

Mystery of a Bolted Room. A Case History.

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Abstract:-

The purpose of this paper is to spread the knowledge that protection of Scene of Crime can lead to solve the crime scientifically by applying various techniques by the forensic expert. The protection of Scene of Crime is very important. If it is not disturbed and it is preserved then it becomes very helpful to trace the actual culprits. The investigating officers must be aware how to protect the scene of crime. If he is not aware then he must be taught immediately by providing him all instructions. The techniques opted by the forensic expert may be supplied to all investigating officers. Every investigating officer must cordon the scene of crime first of all by barricading the area. Then the physical clues scattered on the spot may be preserved for the visit of forensic expert if possible. But if the forensic expert is unable to visit on the scene of crime then the investigating officer must be aware that how to collect the physical evidence from the spot, how to pack the exhibit and how to forward the exhibit to the forensic laboratory. The investigating officer must also describe the details of the exhibits that from where the said exhibit has been recovered, by whom it was recovered etc. But we see that this is not the practice in our country. Most of the scene of crime are always found to be disturbed. Which always leads to wrong and misleading results. Due to which the investigating officer got confused and applies his attention in a wrong direction. In the end the prosecution fails to prove the crime in the court of law and the innocent person face many problems due to following wrong direction by the investigating officer in this regard. Here we have discussed such a case which was preserved by the investigating officer. The brief facts of the case are as follows that it was stated by the Investigating Officer that the deceased person Mr. 'X' was having affair with a lady named Mrs. 'Y'. The investigating officer further narrated that due to some unknown reasons Mr. 'X' was facing a big financial loss in his business and due to this he was under stress and not in good speaking terms with the family members also including his girlfriend Mrs. 'Y'. But today in morning he called her on her cell phone and talked to her in a very strange/emotional mood. On hearing the call from her boyfriend Mrs. 'Y' decided to meet with him immediately and she rushed from her house to him on her scooty. The investigating officer

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further added that when she reached at her boyfriend's house the room was found bolted from inside, the television was playing, she called him to open the door but he did not open that door, she felt that he was making a joke/fun with her therefore she pushed the door with some force and the door was got opened, she switched off the television first and then she called him. She again called him but no reply was given by him. She went more near to him and she touched his face and when she turned his face she was afraid to see that a blood pool was found present below the head, a Countrymade pistol was also lying there. She got afraid and she rushed from the spot. The investigating officer further added that she asked the mobile phone of a neighbor to call on the police by adding that her cell phone is not charged and presently not in working condition, the investigating officer further added. The neighbor asked her what had happened then she told him the incident. On hearing her, he caught her and the neighbor further informed the police the investigating officer further added. Therefore in these circumstances the investigating officer wanted to ascertain whether it was a case of suicide or homicide or otherwise.

Keywords: Countrymade pistol, fired cartridge case, fired bullet, homicide, suicide, reconstruction of scene of crime.

Examination of the spot:

The spot was minutely examined. A person aged about 29 years old was found lying dead inside the room on the double bed. A Countrymade pistol (Chambered for 7.65mm cartridges) alongwith magazine in cocked position was also found lying over the right arm/palm of the deceased person. One 7.65mm live cartridge was also recovered from the chamber of the Countrymade pistol. One 7.65mm fired cartridge case was also recovered from the spot/floor near the bed of the deceased person. One 7.65mm fired bullet was found present on the bed. A pool of blood was observed on the bed sheet of the double bed. The mobile phones (stated to be of decese person) were also found lying near the dead body. Some blood stains were observed on the floor outside of the room in the front courtyard.

The front door of the room was found to be bolted and closed from inside. The inside bolt (Arli) of the rear door of the room was found bolted but the door was found in opened position. An experiment was done on the rear door in bolted position (from inside) for opening it from outside. The rear door was closed and the inside bolt (Arli) was bolted. The door was pushed from outside and the trier (experiment doer) got success in opening the door while the inside bolt remained bolted. The action/experiment was repeated ten times and the door got opened every time after a heavy push from outside.

Again the inside bolt (Arli) was bolted and the door was pulled from outside with a heavy pull but the door could not be closed. The action was repeated about ten times but the door could not be closed even for a single time.

Examination of the dead body:

It was observed that a dead body wearing white shirt, brown pants, blue banian, white socks, navy blue underwear, yellow metallic chain around the neck, two rings in right hand and a pair of brown shoes, was lying on the bed. The ornaments/jewelry was taken in to possession by the father of the deceased person. A bullet entry hole of size about 1.0 X 1.0 cm circular in shape was observed on the right temporal region of the forehead (near the eyebrow) of the deceased person. Barrel impression marks were observed on and around the margins of the bullet entry hole of the deceased person. Blackening and singeing were also observed on and around the margins of the bullet entry hole. A corresponding bullet exit hole of size about 1.1 X 1.1 cm circular in shape was also found present on the left region of the forehead of the deceased person. No contusion/struggle marks could be observed on the body/clothes of the deceased person. Various chemical tests for gunshot residue were performed on the left and right hands of the deceased person and the same were found positive on the right hand. Similar tests were also performed on

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the left and right hands of her girlfriend but found to be negative. However, some blood stains were detected on the Salwar of her girlfriend. On Serological examination these blood stains were detected to be of menstrual blood.

Inference/conclusion:-

The presence of Countrymade pistol in cocked position near the body of the deceased person, presence of the barrel impression, blackening & singeing on and around the margins of the bullet entry hole, detection of gunshot residue from the right hand of the deceased person, experiment done on the rear door of the room and non availability of contusion marks on the body/clothes of the deceased person proves that it is a case of suicide.

Advice to the Investigating Officer:-

Investigating Officer was advised to forward the exhibits such as Countrymade pistol, 7.65mm fired cartridge case, 7.65mm fired bullet, suicide note, pen, blood, blood stained exhibits etc recovered from the spot as well as recovered by the doctor to FSL Madhuban for further investigation.

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