

Death at Ossis Jewelry Store: Part I

Today, we're going to learn directional terms that will help us describe the human body. We'll do this alongside a "whodunit" narrative, which we'll pick back up again tomorrow!

Case background

This is the fictional story of Paul Ossis and Brenda Ossis-Grant, 32-year-old fraternal twins from Dampburg, Virginia. At one point, Dampburg was a thriving small town, but it fell into disrepair when the nearby coal mine and the factory downtown both shut down.

Paul and Brenda owned a jewelry store that they inherited from their parents, but Ossis Jewelry was a struggling business with not many customers. Because it was located next to the abandoned factory, there was practically no foot traffic and not many neighbors who could witness the crime. Brenda sometimes talked about selling the business, but Paul wanted to keep it going to honor their parents.

Paul Ossis lived with his girlfriend, Maria Russell (age 29), in an apartment above the store. His primary job was running the jewelry store, but his true passion in life was bowling. He spent one full day a week and countless evenings at the bowling alley in the neighboring town.

Brenda Ossis-Grant was a receptionist at the local pediatrician's office. She also worked every Wednesday at the jewelry store so that her brother could have the day off to go bowling. She lived with her husband Richard "RJ" Grant Jr. (age 36) across town.

Wednesday, July 8th

Paul's girlfriend, Maria, came home Wednesday at 6:00 pm to find that the shop's lights were still on and that there was an OPEN sign in the window, despite the fact that the store closes at 5:00 during the week.

She parked in the parking spot behind the building and went up the exterior stairs to the apartment. The TV was on, but Paul wasn't home.

When she couldn't find Paul anywhere in their apartment, Maria used the back staircase to enter the jewelry shop. The back staircase led from the apartment down to the shop, and at the foot of the stairs, there was a heavy door that was always kept bolted shut from the inside.

Here, she found the dead body of Brenda Ossis-Grant behind the counter, next to a typed note that read "OPEN THE CASE AND NOBODY GETS HURT. I WANT EVERYTHING WITH DIAMONDS IN IT." Maria immediately used the shop's phone to call the police.

As of Wednesday night, Brenda was dead and Paul was nowhere to be found. Curiously, the cash register had not been opened and all of the jewelry in the display cases was still there.