

THE QUEEN'S JEWELS

THE STORY

A party has been held at the home of Agatha Buel, well known and extremely rich local socialite. Agatha is the heiress to the Fleer Fortune. She loves to hold parties and balls a couple of times a year. New Years Eve is one of her favorites and she asks that all who attend, come in costume.

The attenders take great pains with their costumes and go to great lengths to keep from being recognized. On the night of this party, the guests all arrived separately, all were masked, and thus unknown to each other. All but Agatha who always dresses like Queen Victoria and wears her jewels.

Agatha's insurance company and security people have been warning her for years that she was taking a big risk at these parties when she insisted on wearing some of her jewelry. Often she would be adorned in over \$500,000 in jewelry. Agatha laughed and said that the security and insurance people were being paranoid. It's not the 1890's and no one stole jewelry anymore.

But tonight it happened. Security guards were positioned in the ballroom as indicated on the map. At last year's party, the security people were quite sure an attempt had been made to steal her jewels, but it was broken up accidentally. Agatha insisted that it was pure coincidence that she had slipped and fallen just when a rock was tossed through the front window. She was sure that the person who dove on her was trying to protect her, not steal jewels. After all, the tiara was found in the punch bowl later.

As near as can be reconstructed from testimony of witnesses, the people under suspicion were located in the places shown on the map when the lights went out. Flood lights of various colors covered the ballroom in the arcs marked on the map. The garden in the ballroom is real. The placement of the tables was verified by the police during their investigation.

In the middle of the ball, the lights went out, there was a fire alarm, and in the ensuing confusion, Agatha was robbed of her necklace, bracelets, ear rings and rings. The total appraised value is \$578,249. The time of the robbery was 11:17 pm. The parties rarely lasted beyond 1:00 am and this one had been going since 8:00 pm. The security guards had not been changed yet.

When the lights went out and someone yelled "fire", the security guards immediately locked the doors causing someone to toss a chair out of a window so people could escape. This also alerted the fire department and the police, as the window was wired for security.

There was hysteria for a while when the band all rushed to the broken window, knocking people down and shouting. Later, it was discovered that there was no fire, only smoke and tear gas bombs.

Within ten minutes, the lights came back on. Everyone has been searched by security prior to their leaving the party premises and all were found to have no jewels on their persons, except costume jewelry which was impounded. It has all since been verified to be cheap costume jewelry.

Of all the attenders at the party, the police and insurance investigators are sure that one of the people in this room committed the robbery.

You must now solve who the thief is, where they put the jewels, and how they masterminded the theft.

Good luck!