

The Break-In

Somebody breaks into a store but takes nothing. Why?

The Situation

Tuesday morning, James Kilpatrick arrived at his clothing store to find the door wide open. However, when he checked the store inventory, he found nothing missing. Why did someone break into his store?

The Clues

1. The owner of the store next door reported seeing a white van parked behind James' store Monday night.
2. The day after the break-in, police got a phone call that James was selling pirated designer clothing in his store.
3. The police found pirated clothing with fake designer labels on them hidden in a closet in James' store.
4. James swore he was innocent, but he was fined \$50,000. He couldn't pay and went out of business.
5. Jacques' Fashion Boutique, which was almost bankrupt, reported much better sales after James' store closed.

Hints

- 1) Who benefited from James's store closing?
- 2) Could someone else have put those clothes in James' store?
- 3) The people didn't break in to steal anything. What did they do in the store?

The Solution

The High Fashion Department store framed James to put him out of business. They hired people to break into James' store. But the people who broke into the store didn't take anything. Instead they brought the fake clothing and hid it in the store. James didn't think to look for anything new in his store so he didn't notice. Then the owner of the High Fashion Store called the police and told them where to look for the illegal clothing.