

The Art Thief

The Situation

Blake Hamilton is a well-known art thief. He is arrested for stealing the famous painting, “Apple Trees in Summer” from the City Museum. Even though police find the painting in his apartment, he is never convicted for the crime. Why not?

Hints

1. Who needed to get rid of the search warrant?
2. What was the warrant made of?
3. Is that something easy to get rid of?



The Solution

When the police weren't looking, Blake destroyed the search warrant. The judge didn't have another copy. That means police cannot prove they had the right to search his apartment. According to the law, that means they cannot use anything they found in his apartment to prove he did the crime. Since Blake's father is a lawyer, Blake would have been well aware of police procedure in this matter.

Follow-Up Questions


1. Do you think this story is believable?
2. Do you think police should be able to break rules when they have proof of a crime?

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The Clues

1. Security cameras in the museum clearly showed Blake stealing the painting.	2. The painting in Blake’s apartment was verified as real by an art expert.
3. Police identified Blake quickly from the security cameras, but it took them two days to find out where he lived.	4. They discovered his address by tracing a phone call he made in the middle of the night to his father, a well-known lawyer.
5. As soon as they got his address, they called a judge to get a search warrant. Because it was the middle of the night, they had to go to the judge’s house.	6. The judge had no access to his work computer or files at home, so he wrote the warrant out on an ordinary piece of paper.
7. Police got to Blake’s house at 2:00 a.m. He immediately demanded to see the warrant, which they gave to him.	8. Police found the painting in the ceiling of a closet in a small bedroom at the back of the apartment.
9. The police left without the search warrant.	

The Secret Recipe

The Situation

Paul Romano is the son of the owner of a famous Italian restaurant, Romano's Italian Café. Paul Romano is found dead. Who killed him and why?

Hints

1. Why did Paul Romano look at the secret recipe?
2. Did he give the recipe to anyone?
3. Did the recipe help those people?
4. How does the head chef know the recipe to the sauces?



The Solution


Antony Viglione killed Paul Romano for giving him a bad recipe. The recipe was kept in a safe. Paul Romano took it out and copied it. He sold it to Viglione's so they could compete with Romano's Italian Café. Unfortunately, the secret recipe was a fake. It was just an advertising trick. The chef cooked the sauce from memory as he had learned it from Paul Romano's grandmother.

The Secret Recipe

The Situation

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The Clues

1. Romano's Italian Café is famous for its tomato sauce. The recipe is a traditional family recipe passed down through the Romano family.	2. Twenty years ago, Romano's Italian Café ran a series of ads about its secret recipe. They showed the recipe in a safe, guarded day and night.
3. Paul Romano was seen meeting with Antony Viglione, head chef of the gourmet restaurant, Viglione's.	4. Viglione's had recently started advertising its new and improved marinara sauce.
5. About six months ago, Paul Romano had opened the safe where the recipe is kept. No one had opened it for years before that.	6. Paul Romano was known for buying expensive cars, but his father didn't like this habit.
7. The chef at Romano's Italian Café had been a good friend of Paul Romano's grandmother, and learned the recipe from her.	8. The reviews of Viglione's Marinara Sauce were not good. Viglione's was not only embarrassed, they lost a lot of business.
9. The chef couldn't tell police who had written the recipe down. He himself had never read the recipe.	

The Missing Weapon

The Situation

Jack Finnegan kills his neighbor, Edward Murphy, in an argument over how to cook lamb on a barbecue grill. Police can't prove Finnegan did it because they can't find the murder weapon. How did he do it?

Hints

1. Name everything that was in the backyard.
2. Was there anything that was in the backyard and then disappeared?
3. Why is it significant that the leg of lamb was frozen?



The Solution

Mr. Finnegan used the frozen leg of lamb to kill Mr. Murphy. It was very large. Frozen meat is also very heavy and very hard. The police could not test the leg of lamb because Mr. Finnegan had cooked it. He clearly invented the story of the man in black with the hammer.

Follow-Up Questions

1. Is this the perfect crime?
2. Can you think of any other ways to kill someone and get away with it?

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The Clues

1. Police found Mr. Murphy dead in Mr. Finnegan's backyard. He had been hit with a large, heavy, blunt object.	2. Mr. Finnegan's family told police that Mr. Murphy came over when he saw Mr. Finnegan carrying a frozen leg of lamb outside.
3. One neighbor told police, "Mr. Murphy was yelling that it was crazy to grill lamb when it was still frozen."	4. Mr. Finnegan's family went inside to avoid the fight, as did the nearby neighbors.
5. Mr. Finnegan told police an insane man in black ran up with a hammer, hit Mr. Murphy on the head because he was making too much noise, and then ran away.	6. Police think Mr. Murphy was hit by something much larger than a hammer.
7. Nothing that looked like a murder weapon was found anywhere in the backyard.	8. The police tested everything they could find in Mr. Finnegan's house. Nothing they found could have been the weapon that killed Mr. Murphy.
9. Mr. Finnegan apologized to police that he had continued cooking the lamb while talking to them.	