

# Once a Thief

The Kinks

So you've decided to set me free  
I've paid my debt to society  
Fresh out of jail trying to make a new start  
On the street with a bitter heart  
But my past keeps on haunting me  
There ain't no chance for a man with my history

Once a thief  
Always a suspect  
Once a liar  
Never be believed  
Will they ever forget that  
I was once a thief?

I was out in the cold  
I was soaked to the skin  
I needed a home  
And your heart took me in  
Then I heard all the lies  
And I lost my belief  
You threw away my hope  
And you called me a thief

So you've decided to set me free  
I'm out of jail but you've still got the key  
There was a time when I thought you respected me  
But somehow you always suspected me

Once a thief  
Always a suspect  
Once a liar  
Never be believed  
Will they ever forget that  
I was once a thief?

Instead of offering me charity,  
You should've tried to put some faith in me  
Instead of making me a better man,  
You kept reminding me of what I am

Instead of offering me charity,  
You should've tried to put some faith in me  
How many years must a criminal pay?  
Until he's old and his hair turns to gray  
You smile at me  
But I know underneath  
You're thinking  
Once a thief always a suspect.

Once a thief  
Always a suspect  
Once a liar  
Never be believed  
Will they ever forget that  
I was once a thief?