

SUSPECT ATTEMPTS TO DERAIL POLICE INVESTIGATION BY PLANTING FALSE EVIDENCE AT A HOMICIDE SCENE, DNA TO THE RESCUE. “DRATS! FOILED AGAIN...”

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January 22nd, 2013 was a bitter cold day, and late that night the wind chill temperatures were still in the negative numbers. Sometime around midnight, as the many residents of this large apartment building slept, no one seems to have heard the sounds of breaking glass and then the muffled cries of the victim.

Two days later a prospective renter, coming to look at an apartment, notices that the glass patio doors of a ground level apartment have been shattered. In his meeting with the Building Manager he mentions the broken doors, the manager goes to the apartment to check, enters the unlocked apartment and finds, posed on the bed, the bloody body of the female resident. The call is made to the 911 Center and police officers are dispatched to investigate what appears to be a sexual assault/homicide. Detectives and Crime Scene Investigators converge on the scene and begin to collect all of the puzzle pieces. Some pieces fit and allow us to at least build the frame of a story, but others simply make no sense. A strong suspect is developed, he's been bragging that he could easily fool the police and get away with murder. Then come the odd shaped puzzle pieces that route the investigation down a quite confusing path.

Meetings between the lead Detective and Crime Scene Investigator, the Forensic Pathologist and the Crime Lab DNA analyst allow us to discuss possible outcomes, each one of us laying out the evidence we have accumulated. Careful and focused processing of the scene and of the body of the deceased yield the DNA evidence allowing us to solve and close this case.