

## The Case of the Burgled Businessman



You are called to the home of businessman Henry Lim. “I’m very upset,” he says. “Not just because of the stolen money – that’s insured – but because of who the logical suspects are.”

“Tell me about it,” you say.

“Well,” Henry says, “when I went to my office this morning, I had left some important papers in my safe here at home. I sent Alice, my secretary, to fetch them. Half an hour later, she phoned to say she’d found the safe open and papers all over the study! I hurried home, and found that the cash in the safe was missing – more than \$3000! The only people who knew the combination were Alice, my housekeeper, Mrs Kim, and John, my butler.”

You examine the safe, the study door, the desk and the phone for fingerprints, but you find none. You call the three suspects into the room.



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Alice is the first. “I was shocked when I came into the study and saw the safe open and the papers strewn all over the floor. I grabbed the phone and called Mr Lim. Then I called the butler and the housekeeper in.”

Mrs Kim says, "I was cleaning the bedrooms, and I didn't know Miss Alice was in the house until I heard her voice. I thought no one had been in the study this morning besides Mr Lim."

"I let Miss Alice in the front door," says John. "Then I was in the kitchen when I heard her cry out, about ten minutes later."

"Has anyone touched anything in the room since the theft was discovered?" you ask. They all shake their heads.



Then you point your finger dramatically and say, "You ----- are the guilty one!"

***Who is your suspect, and why?***

Answer:

Alice. In her eagerness to remove incriminating fingerprints, she wiped clean not only the safe, the study door, and the desk, but even the telephone. Her prints could have innocently been on all these things, especially the phone – which she used to call Mr Lim!