

# WOMAN FOUND GUILTY IN LONDON JEWELRY ROBBERY

Jul 30, 2021

**WARM-UP** • Rank the following crimes from most serious (1<sup>st</sup>) to least serious (5<sup>th</sup>). Then, discuss your rankings with your partner(s).

illegal downloading / underage drinking / tax avoidance / robbery / jaywalking

**VOCABULARY** • Match the following vocabulary words with a description. Use a dictionary if you need to.

- |                 |                                                                     |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. robbery      | a) when a judge decides how much punishment a person should receive |
| 2. sentence     | b) to pretend to be someone                                         |
| 3. heist        | c) the same or looking the same                                     |
| 4. distracted   | d) the crime of taking something                                    |
| 5. pose as      | e) feeling that something is wrong                                  |
| 6. gem          | f) an area inside a bigger thing that is separated in some way      |
| 7. identical    | g) an act of stealing something, usually from a bank or store       |
| 8. compartment  | h) a small stone                                                    |
| 9. suspicious   | i) to not be focused on the main task                               |
| 10. pebble      | j) taking part in something                                         |
| 11. involvement | k) a valuable stone                                                 |

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A 60-year-old woman has been found guilty for her part in robbing luxury jewelry store Boodles, in London, in March 2016. The woman, Lulu Lakatos, was sentenced to five and a half years in prison.

The robbery was well-planned as it included several people and took place over multiple days. The criminals met with the store's staff several times in the days leading up to the heist. They made the staff believe they were buying for a wealthy Russian investor. Lakatos posed as a gem expert and acted as if she was there to check the value of the purchase. However, when staff were distracted, she quickly slipped a purse of jewels into her bag and replaced it with an identical one. The staff checked her bag, but the purse was in a hidden compartment inside her bag.



*Diamonds held by tweezers for close inspection*

Lakatos and the other criminals left London within three hours on a high-speed train to France. Back at the store, the next day, the staff became suspicious and checked their purse of jewels. They found it contained only worthless pebbles. In total, seven diamonds were taken. One of the diamonds was heart-shaped and worth \$3 million. Their combined value was \$5.7 million. The gems have not been found.

Lakatos was arrested in 2020. Two men have also been found guilty for their involvement in the crime. The investigation is continuing with the police looking at the involvement of two other women.

**COMPREHENSION** • *Decide if the following are true (T) or false (F) and then discuss the answers with your partner(s).*

1. Lulu Lakatos has been found guilty of stealing. ( T / F )
2. Lakatos worked with other criminals. ( T / F )
3. The crime happened in 2020. ( T / F )
4. The criminals were Russian. ( T / F )
5. The criminals escaped to London from France. ( T / F )
6. More than \$6 million worth of diamonds was taken. ( T / F )
7. Lakatos pretended to be an investor. ( T / F )
8. Lakatos slipped a purse of gems into her pocket. ( T / F )
9. The gems still have not been recovered. ( T / F )

**CHOOSE** • *Without looking back at the text, choose the correct words to complete the sentences.*

1. A woman was **find / found** guilty of a crime.
2. She was sentenced to five years **on / in** prison.
3. She posed **as / with** an investor.
4. The staff were **distracted / attracted**.
5. The purse was in a hidden **department / compartment**.
6. One of the diamonds was **value / worth** \$3 million.
7. Lakatos was **arrested / arresting** in 2020.
8. The investigation is **continuing / to be continued**.

**DISCUSSION** • *Discuss the following questions with your partner(s). Try to speak in sentences and ask follow-up questions.*

1. What skills do the criminals in this story have?
2. Which gemstones can you think of besides diamonds? Which is your favorite?
3. What would you do with \$5.7 million?
4. Do you like heist movies, like *Ocean's Eleven*? Why or why not?
5. In some crime movies, the criminals seem like nice or fun people. Do you think many criminals are nice in real life?
6. How do you think the staff felt after being robbed of such a large amount?
7. What would you put in a hidden compartment?
8. What do you think happened to the jewels?
9. Who would you give a heart-shaped diamond to?