

The lottery ticket



by
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Every Saturday Mrs Fish goes to the newsagent's at the corner of her street to buy a lottery ticket. Every single week! She never forgets. Buying her weekly lottery ticket is an important part of her life. It's as important as eating and sleeping!



She always chooses the same numbers – 5 6 2 5 6 7 8. It's got something to do with her family's birthday dates. She feels sure she's going to win the jackpot one day. There's a jackpot every last Saturday of each month, and this week is the final week of the month so it's jackpot time!

Mrs Fish went to the newsagent's early in the morning as usual and paid \$10 for her ticket. She felt sure it was a lucky ticket.

'I can feel it in my bones!' she thought to herself. In her mind she was planning what she would do with the six million dollars first prize as she put the ticket inside her handbag.



Suddenly, two young men on a motorcycle rode past her very fast and very close to the pavement. The man on the back of the motorcycle grabbed her handbag.

'Oh! You naughty boys! Stop, thief!' she called out. But the 'naughty boys' were already far down the road and there was no chance of catching them.

So Mrs Fish went to the local police station to make a report. She told them what had happened and demanded that they find the two thieves.



But, really, the two police officers didn't seem very interested in catching anyone. This was just another snatch-and-grab by motorcycle thieves. It happened all the time. There was nothing the police could do about it.

'Yes, yes, madam. We'll do our best,' lied the police officer.
'Just sign this report.'

So Mrs Fish went home. There was nothing else to do.

That evening, she bought a newspaper to check the lottery numbers. And what do you think happened? Yes, her numbers were there: 5 6 2 5 6 7 8! Her ticket had won first prize!



‘I’m not going to let those thieves have my money,’ she thought. So she went back to the police station and told them that her ticket had won the jackpot.

‘No problem!’ said the police officer. ‘It’s easy. We’ll arrest them when they go to the lottery office to claim the money.’

So they all went to the lottery office and waited.

It wasn't long before the two young thieves came to claim their jackpot prize. The two police officers were hiding around the corner.

'Now, we've got them,' said the chief.



'Hands up!' shouted the policemen. 'We've caught you red-handed! It's prison for you two.'

The police officers put handcuffs on the two men and took them away to the police station.



Of course, Mrs Fish was delighted to see the young thieves behind bars.

‘Serves them right!’ she said.

She was also delighted when the police gave her the six million dollars jackpot prize.

‘I knew it was my lucky week!’ she said. And just to show you how much I appreciate your hard work, here’s a reward for both of you!’

And she gave each police officer a thousand dollar note.

Which just shows that crime really doesn’t pay, unless you’re one of the police officers who made the arrest!

