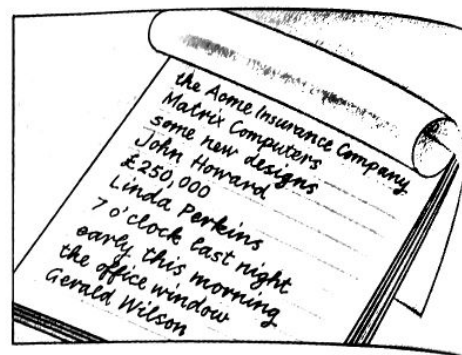


34 Robbery at Matrix Computers

- A** Private detective, Mick Malone was asked to investigate a robbery recently in Central London. Look at the notes Mick made about the case. Then read or listen to Part 1. Find out how each item in Mick's notes was important in the case.



Part 1

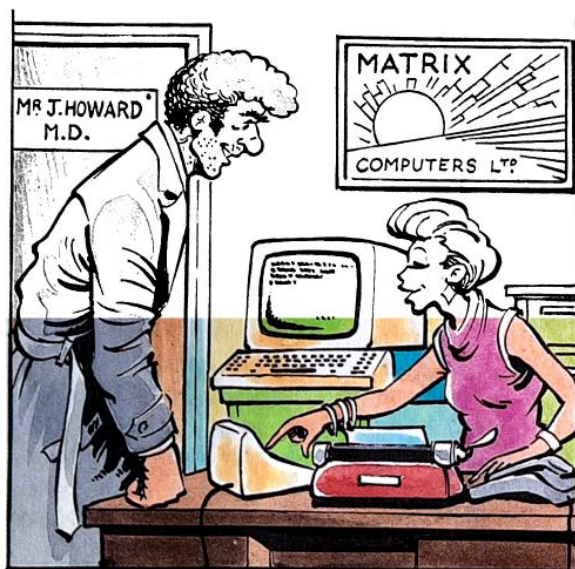
'It was just after four o'clock on a wet Wednesday afternoon when I received a telephone call from the Acme Insurance Company asking me to investigate a robbery at Matrix Computers, a small company in Central London. I was told that some new designs had been stolen from the company's office safe during the night. I also learned that the owner of Matrix Computers, a man called John Howard, had recently insured the same designs with the Acme Insurance Company for £250,000 – a great deal of money!'

'Ten minutes later, I was at the scene of the crime, introducing myself to Mr Howard's personal secretary, Miss Linda Perkins.'

'Hello. My name's Malone,' I smiled.

'Michael Malone, private detective.'

'Ah, yes, Mr Malone,' Miss Perkins smiled back. 'Mr Howard is expecting you.'



'A few moments later, I was sitting in John Howard's office.'

'I want you to find those designs, Mr Malone,' Howard was saying. 'I'm not interested in the insurance money. The designs are worth much more to me.'

'When did you last see the designs, Mr Howard?' I asked.

'At around seven o'clock last night,' he answered. 'I put them in a brown envelope and locked them in the safe. Then I locked up the office and went home.'

'And when did you notice they were missing?' I continued.

'This morning,' he replied. 'I came into the office early this morning. And when I opened the safe I found that the envelope which had contained the designs was empty. In fact, a number of other envelopes in the safe had also been opened.'

'Was anything missing from these other envelopes?' I asked.

'No,' he answered. 'Only the new designs had gone.'

Just then, Howard turned and pointed to the office window; it had been broken.

'Whoever stole the designs must have broken into the office through that window,' he said.



'I stood up, walked over to the window and looked out at the broken glass lying on the ground outside.'

'Tell me, Mr Howard,' I said. 'When you put the designs in the safe, were you alone?'

'Why, no,' he replied. 'Gerald Wilson, our company accountant was here, too.'

'I see. And has Mr Wilson got a key to this office?' I asked.

'Yes, he has,' Howard answered.

'Mr Wilson and my secretary, Miss Perkins, both have keys.'

'One more question, Mr Howard,' I said.

'How many people know the combination to the office safe?'

'Just myself and Mr Wilson,' he replied. 'Oh, and Miss Perkins, of course. But surely you don't think it could have been either of them, Mr Malone. It can't have been. That's quite impossible.'