

Death at Ossis Jewelry Store: Part III

Whodunit?

Roger Ossis needed money. Ever since the factory closed down, it was hard for him to find work, and even harder for him to keep it. He knew that his cousins' jewelry store didn't have much cash, but they had a lot of jewelry in stock. When Paul and Brenda hired him to do some odd jobs around the store the year before, he learned two important pieces of information: he learned their routine and that their security cameras were broken.

They were an easy target, and Roger planned to pawn the jewelry. He brought a gun, but he didn't think he would have to use it.

He approached Ossis Jewelry on Wednesday afternoon and parked his car behind the building, where he knew the security cameras were broken. He didn't see Paul's car there, so he assumed he was at the bowling alley like he usually was on Wednesdays.

Roger walked into the store during regular business hours with a ski mask on and handed Brenda a typed-up note with his demands. He once saw something similar in a movie about a bank robbery, and he thought it would hide his identity from his cousin.

But Brenda didn't follow his instructions. When he pulled out his gun, she leaned over the counter to try to push the barrel away from her. He grabbed her arm and pushed her away, pushing her into a display case. When she started to yell about calling the cops, he panicked and shot her.

Roger didn't have enough time to find the key to the display cases because he heard Paul running down the back stairs into the jewelry shop.

Roger ran for his car, and Paul followed him out of the building and around to the parking spot in the back. Roger reached his car, but it was too late—not only could Paul see the license plate, but he clearly recognized the car as his cousin's.

Roger felt like he had no choice but to get rid of the witness. He hit Paul with his car, lifted the body inside, and sped away. He dumped the body in the old coal mine, thinking nobody would find it there.

Then, he lays low. He cleans out his car the best he can and throws a cover over it. When law enforcement arrives to ask him about his cousins, he manages to keep his cool.

But thanks to your autopsy, your fellow investigators know that Paul was hit by a car. As they are leaving, one of your colleagues bends down and inspects the tires of Roger's car underneath its cover. Roger doesn't have a good answer for why his tires are covered in fresh mud, or why the front bumper is dented.