor

THIEVES have been granted a 'licence to steal', retailers said yesterday as the shoplifting epidemic hit record levels.

Total offences have soared by more than a third over the past year to 430,104 – almost one a minute.

Retailers accused police of letting thieves off

**MAIL CAMPAIGN
END THE
SHOPLIFTING
EPIDEMIC**

the hook, with violence against shopworkers doubling and charging rates collapsing.

Action was taken in just one in ten cases last year compared with one in three as recently as 2016. The crime surge is costing retailers nearly £2billion a year – ultimately adding £59 a year to household grocery bills.

The data released by the Office for National Statistics yesterday shows a rise in all types of theft. Shoplifting grew 37 per cent from 315,040

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**A violent,
hard-partying
drug-user...
Beatrice's
doomed
bad boy ex**

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Her first serious boyfriend: Princess Beatrice with Paolo Liuzzo, who has been found dead in a Miami hotel