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ARL KOESSEL NEVER imagined that losing his wallet would cost him his freedom. In May 2003, six months after he'd replaced everything from his driver's license to his library card, he was arrested outside his home in Humboldt County, Cal., for failing to appear in court in Santa Clara County on charges of driving with a suspended license. "I told them I'd never had a suspended license," says Koessel, a senior technical editor at *PC World* magazine. "They told me to face the

car and put my hands behind my back. They put me in handcuffs and put me in the back of the car."

Koessel's name ended up on an arrest warrant because a man named Daniel Davis Lucien was apparently carrying Koessel's license when he was arrested on the suspended-license charge. Thus Koessel's name appeared as an alias in law-enforcement records. When Lucien failed to appear in court to face the charges, the court issued a bench warrant for his—and Koessel's—arrest.

Koessel spent two nights in the Humboldt County jail before two sheriff's deputies from Santa Clara County, six hours away, came to pick him up. At the Santa Clara jail, officers took Koessel's fingerprints (for the second time), compared them with the impostor's, and quickly determined that they had the wrong person. At 5 feet 4 inches and 130 pounds, Koessel also didn't resemble his impostor, who was 5 feet 10 inches and 155 pounds. Still, it took another seven or

But, Officer, that isn't **ME**

IDENTITY THEFT | A lost wallet could mean more than bogus credit-card bills. You could land in jail. *By Kristin Davis*

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